



Justice and Peace

Autumn 2025

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A little history lesson

First produced in 1993, Mouthpeace has a long history. It succeeded the Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace Commission's earlier newsletter, The Daily Pressure, which dates back to 1984. At that time the newsletter was printed in black and white and circulated by post around various parishes in the Diocese.

In 1993 the Liverpool Archdiocese J & P Commission worker asked if they could join and the new publication, renamed Mouthpeace, continued in the same format but with a wider circulation for several years. But the idea was in the air that digital was the way forward. COVID confirmed this.

Five years ago in Autumn 2020 Mouthpeace became a quarterly digital production. This gave the chance to introduce colour and also direct links to appropriate websites. At this time the Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission worker asked if they could join too.

Now, although true to its Catholic roots, it has become a more ecumenical publication and receives material from and about a variety of organisations who share the same justice, peace and care of creation concerns. Also, being digital, boundaries are not important and it is circulated widely in the North West and further afield.



This background history was written by the Editor Marian Thompson and NW NJPN Bulletin editor Anne O'Connor for a leaflet to be given out on the NJPN stall at 'The Jubilee of Social Justice' in Liverpool RC Cathedral on September 20th. See Diary on Page 18

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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury



PEACE WITH CREATION SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Season of Creation September 1st – October 4th 2025

This year the theme 'Peace with Creation' will go alongside a global call to action on debt relief. Our Biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities

and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth. Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored.

There is still hope and the expectation for a peaceful Earth. To hope in a biblical context does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

Action for peace can include advocacy, sustainability projects, cleaning campaigns or education to show that caring for Creation is central to our faith and how we live our lives.

POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR CREATION DAY

In his Message for the 10th World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1st, Pope Leo XIV quotes extensively from Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*, denouncing environmental and social injustice and noting that God's creation is not intended to be a battleground for vital resources. Pope Leo's message urges Christians and all people of goodwill to recognise the urgent need for environmental and social justice in a world increasingly scarred by climate change, conflict, and inequality.

Entitled '*Seeds of Peace and Hope*' the Pope's message resonates with the spirit of the ongoing Jubilee Year, calling the faithful to embrace their role as "pilgrims of hope" and stewards of God's creation. Echoing the prophetic words of Isaiah, Pope Leo invites the global community to envision a transformation of today's "arid and parched desert" into "a fruitful field." This biblical vision, he explains, is not a poetic metaphor but an urgent call to action in the face of alarming ecological and human crises.

From <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52736>

Full message: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2025/07/02/250702e.html>

RESPECT AND GRATITUDE

Stephen Garsed (Environmental Lead Lancaster Diocese) writes:

*A year before *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis wrote this: *Brothers and sisters: creation is not a property, which we can dispose of at will; much less so is it the property of some, of a few: creation is a gift, it is a present, a wonderful gift that God has given us to take care of and to use for the benefit of all, always with respect and gratitude*"*



Those last three words underpin the whole quote. One of the "signs of the times" in Western society has been a decline in gratitude and, consequently, respect for the world and for others. It is a root cause of the "me, me, me" lifestyle where gratitude is being replaced by attitude - "my wants are more important than yours". Yet the gospels are full of parables about people who came unstuck because they took things for granted and there are so many times where Jesus himself gave thanks, most notably at the Last Supper.

Making gratitude central to our lives is transformative and liberating. In this way of thinking, for example, our time is not ours, it is the Lord's, so we take care to use it wisely. We are grateful for our "daily bread" (I include here water and shelter) so we take care not to waste anything; give thanks for our food at mealtimes; and we take time to appreciate the natural world.

Gratitude also feeds compassion. If we truly appreciate all the wonderful gifts we have been given, we will be far more attentive to the needs of others. Moreover, it will lead us to live more lightly on the earth, just taking what we need and avoiding as far as possible being contributors to the throwaway society. In short, gratitude inspires us to the contentment of "being more" rather than just having more.

The Season of Creation is a time when we can put gratitude at the heart of things in our communities alongside a determination to express that gratitude in practical action. For instance, a bidding prayer might go something like "We thank you, Lord for our wonderful world and all that it contains. We pray that we may always be inspired to respect, cherish and protect it".

We might also express, in our prayers, gratitude for our children and young people as we strive to provide a world fit for them to live in. Our young should have a big part in the celebration, including decorating the church, hopefully with lots of pictures of creepy-crawlies. Last year, we invited our children to bring their favourite animal toys in procession to the altar. The unspoken point about the need to care for their future was well taken and much appreciated by the congregation.

So be imaginative this Season of Creation - always in respect and gratitude!



THE SEASON OF CREATION – an Eco Festival of events in Macclesfield.

The churches of HOPE in North East Cheshire invite you to join this period of reflection and action to cherish and protect our environment.

Sunday 31st August 4.00pm Prayer Service in the orchard behind Macclesfield Leisure Centre
Meet at carpark – Priory Lane SK10 4AF

Tuesday 2nd September 7.00 – 8.30 pm Sustainable Church Flowers Demonstration
St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY



Sunday 14th September 12.00-2.00pm Big Trees and Mini-Beasts – Family Fun in West Park - Scavenger hunt, quizzes and games. Meet at the Rangers Hut next to the Café.

Tuesday 16th September 7.45 – 9.15 pm Workshop – How is your Council tackling Climate Change and what can you do to help? St Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Road, SK11 8DJ.

Saturday 27th September 9.30 am – 3.30 pm RHS Garden Bridgewater Visit Join us on a coach trip to our local RHS garden in Salford. Discounted entry for non RHS members. Full information, costs and booking at www.scoopandscales.co.uk

Tuesday 30th September 7.30 pm “Brilliant Bees” Talk Safely meet some amazing honeybees, taste honey and find out about a beekeeper's role Macclesfield Methodist Church, Westminster Road, SK10 1BX.

Thursday 2nd October 4.00 – 7.00 pm ApplePressing – come and have a go!
Drop in at Scoop and Scales, Roe Street, SK11 6UT.

Saturday 4th October 2 pm Celebration & Feast of St Francis of Assisi Prayer Service to close and thank God for the Season of Creation. With light lunch available from 1.00pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY.

Full Calendar of Season of Creation events on page 18 and on <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation/>
Or contact Bernadette Bailey justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com or 07831 647 928

‘HOPE FOR OUR COMMON HOME’ PILGRIMAGE 25th SEPTEMBER 2025



The Columbans in Britain are proud to be partnering with the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall, Salford, to host a special pilgrimage. Taking place during the Season of Creation, on Thursday 25th September, the pilgrimage is a powerful opportunity for participants to live out their faith through action, prayer and communion with one another and with creation.



Laudato Si' Centre This year's pilgrimage is a public and prayerful expression of our concern for the environment, echoing 'the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor', as highlighted in Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si', which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2025. By coming together in this physical act of pilgrimage, we bear witness to our responsibility to care for, and protect, creation.

Along the nine-mile route from the Laudato Si' Centre at Wardley Hall to Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church, pilgrims will engage with pressing environmental challenges of our time, such as biodiversity loss and the climate crisis. These issues will be explored through the lens of faith, highlighting their impact on vulnerable communities around the world. We will hear from Columban missionaries journeying alongside those most affected by environmental degradation, who will offer insights into the realities faced by these communities. We will call to mind these people as we walk and pray for an end to human destructive behaviours that negatively impact the Earth and for reconciliation with our Creator.

The pilgrimage will begin in the morning with a short prayer liturgy at the Laudato Si' Centre. Pilgrims will then commence the nine-mile walk to the cathedral site, stopping at various parishes enroute where there will be opportunities for discussion, group prayer and quiet reflection, as well as much-needed comfort breaks! We'll bring our pilgrimage to an end with a vibrant celebration of Mass at 6pm in Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church, an event which is open to all who wish to join!

Whether you are based in Salford or elsewhere, you are warmly invited to join this celebratory and prayerful experience. Pilgrimages are not just physical journeys; they are spiritual movements. Even if you're unable to join the walk in person, we invite you explore our virtual pilgrimage resources at your own pace.

To find out more about the pilgrimage, <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/hope-pilgrimage-walk/> and to register your interest, please contact: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk.



THE NORTHERN DIOCESE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP invite you to take part in a mini-pilgrimage from Leeds City Station to Kirkstall Abbey

Date: Saturday 20 September 12:45 to 4pm

Who is invited? Everyone! - Especially parishioners from all the Northern Dioceses. We have especially chosen Leeds as it is a convenient gathering point for many.

Where do we meet? We will meet in the main concourse of Leeds City Station and set off from there promptly at 1pm.

How long is the walk - and what is it like? From the station it is about 4.7 miles to the grounds of Kirkstall Abbey. A short walk from the station leads onto the canal basin and towpath of the Leeds and Liverpool canal. The major part of the route follows the canal towpath. This means it is nearly all on the level. It is surprisingly peaceful - given how close the path is to major roads. At Kirkstall, we leave the towpath for a short distance to join another footpath that leads into the Abbey grounds.

Are we doing anything apart from walking? When we join the canal basin we will say a short prayer before starting the main part of the walk. At Kirkstall Abbey we will hold a short prayer service in the main body of the Abbey church. We hope that people from across the Northern Dioceses will be in attendance and it will be a good opportunity to talk informally and find out what is happening in other dioceses about the climate crisis and how each diocese is responding to Laudato Si.

Do I just turn up on the day? We can't stop you from doing this! - but we would really prefer that you tell us your name, email address and a mobile phone number. This way, we can send you more detailed instructions about the route, suitable clothing and any other health and safety considerations. Equally, a phone number is useful if there are any last minute hitches or changes that we need to make to the arrangements. climate.ndeg@gmail.com

What can I do if I want to come but need to come by car? Parking in Leeds city centre near to the station is possible but both expensive and, given that the start is a lunchtime on a Saturday, parking might be difficult to find. Our suggestion is to drive to Kirkstall Abbey, where there is a large car park. There is a good bus service from there back into the centre of Leeds.

I would like to come but I cannot walk that far. You would be very welcome just to meet us at Kirkstall Abbey for the final short prayer service. We cannot guarantee when we will arrive but if you email us and tell us your phone number then someone can ring you en route and give a better estimate for our arrival.

A NEW MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

On July 3, 2025 it was announced that Pope Leo XIV has introduced into the Roman Missal a special Mass for the Care of Creation (Missa pro custodia creationis). This marks two meaningful anniversaries: the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si', written by the late Pope Francis, and the 800th anniversary of The Canticle of the Creatures by Saint Francis. It is the first time the Church formally includes a liturgical prayer focused on creation as part of its public worship. But this moment is about more than a new set of prayers. It represents a bold spiritual milestone — a clear sign that caring for our common home is not merely an environmental issue, but a deeply moral and faith-centered calling.

More details : <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/celebrate-creation-with-the-churchs-new-mass-for-the-care-of-creation/>

REMEMBERING ANN GILL WITH LOVE

Ann sadly died in June. Her funeral Mass was at St Hugh & St John's Timperley on 4 July.

Joan Sharples writes:

When asked about her justice-and-peace work, Ann, a keen gardener, would say that she sowed seeds. She lived her life in the light of the words of Pope Paul VI 'Peace is the fruit of anxious daily care to see that everyone lives in justice as God intends' (Populorum Progressio). This was particularly evident in her involvement with the Justice & Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Ann had a good understanding of the many justice-and-peace issues and a deep awareness of how they connected and how they related to 'the Big Story' of the God's love for the earth, its creatures and all humanity.



Ann (left) with Joan at a Shrewsbury J & P Commission open meeting
Photo Bernard Payne

She was proud of having been to Greenham Common and treasured memories of the visit she made to Peru in the late eighties and these experiences informed her life and work. In response to a CAFOD campaign, she walked barefoot to Mass to highlight the dangers of landmines.

For ten years between 1990 and 2000 she was employed as Justice-and-Peace Fieldworker in the Diocese of Shrewsbury. Her great contribution to work in the diocese was to forge links with those involved in adult catechesis and religious education ensuring that Catholic Social Teaching was an integral part of its work. With computer skills in advance of most of her contemporaries, she produced databases and put the commission's accounts on impressive spreadsheets and produced a regular short mailing, Quick News, a vital resource in those pre-internet days.

She collected a wide range of children's books and resources which she toured around schools in the diocese including the handbook on development education to which she had contributed.

Her last project as fieldworker was one she undertook at the request of Bishop Brian Noble when, on behalf of the diocese, she coordinated the resources tent for the Churches Together in Cheshire Millennium event, 'Catch the Dream'.

Her work for justice and peace reached beyond the diocese: she was treasurer for Pax Christi and the National Justice & Peace Network.

Ann was kind, encouraging and generous. When a friend was offered the opportunity to visit Peru, but was without the finance to make the journey she immediately offered the money on the condition it was 'paid forward'. When the J&P Commission drew up a list of goals for its work, it was Ann who insisted that the last of these was that 'we enjoy the journey'. With Ann around it was impossible to do otherwise.

May the seeds Ann planted continue to flourish.

Joan Sharples was J & P Co-ordinator on the Shrewsbury J & P Commission when disbanded in 2013. Ann was widely known and loved. You can read memories from Anne O'Connor, John Mulholland, Pat Gaffney, and Ellen Teague in

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-north-west/nw-njpn-e-bulletin-july-2025/>



DEFENCE AND SECURITY EQUIPMENT INTERNATIONAL (DSEI) ARMS FAIR

SILENT CANDLELIT VIGIL on Monday September 8th 7.00 – 8:00 pm

Outside the Excel Centre Royal Victoria Square London E16 1BD

Pax Christi and the Quakers are jointly hosting this vigil for victims of the arms trade on the eve of the DSEI Arms Fair in London. Meet at Royal Victoria DLR station at 6.30pm to walk to the vigil together.

Bring a candle and a jar. The vigil will take place outside the Excel Centre – Royal Victoria Square, London, E16 1BD

Tuesday 9 September – No Faith in War Day on the opening day of the arms fair. Join with other faith groups. More details

<https://www.quaker-roots.org.uk/events/>

The DSEI is where war and repression start and where it can be stopped.

"We have found that a central cog in the machine of militarism—the global arms trade—has sunk deep into the very soil and soul of our society. It brings together some of the world's most corrupt corporations and most brutal regimes to do business. Because of DSEI, more weddings in Yemen are at risk of being bombed, more drones in Afghanistan will traumatise children, and more democracy protesters the world over will be met by armed police. We believe that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God. And so we have decided to act." – Quaker Roots

Quaker Roots Website <https://www.quaker-roots.org.uk/events/>

Every two years, the global arms trade comes to London's Docklands with our government's support. This is where those who profit from war, repression and injustice do business. This is where we can stop them. DSEI 2023 was the largest in its 24-year history, breaking records in overall attendance, number of visitors, and international delegations. Attendee numbers were up by 23% compared to DSEI 2019. The event hosted more than 1,500 exhibitors, with over 250 of those exhibiting for the first time, while our online industry buyer and supplier networking tool, MeetMe, enabled over 3,200 connections, and facilitated over 1,300 meetings throughout the busy show floor. DSEI is an international hybrid event with global reach, comprising 36 international country pavilions including Ukraine and North America, which doubled in size from the last exhibition. As ever, DSEI hosted international delegations from across the world. The event had an increase in senior military and government attendees, with over 3,250 VIPs and delegations from close to 100 nations visiting the biennial event, surpassing that of the existing record numbers achieved in 2019.

CAAT has regularly campaigned against DSEI. Most recently they have focused on DSEI 2025 official hotel booking partners, EventBeds™ and NuBreed Hotel who list twenty three hotels within a 5km radius of the ExCel Centre for DSEI delegates to book as accommodation. Fourteen of these hotels have publicly available email addresses –see the petition on <https://caat.org.uk/no-rooms-for-war-criminals/>

See also Sr Katrina of Pax Chrisiti talking at Swanwick this year about the arms trade and her experience at DSEI pages 12 &13

SEPTEMBER 14 – 21 WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL.



Take Action for Peace in the Holy Land. With the current war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank we are suggesting a number of actions we can all take:

Praying for Peace in Palestine and Israel

Among the Rubble

Compassionate God,
In our minds, we pray among the rubble,
the unholy mess of demolitions
in the land that we call Holy.


In our hearts we hold
families who have lost their homes,
children who have seen their schools destroyed,
communities which no longer have a clinic.
We pray for them as they weep for all that's lost.
We pray that they will not lose hope.

And we pray, too, for
the men who drive the bulldozers,
soldiers who beat back protesters,
politicians who sign the orders –
aware that such actions destroy their humanity.

Bless those who campaign against injustice;
bless the patient rebuilders;
bless those who hope against hope
that peace with justice will prevail
in the land that we call Holy.
Amen

Photo credit: John Lyons

© Jan Sutch Pickard

- Light a candle each evening at 6pm , or any time convenient for you, and pray for an end to the war and justice for all in the Holy Land
- Organise a peace vigil in your school, community or parish
- Order Pax Christ Prayer Cards - Among the Rubble – to give out
<https://paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/palestineandisrael/>
- Write to your MP (see www.eyewitnessblogs.com/take-action/ for suggestions)

NB.MERSEYSIDE PAX CHRISTI have meetings on 2nd Thursday each month in Liverpool. See Diary page 17 for more details of these meetings

SWANWICK NPJN CONFERENCE JULY 2025

'Towards a Just Peace' Challenging the inevitability of violence



Anne Peacey Chair, NJPN Conference Planning Group writes: The annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NPJN) this year focused on what might be a 'Just Peace' and questioned the inevitability of violence as a means of resolving conflict. We are surrounded by images and stories of unspeakable acts of inhumanity towards our brothers and sisters in many areas of conflict. Uppermost in the hearts and minds of those present at the conference were the many 'red lines' being crossed in the treatment of the Palestinian people in Gaza. The images of starving children and distraught mothers unable to sustain their children was heartbreaking and compelled all participants to agree that a call to action must be made.

The following call to action is addressed to all who have a voice and a responsibility towards those who are desperate yet voiceless and ignored. **There can be no peace without justice. The time for silence is over. The time for prophetic action is now.**

I urge you all to share this key message as widely as possible.

STATEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE

We, the delegates of the 2025 Conference of the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales, gathered in Swanwick, stand in solidarity with all those suffering the horrors of war in Palestine and Israel.

Echoing the urgent appeal of Pope Francis: "I follow with great concern the extremely serious humanitarian situation in Gaza, where the civilian population is crushed by hunger and continues to be exposed to violence and death... Every human person has an intrinsic dignity bestowed by God Himself... I urge negotiating a future of peace for all peoples and rejecting anything that could jeopardise it."

We share the Pope's profound alarm at the deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, and reaffirm the Church's unwavering commitment to the dignity of every human being—regardless of nationality, religion, or political identity. The continued bombardment of Gaza, the illegal occupation of the West Bank, and the targeting of civilians, humanitarian workers, and journalists are not isolated tragedies—they are violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. As Mary Robinson recently told the UN: "We are witnessing an unfolding genocide in Gaza."

The International Court of Justice has affirmed that Israel's actions in the West Bank amount to de facto annexation and breach international obligations on racial segregation and apartheid.

We grieve all lives lost—Palestinian and Israeli—and condemn indiscriminate violence and hostage-taking by all parties. But the scale and intensity of Israel's military response is overwhelmingly disproportionate and morally indefensible.

There can be no Peace without justice. The time for silence is over. The time for prophetic action is now.

To the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales We urge you to:

- Publicly and unequivocally condemn the Israeli Government's war of aggression in Gaza;
- Speak out against the use of starvation, denial of healthcare, and targeting of civilians—grave breaches of international law;
- Raise your voice, in the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching, for a peace rooted in human dignity, equality, and justice for all.

To the British Government and all political leaders

We call for principled and urgent action to uphold international law and human rights:

- Secure an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces;
- Guarantee the safe and unrestricted delivery of all humanitarian aid;
- Impose a comprehensive arms embargo and end all military cooperation with Israel;
- Secure the release of all hostages—Israeli and Palestinian alike;
- Recognise the State of Palestine without conditions or delay;
- Suspend trade with illegal Israeli settlements and with entities complicit in occupation or war crimes;
- End the blockade of Gaza and dismantle the occupation of the West Bank;
- Pursue international accountability for violations of humanitarian law—by Hamas, Israeli forces, and settlers.
- Enforce targeted sanctions to end impunity and uphold justice.

His Eminence, Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has appealed to us, and the international community, to do what is right for everyone, in a way that restores human dignity. He said, 'it is time to end this nonsense, end the war and put the common good of people as the top priority.' 'Let us not turn peace into a slogan, while war remains the daily bread of the poor.'

As people of faith and conscience, we must not settle for a fragile peace maintained by fear, nor a silence born of complicity. We are called to a Just Peace—a peace that refuses to dehumanise, that dismantles injustice, and that centres the common good of all people.

The time is now—to speak, to act, and to stand with courage for a future rooted in justice, human dignity, and the radical hope that peace is possible.



Delegates at Swanwick were invited to meet wearing red for a photo call to show their support for the Palestinian people



A JUST PEACE FOR GAZA

Readings for seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time.: Genesis 18 v 20 -32 Abraham pleading for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah Luke 11 v 1-11 Jesus teaching his disciples how to pray

Speaking during the NJPN conference Mass, celebrated by Westminster priest Fr Joe Ryan, Ann Farr of Pax Christi International called for a Just Peace for Gaza:

"In the gospel readings of the last few weeks we have heard Jesus sending out the disciples, the parable of the Good Samaritan and the story of Martha and Mary all of which teach us about trust, the need to listen, to see what needs doing and to take action. All are about making choices.

Today, in Abraham's conversations with God we hear his confidence in God, in his continuous pleading for the righteous to be saved and his expectation that 'the Judge of all the Earth, will do what is just.' He keeps on and on, trusting in the hope that God will do what is right.

In the Gospel, having seen Jesus pray, the disciples are moved to ask him to teach them to pray and we have the prayer that has come down through the centuries as the Family Prayer of Christians. It is our community prayer, it is about right relationship with each other and God. The story of the friend woken up at night by his neighbour includes the impudence and persistence that comes of desperation and many of us will recognise that from events in our own lives. Every Palestinian family, then and now, would give hospitality and refreshments to anyone visiting them, no matter what time it is, or who they are, and will go to any lengths to ensure that they do this – even when it means annoying a neighbour.

Our work for Justice involves working together to develop our awareness, through accompanying and listening to those suffering injustice and endless pleading with God, our neighbours, politicians at local and national level and with church leaders. All of which is rooted in prayer and reflection on Scripture

Our time together this weekend is to help us look towards a Just Peace. Not just peace, and there's a lot of 'fluffy' peace around, but a Just Peace ... the Peace of Christ

Bishop Mary Gregory, when Canon of Coventry Cathedral, suggested that the Peace of Christ, 'it is to take seriously the woundedness of God's People, to name the lack of peace and journey towards the richest understanding of justice.'

We have many examples of those who show us the way on that journey and I often think about a friend, Jean Zaru, a Palestinian Quaker Theologian, who has said, 'We cannot live a day without saying yes or no to death or to life, to war or to peace. The choice is ours. There is no compromise in this matter. To postpone or to evade decision is to decide, to hide is to decide, to compromise is to decide. There is no escape, this is our challenge.'

Working for justice means we are frequently challenged and that we are involved in so many areas where we see people suffering and a remarkable number of issues will have touched the hearts of everyone here. Our hearts have been broken often by the people we have seen and the stories we have heard and even more so by the silence or the inaction of those who have the power to make a difference and ensure that the dignity of each person is respected.

In the last two years our hearts and minds have been with those in Palestine and Israel. A Palestinian friend said to me at the end of 2023, 'I am trying to live a normal life.' This is now impossible in both Gaza and the West Bank. There is no normal – but the daily choices of desperately trying to survive.

At that same time I saw a small child saying, 'I am tired of war.' Now after the killing of 18,000 children, the unthinkable numbers of family members killed, injured and buried under the rubble, some children are saying they want to die, to escape from the constant, unbearable violence, starvation and thirst and because they want to be with their parents and siblings who have been killed. We have no words any more to express what we feel as we watch Israel's genocide in Gaza and their ethnic cleansing and annexation of the West Bank.

Over the years those of us involved in this advocacy, alongside our Palestinian and Israeli partners, have been taught the concept of *SUMUD*, meaning steadfastness, resilience and perseverance. In Palestine the image of *SUMUD* is the olive tree, deeply rooted, long lived and bearing the new life of blossom and fruit. It is planted with huge physical effort, in very stony ground and is soon surrounded by viciously spikey plants as well as beautiful carpets of wild flowers. Despite farmers being refused access to tend their trees and the lack of water, the trees survive and can live for thousands of years.

If damaged, and they are frequently burnt, cut down or slashed by the Israeli military or settlers, the trees can regenerate with branches bringing forth blossom and new fruit.

A Palestinian friend has described *SUMUD* as patience and persistence - not giving up – despite everything. It is to stand strong and deeply rooted and recognise the need to try and find hope. A hope that knows a different way is possible. It is about our humanity and the humanity and dignity of ALL human beings.

WE are sent out to be peacemakers and we do that by working for justice, where we see it is missing. We are privileged to be alongside and to accompany others at different times and in different places.... We listen to them, we speak out with them and we take whatever action is possible for us at that time.

Both Pope Francis and Pope Leo have condemned the violence and begged for a ceasefire, an end to the arms industry that has fuelled the onslaught and for all the humanitarian aid that is needed to be let in immediately.

The Latin Patriarch, Cardinal Pizzaballa and the Orthodox Patriarch, Theophilos who have pastoral care of those in Holy Family and St Porphyrius parishes have spoken out strongly on behalf of everyone in Gaza.

After the recent Israeli military attack on the Church of the Holy Family, the Patriarchs made a visit of solidarity to Gaza to visit the Christians in both communities, the Al Ahli Hospital and Caritas. On their return to Jerusalem they said 'We have returned from Gaza with broken hearts. But also encouraged by the testimony of many people we met.'

They said they stood among the rubble and encountered something deeper than the destruction – the dignity of the human spirit that refuses to be extinguished, mothers preparing food for their children, nurses treating wounds with gentleness and people of all faiths still praying to the God who sees and never forgets.

Christ is not absent from Gaza he is there – crucified in the wounded, buried under the rubble and yet present in every hand extended to the suffering.

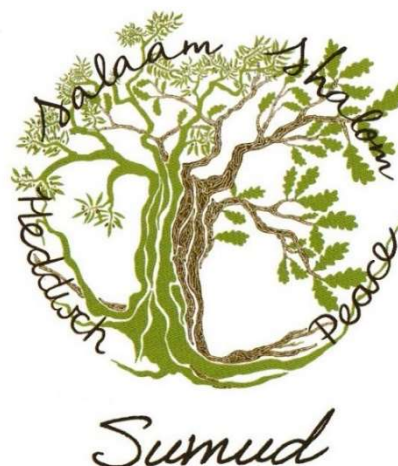
The Cardinal stresses that their mission, and ours, is not just for a specific group – but for all. Every Christian Centre is a place of encounter and sharing for all, Christians, Muslims, believers, doubters, refugees, children, - for everyone.

He appeals to us and all the international community to do what is right, in a way that restores human dignity. He says that it is a time to end this nonsense, end the war and put the common good of people as the top priority.

As we join in our community prayer in a few minutes, we will ask for our daily bread and keep in mind those who have none and the final words of the Latin Patriarch 'Let us not turn peace into a slogan, while war remains the daily bread of the poor.'

We will go from here to deepen our solidarity and accompaniment of each other and of those who suffer injustice, together we will listen to them, and with them will continue our constant pleading that everyone, especially those in positions of leadership and power will condemn the injustices and take action so that justice will be done – as God intends – and we will take whatever action we can to work towards a Just Peace for everyone. Doing this in the spirit of *Sumud*, with patience, persistence and resistance, standing firm and rooted in the Spirit of God and the hope that things can be different. “

Steadfast God, strong and sheltering as the oak,
and, like the olive tree, life-giving, everywhere,
encourage your children with your Samud,
your constant presence, your Just Being There.
We raise to you in prayer the suffering peoples in your Holy Land.
To those who are wounded, bring healing,
to those who hunger, the nourishment they need;
to those bewildered, give boundaries, a sense of direction, deep meaning.
To those who trust in the power of arms, give signs of true strength;
to those who reach out to the helpless, the endurance not to give up.
To the bereaved, bring consolation like healing leaves,
to the broken, the possibility of wholeness.,
to those who despair, the glimmer of light.
Teach us to stand firm in hope and grow together in peace.
Rooted wherever you place us, teach us the meaning of Samud. Amen



Prayer: Jan Sutch Pickard 2024

Artwork: Tanya Rotherfield, West Wales Friends of Palestine
Kate, common ground, Coventry

More about the swanick conference on pages 12-15

PARTNERSHIP WORKING IN LANCASHIRE

The structural landscape of Lancashire is going through another period of significant change. In health, the measures announced by the secretary of state in March mean that there will be a significant reduction in the size and scope of the ICB (integrated care board). In local government, Lancashire will move from the current two-tier system of Lancashire County council, twelve district councils and two unitary authorities (Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen) to having three or four unitary authorities. In addition, it is very likely that there will be an elected, regional mayor for Lancashire, certainly within the next two years.

In what feels like a never-ending period of flux, what remains constant are the groups and organisations that make up the VCFSE (voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise) sector. With over 600 churches across Lancashire, the Christian part of this network is perhaps the most stable, and the most widely distributed, offering both practical care, but also spiritual support and guidance. One challenge though is the lack of a comprehensive listing of all churches across all denominations. It's therefore helpful that an effort is currently being made to get a detailed picture of the VCFSE sector through a 'state of the sector' exercise. Details and links to the online survey at:

<https://www.healthierlsc.co.uk/VCFSE/news-and-media/latest-news/bwd-community-network-and-vcfse-state-sector-project>



Members of Pendle Food for All, St Phillips centre, and Curry on the Street at a local Places of Welcome sharing event, Nelson in May

If all churches could complete this, it would be a huge help in giving our public sector partners a complete picture.

This picture would not only be useful for partner organisations, but also for the faith sector itself. I've noticed recently that while public sector bodies are getting better at connecting with the VCFSE sector, we as churches (and mosques) are not so good at connecting with each other. One simple way of improving this is through the network of PLACES OF WELCOME. If you are open and providing simple refreshments at the same time each week, and anyone is welcome, then you can register as a Places of Welcome <https://www.placesofwelcome.org.uk/>

This will raise your profile, and give you access to support and advice for e.g. funding and training. It will also allow us to bring local groups together to share their experiences and combine their efforts, as happened recently in Pendle.

Peter Lumsden Methodist district public issues officer and regional coordinator for Places of Welcome (pilumsden58@gmail.com)

On Friday 25th July, a warm, sunny day in Salford, we were delighted to be joined by parishioners from the Dioceses of Shrewsbury, Salford and Liverpool, along with CAFOD Director Christine Allen, for a day of peaceful reflection in the beautiful forest and gardens of the Laudato Si' Centre.

The day was a collaboration between ourselves - Kathryn Keenan (CAFOD in Shrewsbury), Simon Holleron (CAFOD in Salford), and Emily Cahill, Environment and Learning officer at the Laudato Si' Centre. We planned the day using the excellent Jubilee Reflection Guide produced by CAFOD's Theology team. The Laudato Si' Centre is in the Salford Diocese but close to the border with the Shrewsbury Diocese, lending itself to a joint event. The setting enabled us to spend time outdoors during each of the four sessions, drawing hope and inspiration from nature as we reflected on Jubilee themes and discussed how we can be Pilgrims of Hope in the world.

The day began with Bishop of Salford John Arnold, former CAFOD trustee and instigator of the Laudato Si' Centre project, coming over to join us from his home at Wardley Hall just next to the centre, to open our day with a prayer and words of encouragement. He also signed our petition for debt justice, a great photo opportunity!

Our first session focused on the Jubilee icon with time spent in prayer and discussion in the forest area. It was inspiring to listen to the words of Luke 4 whilst surrounded by nature and birdsong. Many interpretations of the icon imagery were shared and it was really interesting to hear the different meanings and feelings it evoked for people.

During our second session, we shared the story of Isako in Kenya and discussed how he is living out the words of Jesus, "...he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor". Christine was able to share her personal reflections and experience of spending time with partners in Kenya, which really brought CAFOD's work to life.

Lunch break was a time for personal and group reflection and discussion surrounded by plants, flowers and trees. A number of attendees mentioned the joy of seeing the abundance of bees and butterflies in the grounds!

Our afternoon began with a focus on the burden of debt and the impact that Sri Lanka's debt repayments is having on people there. Very thoughtful discussions took place around the theme of captivity and the ways that people can be trapped and overburdened. We wrote these ideas, which included debt, addiction, lack of opportunity, poverty and trafficking, on strips of paper to make a chain. A very moving part of the day followed when we broke these 'chains of oppression' as a sign of the liberation we want for all and our commitment to work towards this.

Emily led us in the final session of the day about the joy of God's creation. We voiced our gratitude for the joy we take in nature and discussed the practical steps we can take to care for our common home. Emily highlighted the parallel between Jenny in Columbia, who works with children and teenagers, teaching them about caring for our common home, with her own work, teaching those same lessons to school children and young people in the Salford Diocese and beyond.

Christine closed the day for us by saying a few words to thank those who had attended. She also spoke of the importance of the centre and its links with CAFOD's own mission to care for our common home. Emily then concluded with the Salford Diocesan Prayer for Our Common Home:

*All powerful God, you created all things,
and you are present throughout the universe and in every creature,
You embrace with your tender love all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
so that we may have the strength and courage
to protect all life and the beauty of our world,
preserving it from pollution and destruction.
Fill us with your peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters,
harming no one, and caring for the Earth, our common home.
Teach us to discover the worth of every creature on this earth,
Let us protect those at risk and in danger.
Encourage us as we seek justice, love and peace.
Stay with us each day, with the power of your grace.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen*

Participants sent us positive feedback about the day, including Alex, who wrote:

"I found talking with other volunteers about our own experiences and perspectives on the themes of the Jubilee to be very rewarding, alongside spending time at the Laudato Si Centre, which helped me to reflect on the beauty of nature and God's creation."

