



Look at Jesus. His compassion made him go out actively to preach and to send others on a mission of healing and liberation. Let us acknowledge our weakness, but allow Jesus to lay hold of it and send us too on mission.

We are weak, but we hold a treasure that can enlarge us and make those who receive it better and happier.

*Pope Francis
Gaudete et Exsultate #131*

41st Annual Justice & Peace Conference

**Forgotten People
Forgotten Places**

BEING CHURCH ON THE MARGINS

26–28 July 2019

The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

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Valuing NJPN

I was asked recently why I am a member of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN). It was an easy question to answer. My connection with NJPN started in 2006 when I attended the National Justice and Peace conference for the first time. From then on I was hooked, and have attended most years since. I

was already a member of my church Justice and Peace group, but going to conference made me realise what a fantastic network we belong to. It really is like belonging to a family. At conference there is the opportunity to meet with activists and supporters from all over the country. Over the years, it has made me feel encouraged, challenged, informed and inspired. When we go, it genuinely feels like "coming home." You can just luxuriate in the company of people for whom Justice and Peace is a fundamental expression of their faith and learn so much from them.

Without the NJPN, the conference would not exist; this would be a tragedy and we would all be the poorer for it.

However, the NJPN is more than just Conference. Over the years, I have valued the information, resources and networking opportunities from the NJPN. Having ready access to conference material on the website from previous years means that those who are unable to attend conference still get the opportunity to access the information from the main presentations. Publicity for campaigns, information about upcoming events, links to resources for use in parishes and groups, all make the website invaluable to anyone concerned about Justice and Peace in the world. There is much accumulated wisdom there.

I have recently become a big fan of the NJPN Facebook page which ensures that I am kept up to date with news and events.

The NJPN also holds Open Networking Days and regular newsletter....all this helps individuals and



Delegates from Hexham & Newcastle enjoying Conference in 2017

groups around the country to feel connected and encouraged. The more people who become members, the wider the influence of NJPN and the more that can be done to promote Justice and Peace in our communities.

I honestly believe that there has never been a time when we have needed the NJPN as much as we do now.

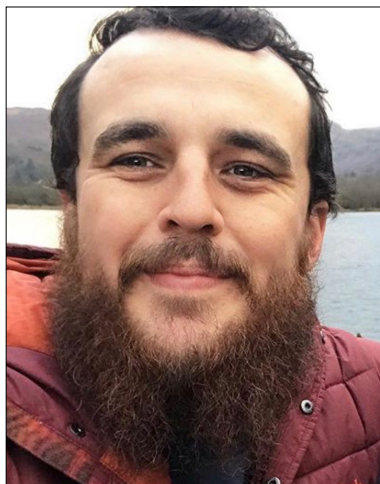
We are confronted daily with issues around Justice and Peace in an increasingly fractured society. In many cases, it is local churches and faith groups, which are reaching out to the marginalised in our communities. The value of the NJPN is that it ensures that we are not on our own....there is ready access to information and resources and opportunities for interested groups to get together in working parties. NJPN is a grassroots organisation, rooted in Gospel Values and Catholic Social Teaching and, this, I feel, is its power.

Unlike other organisations, much of what NJPN offers is available to people who are not members; that is good and something to be treasured, but brings financial challenges with it. There has always been minimal funding for administration; much is achieved by volunteers, but despite careful financial management, NJPN does face challenges. I will admit, for several years, although I benefitted from NJPN, I did not get round to becoming a member. Then I realised.....if I want all the benefits of NJPN, if I want to read the newsletter, if I want to be signposted to their resources, if I want to attend conference, if I want the security of knowing I can ask questions and receive advice around Justice and Peace issues....that is, if I **really** value the work then surely paying an annual membership is not too much to ask? It was then that I became a member....perhaps if you are not already one yourself, you too may consider becoming one now?

Liz Archibald, Hexham & Newcastle J&P

To become a member: Membership form included with this issue, or download it at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/become-a-member; or contact the office (details on page 4). Membership is also open to families and local groups.

Speaking Personally: Tom Machin



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

Ever since I was a child my parents have instilled in me a whole host of values and morals and one of those core values is that of treating everyone fairly and with love. Sadly, it is a reality of my job that we don't always work with young people who have been treated fairly, who have not been met with love and for whom justice and

peace is a distant hope rather than a daily reality. We encounter young people who come from broken homes, places of abuse, sometimes refugees who have fled their nation for safety. Many young people, who have been bullied, feel insignificant and feel they will never amount to anything. Those values instilled by my family have really driven me to want to improve the lives of these young people in whatever way I can and to introduce them to Jesus and show them they are known, important and loved. It is a commitment that drives all the work that we do—everyone who arrives at the Briars should feel welcomed and important.

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

Globally there are huge numbers of issues that need to be supported and that we as a Church need to work towards bettering. However, I feel, that there is often so much attention on global issues that we lose track of the need to love and support those closest to home. Young people, as Pope Francis said “are the now of the Church” and yet too

many young people are neglected and not treated with the respect they deserve. I firmly believe that one of the greatest areas of concern in the modern world today is the neglect of young people.

What sustains you in your commitment?

My desire to support them, to work closely with them and to draw them closer to Christ is a desire that is rooted in my own personal experiences of being made to feel welcomed and at home by other youth ministers when I was a young person. That sense of community and welcome was essential to my formation and to helping me with difficulties faced as a young person. I therefore am driven by a desire to be like those who formed me and drew me to Christ to help the next generation of young people in their own personal development. I firmly believe that through this we will be able to empower young people to change the world and to work for a fairer community, one rooted in the Gospel and where all are respected and welcomed.

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

As a Church we need to be much more open to welcoming and supporting young people, to empowering them and showing them that they are known and loved. Our desire for justice needs to start at home, in our own parishes and communities ensuring that all are made to feel welcome when they walk through our doors. Young people are the now of the Church and they are able to be the ones who will strive for a fairer and more inclusive world, one where all are welcomed, all are loved and Justice and Peace are of paramount importance.

Tom Machin is one of the programme leaders at the Briars Youth Retreat Centre which serves schools and parishes within the Nottingham Diocese. Each year they work with over 5000 young people from a whole range of backgrounds and ages, usually through overnight retreats. Tom says “The job is incredible, and I am beyond blessed to be able to work in this capacity.”

Conference Preview ~ Workshop Tasters

Here's a sample of some of the workshops that will be on offer at the Annual Justice & Peace Conference in July...

Women's voices on the margins? Come and share your experience.

Led by Alison Gelder

Women are generally in the majority in church but our voices are not always heard. What is your role in the Church? Are you listened to and supported? How have you managed to get your voice heard? What are the challenges and how have you overcome them? Or are you struggling on the margins? Come and share your experience and gain insights from hearing about how others feel and have felt about being a woman in the Church. This is an interactive, experiential workshop so please come prepared to participate. All are welcome but there will be the opportunity to share and reflect in a women only group for those who prefer this.

RECOVERY Assistance Dogs

Wellbeing Workshop is a hands on experience that showcases how dogs can help people find solutions within mental health issues. We will explore how dogs have divine Instinct (as opposed to our human need to live in the divine will) and how this helps to engage people pushed to the margins by the stigma of mental health labelling and poverty.

We will consider how training dogs is a therapy for mental health and for stillness in the mind by doing activities that look at:

- How dogs can comfort us
- How obedience helps with wellbeing
- The importance of social Inclusion in the community
- How dogs can help with stillness in the moment

Led by Liz Maitland

Becoming an Inclusive Church: Sexuality

This workshop will be interactive—working with participants to discover ways in which we all feel excluded and included, and learning how better to include others. In this workshop, participants will particularly focus on listening to, understanding and including those with a minority sexuality (LGB people).

Workshop leader, *Ruth Wilde*, is the National Coordinator of the ecumenical charity Inclusive Church, which works with churches on 6 areas of inclusion (Poverty, Disability, Mental Health, Sexuality, Ethnicity and Gender).

Crazy About Trees: How A Community Garden Was Created

I admit I have an obsession about planting trees, not in woods or National Parks but in green spaces and grass verges in housing estates where people, consciously or unconsciously, are relaxed by the changing colours of Spring and Autumn and the symmetry of bare branches in Winter.

My first effort was way back in the Sixties when members of my Nature Club each planted a sapling in the park surrounding their Primary School. Unfortunately, a public right of way bisected the park and within a fortnight all but three of the saplings had been vandalised. Several years later, our Parish priest, my husband and I planted saplings round the boundary of our newly-built church. Sadly the church has been closed but at least the saplings, now fully grown, have a guaranteed future. A far-sighted neighbour had taken out a Tree Preservation Order.

Before the Government cuts, local Town Councils were very approachable on matters of conservation. Following my request for trees on the nearby Council Estate, an Officer asked me to accompany him and help identify places where trees could break the brick-bound monotony. Two months later a hundred trees were planted.

Ironically, vandalism on this Estate resulted in a tree-planting with unexpected social consequences. Teenagers had appropriated an "Amenity Area" for evening football games. One night, they cut down a tree and ringbarked another in order to extend their playing area. I was incensed, but for local residents it was not a major concern. Balls were regularly hitting their parked cars and breaking plants in their front gardens. Remonstrations resulted in abuse, bad language and eggs thrown at windows. The shouting and noise of heavy boots on a full-sized football was forcing a man with tinnitus to



spend his evenings in the back kitchen. We decided enough was enough and called a public meeting. Twenty people offered practical help. A committee was formed and "Friends of Pevensey Green" was born.

Money was raised for a path to bisect the Green and a shrub bed was established on one of the goal areas. Cherry and Mountain Ash trees were planted. But the teenagers were not prepared to play on the nearby public football pitches. They tore down notices and jumped

on newly-seeded areas. Footballs were still kicked, damaging shrubs. One evening, the teenagers went too far and we had to call in the Police. From that day, apart from occasional sporadic outbreaks, teenage football disappeared and peace returned to the Green.

Nowadays, every morning and evening, dog walkers congregate at the seat on the Green to chat and discuss anything and everything. A heart-warming break, for these are elderly people who have lost a partner and must return to an empty and silent house.

Pope Francis recognised the interdependency of the world and its inhabitants. But has his clarion call for the protection of the environment come too late? I fear so. Polar ice melts, yet we continue to pour out carbon, poison the sea with plastic, chop down rainforests, recklessly allow uncontrolled increase of the world's population. In 2017, Dr Lovelock said his Gaia theory was no longer applicable as mankind's excesses had tipped the balance too far and the earth could no longer self-regulate and recover.

Nevertheless, in defiance of the odds, I will continue to garden organically, provide my hedgehog with a house and the bumble bees with Spring nectar. But, most importantly, I will continue to plant trees.

Kath Shelton, NJPN member, Chesterfield

Welcome to:



Christine Allen, new Director of CAFOD, who took up her post in the spring. Watch her here: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/New-Director-announced>

Theresa Alessandro, new Director of Pax Christi. Read her NJPN Comment here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-universe-comment/njpn-comment-in-the-catholic-universe-theresa-alessandro/>



Action Highlights Summer 2019

See page 4 for more details

Join the Climate Coalition **Climate Lobby** on 26 June—CAFOD are organising transport from dioceses: Also in June: **Day for Life** -focus on Domestic Abuse; **Refugee Week**; **Victims of Torture**. In July: **Sea Sunday** to support the work of Apostleship of the Sea; and the National J&P Conference.. August commemorates the use of nuclear weapons on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. There are pilgrimages, summer schools and festivals to reinvigorate you ready for the autumn, which gets underway in September with **Creation Time** and **Harvest Fast Day**, **prayer for Palestine and Israel** and **World Peace Day**. September also sees the return of the **DSEI Arms Fair** in London, there are opportunities to prepare for action over the summer. Plenty to prepare for in October—**Homeless, Prisoners, One World Week** (Climate Changes Everything, Now is the Time to Act) and the **Week of Prayer for World Peace**.

Other Workshops at Conference include: Life on the Breadline; CAFOD; Race; Disability; Transgender; Asylum Seekers; Alternative Church; Joy in Enough; Environment. Plus a workshop on Youth led by young people.

JUNE

- 5 World Environment Day: unep.org/wed
- 7-11 European Catholic Worker Annual Gathering: Cudham, Kent: londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk; 020 8348 8212
- 8 First Barbara Eggleston Memorial Lecture 'Climb Every Mountain': Brighton: christiancnd.org.uk/events/; 020 7700 4200
- 8 Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage to Holy Island: Northumbria: apostleshipofthesea.org.uk; 020 79011933
- 8 The Real Trade War: Birmingham: 020 7820 4900 globaljusticenow.org.uk/events/real-trade-war;
- 15 Green Christian On the Road Together: Shrewsbury: greenchristian.org.uk/events; 0845 459 8460
- 16 Day for Life 2019—Domestic Abuse: dayforlife.org
- 17-23 Refugee Week: refugeeweek.org.uk/
- 21-24 Discovering John Bradburne: Cumbria: boarbankhall.org.uk; 015395 32288
- 25 International Day of Prayer Vigil: acatuk.org.uk, to mark
- 26 International Day of Support for Victims of Torture: un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/
- 26 Climate Coalition Climate Lobby 'The Time is Now': London cafod.org.uk/campaign/climate/climate-lobby
- 28-29 Discovering a God Who Hungers for Justice: Catholic Worker Farm, nr London: thecatholicworkerfarm.org; 07938 436 566
- 29 Operation Noah AGM: Climate Emergency: A Christian Response...: London: operationnoah.org/news-events/3154
- 29 Sabeel Kairos Conference: Birmingham: sabeel-kairos.org.uk/
- 29 No Planet B: Acting out our faith in the world: Birmingham: centralenglandquakers.org.uk/noplanetb
- 29 Rededication of Molesworth Peace Garden: RAF Molesworth, Cambs: christiancnd.org.uk/events/; 020 7700 4200
- 29 Save the Earth, Abolish War: London: abolishwar.org.uk
- 29-5 July: Christians Aware Pilgrimage: Essex: 0116 254 0770; christiansaware.co.uk

JULY

- 3 Pact AGM: Women's Experience in the Justice System: London: prisonadvice.org.uk/Event/; 020 7735 9535
- 4 Independence from America Day: Menwith Hill, Yorkshire: caab.org.uk/take-action; judith.rushby@phe.gov.uk
- 13 'Emerging Church- the challenge of the Gospel and new responses': Preston: anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk; 01772 555 483
- 14 Sea Sunday: apostleshipofthesea.org.uk; 020 79011933
- 22-26 Dignity, Peace and Wellbeing through Sustainable Goals: Yorkshire: christiansaware.co.uk; 0116 254 0770

26-28 National J&P Conference: Swanwick, Derbys

AUGUST

- 6 & 9 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations: 020 8203 4884 paxchristi.org.uk/resources/prayer-and-seasonal
- 6-9 International Fast for Nuclear Disarmament: networkforpeace.org.uk/calendar; reforest@gn.apc.org
- 23-26 Greenbelt Festival: Boughton Hall, Northants: greenbelt.org.uk; 0207 329 0038

SEPTEMBER

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation:
- 1-4 October Creation Time: columbans.co.uk/justice-peace-jpic-2/
- 14 NJPN Open Networking Day: York
- 14 Green Christian On the Road Together: Manchester: greenchristian.org.uk/events; 0845 459 8460
- 15-22 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel: oikoumene.org
- 21 World Peace Day: peaceoneday.org; 020 7456 9180

OCTOBER

- 4 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: cafod.org.uk
- 5-6 No War 2019: Pathways to Peace: Limerick, Eire: worldbeyondwar.org/nowar2019
- 10 World Mental Health Day: wfmh.global/world-mental-health-day-2019/
- 12 ACTA Conference: Manchester: acalltoaction.org.uk
- 12 Birmingham J&P Assembly: Solihull: birminghamjandp.org.uk
- 13 Homeless Sunday: housingjustice.org.uk; 020 3544 8094
- 13 Prisoners' Sunday: prisonadvice.org.uk; 020 7735 9535
- 13-19 Prisons Week: prisonsweek.org
- 26 Christian CND Conference & AGM: Brentwood: christiancnd.org.uk/events; 020 7700 4200
- 13-20 Week of Prayer for World of a Peace: 020 8968 4340 weekofprayerforworldpeace.com
- 21-28 One World Week: oneworldweek.org
- 24-30 UN Disarmament Week: un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek

Stop the Arms Fair 2019 caat.org.uk/events; 020 7281 0297

15 June: Stop the Arms Fair Network Meeting: London

22 June: Stop DSEI Skills Day: Manchester:

2-13 September: Actions to #StopDSEI: London:

Groundswell climate action events: 1 June: Manchester; 8 June: Bristol; 15 June: Birmingham; 29 June: Cambridge friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change/groundswell-climate-action-events

CND Global Dangers Tour: 18 June Mid-Somerset; 27 June Crawley; 1 July Haringey; 15 July Canterbury; 21 September Oxfordshire cnduk.org/globaldangerstour; 020 7700 2393

DONATE TO NJPN: Online via our website. 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 welcomes all who share a vision of a world in which people live in peace and harmony, where our common humanity is respected and all are able to contribute freely to the common good. NJPN seeks to encourage work for justice and peace by promoting communication and shared action between members, supporters and partners.

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, Ann Kelly, Anne O'Connor, Anne Peacey, Geoff Thompson

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OCTOBER 2019

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