



Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Autumn 2019



Church Action on Poverty Prayer

You call us, God,
You call us out of a harsh
land and into freedom
You call us out of despair
and apathy
You call us into a vision of
another way of living

You call us, Jesus You call us
into hope and friendship You
call us to build your kingdom
You call us to break bread
with you and with the
hungry

You call us, Holy Spirit
You call us to transformation
You call us to shine into the
darkness
You call us into the world to
change it
Give us the strength to follow
where you call.

Amen

(Marie Pattison, Katherine House –
www.katherinehousefcj)

used in our 2019 Conference
'Liturgy on the Margins'



42nd Annual
Justice &
Peace
Conference

'2020 VISION—ACTION FOR LIFE
ON EARTH'

17–19 July 2020
The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire

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Forgotten people, forgotten places: being church on the margins



Let me say at the outset that this was a good weekend. I heard some excellent speakers, attended good workshops, met lovely people, including a long-time-no-see friend, and came away inspired and affirmed.

I attended because CAP advertised it as a joint venture and I work with a community centre that needs the kind of support CAP encourages and hoped to come back with some ideas and perhaps a clearer vision for building up the spiritual life of the centre.

supporting information, that I will be returning to and using. What was particularly refreshing in both talks and workshops was an openness to the realities of today's politics.

On arrival, I was initially surprised that the event was, or seemed to me at least to be, a Catholic event. To be honest the publicity did say it was the 41st such event, but I had assumed it was a shared conference and expected more CAP input. I think this was because of the way I came to the conference (i.e. through CAP), though actually the publicity does not mention the Catholic Church, apart from a quote from the Pope. Interestingly the speakers and workshops I mentioned above were from other denominations, as were some of the stalls in the Just Fair. I enjoyed the worship and mostly felt included - especially as I was asked to lead the bidding prayer at Mass - but would have appreciated the responses being on the screen. All in all, perhaps a more overtly ecumenical welcome would be appreciated, even though I acknowledge that the intention is there all along.

Would I go again? In reality it is unlikely. Next year I will be on a sabbatical pilgrimage and then I will be retiring. However I would certainly encourage others to go. It was a well-planned and interesting conference that delivered all it promised.

Kathryn Price



The two main speakers - Anthony Reddie and Deidre Brower Latz - despite not being the originally advertised folk, were different but both excellent. Anthony's focus on complex subjectivity was a reminder that there are so many different levels on which we can connect - widening our range of contacts. Deidre gave a welcome reminder that God is already present and in every way is calling beauty out in all places. Workshops I attended presented first the Life on the Breadline research project and then the Green Christian's Joy in Plenty café conversation pack. Both offer good practical resources and



BECOME A MEMBER OF NJPN Membership is open to local groups, families and individuals. Individual Subscription only £25 a year (but you are welcome to give more!) Low Income £15. Download a membership form from the website or contact the office

A Growing Church

At the NJPN Conference this year, my sister and I were asked to hold a workshop on young people in the Church. As we are young people in the Church, we agreed! Here, I have written about the workshop and included some reflections on the topics discussed. At the start of the workshop, we were amazed at the number of people who chose to attend the workshop. We kept having to pull out more chairs!

We opened by forming three groups and discussing what Church used to be like for many of the people at the workshop when they were young. We discussed the idea of duty, that you had to go to church. Also, we discussed involvement and how there were in many places opportunities to be part of groups and the community as a whole. We then heard from two speakers, Garret aged fourteen and Eleanor aged thirteen. They spoke about an absence of other young people in their parishes and how sometimes they felt they were placed on a pedestal because of this. Eleanor spoke about her first parish closing and how she had lost a very strong community. She said that for her, the community was the most important thing and that it worked best in her first small parish because she built relationships.

To follow this, we had a panel of people across all ages. We had two adults, myself, Garret and Michael, an eighteen year old. The panel was asked three questions, the first being, "Do you think young people see the Church as a part of everyday life or is it just about going to a service on Sundays?" A response to this was that all young people see when they go to Church is the mass, and that although the Church stands for so much more, young people are struggling to see how mass on a Sunday links to the rest of their lives. One adult said, "The Church doesn't deserve young people."

The teachings of Pope Francis were brought up, particularly when he called the Church a field hospital. We need to go out to people, to places of need, a field hospital is not made of brick and does not wait for the sick and wounded to come wandering in on their own. We need to be out there. We need to be the voices of the voiceless, the hope for the poor, healers for the hurt. We need to go to the margins and meet the gaze of forgotten people.

