



JUSTICE AND PEACE

Summer 2026

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Editor writes:

'Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God' 1 Peter 4 v 11.

Compiling this Mouthpeace I have been struck by how many contributors think it is important that we, as people of faith, search for and speak the truth. We have many differing concerns including peace and nonviolence, the care of the planet and sustainability, poverty at home and abroad, refugees and immigrants. These are all reflected in this Mouthpeace. Whatever our particular concern we are encouraged to speak out clearly when we have the opportunity to do so.

In the opening sentence of his first encyclical Pope Leo actually mentions the Tower of Babel suggesting maybe that looking at the confusion in the world and amongst our leaders today we seem to be building the Tower again. He urges us instead to choose 'to build a city in which God and humanity dwell together'.

Perhaps this is the basic calling at the root of all our J & P work whatever our individual knowledge and interests. How appropriate then that this year's conference at Swanwick is about talking (and listening). It takes a lifetime to develop these skills so we all have something to learn.

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission <https://lancasterfaithandjustice.org.uk>

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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 National Justice and Peace Network and of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury



It is not too late to book for the NJPN 48th Annual Conference, JUST TALK, taking place at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire on 24 – 26 July.

The invitation is simple: Come and have your say as well as listen to what others have to offer. This conference is not just about speaking. It is about creating space for reflection; encounter; disagreement; curiosity; humility and even courage. The courage to engage respectfully in difficult conversations, led always by the Spirit of Truth.

Dialogue is born from an attitude of respect for the other person, from a conviction that the other has something good to say. Pope Francis

The conference aims to increase participants understanding of how language and other forms of communication are used or misused in our current context, and to help participants challenge disinformation and divisive rhetoric, change narratives, foster dialogue and encounter, and speak truth to power.

In celebrating 60 years of Nostra Aetate, Pope Leo XIV said the *document* “opened our eyes to a simple yet profound principle: dialogue is not a tactic or a tool, but it’s a way of life – a journey of the heart that transforms everyone involved, the one who listens and the one who speaks.”

Our keynote speaker, booked some months ago, is Andy Burnham (currently Mayor of Greater Manchester). However, as of this present moment in time, we are unsure as to whether he will be able to come (who knows, he may be making a bid to be Prime Minister by then!).

Sir John Battle (former Member of Parliament for Leeds West) will be holding an Ecumenical Conversation on Engaging with Community Groups.

Billy Vaughan, Public Affairs Officer for the Quakers, will be speaking about the right to protest and how that relates to a different part of dialogue, freedom of speech.

In this current climate the need for us all to be able to communicate is more important than ever.

For more information and details of how to book

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-2026/njpn-2026-conference-booking-details/>

NB Full report on NJPN Day in Sheffield ‘Shining a Light on Food Sustainability’ on pages 6-10



PAX CHRISTI ENGLAND AND WALES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 6th June 'Sowing Seeds of Hope' 10.30 am - 4.30 pm
at Maria Fidelis School, 1 Drummond Crescent, Euston, London, NW1 1LY or online

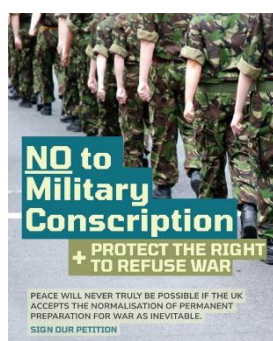
To attend in person, please register by emailing: admin@paxchristi.org.uk

To attend online, please register here: tinyurl.com/4akm8rjx

Business Meeting from 2 pm All papers for the meeting will be available for everyone to view and download from the website plus details for voting in person, online or as a proxy. www.paxchristi.org.uk

Read copies of the Pax Christi Annual Report 2025-2026

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>



Petition: Say no to Military Conscription

On International Conscientious Objectors Day (May 15), Pax Christi joined a coalition of Peace Organisations promoting a petition calling on the UK Government to:

- rule out any future introduction of conscription – mandatory national service or registration – in the UK.
- assert and uphold the rights of conscientious objectors, ensuring protection for those who refuse to participate in the armed forces.

To add your signature to the petition online click here:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/no-to-military-conscription-1>

MERSEYSIDE PAX CHRISTI

Monthly meetings Thursday June 11th and Thursday July 9th 2.00pm at Friends Meeting House, School Lane Liverpool. L1 3BT All welcome Contact sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk

Hiroshima Day and Nagasaki Day 6th and 9th Aug Both Merseyside CND and Merseyside Pax Christi will be holding events to commemorate victims of the atomic weapons dropped on these days in 1945. See <https://www.facebook.com/Merseyside.CND/> and <https://paxchristi.org.uk/> nearer the time.

REFLECTING ON NONVIOLENCE

Joan Sharples writes: As part of a national tour in March, Nicholas Paz, director of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative, led an evening session in Liverpool.



In a brief introduction he described his own journey from research work to work in mediation. It was encouraging to hear him assert that nonviolence is recognised as an academic field and that there is hard evidence that nonviolence achieves goals faster and more effectively than through violent methods. For Nicholas, however, nonviolence was predominantly a spirituality, a deep call to live the nonviolent way of Jesus.

Nicholas invited the thirty people present to name a conflict of concern to them in their life. A rich sharing ensued as people named: personal issues: 'my own anger'; family situations: 'my grandchildren struggling with being bullied at school'; community tensions: 'demonising migrants'; and the global context: 'world news is too horrifying to watch'. This process took a long time. Watching Nicholas listen with great attention to each contribution was a lesson in itself.

Nicholas affirmed what had been said, commenting, 'This is what we are living: violence starts when we don't take time to listen to each other'. He suggested that we need to acknowledge our own violence as the first step and to work in community with others, reminding us that conflict and violence are not the same and that conflict can be addressed nonviolently. He gave us **a tool-box of four words; perception, narrative, space and time.**

Perception is the way each person perceives reality. It is not fact. We can describe a narrative with closed language: always, never... , but open language: maybe, perhaps...is more effective at promoting dialogue and disarming violence.

Space is important, whether it is the way one sits in a chair; the layout of a room; the planning of the city... Space conditions behaviour.

Understanding and nonviolence work **takes time and requires sitting together.**

Unfortunately - and ironically - that was when I had to leave for my train. I would like to have listened a lot longer to Nicholas - and I would have liked to pursue conversations with some of the others in the room who had brought to the space such important real-life concerns.

15-21 JUNE 2026



Refugee Week 2026 marks 75 years since the Refugee Convention – a landmark agreement affirming that those forced to flee deserve protection, dignity, and hope. For 75 years, it has provided the

legal foundation that has saved millions of lives.

**COURAGE!
COURAGE!
COURAGE!**

Theme of Refugee Week 2026: Courage

The word courage comes from the Latin cor, meaning "heart." Inspired by the lives and experiences of people seeking sanctuary, Refugee Week 2026 invites us to explore the theme of Courage. For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain world.

Continued on page 4

At a time when some seek to divide and blame, Refugee Week 2026 calls us to come together and share the courage to welcome, to stand for what we believe in, and to celebrate culture and community – to be joyful, imagine new possibilities, dream, heal, and connect. Through art, stories, and community, we celebrate the courage that lives within us all – and how connection helps it grow. Find out more <https://refugeeweek.org/>

Two suggestions to prepare

Join the **ONLINE WEBINAR – HOW TO TALK ABOUT HOMES AND IMMIGRATION**: 1-2pm Wednesday 10 June 2026 see page 13 for more details

Read **THE COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES latest VOCATION FOR JUSTICE** which is now in digital format. The theme for this Summer is Seeking Sanctuary: Responding in Faith, Choosing Welcome. This includes the winning articles and pictures from the 2026 Columban schools media competition.

<https://columbans.co.uk/publication/summer-2026-seeking-sanctuary-responding-in-faith-choosing-welcome/>



INSPIRED BY CREATION --A Visit to the Laudato Si Centre in Salford

Friday 19 June 2026 10:45am until 3:30pm

If you have not been, the Laudato Si centre in the Salford Diocese is a superb way to see how the imperatives of Pope Francis' encyclical have been implemented to make an inclusive, educational and beautiful space. The centre lies in the grounds of Wardley Hall, which is the residence for the Bishop of Salford.

In the morning we will have a guided tour of the centre to understand its mission. The centre asks people to bring a packed lunch (refreshments will be provided). There is a covered classroom but most of the day will be outdoors whatever the weather, so bring suitable clothing.

After lunch there will be a woodland session where there is varied activity options linked to prayer and Laudato Si'. After that we will have a session to share together news, ideas and activities from our own localities and introduce some resources that members could find useful in parishes and dioceses.

The visit will conclude with Mass at 2:45pm and the day ends at 3:30pm.

If you would like to attend for all or part of the day, please contact the Northern Diocese Environment Group directly at climate.ndeg@gmail.com for general information and transport options.

Given the geographical reach of participants, anyone coming on this visit will need to make their own transport arrangements.

A DAY OF RECOLLECTION AT BOARBANK HALL IN CARTMEL JULY 18TH 2026



Lancaster Diocese Environmental Justice Group would like to invite you to a Day of Recollection for parish Laudato Si' representatives, or those interested in encouraging Care for Creation through their schools and parishes and among their fellow-parishioners. This will be an informal day of meeting, greeting and sharing in the lovely, peaceful, surroundings of Boarbank Hall in Cartmel.

We envisage the following timetable:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 10 Mass | 10.30 Coffee and introductions |
| 11.00 Reflection by Sr Margaret Atkins: 'Inspiration from our faith' followed by time to pray, reflect and enjoy the garden and chapel, including | |
| 11.50 Midday Prayer | 12.30 Lunch provided (outside if fine weather) |
| 14.00 Sharing what we are doing within the diocese; sharing challenges and solutions. | |
| 15.30 Tea and departure | |

There is support with travel costs available for those who need it. We much look forward to hearing from you.

With every good wish, in Christ,

The Diocesan Environmental Justice Group: Stephen Garsed (Diocesan Environmental Lead)

Sue Grubic (Diocesan Faith & Justice Worker) Sr Margaret Atkins (Boarbank Hall) If you are interested in attending, please contact Sue Grubic (ldfsue@gmail.com) or text Sue on 07791444417



Our Biblical text for this year is drawn from Ezekiel 47: 1- 12, which portrays God’s life-giving water flowing from the temple of God. The river grows deeper and deeper restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision invites human responsibility: recognising ecological damage, embracing interconnectedness, we are called to immerse ourselves in the water, and actively safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together. **NOW IS THE TIME TO START PREPARING AN EVENT IN YOUR AREA**
<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

LADYEWELL - a place of prayer and peace

We are so lucky to have, in our Diocese of Lancaster, one of the oldest shrines to Our Lady in the country. It is a 900 year-old place of peace and tranquillity on the outskirts of Preston, easily accessible from the M6, a place to make a special journey to - or drop into for rest and respite from the stresses of the motorway. It’s a lot more peaceful than the Services!

Besides our annual Diocesan Pilgrimage in September every year, other dioceses and groups come on pilgrimage. One Anglican pilgrimage brings 200 people! These formal events make up only a part of our visitors. Individuals and families of all faiths and none visit our well - we are busy at all times of the day. Hindus come to pray for fertility. Muslims come because of the many references to “Mary the Mother of Jesus” in the Koran. People who are troubled come to reflect and find peace. It really is a place for everybody.



Yet this amazing place is run and cared for by a very small band of volunteers who, like many of us, are getting on a bit. Furthermore, there is an increasing need to invest in the shrine’s future. Whilst we are patching the potholes on the access road, we will need costly repairs if we are to maintain safe access in the longer term. Furthermore, we need to repair the benches and upgrade the pathways.

Besides the need for maintenance, we are also looking at ways of enhancing the shrine. Ideas include:

- a “welcome board” inviting walkers on the adjacent public footpath the “come and rest awhile in our garden” so that passers-by can appreciate our special place and learn something about it.
- labelling the plants to help visitors appreciate the variety of nature.
- placing, close to the well, some reflections on the importance of water in faith and on the practical need for safe water across the globe
- a “Way of the Magnificat” to complement the existing Way of the Cross.

We hope that visitors would find these reflections helpful as an additional aid to prayer.

Because of the number of visitors who do not share our faith but draw spiritual strength from the well and its surrounds, such information, speaking of our beliefs and values, gives an opportunity to understand something of our faith - a quiet evangelisation.

To ensure the future of the shrine and its place in the spiritual life of people in the diocese and beyond, we need support, in particular benefactors to help us with the capital costs of the upgrading. We would also like to set up a diocesan “Friends of Ladyewell” to help with the continued running of the shrine.

Please pray that our efforts may be successful and that, by playing our small part, alongside past and future generations, our lovely shrine can look with confidence to its Millenium and beyond.

Dr Stephen Garsed
Environmental Lead for Lancaster Diocese

If you would like to help us, please contact stephen.garsed@gmail.com

MAPPING THE COUNTY: Understanding Need and Faith-Based Impact

As part of an evolving strategy, Movement for Recovery Lancashire is working closely with the Gather Movement – a national network that supports Church unity movements across the UK, to explore how we can better understand and respond to the needs of our County. For more information see <https://gathermovement.org/mfr/>

One of the tools is service mapping: a process of gathering data that reveals what the Church (and wider faith communities) are already doing through activities such as food banks, toddler groups, youth mentoring programmes, refugee support, elderly care, debt advice, and mental health initiatives.



For both civic authorities, churches and faith groups, mapping offers shared evidence base to:

- Celebrate and make visible the scale and diversity of what the faith sector is already doing.
 - Identify where partnerships can have the most impact.
 - Inform better decision-making and resource allocation.
- Avoid duplication and build on existing strengths.

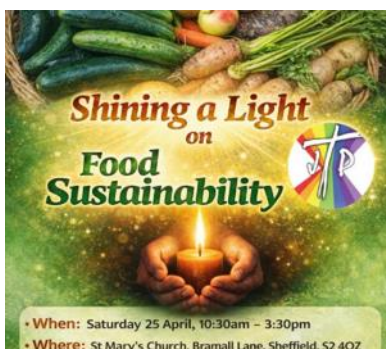
A key element of the mapping work are volunteers who are prepared to undertake the patient work of contacting church / faith leads, either in person or via phone, and then completing a series of questionnaires to reveal the extent of the provision being made. As well as being of value to public sector partners, as described above, such information is also of enormous benefit to local churches, providing a stimulus for better networking together.

We are now nearing a point where funding is available to support some volunteers to carry out this mapping for several of the districts in central / west Lancashire.

For more information about mapping, and how to undertake it in YOUR part of the county, get in touch with Gather's regional coordinator, Peter Lumsden (pjlumsden58@gmail.com)

Gather regional coordinator, Places of Welcome regional coordinator, representing Faith Networks on the VCFSE alliance, justice advocate with the NW England Methodist district

REPORTS ON THE SPEAKERS AT THE 'SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SUSTAINABILITY' DAY



Marian Thompson writes:

Following the Jubilee Year 'Open Doors' series of webinars last year (2025/26), NJPN hosted more this winter with the theme Shining the Light on... These included 'Christ among the ruins, finding light in Gaza's darkness' and 'Shining a Light on Racism in England'. In April this year we were offered the opportunity to step away from our screens and meet in person. So on a warm sunny spring Saturday I caught the train from Marple just south of Stockport travelling through the beautiful Hope Valley to Sheffield to join the J & P day focusing on Food Sustainability. The speakers for the morning session were local to the Sheffield area but their ideas had universal application.

FOOD SUSTAINABILITY – LESSONS FROM THE H3 PROJECT

The first presentation was from **Professor Peter Jackson** emeritus (retired) of the Institute for Sustainable Food at the University of Sheffield. He talked first of general global issues then focused on his H3 project which is just completing.



He suggested we can only claim to have **global food security** when ALL people at ALL times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

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Sustainability looks at the environmental, economic and social aspects of producing, distributing and consuming this food in a way that does not harm the planet in the long term. It is increasingly obvious that we are in a world food crisis when we are living beyond what our planet can sustainably provide.

According to a recent report from The Royal Society the food system is responsible for one third of the world's GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions which have bad effects on the environment. There needs to be changes which would involve us all but these are not simple. We need to look at dietary change, more sustainable agricultural practices (which will possibly cost more), reduction of food waste and development of new ways of food production (including Biotech).

Some facts and figures: Globally 700 million people are malnourished. Geographically this is very unevenly spread – hunger and malnutrition are most found in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Overweight is concentrated in the Global North. Over a quarter of UK population are defined as obese (BMI > 30) and this is projected to rise to around 50% in 2050

There is a direct connection between diet and NCDs (noncommunicable diseases) such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and diabetes. People need to be encouraged to reduce their intake of UPFs (ultra processed foods) and increase consumption of fruit and vegetables.

These facts were taken from The EAT-Lancet Commission 2025 report on Healthy, Sustainable, and Just Food Systems <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions-do/EAT-2025>

Professor Jackson then went on to discuss why we find it so difficult to change our diet. He suggested our diets are part of our social and cultural routines which are deeply embedded. Sometimes they include ethical and moral dimensions. So individuals do not easily 'go against the grain' in family or community eating. Also well established institutions or powerful corporations set standards that are in their own interests not general welfare. For dietary change to be effective should we be looking at change in food systems not just individual diets?



The H3 project is part of a larger Transforming UK Food Systems venture which is working towards this change. H3 looks at the wide approach 'from farm to fork'. Addressing the twin themes of health and sustainability, it has an interdisciplinary approach combining natural and social science. It works with government, business and civil society to turn research results into policy and practice seeking to transform the UK food systems from 'the ground up'. It works in a variety of areas: from lab to field, farm to landscape, school to community see <https://h3.ac.uk/>



Professor Jackson indicated that there is a focus on the principles of Regenerative Agriculture which involve: minimising soil disturbance, keeping the soil surface covered, maintaining living roots in the soil, growing a diverse range of crops and bringing grazing animals back to the land. For more information see <https://fixourfood.org/groundswell-insights-principles-and-tech-for-regenerative-agriculture/>

Some of the current issues in this way of farming include:

lower yields of crops but also lowers input costs,

returning livestock to farms uses animal manure instead of artificial fertilisers but there are still the questions of animal welfare and use of artificial herbicides,

commercial interest from large companies (eg Deloitte and Pepsico) is encouraging – or is just another form of greenwashing?

<https://www.deloitte.com/global/en/Industries/consumer/about/future-of-food.html>

<https://www.pepsico.co.uk/our-impact/sustainability/pepsico-positive/positive-agriculture>

Professor Jackson concluded his talk by referring to a short film produced by the H3 project which he invited us to watch and pass on to others https://drive.google.com/file/d/14UQEdBXvZAUgGQX5N6Ht_wSX4xn-z1Q9/view

There followed a Question and Answer session <https://youtu.be/3aZptliKX9I?si=8NtolxFZTYGKC-Mv>

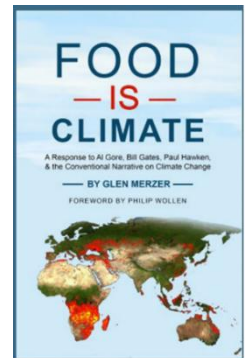
WHOLE PLANT FOOD DIETS FOR SUSTAINABILITY; THE PLANET, THE ANIMALS AND OUR HEALTH

Speaking next were **Doctors Maggie and Ian Patterson**, a GP and hospital consultant respectively, who work in Sheffield. They are both members of Plant based Health Professionals UK who recognise the interconnectedness of the planet, the animals and our health. They felt doctors tend to react to patients when something goes wrong but it would be preferable if they taught people to stay healthy for longer to enjoy not just a **longer life** but a **longer healthy life**.

One thing that has concerned them during their careers is the dramatic growth in levels of obesity amongst people of all ages and particularly among children. Dr Ian was particularly concerned that this has led to the rise in the number of young adults (20 – 49 years) who were developing colorectal cancer which was becoming the leading cause of death in young people.

He suggested contributing factors to this obesity epidemic were poor diet, lack of exercise, and drug companies which offered weight loss tablets as a solution. Now it is more generally recognised that an animal-based diet heavy in red and processed meat, eggs, poultry and dairy products more readily causes health problems. Yet production of meat and poultry for human consumption is rising world-wide and dramatically in some places such as China, United States and Brazil. See charts <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/chicken-meat-production>

This increase animal production for food is detrimental to the planet. More and more land is used for farming animals who live often in close unhealthy environments. This can lead to increase of the risk of viruses spreading. Animals are therefore routinely given antibiotics as a preventive measure. Different countries have different policies about this but antibiotic resistance can build up in those of us who eat such meat and so antibiotics will not be effective if we really need them during surgery for instance. Also the feed required to produce these animal products uses up more land. Dr Ian also drew our attention to greenhouse gas emissions from cattle, particularly methane which is 120 times more potent than CO₂. He recommended a helpful book that deals with some of the issues involved affecting our food and our climate.



Maggie and Ian urged us to consider a plant based diet for our own good and the good of the planet. The NHS has now produced Eating Well plate.



Source: Public Health England in association with the Welsh Government, Food Standards Scotland and the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

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Continued page 9

Looking at this plate led to questions about the need for taking tablets such as statins regularly. Dr Maggie felt that a good diet could help many people to avoid a lifetime of tablets but there were some cases in which they were needed. Her advice was try diet first and then resort to tablets if the conditions such as high cholesterol or high blood pressure continue. The talk concluded by suggesting habits that can add more than a decade to your life: Regular exercise – at least half an hour a day, avoiding eating highly processed foods, and not smoking

They finished with a quote from Gus Speth. Professor of Law and former Administrator of the UN Development programme: *“I used to think the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change but I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy. To deal with these problems we need a spiritual and cultural transformation, and we scientists do not know how to do that”*

A JOURNEY THROUGH FOOD – SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY

The final speaker in the morning was **Gabi Socol** who shared her personal practical experiences of living sustainably. She was born and grew up in Romania in an area close to the Black Sea that was ideal for agriculture especially growing wheat and corn. She learnt early about sustainable agriculture. The family grew what they needed for themselves and traded any surplus with people from different agricultural regions such as trading grain for fruit that grew more readily in more mountainous areas There was no waste as food not immediately eaten was preserved for winter using just sugar or vinegar(no chemicals!)

Gabi worked in Romania as a lawyer then travelled to Japan and Brazil. She has studied for qualifications in law and business studies as well as gaining certificates which have helped her better understand sustainability systems, nutrition, healthy eating and wellbeing. She decided her heart was in hospitality and cooking not the law and since she has been in Sheffield using her wide knowledge and skills, she worked for eight years as Head of Development and Training in Foodworks <https://thefoodworks.org/>.



Last year she left Foodworks and founded Hope4Sheffield. This is a community project with workshops, activities and cooking demos that has a focus on inclusion and integration, diversity and culture, nutrition, sustainable cooking and healthy eating, skills for life. She educates people including teenagers to cook creatively and use up left overs so there is no food wastage. She thinks sustainability starts with small habits such as providing home cooked meals. She feels strongly that food waste isn't just about throwing away food but represents wasted land, wasted water and wasted energy to grow, produce and transport all that food. <https://www.facebook.com/p/Hope4Sheffield-61585497296171/>

Recently Gabi has been working as a volunteer at The Open Kitchen Social Club which uses food surplus to cook free meals for a local community. Gabi introduced Firas who founded the Club and gave us a brief description of the work there. <https://www.openkitchensocialclub.com/>



After a break to eat our picnic lunches and chat, **in the shorter afternoon session there were various group reports.**

THE NORTHERN DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT GROUP (NDEG)

Paul Kelly chair

The group has been going for over 20 years but he has only taken over the chair about 18 months ago. The group does not have a formal constitution but through networking brings together people with shared environmental interests from organisations such as CAFOD, Operation Noah, Green Christian and Journey to 2030 as well as NJPN members. Paul suspected that when the NDEG was formed it was the only such group bringing together people with environmental concerns. Now there are many others.

What does NDEG do? Looking to the future they have discerned four main areas of work:

- i. There are many organisations eg SVP, WI, where the environment is not their main concern but they do have sections that have an interest. Paul said they were looking at ways of developing links with such people and maybe offering advice.

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- ii. helping young people coming into the church who have no experience of Catholic Social Teaching to expand their horizons.
- iii. offering people the truth on topics where there are a lot of false ideas spread around. Paul remembered the work the group did on fracking a few years ago when this was a key issue in Lancashire where he was the living.
- iv. There are a lot of newsletters produced by environmental groups. Maybe they could bring those who produce them together to share knowledge and ideas

The NDEG group meets 4 times a year, three on zoom and once in person. Paul said it was open to anyone who shares these concerns to join. Planned future events – June 19th a visit to Laudato Si’ centre, Salford (details on page4) September 14th a more reflective zoom meeting for the Season of Creation joint with Southern Environment Diocesan Group and in November a meeting about making connections with Ladyewell shrine at Fernyhalgh near Preston (see Page 5) contact for group climate.ndeg@gmail.com

NJPN’s QUAKER PARTNERS Anne Wilkinson

The link between the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group and NJPN started about three years ago. Anne explained Quakers have centrally managed work done in their offices by paid staff. Until 2020 she was one of the staff members working for Quaker Peace and Social Witness. They always had links with peace groups and particularly with Pax Christi. Quakers have recognised for a long time the need to work with others to bring about change in the world

There also things that Friends would like to work on but which are not within the paid environment. **The Quaker Truth and Integrity Group** with which Anne is now involved is one of these. It arose from a real concern about the messaging over Brexit when people didn’t seem to think they need to be truthful. Then in 2024 Mr Trump was elected which had an effect internationally and nationally. People seem attracted to a different kind of politics that doesn’t value truth. What happens if/when such people get into power? We as people of faith who are concerned about the need for the truth should join together and speak out. Pope Leo has recognised this. We must grasp these opportunities. There are differences between our groups but it is part of being human to work out where these differences and similarities lie. This is why, when invited, Anne joined the NJPN Executive Committee. The first time she heard of Catholic Social Teaching was when she came to a conference at Swanwick.

Anne thinks we are in dark times but we must not loose hope. People of faith and no faith who have a different story to tell need to speak out. Anne feels she has been very welcomed by NJPN and it has done her the power of good recognising those with shared concerns can all work together.

JUSTICE AND PEACE AT A DIOCESAN LEVEL. Chris Myers

Chris comes from the North East Co-ordinating group which is not actually part of a Diocese. He talked first of **the National Emergency Briefing** given to MPs in November 2025 by a group of scientists and experts. This drew attention to the consequences of climate change and nature destruction on food, health, security and economics. 85 MPs turned up and over 1,200 people were in the Central Hall, Westminster for the briefing. Following on from this, a public information film has been produced and it is hoped that people will arrange screening in their parishes and to other groups. Details of how to host a screening event <https://www.nebriefing.org/host-the-film>
You can watch the briefings on <https://www.nebriefing.org/expert-briefings>

There is also a call on the Government to stage a prime-time televised emergency briefing across all the main channels, delivered by independent experts and supported by the UK’s Chief Scientific Adviser. This could set out:

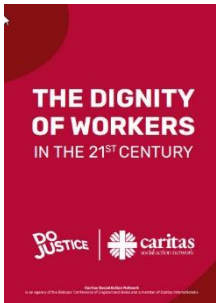
- the nature and scale of the climate and nature threats facing the UK
- why these threats matter to people’s lives and livelihoods
- how government, business and society can engage constructively with the challenges ahead

You can check if your MP has signed up in support on <https://www.nebriefing.org/parliamentary-call>. If not maybe contact them.

Following on what had been said by other speakers already Chris felt it was important to get the truth into the public arena as there is so much untruth out there about climate change.

Chris finished by talking about two NE projects one in County Durham and one at Rothbury Northumberland that involves school children and tree planting. He concluded by saying that in these difficult times we can all do something and showing the National Emergency Briefing film would be a positive step.

SOME SERIOUS SUMMER READING



On May 18th Caritas Social Action Network launched its latest publication- **The Dignity of Workers in the 21st Century**. At a time of rapid economic and technological change, the publication explores the challenges and opportunities facing workers today through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. It reflects on issues including low pay, insecure employment, automation, migration, artificial intelligence, social care, and the changing nature of work, while reaffirming the inherent dignity of every person and the value of meaningful work.

We see this publication as part of the Church's wider preparation to receive the anticipated major social document of Pope Leo XIV, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humans"). According to reports, the encyclical will focus specifically on the impact of artificial intelligence on people and working conditions, representing an important effort to renew Catholic Social Teaching for the AI era.

Drawing on the Church's rich tradition, including the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, St John Paul II, and Pope Francis, the CARITAS publication calls for an economy that places people before profit and promotes participation, solidarity, and the common good.

There are contributions from an outstanding group of writers and thought leaders, including Maria Exall, John Battle, Jon Cruddas, Clifford Longley, Amy Daughton, Charles Wookey and Raymond Friel.

The Dignity of Workers in the 21st Century is available to read and download.

