



*Do not retreat into your private world,
That place of safety,
sheltered from the storm,
Where you may tend your garden,
seek your soul,
And rest with loved ones
where the fire burns warm.*

*To seek your soul it is a precious thing,
But you will never find it on your own,
Only in the clamour,
threat and pain
Of other people's need
will love be known.*

*There is no shelter from the rage of life,
So meet its eye and dance within the storm*

Kathy Galloway, Iona Community 1989
In 'Bread of Tomorrow' Ed. Janet Morley
SPCK and Christian Aid 1992

40th Annual Justice & Peace Conference



**A conference on inclusion
20-22 July 2018
The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk**

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Britain's housing crisis is now a homelessness crisis

'It is in the shelter of each other that the people live' according to an old Irish proverb. At Housing Justice we reflect up on these words and what that means a lot. Our work with rough sleepers, destitute migrants and those in housing need often makes us think about what 'home' really means. To us, it has to be more than shelter, it is about community, relationship and belonging. 2017 was the year in which housing policy in the UK came under the greatest scrutiny and criticism for generations, with the catastrophic scenes of the fire at Grenfell tower scarring the nations memory for many years to come. It was also a year in which many finally admitted that the housing crisis that has plagued Britain for the last decade has become a homelessness crisis.

In recent years at Housing Justice, we have seen this homelessness crisis building to the record levels it has now reached. Last winter 52 night shelters in the Housing Justice Church and Community Night Shelter Network provided emergency accommodation to almost three thousand (2923) people experiencing homelessness. That's an increase of 53% on the previous year's figure (and double the number of people receiving support in 2012). We estimate across the entire national network, more than 6000 people will stay in a night shelter this winter. Just two years ago, this figure stood at 3,640.

As demand grows church and community night shelters are undergoing a rapid expansion; two years ago, there were 65 shelters operating in the network. Today, there are 107 projects in the Housing Justice Network. Underpinning this huge rise in guests at night shelters is the significant rise in rough sleepers since 2011, (134%) owing to issues such as welfare reform and the ending of a tenancy in the private rented sector.

Our hosting project too has seen record demand. We match people with a spare room to a destitute

migrant, more than 50 guests have been hosted in the last 18 months approximately 10,000 nights of shelter. Asylum seekers with a claim in the system are prohibited by law from working in the UK and a large proportion (in fact all of the guests in our project) are not entitled to claim welfare payments. This is a spurning of human potential and talent, a system the government calls "the Hostile Environment". We pay a small destitution payment of £25 a week to each guest which gives a level of subsistence. We have paid out more than £30,000 in such payments to date.

What I love most about these projects is that they are powered not by corporate donors, government contracts or even by a formalised relationship with church hierarchies. Rather it is the desire to demonstrate God's love for all and a sense of injustice at the social conditions of our brothers and sisters.

This year Housing Justice will redouble our efforts to lead practical efforts to reduce homelessness in all its forms and to address the issues behind housing need. We'll be working with projects

and with government around issues such as Universal Credit, the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and campaigning for meaningful change on housing and homelessness policy throughout the year.

2018 must be the year that we all ask ourselves what it is we personally can do to stop this rise in homelessness in the sixth richest economy on Earth.

Every year at the end of January Housing Justice organise Homeless Sunday, a chance for Churches and Christian groups from across the country join together to pray, reflect and plan practical action on homelessness, but also for a united Christian voice to offer solidarity and be a prophetic voice for change. If you missed it this year you could still use the resources to organise an event at any time- see

www.housingjustice.org.uk

Jacob Quagliozi



Action Highlights Spring 2018 See Diary on p4 for more details

CAFOD Share the Journey Refugee and Migrants campaign * Show the Love Green Hearts * Ash Wednesday Witness * Fairtrade Fortnight * Lent—'Lenten Journey' daily prayer and action on our website * Easter * CND 60th Anniversary events * Women's World Day of Prayer * International Women's Day * World Water Day * Romero Anniversary Lectures * Earth Hour * Campaign against Military Spending * Brexit priorities—protecting rights and environmental protection; transparency in trade negotiations; Northern Ireland border.

Book for the Annual J&P Conference In the Shelter of Each Other the People Live

Speaking Personally: Maggie McSherry

Where do you think your commitment to justice and peace comes from?