A Jubilee Reflection morning and Family Fast Day celebration will be held at the Laudato Si' Centre on Friday 3rd October. To book visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/y45833t3>

For more information about The Laudato Si' Centre please visit: <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/>

The Jubilee Reflection Guide can be downloaded from: <https://shop.cafod.org.uk/products/pilgrims-of-hope-reflection-guide>.

Kathryn Keenan, Community Participation Coordinator, CAFOD in Shrewsbury & Birmingham, kkeen@cafod.org.uk

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY IS ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 3RD Keenan Kathryn writes: Whether you are a new or experienced parish volunteer, we recommend that you attend one of our Fast Day Briefings to be inspired by hearing about our focus story this Harvest, CAFOD updates and to share your experiences of organising Fast Day collections in your parish.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY BRIEFINGS

Tuesday 9th September 7-8.30pm – Online briefing led by Kathryn Keenan (CAFOD Shrewsbury) and Sylvester Mutsigwa (CAFOD Birmingham). Hear from our guest speaker Fergus Conmee, CAFOD's Director of International Programmes.

Tuesday 16th September: 7-8.30pm – In Person - St John's Parish Centre, Chequers Road, (corner with High Lane), Chorlton Cum Hardy, Manchester M21 9DL Led by Kathryn Keenan (CAFOD Shrewsbury) and Simon Holleron (CAFOD Salford). This is a great opportunity for you to meet with other volunteers and for us to meet you!

To attend either of the above briefings email: kkeenan@cafod.org.uk

Wednesday 17th September 7-8pm – Online This is our National Harvest Fast Day Briefing, open to volunteers across the country and will be led by my colleague Jenny Hayward-Jones from our Supporter Fundraising Team. During this Zoom session, we will hear live from Teamrat Belai, Country Director – Ethiopia for CAFOD, SCIAF and Trócaire, to learn more about our work in Ethiopia and discover how you can play a vital role in supporting our Family Fast Day appeal in your parish this Harvest.

Register to attend this briefing: https://cafod.formstack.com/forms/cafod_harvest_volunteers



NB This appeal **Life-Saving Water in a Changing Climate** focuses on Southern Ethiopia where the climate crisis is threatening lives. The seasons are now unpredictable, and long droughts are forcing women like Waré to walk for hours each day — even while pregnant — just to find water for drinking, washing, and livestock. “It was very traumatising,” Waré says. “When I was pregnant, I had to go fetch water in the mountains. Sometimes I felt so weak I could fall down, so I worried about my child.” Yet, Waré refused to give up. Guided by her own faith and uniting with her neighbours, she took action. With support from CAFOD and local water expert Abbiott, they built an underground water tank to collect and store every precious drop of rain. Now, over 300 families have safe, clean water just a few steps from their homes.

Photo credit Louise Norton

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT September 22 - October 5 2025.

This year's theme is Brew It Fair - we're asking you to take action and call on the UK Government to ensure the people growing our tea can plan for their futures, and are protected from the impacts of climate change.

In the UK, tea is more than a drink, it's part of who we are. In fact, we drink over 100 million cups of tea every single day. But while we enjoy the warmth of a brew, many of the people who grow and pick the tea leaves face daily challenges - poverty, unsafe working conditions, and the increasing threat of climate change. Behind our tea lies a global trade system that is deeply unequal, with power and profits concentrated in the hands of a few. To create this much needed change, businesses and government must come together and take responsibility to stand with tea-growing communities. Tea brings us together. Now it's time to use our voices for change. If you haven't already done so, it is not too late to join over 11,000 people and sign the petition <https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/171071/petition/1?>



As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, could you run a Tea Party in your local community - and invite your MP along, too! To help you out, we've made a page with all you need to know to run a fantastic tea party. From games to videos, influencing MP guides to suggested social media captions, it's all there. And every action helps grow support for a fairer deal for tea farmers. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fairtrade-fortnight-2025/>

CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK ENGLAND AND WALES 13-19 OCTOBER 2025



This week is a great opportunity to celebrate the work being done to challenge poverty in communities; to amplify the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and to speak out about the unjust structures that trap people in poverty. Take part if you can. Use the hashtag #challengepoverty on social media; look out for events taking place in the Week; and visit www.challengepoverty.co.

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER 2025

The Church Action on Poverty Sunday that took place in March was the most successful we've had for many years. Churches across the UK used the 'Dreams and Realities' paintings to spark reflection and discussion about tackling poverty, and raised over £7,000 that will support work to reclaim dignity, agency and power.

This year, we are moving Church Action on Poverty Sunday so it takes place on 19 October, at the end of Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales. It's a great opportunity to get even



more churches involved, and build on the commitment already shown by so many churches. www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday Could you help to maximise its impact?

Find out more here: <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/volunteer/>

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY NEWS

In June Niall Cooper stepped down as Chief Executive of the ecumenical Church Action on Poverty (CAP) after 28 years. He looks back at his time in post and some remarkable highlights in an interview on page 8 of CAP's Summer newsletter SPARK

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/SPARK-newsletter-May-2025.pdf>

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY APPOINTS LIAM PURCELL AS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On June 30, 2025 a new Chief Executive. Liam Purcell was appointed.

Liam says "I'm excited to start working alongside the many churches and other partners who share Church Action on Poverty's vision. I want us to continue being a catalyst for change in communities, and speaking truth to power. I'm proud to be part of an organisation that is always rooted in the lived experience of people who live with poverty. I've seen first-hand the amazing difference that churches can make in their communities, and if any churches are looking to embark on work to tackle the injustice of poverty, we'd love to work together."



Helen Goodman, chair of Church Action on Poverty's Council of Management, said: "We had a high number of first-class applicants for this role and following a rigorous process the Council of Management appointed Liam. He has total commitment to the organisation and its values. At the same time, we believe his experience and management skills will serve the organisation well, following a period of phenomenal growth and in a time when action to tackle poverty is really important."

Liam Purcell has overseen Church Action on Poverty's communications since 2007, and played a lead role in initiatives including Let's End Poverty, End Hunger UK, and Challenge Poverty Week. Prior to that, he was National Coordinator for the Student Christian Movement

• Church Action on Poverty is a national ecumenical Christian social justice charity, committed to tackling poverty in the UK. Since 1982 we have worked in partnership with churches, and with people in poverty themselves, to tackle the root causes of poverty. We put gospel values of justice and compassion into practice. We know that the real experts on poverty are the people who live with it. Our work is driven by their insights and experiences. We help them to make their voices heard. We speak truth to power, campaigning nationally and locally for policies that will loosen the grip of poverty on people's lives. www.church-poverty.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE: WE HAVE MOVED! THE NEW CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY OFFICE IS AT:

Shared Space Initiative, Ground floor, Oakland House, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 0PQ

'TOWARDS A JUST PEACE' Challenging the inevitability of violence

Marian Thompson shares some memories of this year's NJPN Conference at Swanwick in July.



Friday evening: Sister Katrina Alton with Sister MaryAnne Francalanza discussing Gospel Nonviolence

Question: How do you replace a former Archbishop Canterbury?

Answer: With two Catholic nuns!

At the last minute Dr Rowan Williams who was billed as the opening speaker on the Friday evening had to withdraw due to illness. His place was taken by Sister Katrina Alton (right in picture) and Sister Mary Anne Francalanza (left). Sr. Katrina belongs to the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace. Amongst other activities she is at present Chaplain to Pax Christi England and Wales. Sr. MaryAnne is a Faithful Companion of Jesus Sister who has been a teacher for many years and now is Director at FCJ Centre for Spirituality and EcoJustice in London. She admitted near the beginning that she knew very little about the Gospel of Nonviolence and was there to learn.

Sr Katrina grew up in Northern Ireland in a Baptist family during the troubles. She confessed she always had a deep yearning for true peace. She described her spiritual journey that has brought her to her present position as a Sister in the Catholic Church who focuses on the Gospel of Nonviolence and is now the Chaplain to Pax Christi.

Sr Mary Anne wondered 'Does everyone who says Gospel Nonviolence mean the same thing?'

Sr Katrina suggested: Jesus was living in an occupied country. We are sitting in the heart of Empire. We are called to challenge people into a greater understanding of peace, of justice. What is moral is sometimes not legal. We need discernment. Our primary community and prayer are important for this.

She then offered as a starting point: What breaks your heart? Remember this is breaking God's heart too. Be prepared to act and find others to join you who share this concern. You may find you are swimming against the tide eg if you oppose the reduction to the overseas aid budget and the increase in the spending on armaments.

Living a nonviolent life - The Arms Trade - Being present at the DSEI

Sr Katrina: "It is encouraging that Pope Leo is following on from Pope Francis. Pope Francis laid some strong foundations about nonviolence as a way of life, a political model we should all be using, an effective tool for change giving the people within the peace movement the courage to keep on. Pope Francis made an amazing little video a few years ago about the arms trade. He asked 'Why does it continue? We know why it continues. Because it makes some people loads of money and that money is covered in the blood of the innocent.' These were Pope Francis's words. He said the production and the possession of nuclear weapons is immoral. Not using them or threatening to use them but the production and possession. Recently a country was bombed because they might have them. But we have them. The hypocrisy of that does not go unnoticed.

My challenge, our challenge, is what can we do to stop this nonviolently?

Google Dr Martin Luther King's six principles on nonviolence. ** He really unpacks Jesus way of nonviolence to those of us living in empire. We have to dare to cross the line in things like the arms trade. The DSEI Arms Fair is coming back to London this September. This is one the biggest Arms Fairs in the world. Amnesty International were kicked out in 2011 because they were pointing out 'you are selling things that are used to torture and abuse people.' ... Some of us try to stop this happening through prayer and action. So in Pax Christi we have a silent vigil the night before. The tools of nonviolence are varied and silence is a powerful tool. People don't know what to do with silence, but we know what to do with silence. That's the grace of our faith. We lean into it and we allow the spirit to come and be with us because we don't do this on our own strength. But we do all sorts of other things. We try and talk to the arms dealers. We have die-ins to block the road. There's humour, drama, a choir. If you can sing come and join us... There are all sorts of things we can do and some of us risk arrest because of the immorality that is going on does not produce peace and security. We have got caught up in this myth that the security of the nation is more important than the dignity of each individual and the earth and I think we really have to rethink that. "

Sr. MaryAnne: "As you speak it feels very David and Goliath - you've got the big arms traders, money and power. Then you've got a group of people standing in silence or lying on the ground. Is it effective? What do these actions do?"

Sr. Katrina "If you want to walk this road of gospel nonviolence you are following a man who in the eyes of the world was the biggest failure ever - Jesus. He had this nonviolent ministry, this radical following and then ends up on the cross killed by empire. It is no coincidence that that happens as he goes into Jerusalem, goes into the house of power and throws over the tables. Nonviolent direct action to challenge the whole system and within a week he is dead. Was that successful? The resurrection is the greatest act of nonviolent resistance because when empire says you are dead you are supposed to stay dead. And we follow somebody who broke through that by the power of God. We are failures every time. Have we stopped the Arms Fair? No Have we stopped the arms trade? No

Sr Katrina then shared a personal story: " In 2009 a friend and I went to the Arms Fair We managed to get through the first security gate. They bus the arms dealers in double decker buses into The Excel centre in the East End of London - that part of London was bombed more than anywhere during World War II, an irony that is not unnoticed. Those coming in are military, politicians but predominately the arms dealers. And my friend and I stood in front of one of their signs which read you can buy the biggest and best killers in the world and we threw red paint over it to symbolise the blood of the innocent. We knelt down and we started to pray. We prayed the litany of resistance. We had expected security to whisk us away before we finished the first prayer...one hour later my knees were numb. We were still there and wondered what was happening. During the hour thousands of arms dealers had passed us, looking the other way and pretending not to see us..... Only two spoke to us. One came up and said 'What do you expect. We are only one step up from monkeys' implying we are all animals and violence is inevitable. Another man came up to me and I pray for this man every day. He leant over my shoulder and he whispered 'I fear you are right'. I often wonder if he is still an arms dealer? Did something change in that moment? Did something change for him because something really changed for me.

The police did come and we were put in a van and security came and took away the big board covered in red paint. They brought a new one. I kid you not- the Holy Spirit blew it over into the red paint that was on the floor!

Do we have success? I don't know. I am sure the early Christians wondered 'what are we doing? He is sending us out into the whole world two by two'. And there we were just the two of us. I don't know about success but I just trust that the God of love and nonviolence will do what has to be done through little actions which each of us tries to do in our own small way."

You can listen to the full discussion https://youtu.be/W7hmvCWMSOQ?list=PL4HAuivOZMEXP59V6429gmpA8DEhaV_f6

**** Dr Martin Luther King's Principles for a Nonviolent Life as mentioned by Sr Katrina**

- Principle one: Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people. It is active nonviolent resistance to evil. It is aggressive spiritually, mentally and emotionally.
- Principle two: Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding. The result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation. The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.

- Principle three: Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people. Nonviolence recognises that evildoers are also victims and are not evil people. The nonviolent resister seeks to defeat evil, not people.
- Principle four: Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform. Nonviolence accepts suffering without retaliation. Unearned suffering is redemptive and has tremendous educational and transforming possibilities.
- Principle five: Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate. Nonviolence resists violence of the spirit as well as the body. Nonviolent love is spontaneous, unmotivated, unselfish and creative.
- Principle six: Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice. The nonviolent resister has deep faith that justice will eventually win. Nonviolence believes that God is a God of justice



Saturday morning: Living out and Experiencing Gospel Nonviolence – a panel discussion (from right to left on picture)

Chaired by James Newby -the Columban's Justice, Peace and Ecology Co-ordinator as well as an Education Worker.

George White - a transgender man and a teacher of Religious Education in a Catholic school. He has delivered conferences on LGBT +Inclusion in Catholic schools. In 2023 he was shortlisted for a National Diversity Award as a positive role model in race, religion and faith .

Andrew Jackson - Pax Christi England and Wales Chief Executive.

Moved onto the peacemovement when he joined CHIPS (Christian International Peace Service) in 2018

Sr Katrina Alton - see Friday evening above

Bokani Tshidzu - Operation Noah's Bright Now Campaign Officer, also an artist who has had several exhibitions in Zimbabwe, London and Liverpool.

The panel first introduced themselves then considered some questions first from James then from the floor.....

Could you define what you mean by prayer?

For George: How would you reply to a member of the LGBT community and a Catholic who asks 'how do I make peace with the church which rejects me?'

For Andrew: What do you see as the treasures in the Catholic community that we need to hear about and how do they fit into your journey as a non Catholic?

For all the panel: If you were in a lift with Donald Trump and/or Keir Starmer what would you say to them?

How do you balance the hypocrisies in your life? How do you manage the things you can't do and not let the guilt, the multiple vocational calls that are out there in the world overwealm you?

What would you say to a well meaning sincere Catholic who says 'War is inevitable. Despite our best intentions there has always been violence'?

What would you say to our local Cathilic community on how to respond to local violence on our streets and to polarisationsin our communities?

How can we, without putting too much pressure on our own organisations, somehow reflect the wide range of issues that go towards producing violence and therefore the issues we need to address to find a just peace?

You can hear the panel's answers to these questions and follow the full discussion which was informative and at times challenging and amusing on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1i6wBTqepoM>



On Sunday morning Joanna Frew talked on Rethinking Security for a just peace

Joanna is the Outreach Coordinator for the Rethinking Security network. This is not specifically a Christian Organisation although it was founded by Quakers and other christians.

<https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk>

Joanna asked 'What is national security?'

She suggested the government sees their first responsibility is to secure the state rather than think about their people and the planet. This is highly militarised with policies of increasing spending on weapons and defence taking priority, leading to cuts in the welfare and foreign aid budgets. This is also unsustainable as it does not address the root causes of insecurity such as the marginalisation of people from decision making around the world, poverty and climate change.

She suggested this military emphasis makes for exclusivity where a small group of people with the right profiles make decisions. She wondered if it was problematic for the head of state to also be head of the military and of the established Church of England. This favours stability over justice and makes change difficult.

She recommended John Heathershaw's book *Security After Christendom: Global Politics and Political Theology for Apocalyptic Times*.

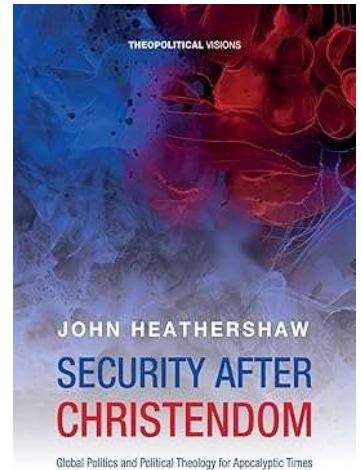
From Rethinking Security's perspective rather than putting the state at the centre of everything we should think on three levels :

Global issues that affect all of us and require collaboration rather than competition. We should be encouraging our government to work collaboratively rather than competing.

Community: We need strong communities where there is food security, housing security, energy security, jobs and employment that work for people and political representation. Are we included within our political community and not being excluded and marginalised from political decisions?

Individual: Bodily security i.e being able to be yourself without fear of persecution and able to use your capabilities as a full human being. UN's description 'Freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity',

Joanna concluded suggesting ways these could be achieved. Hear her full talk https://youtu.be/YX9EsNLzbko?list=PL4HAuivOZMEXP59V6429gmpA8DEhaV_f6



The UK has just been sued via corporate courts, for halting a coal mine.(1)

Cleodie Rickard, Trade campaigner at Global Justice Now writes: The now-abandoned Cumbria mine, the UK's first new major coal mine in decades, was railed against by environmental campaigners. It was quashed by the UK's high court last year and ruled unlawful due to its climate impacts.(2) At a time when we should be rapidly leaving fossil fuels behind, stopping it was so clearly the right call.

The West Cumbria Mining company is using the UK-Singapore investment treaty to sue the UK government, enjoying its chain of holding companies and ultimate owners registered overseas in Singapore to make use of corporate courts. To add to the scandal, the lawyer representing them is former attorney general Geoffrey Cox – a sitting Conservative MP lined up to make a killing for helping foreign investors penalise his own government's climate policy.(3)

We've been calling on the government to scrap Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) trade rules for years, to stop exactly this eventuality: fossil fuel companies suing us over necessary climate action.

The UK's new trade strategy says it will continue inserting controversial corporate courts into its trade deals. At this very moment, the government is negotiating an investment treaty with India that will include this secret weapon for mega-corporations.

The decision rows back on strong concerns about investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) that Labour raised when in opposition, saying that ISDS threatened "the NHS, the environment and workers' rights" and welcoming the UK's exit from the Energy Charter Treaty.

Giving foreign investors the power to sue for billions of pounds of public funds, for making legitimate policy changes, is an affront to democracy. As they legislate over everything from phasing out fossil fuels to managing our water utilities, our representatives must be free to act in the public interest – not be held to ransom by unaccountable corporations. Maintaining the threat of these corporate claims also deters or punishes global south countries' climate action and policies to protect human rights.

As it sets out its stall on trade, help us make the UK finally call time on corporate courts: by committing to no ISDS in future trade agreements and to review it in existing deals. But because the UK hasn't removed corporate courts from its trade deals, foreign investors have the power to threaten it in secretive tribunals, and pass the losses from their dirty, outdated projects onto the taxpayer. This has to be a wake-up call. With the risk now realised before their eyes, can you help us tell the government to finally scrap corporate courts?

UK ministers can no longer deny that this regime of corporate privilege has a knife to the throat of our climate action. But they do have the power to disarm fossil fuel firms of their secret weapon, if they only drop ISDS from trade deals.

Tell the UK: Sign a petition to Jonathan Reynolds, business and trade secretary to call time on corporate courts <https://act.globaljustice.org.uk/node/4490?>

1. UK taxpayers on hook as failed Cumbria coalmine investors sue government, The Guardian, 11 August 2025 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/aug/11/uk-taxpayers-on-hook-failed-cumbria-coalmine-investors-sue-government?>



FRANCISCUS

A single word,
A simple tomb,
As chosen by
The man, the Pope,
Whose body
Lies beneath.
Loving all people,
Especially those
Victims of war,
Or of famine,
Refugees,
Asylum seekers,
The desperate,
The destitute,
The dying.

Loving all creation,
Firm defender of
Our common home,
Our burning world.
Respecting other faiths,
Pursuer of peace
Founded on justice.
Preferring to consult
Than to command.
Gave his Easter
blessing
To the city and the
world,
Died the next day.
Mourned by us all,
The people's Pope,
Another Saint Francis.

The quotation is the
title of an editorial in
the Easter 2025 issue
of 'The Tablet'
John Mulholland



2. Mining firm withdraws plan for UK's first deep coalmine in 30 years, The Guardian, 4 April 2025 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/apr/04/mining-firm-withdraws-plan-for-uks-first-deep-coalmine-in-30-years?>

3. Geoffrey Cox made £800,000 at law firm that helps rich companies sue poor states, Open Democracy, 10 November 2021 <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/dark-money-investigations/geoffrey-cox-made-800000-at-law-firm-that-helps-rich-companies-sue-poor-states/?>

COP30 UN Climate Talks 10-25 November. This year's climate talks will be held in Belem, Brazil

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/>

Read the full report <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:b47c7f37-b79c-44ac-89df-5e71c7bafc97?viewer%21megaVerb=group-discover>

CIDSE: (Coopération internationale pour le développement et la solidarité) is an international family of Catholic social justice organisations. <https://www.cidse.org/2025/07/01/churches-of-the-global-south-call-for-climate-justice-resisting-false-solutions-and-standing-for-hope/>

BOARBANK HALL Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH
Prayer - Study - Community - Hospitality Peace - Relaxation

We welcome bookings from parish, school or student groups or any other groups who may benefit from our hospitality.

We also work with schools to provide INSET days to suit each school, with the option of overnight stays.

Any group who would like help in arranging a programme or speakers for any kind of retreat or residential event should contact Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk or 015395-32288 www.boarbankhall.org.uk

All our residential events combine talks and discussions with Mass, Prayer of the Church and opportunity for personal prayer, in a context of friendship and community in our beautiful Cumbrian setting beside Morecambe Bay



A Double Birthday Gathering of Friends of St Oscar Romero

The Archbishop Romero Trust 2005—2025 2015—2025  The Oscar Romero Award Aspire to be more

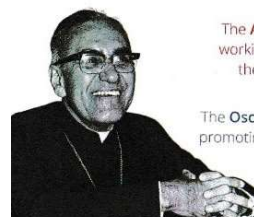
You are warmly invited
to the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero
in St George's Cathedral, Southwark
at 11am on Saturday, 1 November 2025 for a

Mass of Thanksgiving

Main celebrant:
Archbishop John Wilson

Followed by a reception
in the Amigo Hall

The Mass will be live-streamed



The Archbishop Romero Trust will mark 20 years working, through liturgies and education, to embed the ministry and martyrdom of St Oscar Romero in the life of the Church in Britain.

The Oscar Romero Award Trust celebrates 10 years promoting Catholic Social Teaching in Catholic schools and colleges across Britain under the banner and inspiration of St Oscar Romero.

DIARY Autumn 2025

SEPTEMBER

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation see Page 2
- 8 Monday Candlelit Vigil at DSEI Arms Fair 6.30 – 8 pm see page 5
- 9 Tuesday CAFOD Harvest Fast Day briefing 7 -8.30pm – Online see page 11
- 11 Thursday Merseyside Pax Christi meeting at Quaker Meeting House, 22, School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT. 2 pm
sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk
- 12 Friday CAFOD Quiz Night at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children and the usual raffle will take place with good prizes. Refreshments will be available at the interval.
All proceeds will go towards Cafod's latest development project. Contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419
- 13–19 Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales see page 11
- 16 Tuesday CAFOD Harvest Fast Day briefing in person meeting 7 – 8.30 pm at Chorlton cum Hardy see page 11
- 17 Wednesday CAFOD Harvest Fast Day briefing 7-8pm – Online – see page 11
- 18 Thursday NJPN 'Open doors' meeting on zoom 7.30pm - 'Throwing Open the Doors to Children Living in Poverty in the UK'
For joining link contact Sharon Chambers admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk
- 20 Northern Dioceses mini Pilgrimage in Leeds see page 4
- 20 Jubilee of Social Justice at Liverpool RC Cathedral NJPN are having a stall at the exhibition
See <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-of-social-justice/>
- 20 – 26 World Week for Peace in Palestine -Israel Pax Christi see page 6
- 25 Thursday 'Hope for our common home' Pilgrimage in Salford Diocese see page 3
- September 22 – October 11** Fairtrade Fortnight see page 11

OCTOBER

- 3 Friday CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Page 11
- 4 Feast of St Francis - end of Season of Creation Celebration service 2pm St Michael's Macclesfield see page 3
- 4 Saturday 'Powered by Hope' Christian Aid Day 10 am – 4.30 pm Friends' Meeting House 6 Mount Street
Manchester M2 5NS For more information and to register <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/powered-by-hope>
- 4 -10 'Celebrating Creation' Time to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in our personal lives and within the Church
Boarbank Hall Cumbria Booking details Page 16
- 9 Thursday Merseyside Pax Christi meeting at Quaker Meeting House, 22, School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT. 2 pm
sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk
- 10 Friday CAFOD Quiz Night see September 12th
- 13 – 19 Challenge Poverty Week)
- 19 Church Action on Poverty Sunday) Pages 11 and 12
- 24- 26/7 'Magnificat! Follow up to Our Lady in Latin' exploring the Latin and the music of the canticles from the birth narratives in St Luke. For those who know just a little Latin! Boarbank Hall Cumbria booking details page 16
- 31 Thursday NJPN Post Conference Catch-Up, 7.30pm - 9pm Joining link contact Sharon Chambers
admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NOVEMBER

- 1 Saturday Romero Thanksgiving Mass 11 am St George's Cathedral Southwark Livestreaming available page 16
- 10 -25 COP 30 Climate Talks in Belem, Brazil, see page 16
- 13 Thursday Merseyside Pax Christi meeting at Quaker Meeting House, 22, School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT. 2pm
sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk
- 14 Friday CAFOD Quiz Night see September 12th

DECEMBER

- 5 -7/8 Hope in Health - for all who support or care for anyone who is sick, professionals and others. Boarbank Hall
- 11 Thursday Merseyside Pax Christi meeting at Quaker Meeting House, 22, School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT.. 2 pm
sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk

Very Advance Notice NJPN Conference 2026 'Just Talk' 24-26th July

EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

National Justice and Peace Network <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

Independent Catholic News <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

The Columbans <https://columbans.co.uk/>

Copydate for Winter Mouthpeace November 20th 2025

CALENDAR OF ECO EVENTS, ACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>31st August <u>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</u> <u>Prayer Service</u> 4.00pm. To pray in an local rewilded habitat. Meet at car park at Macclesfield Leisure Centre, Priory Lane, SK10 4AF Stall at the Treacle Market in the St Michael's Churchyard</p>	<p>1st September Remember to say Grace before eating your meal today, and throughout the Season of Creation, thanking God for creating the food and for the people who have produced it. <u>Care for Creation Bible Study</u> Mondays, 11.00am at East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR</p>	<p>2nd <u>Sustainable Church Flowers Demonstration</u> 7.00—8.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY How to provide church flowers sustainably using seasonal and local flowers and foliage. Booking required 01625 421984.</p>	<p>3rd Consider how many bottles of water or soft drinks you buy. Could you replace these with tap water in a reusable bottle? Find out more: www.refill.org.uk <u>Care for Creation Bible Study</u> Wednesdays, 7.00pm at East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR</p>	<p>4th Turn off the television, computer, mobile phone, etc. and spend half an hour going for a walk or other activity in God's natural world. Invite your family or others to join you.</p>	<p>5th <u>Foodie Friday</u> 6pm for 6.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY 3 course meal, pay what you feel, all made from food which would otherwise be wasted. Booking required: St Michael's Office 01625 421 984</p>	<p>6th <u>Litter Pick</u> 10.30am. Join the monthly litter pick in Presbury followed by tea and coffee. Meet at St. Peter's Church, Presbury, SK10 4DG</p>
<p>7th <u>Family Cycle Ride</u> along the Middlewood Way. Meet at 12.30pm below Tesco Car Park, SK10 2AB to cycle approx. 7 miles to Nelson's Pit for a picnic. Bring a packed lunch.</p>	<p>8th Have a meatless/vegan meal. Meat and cheese have a large carbon footprint. Could you do this more often during the Season of Creation and beyond? <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>9th Make do and mend rather than buying new. Find something that could be repaired and bring it to the monthly <u>Repair Café</u> on Saturday 13th September. More info email: repaircafe.macc@gmail.com</p>	<p>10th Remember we are part of God's creation and to take care of ourselves in the way God intended with compassion and care. <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>11th <u>People, Planet, Pint</u> 7.00pm - 8.30pm The Snowgoose, Sunderland Street, SK11 6HN. Come and chat about local sustainability initiatives. A drink on the house for the first 10 people! Find out more at www.scoopandscales.co.uk</p>	<p>12th Whilst shopping select Fairtrade, plastic free and locally produced products with low food miles. Have you shopped at <u>Scoop and Scales</u> the refill shop at the Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT Find out more: www.scoopandscales.co.uk</p>	<p>13th <u>Repair Café</u> 10.00am - 2.00pm Community Centre, Duke Street, SK11 6UR <u>Parish Walk (4 miles)</u> Presbury to Adlington 10.00am from St. Peter's, Presbury, SK10 4DG. <u>Creation Walk 1 (6 miles)</u> 10.00am start & finish at Holy Trinity Church, SK10 2PX Contact Andrea: 07366 561 955</p>
<p>14th <u>Big Trees and Mini-Beasts—Family Fun in West Park</u> 12.00pm - 2.00pm Meet at the Rangers Hut next to the Café. <u>Reflective Service</u> 4.30pm to celebrate the Season of Creation in the monastic garden. St. Peter's Church, Presbury, SK10 4DG</p>	<p>15th <u>Scoop and Scales Book Club</u> 7.30pm - 9.00pm Reading: One Garden Against the World by Kate Bradbury. Scoop and Scales, Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT. Sign up: www.scoopandscales.co.uk <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>16th <u>How is your Council tackling Climate Change and What can you do to help?</u> 7.45—9.15pm Come along to this workshop to find out more. St. Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Rd, SK11 8DJ</p>	<p>17th Reduce food waste by planning your meals and buying just what you need. <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>18th Think about how you travel. Could your journeys be walked, cycled or by bus to reduce use of our cars? It's good for our health too! Arrange local deliveries by electric cargo bike from <u>sLOV Macclesfield</u> More at: https://elov.co.uk/about/</p>	<p>19th Would you like to grow food? Come along to one of the <u>Macc Market Garden</u> weekly volunteering sessions. Find out more at Facebook/maccmarketgarden <u>Creation Walk 2 (4miles)</u> 6:00pm from St John's Church, Earlsay, SK11 8RS Contact Andrea 07366 561 955</p>	<p>20th <u>River Bollin Clean Up</u> 10.00am - 3.00pm Riverside Park, SK10 2SL. Drop in, families welcome. Bring your wellies and gloves.</p>
<p>21st <u>Litter Pick</u> 11.30am after the service St. Peter's Church, Windmill Street, SK11 7HS All welcome. Find out more at www.scoopandscales.co.uk</p>	<p>22nd As we uphold the human right to food, clean drinking water and safe sanitation for all. Pray today for the people in the world who don't have access to these. <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>23rd <u>St. Peter's Surprising Gardens</u> 10.00—12.00noon Drop in to find out more St. Peter's Church, Windmill Street, SK11 7HS</p>	<p>24th Donate unwanted clothes to local charities or initiatives like <u>The One Project</u>. They also take a wide range of hard to recycle waste. Find out more: oneproject@macclesfield <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>25th How is your money or pension invested? Does it contribute to harming creation - through fossil fuels or destroying natural habitats? Check out your bank at: https://bank.green/</p>	<p>26th Take stock of what you've done so far. How are you getting on with listening to the voice of Creation? What more could you do to take better care of God's creation?</p>	<p>27th <u>Visit to RHS Garden Bridgewater</u> 9.30am - 3.30pm Coach trip with discount tickets to these beautiful gardens. Info, costs and booking at: www.scoopandscales.co.uk</p>
<p>28th <u>Sacred Circle Dance</u> 3.00pm-5.00pm St. Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Rd, SK11 8DJ Booking required: 07401 003976</p>	<p>29th Pray for all those who have been affected by climate change, natural disasters and wars through injury, death of loved ones, loss of their homes or livelihoods. <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>30th <u>"Brilliant Bees" Talk</u> 7.30pm. Safely meet some amazing honeybees: taste different honeys and find out how beekeepers care for these vital pollinators. Sallyann O'Dell, Bee Keeper at Tatton Park, Macclesfield Methodist Church, Westminster Road, SK10 1BX</p>	<p>1st October Take a break from consuming and buy nothing today. <u>Bible Study</u> - see above</p>	<p>2nd <u>Apple Pressing</u> 4.00pm - 7.00pm Come and have a go at pressing apples and enjoy some juice.. Drop in at Scoop and Scales, Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT. Suitable for all ages.</p>	<p>3rd <u>Foodie Friday</u> 6pm for 6.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY 3 course meal, pay what you feel, all made from food which would otherwise be wasted. Booking required – St Michael's Office 01625 421984.</p>	<p>4th <u>Celebration and Feast of St Francis of Assisi - Prayer Service</u> 1.00pm Light Lunch 2.00pm Prayer Service to close and thank God for the Season of Creation. St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY</p>

SEASON OF CREATION 2025 - "PEACE WITH CREATION"