The second question put to the panel and then opened up for discussion was, "To what extent do you think young people feel a sense of 'belonging' to Church?" Michael, the eighteen year old on the panel, argued that he does feel a sense of belonging to the Church, but in the way that he is similar to an item being shown off as a young person in Church. He suggested that we should be making young people feel as if they belong in the Church, not to the Church. This reflected the previous young speakers' words when they described their experiences of Church.

Following this, the idea of longing was brought up. To belong, are young people longing for Church? Young people want the same things that everyone else wants. We want social justice. We want peace. We want to raise the rooftops with cries for the poor, for the hurt, for the voiceless! But we do not find this in the Church. Why is this buried away? This is the most beautiful and true face of the Church, embedded in the Gospels.

The final question read, "In a recent survey by a Catholic Diocese, young people were asked if they attended Church and how often. Would a better question be – Do you feel you

belong to the Church?" The Churches attitudes to counting young people and turning them to statistics and data brought up the idea that the institutional church does not value community.

There was a unanimous feeling that whatever happens in a church and how welcoming it is depends on the priests.

After the panel, we suggested that people in the workshop took away these questions and challenged their parishes with them, or perhaps they could write a young people's charter as a parish.

For example, here is a link to the URC's young people's charter -<https://fleet.urch.org.uk/charter-for-children-in-the-church/>.

To conclude, we ended with a prayer, hoping that people, no matter what age, could listen and work together as part of a Growing Church.

After the workshop, many people chose to stay and the conversations continued. It was great to see everyone talking and asking questions sparked by the workshop and we can only thank everyone who attended for their incredible enthusiasm!

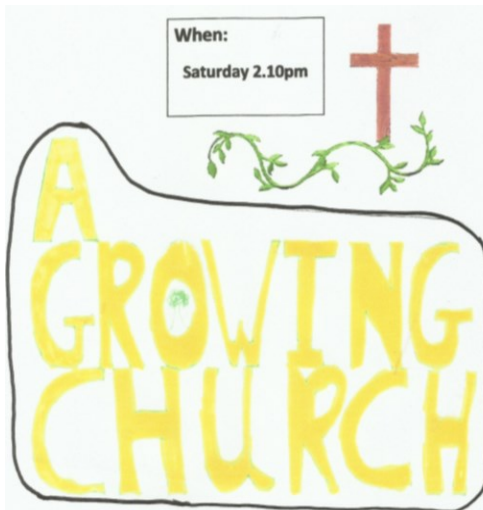
My personal reflection on this is that young people, all people, have something to say. We feel we can't challenge or question anything in Church, unlike everything else in our lives. In this way, the Church doesn't seem very welcoming to young and older people alike, so we have to go out and be challenged by young people, and challenge them too. We need to take the Church to young people, otherwise all Church is for young people is a mass or service on a Sunday.

To add to this, the Church's message deserves everyone and everyone deserves the community that is the Church. However, what the Church is pretending to be doesn't deserve anyone. Only the most committed try to battle through all the challenges that our indignant and stubborn parishes leave for us. Young people are not these people. Young people feel no obligation or sense of duty to the Church. There is definitely a gap between what the Church is and what the Church is meant to be.

In a separate youth session, a seventeen year old said, "The Church should be changing the world. At the moment the world is changing the Church." At first, I disagreed, thinking of course the world should change the Church! We need to adapt and suit the modern culture. However, I now believe I was mistaken. I wasn't looking at the Church, the core values, the teachings of Jesus, the heart of humility and the body, a community longing to share God's love. I was looking at my local parish church. That's when I realised, he was right. The world has been changing the Church. Catholic Social Teaching is hidden to most Catholics, and yet it is rooted in Jesus' teachings. The Beatitudes are used as words and poetry, but are hardly understood, by preachers and learners. Who wouldn't long for Jesus' teachings?

For me, I have a personal frustration about the structure of parishes. We've scared people away from churches with strange social ladders and potentially hostile atmospheres. Perhaps it is best not to be in these very Churches for these same reasons. We can't hear the cry of the poor, after all, if we're hiding away in a stone box, no matter how loud they're calling.

Anna Marshall





Becoming an Inclusive Church: Disability

The practice of faith is often counter-cultural, and historically the church has been amazing at caring for people on the edge of society. For hundreds of years the church challenged, changed and led society through its valuing of those who are powerless. It practised faith in action by feeding, housing and caring for people who otherwise would have suffered or died through poverty, sickness or prejudice. Many great institutions, hospitals and charities have their origins in people living out their faith, particularly in the 19th century.

Since the 1960s the disability rights movement has campaigned for greater autonomy. The Church has been slower than society to respond to what is a significant sector of the population. In the UK today there are around 11 million people living with a disabling physical, sensory, cognitive or mental health issue or neurodiversity. Around 80% were born healthy and have had to learn to adjust – because society – like the church – is set up by and for the well.

All of us spend our lives somewhere on a spectrum between the super-fit athlete and the profoundly-impaired person on a ventilator. Our place is not fixed – we move and change as a result of accident, illness or ageing. But disabled people are an uncomfortable presence in a society which lauds strength.

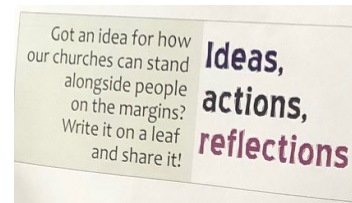
In a Church which professes the Gospel paradox of vulnerability we are far more often objects for pastoral attention rather than agents of change. We are usually isolated by experience or geography, or treated as pastoral opportunity or problem. But it is our perception which creates our understanding of what is strength or weakness, what is need or gift, what is wisdom. We are all a combination of needs and gifts, and when our needs are met our gifts can flourish.

non-negotiable. And yet being hospitable requires us to do something risky. It obliges us to go beyond the familiar.

'Working out how to welcome disabled people well in our corporate life is just one example of hospitality, and we all need help. It takes courage – it takes courage to expose ourselves to criticism. It takes courage to risk getting it wrong. Perhaps most of all it takes courage to recognise our own weakness and look to the Lord for strength.'

Fiona MacMillan

Something Worth Sharing is now available to read or download online from www.inclusive-church.org/disability

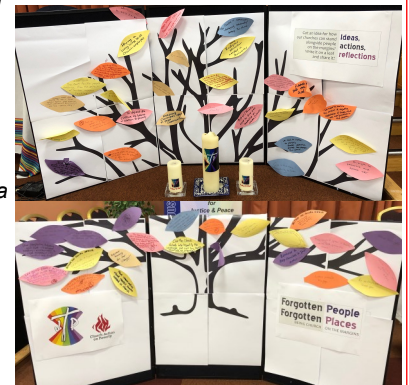


Over the Conference, individuals and each workshop was asked to produce leaves for our tree. Here are the details of the 3 leaves from Fiona's workshop group for the weekend's tree

Let go of power and control! The Gospel is not about doing to but being with, listening to and making space for those traditionally seen as Other

Stop conflating healing and cure. We all need healing - a restoration of right relationship with ourselves and with God

Listen to the prophetic ministry of those on the edge... God comes in different guises



Something Worth Sharing



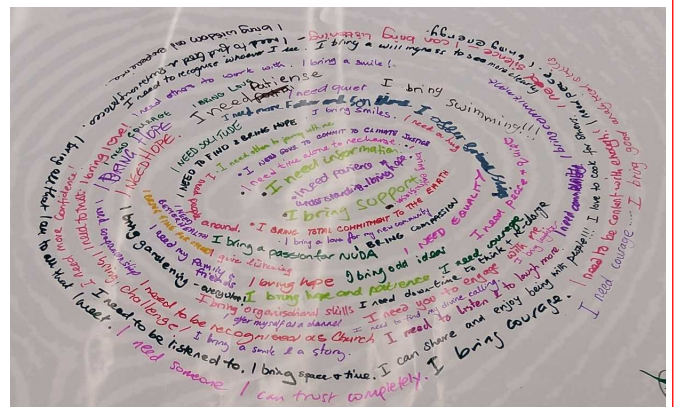
Since 2012 an annual conference has held space for disabled people to gather, to resource each other and the church. It's a partnership between St Martin-in-the-Fields & Inclusive Church, working with rather than for disabled people.

Many face barriers to getting in and joining in churches and communities. How can we unlock gates and open gifts? How can we change the church where we are, with what we have?

This booklet shares ideas, responses and resources as a starting point. Across access and theology, language and structures, communication and participation. Because we all have *Something Worth Sharing*. As the foreword puts it,

'Hospitality is not an optional extra in the Christian life. It is

Inclusive Church's stand at the Just Fair also had a **Fingerprint of Needs & Gifts** which visitors to the stall contributed to.



Our Future Networking Days

SATURDAY 16th November 2019 10.30 – 4.00
CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB
including: **Here: Now: Us** **Common Good Training Workshop**



SATURDAY 8th February 2020 10.30 – 4.00
St Nicholas of Tolentino Parish Hall, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE.
justiceandpeace@Cliftondiocese.com



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DIARY

This is a selection of dates. Find more on the Rolling Calendar and Year Planner on our website www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

OCTOBER

- 1 Stella Maris Mass, St George's Cathedral, London: roland@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
- 4 Stella Maris Mass, Jersey: johngreen@stellamarismail.org 0207 9011931
- 4 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: cafod.org.uk
- 5-6 No War 2019: Pathways to Peace: Limerick, Eire: worldbeyondwar.org/howar2019
- 8 Stella Maris Mass, Hull: annemclaren@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
- 10 World Mental Health Day: wfmh.global/world-mental-health-day-2019/
- 11 - 18 End Hunger UK Week of Action endhungeruk.org/weekofaction2019/
- 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
- 13 - 20 Week of Prayer for World Peace: weekofprayerforworldpeace.com : 020 8968 4340
- 16 CARJ Conference: Belonging – A Challenge for the Church in a Diverse Society, Birmingham: 020 8802 8080
- 21-28 One World Week: Climate Changes Everything Now is the time to act. : oneworldweek.org
- 24-30 UN Disarmament Week: un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek
- 26 Christian CND Conference & AGM: Brentwood Cathedral: christiancnd.org.uk/events; 020 7700 4200 
- 28 'Responding to a Climate emergency - and the place of civil disobedience' Extinction Rebellion speaker + Pat Gaffney. London: enquiries@assumptionreligious.org

NOVEMBER

- 2 Nottingham J&P Assembly, Leicester: dioceseofnottingham.uk/justiceandpeace
- 5 Ecumenical and interfaith conversations about the environment with Nottingham Diocesan J&P and Ecumenical Commissions. Nottingham: dioceseofnottingham.uk/justiceandpeace
- 6 International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/ 
- 9 Green Christian Annual General Meeting, London: greenchristian.org.uk/whats-on
- 10 Remembrance Sunday White Poppies ppu.org.uk 
- 10-17 Interfaith week: interfaithweek.org
- 11 Catholics in Fundraising - reception, Kensington johngreen@stellamarismail.org 0207 9011931
- 16 NJPN Open Networking Day, London justice-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings 

NOVEMBER


- CAFOD Faith in Action Days: cafod.org.uk/News/Events
- 2 Middlesbrough, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Southwark
- 9 Plymouth, Liverpool
- 16 Cardiff & Menevia and Brentwood & East Anglia
- 23 Hallam and Arundel & Brighton
- 30 Wrexham and Westminster



NOVEMBER

- Church Action on Poverty Speaking Truth to Power regional gatherings: church-poverty.org.uk
- 2 Manchester 9 Newcastle
- 16 Bristol 20 London
- 21 Birmingham



- 17 World Day of the Poor: csan.org.uk
- 22-25 Green Christian Retreat: Launde Abbey, Leics: greenchristian.org.uk/whats-on 
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women unwomen.org/en
- 29 Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. www.un.org/en/events/palestinianday/




DECEMBER

- 1 World AIDS Day: National AIDS Trust: worldaidsday.org
- 1 Prisoners for Peace Day: wri-irg.org/en/campaigns/
- 10 UN Human Rights Day: unmeditation.org/
- 12 Stella Maris Christmas Carol service, Soho: roland@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk
- 18 International Migrants Day: un.org/en/events/migrantsday2020

JANUARY

- 10-12 Christians Aware Conference: Swanwick ; christiansaware.co.uk/calendar; 0116 254 0770
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: ctbi.org.uk; 0203 794 2288
- 19 Peace Sunday: paxchristi.org.uk; 0208 203 4884 
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day: hmd.org.uk

FEBRUARY

- 8 NJPN Open Networking Day Bristol: 0117 9243011 justiceandpeace@Cliftondiocese.com; 
- 8 Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking: catholicchurch.org.uk
- 9 Racial Justice Sunday: catholicchurch.org.uk; carj.org.uk 
- 23 Church Action Poverty Sunday: Speaking Truth to Power: church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/
- 24 -8 March Fairtrade Fortnight: fairtrade.org.uk; 020 7405 5942 

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.*

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FEBRUARY 2020

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9th DECEMBER 2019

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