I was aware that the manner of our experience of injustice and poverty is largely determined by accident of birth but that also injustice and poverty are not accidents but the consequences of structures that humanity has created.

Inspirational friends and public figures that I have been in contact with over the years have helped to give context and purpose to this understanding.

During my time in the late sixties at St Mary's College in Strawberry Hill the Vincentian

community created a church of the future - a participatory priesthood of the laity was at that time and in that place a reality. Friends made then have continued to be an example of what we can and should try to be.

When we moved to the wilds of North Yorkshire our parish priest was a Columban who had been in China for many years and whose love for China stayed with him, he always hoped he would return, his ideas and the way he saw church was again inspirational.

We had hoped to develop a Justice and Peace group in my next parish, and Sr Lucy from Leeds Diocese Justice and Peace Commission came to speak, but our parish priest, a retired high ranking navy chaplain was not encouraging, however Sr Lucy introduced me to the New Internationalist and Traidcraft which I have continued to support for the last forty years. It also led me to enrol on a unit with the Open University with the unfortunately named "Third World Studies" and later when the boys were grown I did an MA in Development Studies at Leeds University which gave greater understanding of the need for structural change.

What for you are the most important areas of concern today?

The lack of respect and love of people and nations for each other and for the earth upon which we all depend. I don't think it is possible to separate areas of concern, the connectiveness of our lives which Pope Francis describes so clearly in his encyclical letter "Laudato Si"-*On care for Our Common Home*.

Powerful individuals and corporations take upon themselves the authority to slow or prevent progress. A major block to change is often that we don't believe we can influence decisions. We are hampered in our task also by poor, uninspired, often partisan, leadership.

I am always surprised by the lack of awareness of our own power, our own responsibility - our own part in making the change, but also amazed by peoples' generosity and how much they want to help.

What sustains you in your commitment?

Inspirational people, those I know and work with and those who work at a greater scale to take on the powerful, those who are prepared to get their hands dirty, their fingers burned. The task is great but if we don't try what will we leave the generations to follow.

What are your hopes for a Church like ours for the 21st century?

It is easy to list our personal failings and those of the church but it is the goodness and faith of others that helps me keeps my faith. I always use "we" in the Creed because without the other we are not a community, a community to serve and be served.

The challenges and inspiration of Pope Francis gives us a mandate to be an outward looking church, and this gives endorsement to the groups and organisations within the church to continue asking questions of us all and encouraging bishops and priests to be leaders in questioning the processes and consequences of actions by companies and governments.

Within the opening statement in the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis says he "would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home". This gives me great hope for our church.

Maggie has worked as Administrator for Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission for 15 years.



Celebrating 40 Years

2018 marks 40 years since the Commission for International Justice & Peace of England & Wales organised the first Annual Justice & Peace Conference as a way of bringing together diocesan groups for mutual support, networking and formation.

From then on the dioceses took responsibility for organising the conference, and one has been organised every year with the exception of 1991 when members instead took part in a conference for the centenary of the encyclical *Rerum Novarum*.

Over the years the Commission became a Committee, then a National Standing Conference of Diocesan J&P Groups, the National Liaison Committee (NLC) of Diocesan J&P Groups, and in 1998 the National Justice & Peace Network. Membership widened to include agencies, organisations, religious, local groups and individuals.

In recent years as capacity in dioceses has reduced, agencies have taken a greater role in organising conference, with help from individual members.

We'll be devoting more of the next issue looking back over those 40 years. **If you have any memories or memorabilia to share from the past 40 years, please contact the office. Thanks**

Ann Kelly

NJPN Fracking Briefing Paper—Update



The NJPN Environment Group published its first discussion paper about fracking in 2014, opening up the scientific debate to the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching.

This latest edition touches on some of the current evidence about the process, the uncertainties and the controversies surrounding it, and the protests and campaigns, before looking at the place of Christian insights and wisdom to help form a balanced judgement about the role of fracking in the UK.

Download the updated document from the Resources page on our website.

Take Action: The group have also prepared the Christians Aware February Action Card on fracking: christiansaware.co.uk

Nonviolent Direct Action against Climate Change

I find that an intention which begins with a negative like 'non-violent' reduces its power. It seems to push me towards an energy of 'being against' rather than 'for' something. Here is my effort to replace it with a positive term.

