



Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Summer 2018

40 Years Working Together for Justice and Peace

This issue celebrates our 40th anniversary: On page 3, Phil Kerton reflects on the journey of the past 40 years; on page 2, younger members of the Network share their hopes for the future; while below, Anne Peacey takes stock of:

Where we are now and the challenges for the future

In taking this opportunity to look back over the years and the many wonderful individuals and groups who are part of the NJPN story, a key event from my perspective was the National Pastoral Congress way back in May 1980. Having the opportunity to be a part of the justice sector was an amazing and exhilarating experience, the memories of that weekend in Liverpool have sustained me through many difficult times when issues of justice and peace have appeared to be side-lined by members of our Church community. The great feeling of hope, the possibilities, the real experience of what our Church could be, that feeling of journeying together, of barriers being broken down ensured that I really felt we were 'all in it together', sharing a common purpose, for me a real 'Resurrection moment'.

I consider myself to be very lucky, for whilst many of those early hopes seemed not to have been realised, having caught a glimpse of the possibilities, I believed that here was a real vision for the future progress of our Catholic communities

The riches of Scripture and of Catholic Social teaching are gifted to us and provide a firm foundation and authenticity in our commitment to strive for a more just and peaceful world for all God's people. If we dare to proclaim 'Jesus is Lord' then we are called to recognise his presence in the faces of those we encounter in the challenges of our daily lives and give an overwhelming 'YES' to Cain's question 'am I my brother's keeper?' (Gen. 4. 9)

So, where are we now? We certainly don't need to replay the great Bob Dylan anthem to remind us that indeed 'the times they are a-changing' - 'twas ever thus, although somewhat frighteningly, change seems to be happening at an ever increasing rate, environmentally, socially, technologically, educationally and in every which way we can imagine, often beyond our control. How then are we to 'read the signs of the times' in the light of the Gospel, how to discern what are the 'joys and hopes' of all God's people, how to work for 'the common good', how to work for peace? (*Gaudium et Spes*: 1065)

Do we really intend to commit to the huge challenge presented to us as individuals and as members of the Catholic community and of NJPN in our own space and time?

In order to discern the signs of our time, here and now, we must first of all take time to reflect, to

look and to listen, in order to allow our senses to recognise what is happening around us and to consider how our network must continue to change and grow, in order to respond to identified needs. In fact using the Pastoral Cycle.

Membership of NJPN is open to all who share its vision and values, aiming to become more effective facilitators and communicators of the Gospel of justice, peace and love, to be an authentic witness, listening to and in solidarity with those on the margins, working with identified allies, and seeking further collaboration with both faith and secular groups, communicating ideas, articulating an alternative narrative and values.

Four areas of priority identified in September 2016 remain, and response to these issues continues to form the basis of our planning: *Movement of people, Environment, Inequality, Peace and non-violence.*

The challenge for each of us is discern how best to work with members of diocesan, parish and local J&P groups, with those searching for a more just and peaceful world and hoping to find solidarity and support at our conference and/or networking days, how to hold out a hand of friendship to those who feel isolated and powerless, how to effect change in our society, globally and domestically where many feel that the voice of the Church is not speaking out with sufficient clarity and force on matters which concern all people of good will.

Religious and secular structures are changing rapidly and the old certainties can no longer be taken for granted, with instant communication the world is getting smaller and information available at the click of a button. This is the reality of our world, a world where many suffer as a result of the actions of a few.

At this moment in time where do issues of justice and peace sit within our Catholic dioceses and parishes, how are those who feel alienated, disillusioned or excluded to be reached and served? How are the voices of lay men and women heard, do we reach out to and nurture our young people and do we really want to hear what they say to us?

How can we feel again the hope, the possibilities, the real experience of what our Church could be, that feeling of journeying together, of barriers being broken down ensuring that we really are brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing a common home, real 'Resurrection moments'?

Anne Peacey, Chair of NJPN



We are an
Easter people
and HALLELUIAH
is our song

40th Annual Justice & Peace Conference



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

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Hopes for the Future

We asked some people: “What do you think would help people of faith to be enabled and supported in working for justice, peace and care for creation?”

Here are their answers:

Anna, 14 and Eleanor, 12

For us, Justice and Peace needs to be us working for Justice and Peace as well as strengthening our spirituality, not just talking. We want a group to be part of in our Parish that is the beating heart of a community, that gives us the opportunity to work for Justice and Peace, and that gives us a role to play within our own parish community. There is no community for us to join yet that lets us be active members, not just a bystander or talker. It would be great if the NJPN could help establish Justice and Peace groups within parishes and provide them with opportunities and ideas for action.

Anna and Eleanor have been inspired by attending Conference to set up projects including 'Pockets for Peace' and getting their home town to be a 'toilet twinning' town.



Andrew and Sheena

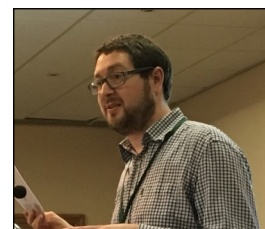
There are two hopes that we have: the first is that the Catholic Church hierarchy be persuaded to invest in reducing the sense of dichotomy between eschatological salvation and salvation from oppression in the here and now. We feel that at the minute the hierarchy focuses on the former and neglects the latter and discussion needs to continue. The second hope we have is that the excellent work of the NJPN is known about and taken greater advantage of more widely within parish groups – giving more groups and individuals the knowledge and support to put faith into action.

Andrew and Sheena teach in Chesterfield; Sheena also works with Medaille Trust. They have led the liturgy at Conference for the past 5 years.

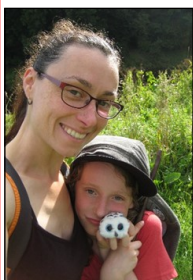
James

You'll be unsurprised to hear that I think part of the answer has to be education. We must help young people understand that engagement with these issues isn't an 'optional extra' to being a Christian, carried out on the fringe; it's at the heart of our faith. And then we need to show them practical ways to do this, giving examples, inspiration and opportunity. In particular, I feel it's important we offer possibilities for encounter, experience and participation, going beyond fundraising or donation. Witnessing such a living and active faith at a young age could make all the difference.

James is the Columban's Justice and Peace Education Worker, helping young people and educators explore the relationship between faith and action.



Katrina



As a working mum I find it hard to find time for all the things I want to do in life. I'm deeply committed to justice and peace, as a fundamental way of living, and would love to be able to engage more with other people who share this world view. For me, an ideal way to engage with the justice and peace movement would be to have family-friendly sessions, on a Saturday morning, where we could bring our children to do some light touch activities while the adults talk, share ideas, and acknowledge the work that we already do in our daily lives, such as charitable giving, supporting our communities, and simple living. We need to move away from stereotypes of older people meeting in small J&P groups on weekday afternoons, to an open, accessible and inclusive approach where people can be encouraged and supported to really *live* Justice and Peace through the little things that we can do on a day-to-day basis.

Katrina is a Catholic mother, step mother, wife and charity worker, with a passion for equality and social justice.

Matthew

The Church has two strands of leadership, the formal leadership and the prophetic leadership. Both are essential to a healthy church. Prophetic leaders of the Church are those who for the sake of Christ are engaged at the forefront of social support and action for the very poorest and most vulnerable, and those who speak gospel truth to the unjust use of power; often the work of these prophetic leaders is done at great personal cost and sacrifice. I would encourage the formal leadership to work hard to identify and to celebrate these witnesses of faith, even when they don't always fit comfortably into our existing boxes of denomination, relationship morality, church practise and belief.

Matthew works for CAFOD Birmingham. He and his wife live in community in central Birmingham and are involved in supporting refugees.



Forty Years On—Reflections on the Journey

It's 40 years since the first national conferences of J&P Commissions were organised in 1978 and 1979 by the CIJP – the Commission for International Justice and Peace of the Bishops' Conference (later, a "Committee" serving that Conference). The CIJP had a policy of fostering diocesan J&P groups, and it worked with a different diocese to organise conferences in 1980 and 1981.

After 1981, diocesan representatives created a "Standing Conference", taking forward concerns and sharing experiences between annual events. This arranged subsequent conferences in various dioceses – a custom that helped to share skills around the country. However, due to the large numbers attracted, Swanwick became the regular venue after 1994. Consistent and successful efforts have been made to attract families and young people.

Gerry Martin (Hexham and Newcastle) was the first national Chair, succeeded in 1987 by Teresa Jackson (Leeds). The 1987 conference was much larger, organised with CAFOD to celebrate that agency's 25th birthday, with success attributed to having a part-time organiser, Anne-Marie Sutcliffe.

Also, 1987 saw the name "National Liaison Committee of Diocesan J&P Groups" (NLC) adopted and a "Statement of Policy and Administration" issued, resulting from discussions about recognition by the Bishops'. The General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference (then a certain Mgr Vincent Nichols) confirmed that the NLC was "an organisation within the Catholic Community whose aims and efforts are formally accepted". This helped gain funding for the 1988 appointment of a permanent worker, the late John Ruming, with a desk in the Bishops' Conference office. He was followed by Barbara Ring, Maureen Matthews and – currently – Ann Kelly. Their presence helped work for Justice and Peace to live and grow: Annual gatherings of diocesan workers began, and conference attendance hovered around the 400 mark. Cardinal Roger Etchegaray was among the prominent speakers (in 1996).

Although partly arising from concern for international issues, there are also concerns for domestic social justice, and observers from religious orders and domestic agencies began to attend meetings regularly. Unlike most other countries, our Bishops' Conference has no national J&P Commission. NLC's first weekend meeting in 1989 proposed a "domestic CAFOD", eventually arriving recently as CSAN. This was a time when Ed O'Connell travelled around the country on behalf of the

Columban Missionaries and established the "Vocation for Justice" newsletter. Our own Newsletter followed in 1990, distributed with "Vocation" to some 8500 subscribers.

Subsequent Chairs were Phil Kerton (Southwark), Nan Saeki (Middlesbrough), Charlie Burchell (Shrewsbury), Sharon Brearley (Salford), Rosa Shea (Southwark) and – currently – Anne Peacey (Hallam). Rosemary Read was Fieldworker for the "Millennium Jubilee project" from 2000-03, encouraging action, study and prayer based upon *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*.

CAFOD has continued to provide support, in particular, providing a London venue for quarterly meetings. Housing Justice, Pax Christi and CIIR (later *Progressio*) have attended meetings for decades and contributed to the operation of the network and its conferences. Members of several religious orders have played an important part, as well as the Jesuits and Columbans – including the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at Chigwell, where several weekend meetings took place, and the late Fr Terry O'Farrell of the Mill Hill Missionaries. The Bishops' Conference appointed the late Fr Pat Davies as Assistant General Secretary with responsibility for International Affairs in 1992, followed by Frank Turner, SJ, from 1997 to 2004: both of them good friends to the Network

After 2003, changes in priorities and available resources at the Bishops' Conference removed the scope for their staff to regularly join NLC meetings and provide administrative support for workers.

In order to take on extra responsibilities, the unincorporated NLC became a company limited by guarantee in 2004 – the National J&P Network (NJPN) – and in 2006, a registered charity. Full membership classes were established for Agencies and religious orders and, eventually, for individuals. Occasional liaison meeting are arranged with the General Secretary of the Bishops' Conference.

Development brings changes. Only one regular attendee at quarterly meetings remains from my first attendance in 1987 – Bernard Shaw (East Anglia). Various notable people are no longer with us – Prosper Dowden (Arundel & Brighton) and Sheila Dwyer (Cardiff), spring to mind, plus my wife, Kathleen, who organised the conference activities for young people for several years. NJPN continues to evolve, and to be short of funds! Hopefully NJPN can survive to report further developments in future years.

Phil Kerton, former NLC Chair



Action Highlights Summer 2018

See page 4 for more details

June: Refugee Week; Share the Journey; Victims of Torture; Climate Coalition 'Speak Up' Week of Action.

July: Sea Sunday

August: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations

September: Creation Day/Creation Time (Your PP should have received a letter from the bishops about this—check it out!); Peace in Palestine and Israel; World Peace Day; Good Money Week

October: Harvest Fast Day; Prisoners; Week of Prayer for World Peace; One World Week

MAY

- 24 Light in the Darkness. How does study of the Bible inform the life of the Church today?: London
heythrop.ac.uk/light-in-the-darkness
- 29 Three Rival Versions of Monetary Enquiry...: Oxford
lascasainstitute.org.uk/events

JUNE

- 2 Pax Christi AGM: Leicester: paxchristi.org.uk; 0208 203 4884
- 2 Annual Day Pilgrimage to Holy Island:
apostleshipofthesea.org.uk; 07906 212 426
- 2 Southwark J&P Spring Assembly: West Croydon
office@southwarkjandp.co.uk; 0207 928 9742
- 4 Campaigning in the Age of Trump: CND at 60: London
lse.ac.uk/Events
- 5 World Environment Day: worldenvironmentday.global
- 9 Uganda Martyrs Day Mass: East London:
carj.org.uk; 0208 802 8080
- 16 Global Justice Now—The World We Want: York:
globaljustice.org.uk/events; 0207 820 4900
- 17 Day for Life: dayforlife.org
- 17 Peace Pagoda Anniversary Ceremony: Milton Keynes
mkpeacepagoda@gmail.com; 01908 663652
- 18-24 Refugee Week refugeeweek.org.uk/
- 19 Refugee Week Vigil at Home Office: London:
londoncatholicworker.org; 0208 348 8212
- 25 Prayer Vigils: acatuk.org.uk; 01404 814 186, to mark:
- 26 International Day of Support for Victims of Torture:
un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/
- 30 Columban Centenary Mass of Thanksgiving: Southwark:
columbans.co.uk; 0208 202 2555
- 30-8 July Climate Coalition Speak Up Week of Action:
theclimatcoalition.org; 0207 870 2213

JULY

- 4 Independence from America Day: Menwith Hill, N. Yorks
themhac.uk; mail@caab.corner.org.uk
- 6-8 Green Christian Retreat, A Heart for the Earth: Minsteracres, Northumberland: greenchristian.org.uk; 0845 459 8460
- 8 Sea Sunday: apostleshipofthesea.org.uk; 0207 901 1931
- 12 Prison Advice & Care Trust AGM: London:
prisonadvice.org.uk; 0207 735 9535
- 20-22 Annual Justice & Peace Conference: Swanwick, Derbys:
justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference; 0207 901 4864
- 23-27 Christians Aware Summer School: Listen to India: Launde Abbey, Leics: christiansaware.co.uk; 0116 254 0770

- 24-27 Knights of St Columba Young People's Seminar: Leeds
ksc.org.uk; 0141 883 5700

AUGUST

- 6&9 Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki:
christiancnd.org.uk; 0207 700 4200;
paxchrist.org.uk; 0208 203 4884
- 24-27 Greenbelt Festival: Boughton House, Northants;
greenbelt.org.uk; 0207 329 0038

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Feast of Care for Creation
- 1 Sept-4 Oct: Creation Time:
justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/resources
- 8 NJPN Gathering and Open Event during the Eucharistic Congress: St Philip Neri Church, Liverpool. Details to be finalised. Check justice-and-peace.org.uk; 0207 901 4864
- 16-23 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel:
oikoumene.org/
- 21 World Peace Day: un.org/en/events/peaceday;
peaceoneday.org; 020 7456 9180
- 23 Fellowship of Reconciliation Peace Sunday:
for.org.uk/peacesunday/; 01865 250 781
- 29-5 October Good Money Week: goodmoneyweek.com

OCTOBER

- 5 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: cafod.org.uk
- 10 World Mental Health Day: who.int/medicalcentre/events/annual_world_mental_health_day/en/index.html
- 14 Prisoners' Sunday: prisonadvice.org.uk; 0207 735 9535
- 14-20 Prisons Week: prisonsweek.org
- 14-21 Week of Prayer for World Peace:
weekofprayerforworldpeace.com; 0208 968 4340
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:
unmeditation.org/october.cfm#idep
- 21-28 One World Week: The World is Changing—How About Us?
oneworldweek.org

CAFOD Share the Journey Walks

As part of the Share the Journey campaign, you are invited to organise or take part in a walk in solidarity with refugees. The aim is to total enough miles to stretch around the Earth.

Find out more at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Share-the-Journey>

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.

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NEXT ISSUE DATE

OCTOBER 2018

COPY DATE

31 AUGUST 2018

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A UK Registered Charity no. 1114947

Company no. 5036866

Registered Office 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX