

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin September 2025

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to anneoc980@hotmail.com

SILENT BUT NOT SILENCED ON THRESHOLD OF HELL - DSEI ARMS FAIR

8 September 2025 (Updated 9 September 2025) **Sr Katrina Alton, National Chaplain to Pax Christi England and Wales gave this reflection on Monday evening, at the start of the Silent Vigil at the DSEI Arms Fair.**

Friends, tonight we stand silent, but not silenced, on the threshold of hell - because this is DSEI 2025 - Defence & Security Equipment International. Behind the polished glass of the ExCeL Centre, men and women in suits are preparing to buy and sell the machinery of death. Tanks. Drones. Bombs. Tools of Empire. War games dressed up in contracts and cocktails. They call it a "fair"-but there is nothing fair about it.

We gather here in silence because Jesus stood in silence before Pilate. Not because He had nothing to say, but because the truth had already been spoken. Love your enemies. Put away your sword. Blessed are the peacemakers. He didn't just preach it—He lived it, all the way to the cross.

Million-pound deals will be made here this week, while the crucified poor bleed in Gaza, in Yemen, in Sudan. And we, citizens of a nation profiting from that blood, are called not to look the other way.

Our silence tonight is a scream against the veil of respectability that hides the horror. We are here to tear it away, with prayer, with presence, with nonviolent resistance.

The world will say we are naïve. But we remember that the first Christians, unarmed and persecuted, changed the world without raising a sword. And we believe still, that the power of nonviolent Love, is stronger than the war machine.

So, we wait. We witness. We hold vigil as if at a tomb-because the arms trade is a culture of death. But we stand in hope, because as people of faith we know that tombs don't get the last word. We hold this vigil for all victims of the arms trade. For the children buried under the rubble. For a world drunk on violence yet thirsting for justice and peace.

Let our silence speak what words cannot. Let our presence disturb the powers. Let our Love be more powerful than their weapons. Together, let us now begin our Silent Vigil, and remember all victims of the arms trade. Amen.
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/53207>

UK HAS 'NOT CONCLUDED' ISRAEL CARRYING OUT GENOCIDE IN GAZA. LAMMY SAYS — A PERSONAL RESPONSE

Rev'd Jon Swales 9 September 2025

Dear UK Government,

You say Israel's actions in Gaza are not genocide. Yet 86% of the International Association of Genocide Scholars — the world's top experts — say they are. The International Court of Justice has already ruled there is a "plausible case" of genocide and ordered provisional measures. On what grounds can you be more certain than both the world's leading scholars and the UN's highest court?

Genocide is not just death camps. It is killing members of a group, inflicting life-destroying conditions, causing starvation and displacement, preventing births, transferring children — all with intent. And intent is not hard to find. Prime Minister Netanyahu invoked Amalek — a biblical call to total eradication.

Ministers have spoken openly of siege, destruction, displacement, even nuclear options. These are not slips of the tongue. They are intent made plain.

Meanwhile, the UK continues to arm Israel, despite warnings from over 600 legal professionals, including former Supreme Court justices, that this may breach our obligations under the Genocide Convention. To deny genocide while fuelling the machinery of destruction is not neutrality. It is complicity.

The scholars call it genocide. The UN Court calls it plausible. The Bible calls it Amalek. History will call it denial. And your hands are not clean.

Yours in grief and anger,

Rev'd Jon Swales MBE

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/sep/09/uk-not-concluded-israel-committing-genocide-in-gaza-lammy-says>

NJPN STATEMENT JULY 2025

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.

Anne Peacey, Chair of Conference Planning Group

WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL 20-26 SEPTEMBER 2025

The World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel is an annual World Council of Churches event held during the third week of September. This year from Saturday 20 to Friday 26 September. The week aims to encourage people of faith to pray for, and work towards, an end to Israeli oppression and allowing both Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace.

Reflections and Prayer by Mayada Tarazi from Jerusalem (family originating from Gaza)

Prayer: Loving God, Creator of all,

I stand before you today not just in prayer, but as a witness —

A Palestinian who carries the stories, the suffering, and the strength of my people.

In this moment of worship, I lift my voice to you — the source of life, love, and justice.

With a heart full of sorrow but also full of hope, I bring before you the pain of my people in Palestine especially in Gaza — where we are living through a genocide in real time. —

Lord, the world may turn its face, but you do not.

You hear the cries of mothers searching for their children beneath rubble.

You see the fear in the eyes of youth who have known nothing but siege and destruction.

You feel the weight of our mourning, the longing for dignity, safety, and freedom.

Your Son, Jesus, said: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be filled.”

And so we hunger, we thirst, and we will not stop.

We ask you, God of justice, to move powerfully among us. Stir the hearts of those in positions of power.

Break the silence of churches, leaders, and nations. Let no one claim peace while ignoring injustice.

Let no one preach love without standing with the oppressed.

We pray for all people facing violence and occupation — not only in Palestine, but across the Middle East, Africa, and every land where people are struggling for their right to live in freedom and dignity.

God of the oppressed, empower us. Make our faith active, our compassion loud, and our solidarity real.

Let us not only pray — let us act. Let us speak truth. Let us challenge the systems of power that destroy life.

Let us build a world where every child is safe, every home is sacred, and every people can thrive.

As I stand here today, I ask that this worship space become a space of awakening.

May hearts be opened, and may this prayer move us all to action —

To stand with the people of Palestine, to speak out against genocide,

to demand an end to occupation, and to live out our faith through justice.

Loving God, we will not give up. We will not stop hoping, loving, resisting — until your justice prevails.

Until freedom comes. Until peace is real.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Reflection: Let the Stones Speak – Truths from Jerusalem to Gaza

1. Stones Remember Our History. Stones in Palestine have seen many things. Some have stood in the courtyards of villages that were destroyed in 1948, when families were forced to flee and never allowed to return. They have seen tents turn into refugee camps, and refugee camps turn into crowded cities where people still dream of going home. Today, the stones in Gaza lie in piles of rubble after bombs, still holding the memory of the homes and lives they once sheltered.