Most of my campaigning is about the current breakdown of Earth's ecosystems which for millennia have nurtured and maintained life, including human life. Now, the destruction of habitats and the pollution of the atmosphere, land and oceans is endangering many life-forms, ours included, and extinguishing some species at a rate not known since the time of the dinosaurs.

Why is this breakdown of stable systems occurring? I stand with Pope Francis' analysis in *Laudato Si'* that '... the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit.' *Ls 106*

When I acknowledge the reality of what the economy is doing to the earth, I feel helpless, afraid and despairing. When I also acknowledge my complicity in this, I realise that I cannot begin to make a meaningful response without seeking the help of the Holy Spirit. My enemy images of those who promote this destruction, and of the politicians who seem to believe that they are helpless to regulate them, can begin to change if I see them as precious children of God: not easy to do but as Jesus said to the rich young man, 'Everything is possible for God'.

These experiences and ideas lead me to seek the help of God and campaigning companions in transforming my use of the term Non-violent Direct Action towards Spirit-Guided Direct Action.

NVDA is a cornerstone of two groups to which I belong, Grandparents for a Safe Earth, a secular group, and Christian Climate Action. NVDA includes many actions which go beyond the conventional campaigning of letter-writing, meeting MPs, arranging talks and workshops, and others. We chose it because these other approaches were not bringing the essential changes required by the seriousness and urgency of the destruction referred to above. Our actions, some within the law and some not, attempt to witness to this destruction. Civil Disobedience calls for action which may break a law of the



Phil Kingston aka Martin Luther (right) calling for a radical reformation of the economy, at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, December 2017.

land by seeking to follow a moral or higher law. These two groups have done this on about 10 occasions, most of which have not led to our arrest; and only one to a trial which resulted in a fine and costs for criminal damage.

CCA actions always include prayer and aspects of Christian symbolism. Actions have ranged from kneeling down to pray in the middle of Downing Street on the day when David Cameron went to New York for the UN Climate Change talks; changing the name of the Department for Energy and Climate Change to the Department for Extreme Climate Change; and blocking a road in the Ffos y Fran open-cast coalmine to limit emissions by closing it down for a day. We prayed for employees to have work which nurtures the earth and took any opportunity to engage with them about our concerns.

When Jesus upended the tables of the money changers, he exposed abuses of the poor by 'a den of thieves'. If he broke laws to expose the powers of his time, will his followers do something similar to limit the damage to God's creation and trust that 'the Holy Spirit will renew the face of the earth'?

If you are moved to join this work you can contact us via <https://christianclimateaction.wordpress.com/>

Phil Kingston

Congratulations to Aidan Cantwell

Aidan has moved from his post as J&P Fieldworker in Arundel & Brighton to work for Jesuit Refugee Service.



Farewell to Louise Cooke

Louise has left her post as Fieldworker for Nottingham Diocese J&P Commission to concentrate on developing the charity she has set up: Sharewear Clothing Scheme sharewearclothingscheme.org



NJPN Resources:

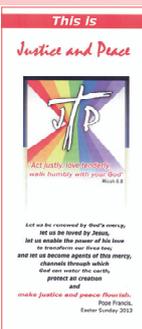
PRAYER CARD

15p each
or 7 for £1
or 10 for £1.25
plus p+p



Resources available to download from the website:

'How to...' pages from our Resources Handbook
2018 Justice & Peace Calendar
For prayer, worship, action



'This is Justice & Peace' leaflet for groups. With space to add local contacts. Donation plus p+p



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@NJandPNetwork

FEBRUARY

- 7&8** Support those arrested at Arms Fair: Stratford Magistrates Court, London E15; londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk ; 0208 348 8212
- 8** Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking: catholicchurch.org.uk
- 10** **NJPN Open Networking Day:** Leicester
- 10** 'Tackling Family Poverty-A Diocese Acts': Bradford jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
- 11** Day for the Unemployed
- 11** Church Action on Poverty Sunday: church-poverty.org.uk/sunday; 0161 872 9294
- 14** Ash Wednesday Witness at MoD: paxchristi.org.uk; 020 8203 4884
- 14-16,** Support those arrested at Arms Fair:
- 21-23** Stratford Magistrates Court, London E15; www.caat.org.uk; 0207 281 0197
- 14** 'Show the Love' Green Hearts campaign: shop.cafod.org.uk
- 16** Until 28 May: Syria: A Conflict Explained: IWM North, Manchester: www.iwm.org.uk; 0161 836 400
- 17** CND 60th anniversary celebration: Bradford www.christiancnd.org.uk; 020 7700 4200
- 17** J&P Lent Retreat: Birmingham www.birminghamhandp.org.uk
- 22** Concert for Peace; Hampstead, London; info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com
- 23** Lent Fast Day: cafod.org.uk
- 24** Eco-Church Conference, God's Earth Our Mission: Leicester www.arochoa.org.uk/events; 020 8574 5935
- 26-11** March Fairtrade Fortnight: www.fairtrade.org.uk

MARCH

- 2** Women's World Day of Prayer: Prepared by Suriname wwdp.org.uk; 01892 541 411
- 7&8** Support those arrested at Arms Fair: Stratford Magistrates Court, London E15; www.caat.org.uk; 0207 281 0197
- 8** International Women's Day: internationalwomensday.com
- 10** Student/Young Pugwash Annual Conference: Warwick Uni. britishpugwash.org/; 020 7405 6661
- 14&16** Wales for Peace Young Peacemakers Awards: Menai Bridge & Cardiff: walesforpeace.org; 029 2082 1051
- 16-18** Catholic People's Weeks Spring Weekend: Carnforth: www.catholicpeoplesweeks.org.uk; 0161 773 2410
- 17** 'Brave New World?' JPIT Conference: Manchester: jointpublicissues.org.uk; 020 7467 5157

- 18-25** Fly Kites Not Drones: dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com
24: Fly Kites Not Drones, Parliament Hill: londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk; 0208 348 8212
- 22** World Water Day: unwater.org/world-water-day
- 24** Earth Hour: wwf.org.uk/earthhour
- 24** 38th Anniversary of the death of Blessed Oscar Romero: romerotrust.org.uk

Romero Anniversary Events

Speaker: Rubén Zamora, Salvadoran Diplomat

- 15 March:** Cardiff, Cornerstone Centre 7.30pm
16 March: Cambridge
17 March: St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, 11.00am
19 March: Liverpool
20 March: Leeds, Mill Hill Chapel, 7.00pm
24 March: Southwark RC Cathedral, 12.30pm Mass

Check www.romerotrust.org.uk for times and venues

- 29-1 April** Easter Retreat led by Fr Daniel O'Leary: Ammerdown www.ammerdown.org.uk; 01761 433 709

APRIL

- 1** Easter Sunday
- 1** CND 60th anniversary events and vigil: Aldermaston: www.christiancnd.org.uk; 020 7700 4200
- 4-13** Christians Aware visit to Sweden christiansaware.co.uk; 0116 254 0770
- 20-22** Fellowship of Reconciliation Annual Conference: Leeds www.for.org.uk; 01865 278 443
- 16-22** Global Campaign on Military Spending demilitarize.org.uk; paxchristi.org.uk, 0208 203 4884

MAY

- 7** Annual Migrants' Mass: Southwark Cathedral: office@southwarkjandp.co.uk; 020 7928 9742
- 12** **NJPN AGM and 40th Anniversary Celebration:** London
- 9-13** Catholic Worker European Gathering: Dulmen, Germany londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk; 0208 348 8212
- 14-20** Christian Aid Week: christianaid.org.uk; 0207 620 4444
- 15** Conscientious Objectors Day: www.paxchristi.org.uk, 0208 203 4884
- 19** Levellers Day: Burford, Oxon: levellersday.wordpress.com
- JUNE**
- 2** Pax Christi AGM: Leicester: paxchristi.org.uk; 0208 203 4884
- 5** World Environment Day: unep.org.uk/wed
- 17** Day for Life: dayforlife.org
- 18-24** Refugee Week refugeeweek.org.uk/

DONATE TO NJPN: Online at www.cafonline.org, put National Justice and Peace Network in the Find a Charity box; **By cheque** payable to NJPN. **BACS** to NJPN Sort Code:16-31-15 Account No: 10089516, put your name and Donation in the reference field. To make a regular donation by **Standing Order**, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form on the website.

The National Justice & Peace Network encourages and facilitates communication and networking between Christian individuals, groups, and organisations (both lay and religious) who are working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation at grassroots, diocesan, national or international level. It works with all who share its aims and values.

This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.

Editorial Group: Stephen Cooke, Henrietta Cullinan, Ann Kelly, Anne O'Connor, Anne Peacey

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