

79th Meeting of the National Justice and Peace Network Environment Group

16 July 2025
by zoom

Present : Paul Kelly (Convenor / Northern Dioceses Environment Group), Ellen Teague (Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology, Westminster J&P), Ashley Ralston (NJPN Executive, Green Christian/Arundel and Brighton Diocese J&P), Richard Solly (Jesuit Missions Campaigns and Advocacy), Sr MaryAnne Francalanza (FCJ Srs, Centre for Faith and Ecological Justice in North London), Bokani Tshdizu (Operation Noah), James Buchanan (NJPN Executive, Laudato Si Movement), Bernard Shaw (East Anglia Diocese J&P).

Mass Lobby of Parliament on 9 July

Many in the group were amongst the 5,000 people who descended on Westminster to ask their MPs to 'Act Now, Change Forever' for climate and nature on Wednesday 9 July.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52787>

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52789>

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/thousands-gather-near-parliament-square-for-mass-lobby-on-climate-action/>

<https://columbans.co.uk/education/16625/columbans-join-mass-lobby-of-mps-to-demand-climate-action/> and <https://www.operationnoah.org/mass-lobby-act-now-change-forever/>

CAFOD urged its supporters to make the link with Debt:

- The UK has a key role to play in improving the systems for debt relief.
- 90% of bonds of countries eligible for the Common Framework are governed by English law.
- Furthermore, the UK has a track record of using legislation to ensure private lenders cooperate with internationally agreed debt relief, in the form of Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act 2010.

This means that what is decided by legislators here in the UK can have a massive positive impact well beyond our shores. Here is a link to two reports with more detail:

https://www.pass.va/content/dam/casinapioiv/pass/pdf-booklet/2025_jubilee_report.pdf. 'The Jubilee Report: A Blueprint for Tackling the Debt and Development Crises and Creating the Financial Foundations for a Sustainable People-Centered Global Economy. It was commissioned by Pope Francis and published by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

<https://cafod.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-research/debt-and-economic-justice/new-global-debt-crisis-and-solutions>. This is a report called "Jubilee 2025: The new global debt crisis and its solutions" published locally by CAFOD, SCIAF and CARITAS.

Networking Roundtables

Last Autumn's Pilgrimage Roundtable, where our group brought together many Catholic groups to share Jubilee plans, was a great success. It was felt to be important that the group reconvenes to review the Jubilee Year and where we go from here. We have a list of people who want to continue discussions and some who could not join the first meeting but would join a second.

To do:

The group's September meeting will discuss this follow-up. John Paul to be asked about reconvening the group soon after COP30 in Brazil in November - perhaps in January 2026.

**NJPN Network Meeting Saturday 10 May 2025 - CAFOD Office
'Opening doors to a sustainable world for future generations'**

A very successful day-long workshop was organised by the NJPN Environment Group. All speakers were excellent and Shanon Shah, the Muslim head of Faiths for the Climate, was much appreciated and his introduction to 'Al Mizan: A Covenant with the Earth,' a document that outlines an Islamic approach to environmental protection. The group felt that the entire Jubilee programme of NJPN has been very successful.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52372>

The only downside on 10 May for the in-person meeting was a turnout of 40 people. This was fewer than at the other Jubilee Year meetings. Zooms seem to be preferred but the group felt that occasional in-person meetings are very important too.

And there was concern about the lack of involvement of many young people. There was discussion about improving engagement with youth.

To do: To bring these points to the attention of the NJPN Executive.

NJPN Conference 25-27 July 2025

'Towards a Just Peace: Challenging the Inevitability of Violence'

The NJPN Environment Group is to run a workshop on Peace and Environmental Justice. Ellen (Columbans) and Richard (Jesuit Missions) took it on. They will be using the DVD 'Conflict and Climate Change,' which Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology helped produce. Clip at: <https://www.kevinmayhew.com/products/conflict-and-climate-change-1501412>. Richard will be bringing in his experience of Extractive Industries and Jesuit Missions. There will be a theological reflection and discussion of action ideas.

There was discussion about Food at conference, where the practice of having a completely vegetarian conference with just one meal offering meat has been changed by Swanwick due to NJPN sharing with another group. It was thought that Swanwick should be asked about the sustainability of their meat products. And it should be flagged up to them that most NJPN participants will expect vegetarian food.

To do:

Ellen and Richard to finalise plans for the Environment Group workshop at the conference.
and

Paul to draft letter and run by the Executive, asking Swanwick to ensure they have adequate provision for vegetarians.

NJPN Groups

A very good online evening with Austen Ivereigh was held recently – 'A Celebration of Laudato Si' – organised by the Northern and Southern Dioceses Environmental Networks.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52538>

The Southern Dioceses Environment Group last met on 14 July.

A group – including John Paul, Mary and Peter Johnson, and Michael Chambers – are helping Colette to create a new website. Good material is up already at: <https://environmentsouth.org/>
The Northern Dioceses Environment Group has organised a mini pilgrimage based in Leeds - Leeds to Kirkstall Abbey - on 20 September.

There is talk of Bishop John Arnold being asked to meet with both groups. The NJPN Environment Group wants to support him in the CBCEW and to discuss the CBCEW having more concrete policies on the environment. Colette was warmly thanked for her work at Westminster Justice and Peace. We look forward to working with her successor.

Season of Creation 1 September – 4 October

Theme will be 'Peace with Creation' and will go alongside a global call to action on debt relief. A popular text will be Isaiah 32:14-18.

Jesuit Missions and others have organised a prayer service during the Season of Creation at Farm Street Parish in London on 2 October. (Poster attached)
And a Journey of Hope through London on 25 September - Farm Street to Westminster Cathedral.

A Live Simply event is planned in Arundel and Brighton Diocese.
The new CAFOD contact for Livesimply is Phoebe Worthington

See:

Brentwood season of creation resources:

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/resource/season-of-creation/>

Season of Creation website

<https://seasonofcreation.org>

Jubilee and 10th anniversary of Laudato Si' poster that was sent to all bishops.

<https://theecg.org/resources/>

Laudato Si' Goals reflections

<https://journeyto2030.org/laudato-si-goals/>

Demain – a brilliant film

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4449576/>

Al Mizan website

<https://www.almizan.earth>

St Kateri ecological library

<https://www.kateri.org/library/>

Laudato Si' Champions toolkit

<https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation-project/laudato-si-champions.aspx>

Conflict and Climate Change DVD

<https://abolishwar.net/shop/conflict-and-climate-change/>

Novena to St Francis for the Season of Creation (attached)

To do: Support the various events organised. Use Season of Creation resources. Advertise the new Mass of Creation.

COP30 UN Climate Talks

This year's climate talks will be held in Belem, Brazil, 10-25 November.

Overview:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/jun/27/cop30-10-things-we-learned-from-bonn-climate-talks>

Campaigning with Jesuits:

<https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/campaign/jesuits-for-climate-justice-faith-in-action-at-cop30/>

<https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/sb62-bonn-climate-conference-report-some-progress-but-much-more-needs-to-be-done/>

Climate message from Global South Bishops on the road to COP30:

<https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/jesuit-missions-welcomes-powerful-climate-message-from-global-south-bishops-on-the-road-to-cop30/>

CIDSE:

<https://www.cidse.org/2025/07/01/churches-of-the-global-south-call-for-climate-justice-resisting-false-solutions-and-standing-for-hope/>

To do:

Keep each other informed of planning re: COP30 and support campaigning.

Laudato Si Movement

James Buchanan updated the group on the Big Bank Switch - over 250 Christians have now switched banks. You can register switching your bank retrospectively. The next global divestment announcement will be in October. Good Money Week is that same month.

James has been the leading organiser of a workshop for the Conference of Religious on 4 September at Farm Street Jesuit Parish in London: 'Celebrating 19 Years of Laudato Si: Our vocation for prophetic action and investment for our common home.'

It was noted that HSBC has become first UK bank to quit industry's net zero alliance:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jul/11/hsbc-leaves-net-zero-banking-alliance-climate-crisis>.

To do:

**See <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/join-the-big-bank-switch-campaign-this-lent/>
And <https://justmoney.org.uk/the-big-bank-switch/>**

Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology

A Columban one-day Pilgrimage on 25 September 2025 in liaison with Salford Diocese will involve winners of the 2025 Columban Schools competition. From the Laudato Si' Centre to Salford Cathedral. <https://columbans.co.uk/social-action/16397/hope-for-our-common-home/>

Columbans have been rewilding at their Solihull property and won an Arocha award.

<https://columbans.co.uk/justice-peace/15325/making-peace-with-nature/>

<https://columbans.co.uk/justice-peace/15892/celebrating-world-wildlife-day/>

Columbans at 9 July Lobby of Parliament:

<https://columbans.co.uk/education/16625/columbans-join-mass-lobby-of-mps-to-demand-climate-action/>

Protecting the marine environment –

<https://columbans.co.uk/justice-peace/16485/mission-to-protect-planet-ocean/>

Columbans joined the multifaith statement to the Nice Oceans UN conference.

And highlighting plans of President Donald Trump to open the Pacific Ocean to deep sea mining.

<https://action.eko.org/a/trump-attacks-oceans?akid=150481.1844679.z5Z2G1&rd=1&source=fwd&t=2>

Columban Competition 2026 for 13-18 year olds, to be launched in September, will be on the theme -

“Becoming a refugee is never a choice. But how we respond is.”

(UN Secretary-General António Guterres)

Catholic Social Teaching calls us to ‘welcome the stranger’. We invite young people to explore perceptions of people seeking sanctuary, considering practical examples of welcome and solidarity.

Vocation for Justice

The May issue celebrated the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si. The September issue will draw attention to the Season of Creation.

Receive updates, news, stories and reflections by Columban Missionaries direct to your email, including a special focus on a Justice, Peace or Ecology theme six times a year. See:

www.columbans.co.uk/enewsletter

Facebook: The Columban Justice, Peace & Ecology Group

https://www.facebook.com/groups/8016776208445539?locale=en_GB

Jesuit Missions

Jesuit Missions is working on Jubilee, Debt Cancellation and Climate Change.

<https://jesuitmissions.org.uk/campaigns>

Laudato Si Animators

The website offers a Monthly Prayer Guide and other materials. Also, a two-day encounter at the Laudato Si' Centre in Salford - a meeting and retreat – on 5/6 September.

<https://laudatosimovement.org/>

Ecological Conversion Group / Journey to 2030

Ecological Conversion Group / Boarbank Care of Creation retreats have been organised at Boarbank this year: <https://journeyto2030.org/events/> And see: facebook.com/ecoconversiongroup

Operation Noah

The Green Investment Declaration, to fund a greener future, is supported by UK charities Operation Noah and JustMoney Movement. It celebrates progress made within Christian organizations that are moving their money into climate solutions as part of the fight against climate change.

Latest news at <https://www.operationnoah.org/>

June Newsletter at: <https://www.operationnoah.org/june-2025-newsletter/>

Article: 'How Can My Church or Faith Group Invest in Climate Solutions: Aren't We Obligated to Maximise Financial Returns?' <https://www.operationnoah.org/news-events/blog/>

Green Christian

Resources/workshops for engaging churches and communities in its Green Christian Churches Project, run by Melanie Nazareth. <https://greenchristian.org.uk/>

Christian Climate Action

Almost daily vigils throughout the UK by CCA groups. And every morning at 9am, CCA meets for online prayer together. All welcome.

<https://christianclimateaction.org/events/>

<https://www.facebook.com/christianclimateaction/>

New Economics Foundation

Campaigns at <https://neweconomics.org/>

Eg. Protect us from climate-wrecking finance / Stop airport expansions

Global Justice Now

Campaign to get the UK Government to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

<https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/prime-minister-support-global-exit-plan-fossil-fuels-0>

War on Want

Campaign: Stop the Fossil Fuel Industry's Secret Weapon - End ISDS Now

British oil company Cairn Energy sued India and won over \$1 billion (£740 million) of its public money. Why? Because India tried to stop Cairn from tax dodging. How is this possible? Because of ISDS (Investor-State Dispute Settlement), a clause in trade deals. It allows corporations to sue countries in secretive 'corporate courts', when governments implement policies corporations don't like – policies which protect human rights or the environment, or aim to stop corporate tax dodging. Petition at:

https://secure.waronwant.org/page/174653/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=Email&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=WOW&utm_campaign=E25_47_Y25AF&ea.url.id=8315309

RESOURCES AND EVENTS FOR JUBILEE 2025:

Invitation from Pilgrim Ways to '2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage of Hope'

Four walking Pilgrim Ways will make a Sign of the Cross across England and converge at Nottingham on the eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 13 September 2025. Seeking a nucleus of walkers and then others can join parts of the route. Hospitality will be sought from parishes along the way. <https://www.pilgrimways.org.uk/>

CAFOD Information about Jubilee Year 2025

Includes a Jubilee Reflection Guide for parish groups

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-2025>

Excellent Jubilee Animation for Schools (and adults)

RESOURCES

Mass for the Season of Creation

On 3 July the Vatican presented a new formulary at a press conference at the Vatican formally announcing the addition of the Mass "for the care of creation" to the range of votive Masses approved for the Roman liturgy.

<https://www.rcag.org.uk/the-archdiocese/latest-news/378-vatican-publishes-mass-for-care-of-creation>

Opinion at:

<https://www.ncronline.org/opinion/ncr-voices/new-mass-care-creation-mixed-bag>

Banking on Climate Chaos – Report last month. It is authored by Rainforest Action Network, BankTrack, the Center for Energy, Ecology, and Development, Indigenous Environmental Network, Oil Change International, Reclaim Finance, Sierra Club, and Urgewald. It has been endorsed by 480 organisations in 69 countries.

<https://justmoney.org.uk/news/banking-on-climate-chaos-2025/>

Journey to 2030 'Building a Caring Community' Poster Pack and Guide

A tool for community mission through the lens of the Laudato Si Goals.

<https://journeyto2030.org/>

Journey to 2030 Wildlife Pages - Puts biodiversity in a parish context as well as the link to the WWF State of the planet report: <https://journeyto2030.org/parish/outdoor-spaces/>

Operation Noah Trustee Rebecca MacDonald says the UK Government's £14.2bn Investment into **Sizewell C Nuclear Plant** would be better spent elsewhere

<https://www.operationnoah.org/operation-noah-trustee-rebecca-macdonald-says-the-uk-government-14-2bn-investment-into-sizewell-c-nuclear-plant-could-be-better-spent-elsewhere/>

Green Christian Magazine

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/introduction/resources/green-christian/>

Environment section of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/environment/>

Diocese of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission Compilation of current resources – many downloadable – and details of courses and events.

<https://westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/environment-resources/>

Podcasts: 'Jubilee for the Earth' by Columban Missionaries

Six 20-minute videos on such topics as 'The Spirituality of Biodiversity' and 'Nonviolence for the Earth'. Drawing heavily on Columban experience and Catholic Social Teaching.
<https://bit.ly/3tGQS55>

Celebrating refugees

Several organisations in NJPN are members of Together for Refugees, which calls for a better approach to supporting refugees that is fair, kind and more effective.

<https://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk/>

And monthly vigils are held every month at the Home Office building in London.

European Christian Environmental Network <https://www.ecen.org/>

Organic Consumers Association <https://organicconsumers.org/about/>

Curlew Action <https://www.curlewaaction.org/>

Blogs from **Jonathan Porritt** at: <https://www.jonathonporritt.com/blog-and-latest-articles/DATES>

Laudato Si Movement dates for 2025:

<https://laudatosimovement.org/news/2025-a-year-of-adventure/>

July 20-25 – Christians Aware Summer School in the Yorkshire Dales
'Travelling towards the Light: Lifestyle for the 21st century'
www.christiansaware.co.uk

July 23 - 12:30 – 2pm (and every Wednesday following until 27th August), **Christian Climate Action Vigil** in London outside the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, Whitehall Place, London. It is thought that in mid-July Equinor/Ithaca will be resubmitting their Environmental Impact Assessments for Rosebank oil field. That re-submission then goes out to public consultation for 30 days. <https://christianclimateaction.org/events/>

July 25-27 - 'A Just Peace' - Challenging the inevitability of violence.
NJPN Conference at Swanwick in Derbyshire. www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/

August 9-16 – Catholic People's Week 'Where is God in the climate crisis?'
Signs of a worsening climate crisis are all around us but where is our creator God in all of this? And what should our response as Christians be? At Whithaugh Park in the Scottish Borders
<https://catholicpeoplesweeks.org/>

1 Sept - 4 Oct Season of Creation
<https://laudatosimovement.org/season-of-creation/>
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

4 September Conference of Religious (CoR) Conference on 10th anniversary of Laudato Si.
Farm St Parish, London 10.45 – 3pm

8 September 12.45 – 2pm SDEN Meeting online: 'Getting ready for COP30 in a Jubilee Year'
<https://environmentsouth.org/>

13-20 September
Lobby Week to meet MPs in local areas, with the same messages as the 9 July Mass Lobby.
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/>

25 September
Columbans have partnered with the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall, Salford, to host a pilgrimage: **'Hope for our Common Home'**. Contact: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

2 October

Praying anew the Canticle of St Francis. A time of prayer and reflection to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures. 6pm Mass for the Care of Creation. 6.30pm Presentation and reflective spaces. At Jesuit Church, Farm Street, London. (Poster attached)

October 4-10 Celebrating Creation

Time to explore at Boarbank Hall how to live out *Laudato Si'* fully in our personal lives and within the Church. Talks, discussions, art, liturgy, gardening, walks. All welcome.

<https://boarbankhall.org.uk/whats-on/>

October 6-12 Good Money Week

Helping find sustainable and ethical options for banking, pensions, savings and investments.

<https://goodmoneyweek.com/>

Next meeting: NJPN Environment Group
Time: Tuesday 16 September 3.30pm by zoom.