2. The Nakba Has Never Ended. The Nakba—the catastrophe—did not stop in 1948. It continues every time a family in Jerusalem is evicted, every time olive trees are uprooted, every time children in Gaza lose their homes and loved ones. The genocide in Gaza today is part of the same long story of displacement, oppression, and loss.

3. When People Are Silenced, Stones Cry Out. Jesus said, “If they keep silent, the stones will cry out.” The stones in Palestine cry out from destroyed villages, from the

https://www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/2025-09/Prayer-Reflection_WWPPI2025-web.pdf

walls of refugee camps, from Gaza’s ruins, from Jerusalem’s ancient streets. They cry for justice, truth, and freedom. They carry the voices of those who cannot speak because the world refuses to listen.

4. The Prophetic Witness of the People. Women, children, and young people carry the truth of this story in their lives. A grandmother who still keeps the key to the house her family lost in 1948. A young man in Gaza who has been displaced five times in his short life. A child in Jerusalem who walks past armed soldiers to go to school. These are the voices we must lift up.

5. A Prayer for Truth and Justice. God of mercy and justice, the stones of Palestine hold the pain and the hope of generations. Give us ears to hear their cries, hearts to carry their stories, and courage to speak the truth. May we join your work of justice until every person lives in freedom and peace.

WHEN STONE LEARNED TO SPEAK

Parliament Square,
6 September 2025.
A fine September day.
Sun on the paving stones.
Tourists with phones.
Children chasing pigeons.
Big Ben ticking above it all.

And in the centre—
a dangerous gathering.
Not armed.
Not shouting.
Just kneeling.
Old backs bent.
Hands clutching cardboard:
I oppose genocide.
I support Palestine Action.

Important to note:
Palestine Action is proscribed
as a terrorist organisation.
Therefore—
the signs are dangerous.
The people suspect.
The silence subversive.

Police assemble.
Hi-vis vests.
Boots in rows.
Belts heavy with cuffs.
Faces fixed.
The state prepares
to protect order
from frailty.

—
Millicent Fawcett,
suffragist, banner raised.
Her stone eyes burn.
The banner reads still:
Courage calls to courage
everywhere.

Mothers in Gaza cradle the lifeless.
Their lullabies drowned by drones.
And here—
to hold a sign is extremism,
to write a name is terrorism.

The court says plausible.
Our law says prevent.
Yet Westminster counts exemptions
like coins.
Licences paused,
but the trade continues.
Fighter parts still flow.

Do not forget Gaza's children.
Do not call lawful what is lethal.
Do not mistake arrest for defeat.
Do not let silence
outlive the dead.

Her banner trembles.
A tourist whispers,
"Let the reader understand."

—
Mahatma Gandhi,
robed in bronze,
head bowed low.
They have chosen satyagraha.
Truth carried by the frail.
But truth is heavy.
It names slaughter.

This state calls compassion sedition.
Solidarity—terror.

Yes, they paused a few licences.
But not the jets.
Not the engines
that thunder above tents.
Prudence, they call it.
Consent, I call it.

Who will carry Gaza's children?
Who will hear
their unfinished prayers?"

A passer-by mutters,
"Those who have ears to hear,
listen."

—
Nelson Mandela,
prisoner turned president.
Bronze back to Westminster.
Sunlight on his shoulders.

I know this pattern.
Law baptised into violence.
Mercy shackled.
Prisons swelling.
Streets echoing with chains.

Sad defiance fills the square.
But silent defiance is not defeat.
I have heard this music before.
Even the stones cry out.

—
The crowd does not shout.
They hold their signs.
Cardboard lifted in the sun.
Letters dark, unyielding.
Paper against empire.
Silence against sirens.
By late afternoon
the arrests begin.
Not a few.
Not hundreds.
Simply—many.
Enough to thin the square.

Vans wait, doors open.
Elders escorted,
some stumbling,
some steady.

One woman, sixties,
grey hair tied back,
clutches a sign:
I support Palestine Action.

Twenty officers surround her.
She does not move.
She does not lower the sign.

Someone watching remarks,
"Fantastic use of taxpayers'
money."
Sarcasm.
But yes—
money well spent.
Order maintained.
Silence purchased.

Remember:
these are not prophets.
Not elders.
Not mourners.
These are terrorists.

The statues remain.
Unmoved.
Yet their vigil deepens.
Their stone lips whisper.
Their granite hearts burn.

Scholars say genocide,
UN warns of starvation
and crimes against humanity.
But such talk encourages
terrorists
to hold cardboard
alongside statues in
Parliament Square.

—
Official Notice — Public Advisory
The gathering observed today
was an unauthorised assembly.
Participants engaged in activities
that may constitute support for
terrorism.

Citizens are reminded:
displaying hostile slogans
supporting Palestine Action
will mean arrest.

Certain licences remain
essential to allied air capability.
Continuity of the F-35 supply chain
is a national security priority.
A managed approach
is proportionate.
This movement is not to be
commended.
Nor imitated.
Compliance ensures safety.
Deviation invites consequence.

Rev'd Jon Swales
cruciformjustice.com/

'WE BELONG HERE': BRITISH MUSLIMS DEFIANT AS MOSQUES ATTACKED IN FLAG FRENZY

Maira Butt Religion Media Centre 3 September 2025

Motorway bridges, mosques and mini-roundabouts have been plastered with the St George's Cross and Union Jack in recent days, sparking debate about patriotism. Many of the banners have been raised by self-proclaimed "patriots", eager to make a statement about borders, immigration and who the country really "belongs" to.

In some openly hostile demonstrations, the flag that has become a symbol of nationalism has been daubed on to the walls of mosques. South Essex Islamic Centre in Basildon was sprayed with graffiti proclaiming "Christ is King" and "This is England", alongside a smeared red cross last week.

In Liverpool, a spate of incidents included homes spray-painted with malicious messages such as "Locals only" and "No Islam", and the St George's Cross daubed on several sites nearby.

But one Birkenhead mosque turned the attack around. When a man pinned a Union Jack outside the gates of the Wirral Deen Centre, the imam, Ibrahim Syed, bought another online and hung it up on the window of the mosque. "They intended to cause offence," he says. "We turned it on its head. Because this is our flag too."

Mr Syed believes there is a subconscious implication that Muslims are not British, but says: "We are British. Now is the time to say we do belong here. We're embedded in this country and we're a part of the fabric of society." He was praised for his response with many on social media calling his actions an example of "real patriotism".

Mr Syed's optimism is hard-won. His mosque is in one of the less multicultural areas of the country. Recently, he was verbally assaulted while with his children and told to "go back to your country". At the end of July, the building was targeted again, with air gun pellets shot through the window, shattering the glass. "We are being targeted," he says. But what keeps him going? "It's Imaan [faith]. It's a tense time. We have to take safety precautions."

The root of the issue, he believes, is "people being manipulated" to believe that Islam, immigration, asylum seekers, and boat crossings are the same issue. "It needs to be challenged," he says and points to the 250,000 Ukrainian refugees who have been housed and funded by taxpayers since Russia's invasion, with very little fanfare, and says the discrepancy and difference in public narrative is "frankly, racist". He refers to recent examples of targeted statements including the former Conservative and Ukip MP Douglas Carswell prompting outrage when he called on the public to "make England Abdul-free".

Despite the tension and attacks, he believes that second and third-generation Muslims belong in the country and that the flag should not be a symbol of exclusion.

However, for some British Muslims, such as Kamran Ali — who hopes to run for parliament as an independent in Fenham, Newcastle — the banner is synonymous with "terrorism". "I've had this view ever since I learnt about British colonialism," he says. "I used to have the flag outside my window whenever England would be playing in the World Cup or Euros. I used to be a massive fan. But, once I learnt the history of this country, and what it is still doing, what is there to be proud of?" Mr Ali refers to deaths and occupation during the British Empire as well as recent military actions including the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, and UK support for Israel. "If somebody has those views, that doesn't mean they hate the country. It means they hate government policies," he says.

He is often asked why he does not go back to India if he disagrees with UK policy, to which he says: "I am here because this country occupied my homeland for 300 years, and as a result, my dad had to move here to provide a better life for his family and he got married and had children and I'm one of those children. The West came to us. No one would have considered leaving such a beautiful country if it hadn't been destroyed and looted."

He believes that people who attempt to reclaim the flag have a "slave mentality" left over from colonialism. However, he also acknowledges that "mosques have to protect their worshippers" and empathises with their concerns. "Ultimately it's a message of peace," he says about Muslim leaders who are repurposing the symbol for unity. "They aren't going against the Quran or Sunnah [the model set by the Prophet Muhammad] in any way."

While Islam does not explicitly encourage nationalism, there are references within the text that promote cultural cohesion and unity. In one verse, quoted by Mr Ali, Allah addresses human beings saying He "made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another".

Ghulaam Mustafa Nawaz, a young imam, sees the situation differently and believes British Muslims should be patriotic and "grateful" to be in the country. The 19-year-old from Burnley says he has travelled to Pakistan and believes conditions elsewhere are dire. "The things we can do in this country, we can't do elsewhere. I travel across so many cities and speak about my religion and the Prophet. You can't do that in a lot of countries."

Asked about governments and military actions, Mr Nawaz says: “This country has given us amazing opportunities. Just because I’m proud of our country, doesn’t mean I’m proud of the government.” In 2001, before he was born, Burnley saw some of the country’s worst race riots, and he believes fear around the flag stems from that period. “I would never use the flag as a hate symbol. Even with the Palestine flag, I would never use it for hate.”

In Lancashire Facebook groups, GoFundMe campaigns are being set up to fund boxes of flags and requests made for streets to have flags. One post read: “Looks amazing on the M65 with the England flags” others praise “patriots” for the movement.

Mr Nawaz believes that the way to deal with the issue is to show “that the flag is just as much ours as it is yours”. He adds: “We love this country just as much as you do. We contribute. We respect this country. When you do that, you’re no longer giving them that weapon.”

He believes that Islam’s message of unity transcends nationality. “Away from nationalism and support for countries, we often use the word Ummah to describe the Muslim community. If we look deeper into the word, the closest meaning you can find for it in the English dictionary is ‘civilisation’. That means we are all human beings first.”

<https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/news/we-belong-here-british-muslims-defiant-as-mosques-attacked-in-flag-frenzy/>

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2025

This year, rather than being celebrated on September 28 as usual, the World Day will coincide with the Jubilee of Migrants and of Missions, which takes place on October 4 and 5. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'Migrants, missionaries of hope'.

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

MIGRANTS, MISSIONARIES OF HOPE

The theme of Pope Leo XIV’s message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is: Migrants, missionaries of hope.

In this message, the Holy Father emphasizes the important witness that Catholic migrants and refugees can offer in a world affected by conflict and inequality in hoping and searching for a better and more peaceful future. Pope Leo XIV highlights how migrants and refugees in a special way can become witnesses of hope and tenacity amidst adversity and calls for a future of peace and respect for human dignity.

Read the Pope’s message here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr25-pope-leo-xiv/>

PILGRIMAGE GUIDE

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) has published a new short pilgrimage guide as a resource for the forthcoming World Day of Migrants and Refugees that will be celebrated globally on 4-5 October.

<https://caritas.rcaos.org.uk/csan-publishes-new-resource-for-the-world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>

The guide offers short walking routes in London, Dover and Birmingham, inviting Catholics everywhere to join in pilgrimage as an act of prayer and reflection. The focus is more on solidarity and intention rather than distance. The short routes can be walked individually, with family and friends, or as a community, providing space to reflect on the journeys of migrants and refugees in light of today’s challenges.