<https://www.csan.org.uk/csan-launches-dignity-of-workers-in-the-21st-century-publication/>



'MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS' Pope Leo's first encyclical

On 25 May 2026, marking the 135th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's *Rerum novarum*, Pope Leo XIV released his first encyclical, entitled '*Magnifica humanitas: On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence*.' He appeals for the safeguarding of humanity, promotion of truth, dignity of work, social justice, and peace.

"Humanity, created by God in all its grandeur, is today facing a pivotal choice: either to construct a new Tower of Babel or to build the city in which God and humanity dwell together." The opening words summarize this encyclical's underlying reasons and purpose. Pope Leo XIV has taken up the legacy of his predecessor, writing a social encyclical which addresses one of the principal challenges of the contemporary age: artificial intelligence.

Divided into five chapters, *Magnifica Humanitas* has an underlying premise: technology is not "a force antagonistic to humanity" (4), nor is it "inherently evil" (9). However, technology is never neutral, because it takes on the characteristics of those who devise, finance, regulate, and use it.

Therefore, Pope Leo XIV appeals for people to build "*for the common good*" and to "*remain human*," following a courageous mentality of shared responsibility and communion, so that the world "*will come to recognize the human heart as the place where God desires to dwell*" (16).

Read a summary of the Encyclical <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/55073>

The complete encyclical <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

continued page 12

Christine Allen, CEO and Director of Catholic aid agency CAFOD, commented on the encyclical:

“As AI redefines our workplaces and lives, Pope Leo’s message speaks of the inherent dignity of humankind. We are not simply instruments of production but living beings, entrusted with a moral compass.

“In a world full of imbalances, we have a duty to use AI responsibly. Today’s message is that it should not be used to further exacerbate inequality and suffering.

“These systems can reflect the interest and biases of their creators, and the Holy Father warns us of the obvious risk that AI used wrongly has the power to increase inequality in our world, widening the gap between rich and poor instead of reducing it.

“Embracing all that the most brilliant minds among us can envisage must not cost us the ability and freedom to choose right from wrong.

“At a time of great global turmoil, Pope Leo’s words are a timely reminder that the best of our world is found in human relationships: when people listen to people and come together for the benefit of everyone.”

CAFOD SUMMER PETITION

HAVE YOU SIGNED YET?

A Call for urgent action on the global debt crisis

The UK government must ensure private lenders can't make huge profits from countries in debt crisis and use the UK's G20 presidency to fix the debt system.

You can sign here and pass the link to others.

<https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/189582/petition/1?>



WELCOME TO THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK.

JUNE 6 -14

More than a million people will come together to take action for their communities, for nature and for the climate.

Together for good, we can make our neighbourhoods better places to live, protect the natural world we love and show politicians and decision makers that people across the UK want positive change.

SOME EVENTS IN OUR AREAS

for more see https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/events_calendar?

CHESTER

Chester Green Festival

Sunday June 7th 12 noon

Townhall Square and Townhall, Northgate Street, Chester, CH1 2HJ Organiser: Eco Communities

You will find a mix of artisan makers, charities and campaign groups outside Town Hall and Exchange square with lots going on for all the family. Learn about Active Travel, your Carbon Footprint, Circular Living, Energy Efficiency, Green Energy and more...

Sunday June 14 we will be in Chester Town Hall and Picturehouse with a programme of talks and workshops and Chester's Repair Cafe will be in the Town Hall.

We hope to have more pop up activities and events so book a ticket to keep updated.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/chester-green-festival-tickets-1986999458870?>

Green Beats Festival - Kith & Cynn June 13 - 7pm June 14 from 12 noon

Sport Tattenhall (football pitch), Field Lane, CHESTER, CH3 9QF

Organiser: Green Beats Festival

<https://greenbeatsfest.com/tickets>

CUMBRIA

Kendal Parents Social & Swap Shop June 11 - 7pm The Eddington, Former United Reformed Church and hall,,
Kendal, LA9 4HE Organiser: No Crap Parties & Kendal Parent Network

<https://events.humanitix.com/parents-social-and-swap-shop>

Penrith's Great Big Green Week starting on June 04 - 5pm across Penrith and surrounding areas, Penrith, Cumbria,
CA11 7XR Organiser: Penrith Action for Community Transition

Penrith is proudly coming 'Together for Good' A week long programme of events hosted by the community celebrating sustainability and nature. Expect family nature activities, Open Farm Sunday, balsam bashing, the Penrith Repair Café, litter picks, climate conversations and much more to be announced.

Each event will be run by our wonderful local groups, charities and businesses, demonstrating the power of our community uniting for the local environment. We believe that taking action takes many shapes and forms, and we hope that the programme can demonstrate just that. You do not need to be an environmental expert to take part!

https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/penrith_s_great_big_green_week

MANCHESTER

June 13 - 10am at HOME Manchester, 2 Tony Wilson Place, Manchester, M15 4FN Organiser: National Trust -
Window to the Wild Contact: Chantelle Williams chantelle.williams@nationaltrust.org.uk

STOCKPORT

Saturday June 6 - 10am Bramhall Park Eco Treasure Hunt. Bramhall park, Bramhall, Stockport, Sk73NX

Organiser: Sustainable Bramhall https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/bramhall_park_eco_treasure_hunt

June 13 - 10am Activities in Carr Wood, Bramhall, Carrwood Road., Stockport, SK73EL

Organiser: Friends of Carr Wood Volunteers

Adults and Children can find out what's growing and living in Carr Wood, children's I Spy sheets to complete, bugs to discover, as well as bird song identification, and finding out how healthy is the stream in Carrwood.

Find us in Carr Wood, the first bench from the CarrWood Road entrance.

ONLINE WEBINAR – HOW TO TALK ABOUT HOMES AND IMMIGRATION

1-2pm Wednesday 10 June 2026

To build a society in which we all can thrive, we need to make sure everyone has a decent and affordable home. This means changes like building more social homes, reforming private renting, and improving the quality of homes. When the conversation about homes becomes focused on immigration, it can divert us from the wider conversation the housing sector wants and needs to have about the root causes of the housing crisis – and the systemic changes that would help to increase the availability of decent and affordable homes.

In 2025, FrameWorks UK undertook original qualitative research, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Nationwide Foundation and Shelter, to understand how communicators who are pressing for more decent and affordable homes can best focus the conversation on improving our housing system.

Join us to find out more, in a useful webinar that will:

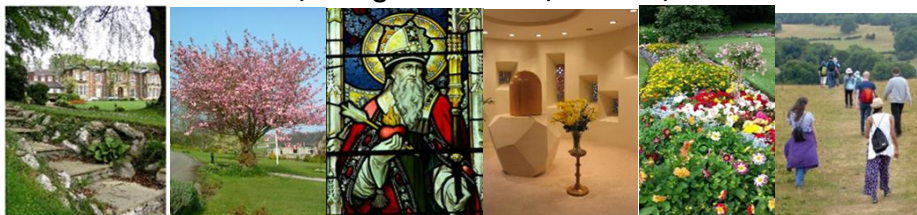
- help you to understand how people think about homes and immigration, and what that means for your communications
- share how to frame communications in ways that tap into more collective and systemic thinking
- offer practical guidance and examples to apply to your work.

This webinar will benefit anyone who writes and talks about decent and affordable homes in the UK. It will last for one hour, including a 40 minute presentation plus time for questions and answers. www.jrf.org.uk

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9017719470897/WN_YADc8_jxQGmdx7KjxZ7emg?#/registration

WHAT'S ON AT BOARBANK? 2026 PROGRAMME
Boarbank Hall, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH



Our Lady in Latin 10th-12th/13th July Learn about the Latin and the music of our best known hymns to Our Lady. Beginners welcome.

Thinking Faith: Mary, Mother of God 1st-8th August Time out for working Catholics.

St Augustine on the Psalms 22nd-26th/28th August All welcome.

Re-Creation! 1st-6th/8th October Renergise your commitment to living your faith in hope in a world of ecological challenges. Talks, fun, conversations, art, liturgy, gardening, walks. All welcome.

Credo! 23rd-25/26th October Follow up to Our Lady in Latin, on the Creed and the Mass.

Hope in Health 4th-6/7th December For all who support or care for anyone who is sick, professionals and others. We will also include our Thinking Faith Advent Zoom retreats. Dates to be confirmed.

For more information or booking, email margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk. Website: www.boarbankhall.org.uk

SUMMER DIARY

JUNE

5 World Environment Day <https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>

6 Pax Christi England and Wales AGM 'Sowing Seeds of Hope' 10.30 am - 4.30 pm at Maria Fidelis School, 1 Drummond Crescent, Euston, London, NW1 1LY or online page 2

6-14 Big Green Week diary for local events pages 12-13

10 Online webinar 'How to talk about Homes and Immigration' 1-2 pm page 13

11 Merseyside Pax Christi Meeting 2.00pm see page 3

17-23 Refugee Week see pages 3-4

19 Inspired by Creation Visit to Laudato Si' centre in Salford see page 4

JULY

9 Merseyside Pax Christi Meeting 2.00 pm see page 3

18 Day of Recollection at Boarbank Hall see page 4

24-26 Just Talk NJPN Annual Conference at Swanwick see page 2

26 UN Day in Support for Victims of Torture <https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day>

AUGUST

1-8 'Thinking Faith' Summer residential week BoarbankHall Page 13

6 Hiroshima Day <https://nationaltoday.com/hiroshima-day/>

SEPTEMBER 1ST – OCTOBER 4th THE SEASON OF CREATION Start preparing now <https://seasonofcreation.org/>
see page 5

1-6TH OCTOBER RE-CREATION! Residential week Boarbank Hall see above

Copydate for Autumn Mouthpiece August 20th 2026

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-northwest/>

Columban Missionaries Vocation for Justice <https://columbans.co.uk/publications/vocation-for-justice/>