The guide’s foreword is written by Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees. He writes “This year, we mark the 111th celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees with the theme ‘Migrants: Missionaries of Hope’. It is a powerful reminder that those who flee their homes do not leave their dignity behind. I hope that this guide encourages you to set out on pilgrimage, however small, and walk with our migrant brothers and sisters.”

The resource has been developed in partnership with the Department for International Affairs department at the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales and includes prayers and useful tips.

Download here: <https://www.csan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WDMRJubilee-of-Migrants-4.pdf>

With the Border and Security Bill now before the House of Lords, such prayer and deeper understanding are needed more than ever for us to reflect and understand the journeys that all migrants and refugees take.

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3929>

'HOPE FOR OUR COMMON HOME' PILGRIMAGE 25 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 25 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. 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 en route 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, go to <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/hope-pilgrimage-walk/> and to register your interest, please contact: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

VOCATION FOR JUSTICE: MAKING PEACE IN THE SEASON OF CREATION

Ellen Teague 4 September 2025

The Autumn 2025 issue of Vocation for Justice explores 'Peace with Creation', inviting us to nurture the Earth, promote justice, and respond to the urgent cry of our world. Imagine a world where barren lands bloom into vibrant green and peace reigns not only among people but with all creation – this is the vision at the heart of the Season of Creation 2025. Inspired by Isaiah's words – "The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation" (Isaiah 32:14–18) – this year's theme, 'Peace with Creation', reminds us that true shalom is wholeness: right relationships with God, with one another, and with the Earth itself.

This Autumn edition of Vocation for Justice comes in the Season of Creation (1st September to the 4th October), a time internationally of prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The Columban newsletter theme is 'Making Peace in the Season of Creation'. If we listen to the 'cry of the Earth', we cannot help but notice more frequent and intense extreme weather, fires, biodiversity loss, droughts, climate induced conflict, desertification, and migration. Yet, at the same time, we see a new arms race, mounting conflict and huge resources devoted to militarism. The 'signs of the times' are calling us to action. But how?

Ideas are given in the centrespread. These include: Creating gardens and green spaces that cool cities and provide habitat for wildlife; engaging young people in environmental advocacy at local and national levels; adopting for renewable energy in schools, parishes, and communities; and working for peace. There is a link to a Catholic liturgical guide for the Season of Creation, which Columbans helped to produce.

There are details of a special 'Hope for Our Common Home' pilgrimage on 25 September. It has been organised by the Columbans in collaboration with the Laudato Si' Centre in the Diocese of Salford (see above)

2025 is an important year: 10 years since the Paris Agreement on climate change and the launch of the environmental encyclical 'Laudato Si'. November's upcoming UN Climate Conference COP30, meeting in November and taking place in the Brazilian Amazon, could mark a turning point. The newsletter highlights that Church leaders from the global south recently released a joint statement calling for COP30 to address the need for concrete climate action and financial commitments.

'Vocation for Justice' offers information, formation, ideas and invitation to action, and resources – highlighting relevant responses to 'the cry of the Earth and cry of the Poor.' It is available to download here:

https://columbans.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/FINAL-Vocation_justice_Aug_25_Tue_v6-2.pdf

PILGRIMS OF HOPE FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL WORLD: A JOINT CATHOLIC STATEMENT

September 8, 2025: Yesterday, the secretary generals of Caritas Internationalis, CIDSE and Pax Christi International, launched a powerful joint statement titled *“Pilgrims of Hope for a Just and Peaceful World”* at a webinar. This initiative was facilitated by SCIAF, CIDSE’s Scottish member organisation and member of Caritas Internationalis. At the heart of the statement lies a profound conviction: ***“There can be no true peace without climate justice, and no climate justice without peace.”***

It underlines that ecological collapse, violent conflict and persistent poverty are not isolated crises but “entangled threads of a shared global threat. The joint statement also challenges the logic of profit-driven systems, such as those in the fossil fuel, arms and financial industries, which thrive on “instability, inequality, relentless extraction and oligarchic cronyism”.

The full text of the English version is available below:
Rome, Brussels, 8 September 2025

As representatives of global Catholic networks committed to peace, justice, and care for creation, we unite our voices ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil, to affirm a simple yet urgent truth: ***there can be no true peace without climate justice, and no climate justice without peace.*** The interwoven crises of ecological collapse, a fragmenting global order and unrelenting extreme poverty are not parallel problems—they are entangled threads of a shared global threat.

We are not simply facing a crisis of greenhouse gas emissions, of a confluence of border conflicts or regional poverty cycles. We are facing a convergence of mass suffering now and risks of future harm, perpetuated by a political and economic system that is at risk of coming completely undone. The state we’re in is “a consequence of the collective refusal to think about future generations” (Laudato Si’ 159), greed (LS9), shortsightedness (LS32) and which to solve needs “a new and universal solidarity” (LS14). Without action now, the interwoven crises the planet faces will continue to perpetuate one, and could take the planet towards its darkest hour unless there is a change of course.

Climate change is already exacerbating conflicts across the world, and this is a dangerous trend expected to intensify as the global temperatures continue to rise. The increasing frequency and severity of extreme events coupled with shifting resource availability and the rendering of land uninhabitable will lead to mass forced displacement of people. This in turn, risks further destabilising vulnerable regions and exacerbating existing tensions. In this context, climate action is not only an environmental imperative, but also a vital component of global peacebuilding.

The converging crises of climate change and global security are not only linked, but also born of the same short-sightedness, immorality and flawed logic. For decades, the pursuit of profit over people has shaped global systems, placing power in the hands of those who benefit from destruction and division.

The fossil fuel, the arms and financial industries, driven by enormous profit motives, have exerted disproportionate influence over politics, distorting democratic processes and obstructing efforts for climate justice and peaceful resolution. These industries thrive on instability, inequality, relentless extraction and oligarchic cronyism — leaving behind scorched land, broken communities, and a wounded world.

Today, we are facing common challenges that stem from a shared root. A global system increasingly shaped by short-term political interests, and concentrated power. Decision making is dominated by a few nations and private actors, distant from the communities most affected by conflict and climate change. The founding vision of post-war multilateralism, where every country — large or small — had a voice in shaping peace and progress, is being forgotten.

Yet true multilateralism, like nature itself, depends on balance: just as every species has its role in the ecosystem, so too does every nation have equal value and voice in the global order. The shift toward a “multi-polar” world where “might makes right” threatens not only the hope of a peaceful future, but also our collective ability to address the climate crisis. Multilateralism demands much from powerful nations — above all, the courage to cede power for the common good.

But just as these crises are rooted in the same logic, they can be overcome through shared values. The path forward must be grounded in the solidarity of peoples, the common good of our shared home, and the principle of subsidiarity — ensuring that decisions are made as closely as possible to those most affected. Above all, we must uphold the preferential option for the poor, ensuring that those who are most vulnerable are first in line for support, but empowered to lead.

Translating these values into action means reimagining our global systems, reforming international financial institutions, ending fossil fuel subsidies, and prioritising community-led solutions in climate and peacebuilding strategies. It means centering Indigenous knowledge and their right to live in harmony with their land, promoting debt justice, reducing the exorbitant military budgets and ensuring inclusive representation at decision-making tables, from the UN to local councils. The moral imperative is clear but the tools are within reach. These timeless principles from Catholic Social Teaching offer not only moral clarity, but practical guidance for building a world that is both peaceful and sustainable.

Pope Leo XIV reminds us that nonviolence, both as a method and a style, provides the foundation for how we confront the challenges of our time. In this light, active nonviolence becomes a powerful response to the crises we face. Communities peacefully resisting deforestation, opposing extractive industries, and advocating for sustainable development are doing so through nonviolent means—organising, legal action, and international solidarity. These efforts, rooted in justice and respect for human dignity, are essential to the transformation we seek.

We pray our leaders remember this spirit of nonviolence in their deliberations, remember the horrors of war, and try again to put the nonviolent pursuit of peace at the heart of their diplomatic engagements, knowing that the future of the planet depends on it.

Today we are raising our voices to join with Pope Leo, other faith leaders and people of good will in chorus calling to halt the march towards war, reverse course, renew our passion for peace and believe again that a peaceful world is possible; a green world is possible; a better world is possible.

Alistair Dutton, Caritas Internationalis

Josianne Gauthier, CIDSE

Martha Ines Romero, Pax Christi International

<https://www.cidse.org/2025/09/08/pilgrims-of-hope-for-a-just-and-peaceful-world-a-joint-catholic-statement/>

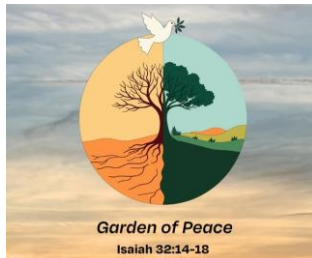
<https://www.caritas.org/>

<https://www.cidse.org/>

<https://paxchristi.net/>

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/>

‘The Garden of Peace’ is the symbol for this year’s #SeasonOfCreation, inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18.



The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape.

The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable.

Let us remember that humanity was originally called to tend a garden. Through this year’s Season of Creation, we will reflect on the connection between caring for creation and fostering peace.

<https://resources.arochoa.org/resource/season-of-creation/>

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 14 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 16 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 27 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 30 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 2 October 4.00 – 7.00 pm Apple Pressing – come and have a go! Drop in at Scoop and Scales, Roe Street, SK11 6UT.

Saturday 4 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: <https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation/>

NJPN WEBINAR – ‘THROWING OPEN THE DOORS TO CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY IN THE UK’

Continuing the theme of ‘Throwing Open the Doors’ during this Jubilee Year we are inviting you to attend our next webinar entitled: NJPN – ‘Throwing Open the Doors to Children Living in Poverty in the UK’ on Sept 18 at 7.30pm. We look forward to hearing from:

- **Liam Purcell, CEO of Church Action on Poverty**
- **Paul Morrison, Policy Advisor for Joint Public Issues Team**
- **Carol Cross, Trustee of the CAUSE Foundation (Helping families across Teesside)**

There will also be a chance to hear and share your experience, concerns, activism and call to action.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope you are being invited by the National Justice and Peace Network to join us for the exploratory webinar *"Throwing Open the Doors to Children Living in Poverty in the UK"*, a vital conversation about our youngest and most important citizens — the future voters, leaders, and shapers of our society.

This session will explore how poverty affects not just the quality of a child’s everyday life, but their opportunities, wellbeing, and future potential. We’ll discuss why investing in children is not just an act of compassion but a strategic choice for a stronger, fairer nation.

Experts will share insights on the long-term social and economic benefits of supporting every child to thrive. You’ll hear real stories, compelling data, and innovative approaches to breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

This is a chance to understand the true cost of inaction and the transformative power of change. Whether you are a policymaker, educator, parent, or advocate, your voice matters in shaping the future.

Let’s open the doors — and open up possibilities — for every child in the UK.

Click **HERE**: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4ZxMH12YUaTcvMB1qWymQW6ir-77x9kHY7E983MemREdGqQ/viewform> to register your interest or also by emailing your interest to Sharon Chambers at admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk We will send the link to attend closer to the event itself.

HALF OF PARENTS THINK ‘PERSISTENT ABSENCE’ IS OK – LANDMARK ENQUIRY PUBLISHED

6 September 2025 A new report, **Absent Ambition**, from the Centre for Social Justice has highlighted the attendance crisis plaguing UK schools over the last four years. A copy has been sent to ministers, who are planning to attend a CSJ conference on Monday 8 September in central London.

The CSJ study, produced in partnership with The Rigby Foundation, exposes the appalling cost to young people and society of declining levels of school attendance, which have plummeted since the Covid pandemic but were on a downward path well before 2020.

The CSJ study finds that persistent absence (missing at least 10 per cent of lessons or a day every fortnight) and severe absence (missing 50 per cent or more of lessons, so out of school more often than not) have both soared. Annual figures show persistent absence has doubled since 2018/19 and severe absence has quadrupled over the last decade.

The CSJ finds that pupils with over 95 per cent attendance are three times as likely as those with 85-90 per cent attendance to achieve a Grade 5 in English and Maths. A persistently absent pupil is three times as likely as other pupils to become a young offender within two years of leaving school and is over six times as likely to become persistently NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training), meaning 180,000 school leavers risk falling into unemployment or long-term economic inactivity because of persistent absence during this Parliament.

The CSJ report identifies three “root causes” of the flight from the classroom: mutual breakdown of trust between home and school – highlighted in findings showing that four in five headteachers say that they have suffered parental abuse in the last year with one in ten being violently attacked; a growing belief among parents that there is no link between success at school and getting a good job later and family breakdown.

Read: <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/newsroom/half-of-parents-think-persistent-absence-is-ok>

Solving this absence crisis requires us to address the root causes driving it, starting at home. It means children starting school already on the right path. It means parents and schools working in step with one another, not at loggerheads. And it means schools that are places of tangible ambition and preparation for life and work.

The report sets out the practical interventions, and long-term changes, that can achieve this vision – and end the absence crisis for good.

Download the report: https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CSJ-Absent_Ambition.pdf

TRIBUTE TO REV KATHY GALLOWAY

Published on 29 August 2025: With thanks to the Iona Community who have provided the following tribute to Rev Kathy Galloway, a former leader of the Iona Community and Christian Aid Scotland, and one of the first female ministers to be ordained.

It is with so much sorrow that we share news that Kathy Galloway, former Leader of the Iona Community, has died. She had been facing a very recent cancer diagnosis, complicated by sepsis. We grieve with her loved ones the passing of their mother, sister, grandmother, friend. And we mourn with the world the loss of a truly prophetic voice of faith for justice, peace and the radically urgent transformation of unjust structures.

Kathy was an inspiration, companion and role model not only for the wider world, but also of course for so many of us in the Iona Community. She influenced thousands of people with her compassion, radical voice for justice, wise words and powerful leadership. She was co-Warden of Iona Abbey in the 1980s and editor of the Coracle magazine in the 1990s. In 2001, Kathy was the first woman to be elected as Leader of the Iona Community, serving in that role until 2009 and then again in the 2010s.

Her poetry and prose writing, widely shared, speaks eloquently of the pain, passion and purpose of life on God's good yet oh so fragile Earth. Even from her hospital bed, Kathy remained fully engaged in the launch of PalCafe in Glasgow to support the people of Palestine. Her voice and her actions for justice will live on.

Kathy's death will be mourned by many around the globe including dear friends in the Church of Scotland, Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty. For her life and her witness we give thanks to God as we now bless her on her last journey.

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/tribute-to-rev-kathy-galloway>

Minister, feminist, social justice leader, writer and poet, Kathy Galloway was one of the first women ordained in the Church of Scotland in 1977 and has been a passionate voice for the poor in her ministry, life and writings ever since. She has published as author or editor 16 books on subjects ranging from Christian theology and devotion, to social justice for women and the poor, to collections of her poetry.

In 2002, she was elected as the first woman Leader of the Iona Community, during which time she oversaw the building of a new Welcome Centre, renovation of the ecological outdoor centre at Camas on Mull, and staff accommodations. Yet, her legacy is found in her activism against poverty, in her speaking out against injustice and for equality for women.

She began her ministry as an assistant at Muirhouse Church in Edinburgh for three years and then was the first Coordinator of Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, addressing issues such as the arms trade and apartheid. From there she went to Iona to be the Co-Warden for six years, followed by years working in Glasgow as a freelance practical theologian, speaking and writing from a context of engagement, including organising a network on sexual abuse in the religious context. In 2009, she became Head of Christian Aid in Scotland, addressing humanitarian needs throughout the world, a position she currently holds.

When asked, what has motivated her to be such an advocate for justice, she credits her family upbringing, her membership of the Iona Community and her belief in Jesus. She is the eldest of four children of the Rev. Jack Orr, himself a member of the Iona Community, and Janet Johnson Orr, a dedicated teacher, who brought up all their children to stand for equality for the poor and discriminated against. Kathy is the mother of two sons and one daughter and a happy grandmother of a granddaughter.

Rona Harding Source: Galloway, Kathy. Interview 2014

<https://wealothianwomensforum.org.uk/BreakingtheMould/kgalloway.html>

Recommended reading [Ed.]: *The Dream of Learning Our True Name* EPUB by Kathy Galloway

Ebook: <https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Kathy-Galloway/The-Dream-of-Learning-Our-True-Name/11581591>

BENEDICTION

A blessing on our departures
Without them, we cannot walk the way.
A blessing on our companions
Bread of friendship, bread for the soul.
A blessing on all travellers
Border-crossers, wanderers in strange lands.
A blessing on all the stages on the way
And those who gave us guidance.

A blessing on all those we leave behind
And on their journeys.
A blessing on our lostness and delays
These too are life.
A blessing on our arrivals
Homecomings, new beginnings, bright horizons.
A blessing on the Trinity of journeys.
Giver of the Way, Jesus of the Way, Spirit of the Way.

*from 'Talking to the Bones' Kathy Galloway,
SPCK, 1996*

THE TELLING

The imagined testimony of Hildegard von Bingen alongside her haunting chant

The music of the extraordinary medieval Abbess, Hildegard of Bingen echoes down a thousand years. Hear her testimony in this "mesmerising" (The Guardian) concertplay (where music and theatre collide) by award-winning writer Clare Norburn and directed by BAFTA-nominated director, Nicholas Renton.

Amid the darkness of the Middle Ages, Abbess Hildegard of Bingen saw the universe in a dazzling light and spoke with an insight and a genius that makes her music and poetry resound down the centuries. Vision explores Hildegard's extraordinary life as she relives her painful and visceral visionary experiences alongside her extraordinary music, haunting and distinctive chant, performed live by singers Clemmie Franks and Gwendolen Martin, and harpist Jean Kelly.

"A beautiful piece... it really is wonderful, so do try and catch it." - The Guardian

"It was the overlap of, interaction between, and communication of the music of Hildegard — two voices and medieval harp — and her spoken word . . . which made the show such a unified, deep telling . . . if a moment for reflection is needed, or the desire to understand more of Hildegard is to be fulfilled, it is well worth making the time for this." - Church Times

Fri 19 Sept | Lancaster Priory

Vision – Lancaster

19 Sept 2025, 19:30 – 20:30

Lancaster Priory, Priory Close, Lancaster LA1 1YZ

<https://www.thetelling.co.uk/events/vision-lancaster>

Sun 21 Sept | Hallé St Peter's

Vision - Manchester

21 Sept 2025, 19:30 – 20:30

Hallé St Peter's, 40 Blossom St, Ancoats, Manchester M4 6BF

<https://www.thetelling.co.uk/events/vision-manchester>

About the event

Doors open at 7pm. The performance lasts one hour with no interval. The performance is supported by The Marchus Trust, The Foyle Foundation, Souter Charitable Trust and The Golsoncott Foundation.

Watch the trailer: <https://youtu.be/mLcmyhrJgmY?si=gCV61CwqlljID-sg>

Other venues: Glasgow 20/09, London 23/09, West Malling 25/09, Chichester 27/09 and Dorchester 30/09

See: <https://www.thetelling.co.uk/diary>

The Telling attempts to break new ground, where new writing by Artistic Director Clare Norburn and music collide. We tour high-quality, accessible and affordable productions: combining engagements by leading promoters with self-promotions in places that are often missed out on touring circuits, including building audiences and partnerships in Wolverhampton, South Cumbria, Conwy (North Wales), Bedford and Folkestone. We work with a creative pool of: leading actors and acclaimed musicians, many who are early music specialists.

In 2024, The Telling won the prestigious Audience Participation of the Year Award organised by the European Early Music organisation, REMA for our Songs and Stories project in partnership with animateur Sarah Atter and Wolverhampton Refugee and Migrant Centre. In 2022, The Telling was shortlisted for two other REMA Awards.

We have performed for a range of venues and promoters including, Buxton International Music Festival, Music at Oxford, Anvil Arts, Lake District Summer Music, Newbury Spring Festival, Beverley Early Music Festival, Brighton Early Music Festival, Arena Theatre (Wolves), Conwy Classical Music Festival, Stoke Newington Early Music Festival, Little Missenden Festival, Keele Concerts Society, Bedford Music Club, Music in the Village (Walthamstow), Stranraer Music For All, New Vic Theatre.

Several of The Telling's programmes are political or provide commentary on current issues seen through the lens of the past. For example, celebrity culture and #MeToo are explored in *What the Dickens?* and *Into the Melting Pot* focuses on religious and cultural intolerance and the plight of refugees.

Read on: <https://www.thetelling.co.uk/about>
<https://www.thetelling.co.uk/programmes>

THE INVADERS' FEAR OF MEMORIES

Unity Theatre Liverpool Friday 19 Sept 7:30pm

The Invaders' Fear of Memories is a theatre piece based on the life and diaries of Yosef Nachmani – a Russian Jew who migrated from Tsarist Russia to Ottoman Palestine in 1907. Nachmani became Director of the Jewish National Fund in the Galilee and subsequently played a central role in the ethnic cleansing of Palestine's indigenous people. The play offers a perspective into the origins of settler-colonialism and apartheid in modern-day Israel, exploring themes of loyalty, violence, ideology, and grief.

Since August 2023, The Invaders' Fear of Memories has been performed to audiences across four continents.

Performed by Benjamin Rivers, the great grandson of Nachmani. Over the course of the play, Rivers performs 12 characters and sings in Arabic, Hebrew, Ukrainian, and Yiddish. Directed by Linda Wise, an original member of the iconic Roy Hart Theatre Company.

Trigger warning: At one point in the performance, the sound of machine gun fire is played.

Content warning: *Contains themes and descriptions of political violence, including massacres, rape, and ethnic cleansing. These scenes may be distressing to some audience members. Viewer discretion is advised.

Age guidance:16+

Watch the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lc56BNZmZM>

Book here: <https://www.acc360.co.uk/unitytheatreliverpool-1602579988-the-invaders-fear-of-memories.html>

Unity Theatre, 1 Hope Place, Liverpool, L1 9BG 0151 709 4988<https://www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk/>

Audience reviews:

The Invaders' Fear of Memories is a jaw-dropping tour de force through history that has never been more relevant. Ben Rivers deftly slips between characters to create a collage of voice and song that is both powerful and rich with devastating truth and subtly observed nuance.

Emily Conolan, Author and refugee advocate, Australia.

The Invaders' Fear of Memories, a one-man play by Ben Rivers, is both an urgently needed piece of history and an extraordinary work of art. Rivers, portraying twelve characters, brings to life his own great-grandfather's story, first as an oppressed Jew in Tsarist Russia and then his inexorable transformation into an active participant in the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homeland. With gorgeous, stirring songs in Ukrainian, Yiddish, Hebrew and Arabic woven throughout, "The Invaders' Fear of Memories" confronts us with the tragic cycles of history in which we are still caught. It could not be more relevant in today's violent world.

Jo Salas, Author and co-founder of Playback Theatre, New York.

£5K GRANTS AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO THE 'SIGNS OF THE TIMES' TO BUILD SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE UK

11 September 2025

Bishop Richard Moth, chair of Catholic grant-making charity, The Charles Plater Trust (CPT), has announced the opening of the funder's 2025 small grants programme.

Opening the grant funding opportunity, Bishop Richard Moth said: "We face profound social justice challenges as a society today. Marking the papacy of Pope Leo XIV and, also, with a relatively new government in place in this country, it is timely to offer a new funding opportunity to charity partners to pioneer new ways in which Catholic social teaching in action can contribute to a new vision for our society, where all belong and can flourish.

CPT launched its small grants programme in 2021, and funds projects that contribute to social justice through education in its broadest sense.

Charities and CICs with an annual income below £100,000 are eligible to apply for a small grant of up to £5,000 on the Charles Plater Trust website. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Thursday 9th October 2025.

Grant application details can be found at: www.plater.org.uk/apply Or for an informal chat about the funding opportunity, please contact Philomena Cullen, Trust manager, email: plater@cbcew.org.uk

LINK

Plater Trust: www.plater.org.uk

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/53229>

DIARY

SEPTEMBER

13–19 Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales <https://challengepoverty.co.uk/>

16 In-person CAFOD briefing 7-8.30pm St John's Parish Centre, Chequers Road, (corner with High Lane), Chorlton Cum Hardy, Manchester M21 9DL. A valuable opportunity to meet other CAFOD volunteers and to share experiences and ideas. Hosted by **Kathryn Keenan Community Participation Coordinator CAFOD in Shrewsbury Diocese and Birmingham Archdiocese (North)** Mobile/WhatsApp: 07920 232 936 and **Simon Holleron, CAFOD in Salford** salford@cafod.org.uk Mobile 07710 094 454. Email kkeen@cafod.org.uk to register

17 Online CAFOD National Harvest Fast Day Briefing for volunteers across England & Wales 7-8pm Register to attend this briefing: https://cafod.formstack.com/forms/cafod_harvest_volunteers

18 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 Jubilee of Social Justice Liverpool RC Cathedral. NJPN are having a stall at the exhibition plus a leaflet about J&P in the North West (Mouthpeace and the NW E Bulletin). See <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/jubilee-of-social-justice/>

20 The Northern Diocese Environmental Group mini-pilgrimage from Leeds City Station to Kirkstall Abbey 12:45 to 4pm. All welcome especially parishioners from all the Northern Dioceses. Register at climate.ndeg@gmail.com

20-26 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel The week aims to encourage people of faith to pray for, and work towards, an end to Israeli oppression and allowing both Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace.

21 The Week for Peace in Palestine Israel will be celebrated with a liturgy at the Church of Saint Vincent De Paul, Hardy Street, Liverpool1 at 10 am **and also** at St Michaels, West Derby Road Liverpool 6 5EH

22-5 October Fairtrade Fortnight Theme *Brew It Fair* <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/fairtrade-fortnight-2025/>

25 'Hope for our common home' Pilgrimage in Salford Diocese. Find out more here <https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/events/hope-pilgrimage-walk/> Register here: laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

OCTOBER

1 An evening celebrating creativity and sustainability! 6-7:30pm. Upton by Chester High School – a community collaboration with Chifundo UK. Proceeds for Chifundo UK & Design & Technology department. Upcycled clothes and accessories modelled by school students. Chifundo UK Charity empowers girls and women in Malawi. Stalls selling sustainable fashion and accessories. Adults: £5.00, Children: £2.50 (includes refreshments). Tickets: School <https://www.uptonhigh.co.uk/> 01244 259800 Chifundo UK www.chanasachifundomalawi.org 01244 381490

3 CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

3 Jubilee Year Family Fast Day Reflection and Soup Lunch at the Laudato Si' Centre 10 -12.30 led by Kathryn Keenan Community Participation Coordinator CAFOD in Shrewsbury Diocese and Birmingham Archdiocese (North), Simon Holleron (CAFOD in Salford) and Emily Cahill from the Laudato Si' Centre. Reflection, simple soup lunch. To book and for more details visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y45833t3>

4 Feast of St Francis - end of Season of Creation Celebration service 2pm St Michael's Macclesfield

4 'Powered by Hope' Christian Aid Day 10 am-4.30 pm Friends' Meeting House 6 Mount St Manchester M2 5NS. More information and to register: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/powered-by-hope>

4-5 World Day for Migrants and Refugees. Theme: 'Migrants, missionaries of hope'. <https://www.csan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WDMRJubilee-of-Migrants.pdf>
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/csan-pilgrimage-guide-for-the-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees/>

4 -10 'Celebrating Creation' Time to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in our personal lives and within the Church Boarbank Hall, Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH. Contact: Sr Margaret Atkins margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk or 015395-32288

9 Pax Christi Merseyside meeting (second Thursday of each month) from 2pm to 4pm at Quaker Meeting House School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT. All welcome. Contact Jan Harper 07591082195 janharper20211@outlook.com

10 CAFOD Quiz Night at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port 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 <https://challengepoverty.co.uk/>

19 Church Action on Poverty Sunday www.churchpoverty.org.uk/sunday

18 Fairtrade Autumn Fair 11am-3pm Wesley Church Centre St. John Street, Chester. Fair Trade home wares, Luna Tree Jewellery, Chester Fairtrading food & other items, freshly baked treats from Bread Together. Admission free.

23 A Legacy of Hope and Joy: an information session on Zoom for Parish Volunteers 7pm-8.30pm. CAFOD's Director Christine Allen will explain why Gifts in Wills are so important in our work of being good neighbours around the world. https://cafod.formstack.com/forms/a_legacy_of_hope

31 NJPN Post Conference Catch-Up, 7.30-9pm Joining link contact Sharon Chambers admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

DIARY

NOVEMBER

13 Pax Christi Merseyside meeting (second Thursday of each month) from 2pm to 4pm at Quaker Meeting House School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT. All welcome. Contact Jan Harper 07591082195 janharper20211@outlook.com

14 CAFOD Quiz Night at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port 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

DECEMBER

11 Pax Christi Merseyside meeting (second Thursday of each month) from 2pm to 4pm at Quaker Meeting House School Lane Liverpool L1 3BT. All welcome. Contact Jan Harper 07591082195 janharper20211@outlook.com

- See current NJPN news here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/news/>
- Sign up for regular news and information from NJPN (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or contact ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org 020 7901 4864
- Read the AUTUMN issue of **MOUTHPEACE** the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses: <https://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/mouthpeace-autumn-2025.pdf>

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN