

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin June 2020

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Seeking Sanctuary in a Covid World

Our thoughts this month are influenced by the enormity of the pandemic crisis across the world and in particular its effect on all those seeking sanctuary. In the Seeking Sanctuary Update we note some of the direct effects on those concerned – a complete lack of access to centres and facilities which have been a lifeline in the past, the appalling sanitary conditions which spread infection and the growing stigmatising of migrants as potential Covid carriers, as seen in our report on Calais buses which refuse to take migrants, seeing them as potential sources of infection. Advice on hand hygiene is of no use when there is not even a water tap in the places where many of those seeking sanctuary are forced to exist. READ FULL REPORT

Phil and Ben end with Many of you will be wondering how you can help in these challenging times. Here in the UK, with access to support either suspended or severely limited, there are newly created ways of financial help – such as a new scheme in the North East which provides £30 digital vouchers sent to the phones of refugees for use in supermarkets. You will find details [here](#). Other relevant organisations include the [Jesuit Refugee Service \(UK\)](#) and various members of the [Caritas](#) network of charities, plus [Care4Calais](#) operating in France. And so in the hope of better times ahead, we wish you safety and security.

Phil + Ben. www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

Gleanings: Listening and Learning about poverty under lockdown



We are all sharing the experience of the storm caused by COVID-19 and the lockdown, but it is increasingly clear we are not all in the same boat. Some are being buffeted but remain fundamentally secure, yet it is clear that some groups are at risk of being financially overwhelmed. The Joint Public Issues Team and Church Action on Poverty have started an ongoing programme of research with churches and local charities.

Through surveys and regular focus group conversations we are aiming to understand the impacts being seen on the ground. May 2020 briefing provides a short snapshot of our findings, putting churches' experiences in the rapidly developing wider context, and offering a context for thinking about what happens next.

To see a snapshot of the findings click [here](#).

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>

NJPN Annual Conference

2020 Vision: Action for Life on Earth has been postponed to July 2021



www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

This issues includes:

P.2 Police, Black People and Racial Justice

P.3 Banks, Pensions and Nuclear Weapons:
Investing in Change

P.4. Summer of Hope

P.5. The Cost of Our Misbehaviour—Covid-19 and the destruction of Biodiversity

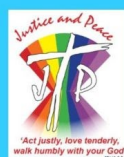
P.7. CONTROVERSY over Pakistan National Minority Commission

P.9. Churches Together in Cumbria

10. JDC Reaction to industry body proposal for voluntary debt payment suspension

11. **Keep Cumbrian Coal** in the Hole !!

Plus Resources and events



Post Pandemic Church: paralysed or energised? recovered or re-imagined?

Saturday 18th July 2020

*a MINI-CONFERENCE by ZOOM
of the NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK*

**Session 1 10.30-12.00
Forgotten People**

**Session 2 2.00-3.30
Our Response?**



Book via eventbrite

(bookings close 11pm Friday 10th July)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets-108604414728>

CARJ response to killing of George Floyd

Police, Black People and Racial Justice

May George Floyd rest in peace, and may his family see justice done. We are shocked but not surprised to see protests breaking out across the USA and in



More than forty years ago, our predecessor - the Catholic Commission for Racial Justice (CCRJ) - issued a paper on 'The Police and the Black Community in the Metropolitan Area'. They said in that paper that they felt the problem between the police and the black community was 'of such seriousness that it should be brought to the attention of the Catholic community.'

In 1981, disturbances involving the police and black communities in Brixton, Toxteth and Moss Side led to the Scarman Inquiry; and similar disturbances at Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham in 1985 led to the Gifford Inquiry.

On 18 October 1986, CARJ organised a Conference on Police/Community Relations. The Conference was organised to follow up issues raised in the Gifford Report - the report of the independent inquiry on the disorders at Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham in 1985.

In 1991, the Bishops Conference was invited to make a submission to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice. The Bishops' Committee for Community Relations prepared a submission focusing on the experience of black people with the police.

The murder of Stephen Lawrence (1993) was eventually the subject of the Macpherson Report (1999) in which the police response was judged to have been inadequate; and the issue of 'institutional racism' was finally addressed

In our Submission to the Lammy Review (June 2016), we concluded: 'Despite real improvement over the years, the legacy of this history is still in place today. People from BAME communities are over-represented in almost all areas of the Criminal Justice System. They are more likely to be the target of 'stop and search', more likely to be arrested and more likely to receive a prison sentence.'

Mrs Yogi Sutton, Chair of CARJ, commented: "I am appalled that year after year, brutality on our fellow beings still occurs because of racism. The latest death of Mr Floyd will also simply become yet another statistic. There will be widespread protests and then Silence Nothing will change. I do not condone violence, but peaceful protests are very important. How else are people to show solidarity. However, history shows, the protests are not sufficient means to bring about change.

I want to call on people around the world, especially Catholics because we believe and profess that we are ALL made in the image and likeness of our Creator, that we are all Sisters and Brothers in Christ, to speak up for justice by acknowledging racism in all its forms. Any addict will tell you that there is no cure until one accepts that one is an addict. In the same way, we must acknowledge that we are racist. If and when we genuinely understand and accept this, then we will face the road to solutions.

This is what I would pray for:

I am generally one who prefers the circular movement for change, asking everyone to do his/her bit, this time I would start at the top and implore Governments to take a stand. Not to speak of zero intolerance of racism but to practice the same. No Minister should be allowed to stay in his/her position should they make any racist statement or behave in any racist manner. Coming from the top in every organisation in the media, in business, in education, in the workplace, anywhere and everywhere. If the punishment was the same universally, for all, immediate and transparent, the message would soon get through and be learnt. No one would put a hand in the same fire after being burnt.

Anti racist training should become part of every profession, administration, everywhere. It should be part of the curriculum in schools. We should learn how to respect, accept and live with and along side one another in joyful, peaceful harmony."

The Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) is an independent charity committed to working with others of diverse backgrounds and beliefs to bring about a more just, more equal, more cooperative society. .

For more information about CARJ visit: www.carj.org.uk/ Tel: 020 8802 8080. email: Info@carj.org.uk

The [Lancaster Diocesan Racial Justice Charter](#) was developed and adopted by the Trustees in 2005 after the Macpherson Report and Bishops Conference Document [SERVING A Multi-Ethnic SOCIETY Guidelines for a review of Catholic organisations](#). The papers for the 2007 [Set All Free conference](#) in Whitehaven to reflect, remember and respond on tackling slavery, exploitation and oppression in the 21st Century worth re-reading



Report: Banks, Pensions and Nuclear Weapons: Investing in Change



Theresa Alessandro 27th May 2020

For more than a year, Pax Christi has been part of an interfaith working group researching the role of our financial institutions in supporting the production of nuclear weapons systems.

The report : [Banks, Pensions and Nuclear Weapons: Investing in Change](#) was published on the 27th May.

The report presents the results of our engagement with a sample of UK banks and pension funds regarding their financial links to companies producing nuclear weapons.

Baroness Sue Miller, Co-President, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, provided the foreword to the report. Noting that nuclear weapons states are likely to spend at least \$1 trillion on nuclear weapons over the next ten years, she says: "Today many financial institutions express their desire to be a force for good in society but may not realise that their loans and investments finance the development of new nuclear weapons."

The report details a sometimes patchy awareness among finance executives of their organisation's record on nuclear weapons investment. Most companies score poorly but some banks and pension funds stated that they are actively reviewing this area. For example, the pension providers People's Pension and NEST (the government's default workplace pension scheme with 4.5 million members), said that they would seek the views of their members on investments in nuclear weapons producers.

It is fitting that today (27th May) has also been set aside by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation as a Day of Action: Make Peace the New Normal. Pax Christi members hope that the 'new normal' will include the elimination of nuclear weapons. Pope Francis says that 'even their very possession is to be condemned.'

Pax Christi's National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon call us all to action: "Pope Francis has written of a 'different kind of economy: one that brings life, not death.'"

This report looks ahead to when the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons passes into international law. It highlights that financial institutions in England & Wales may need to change their policy and practice regarding investment in nuclear weapons, in order to comply with this important legal development.

By acting on the information in this report, Christians can be at the forefront of this change. I encourage you to contact your bank and/or pension provider to discuss your concern about any continuing investment in nuclear weapons. In his World Peace Day message this year, Pope Francis reminded us that peace '.. is a journey made together in constant pursuit of the common good, truthfulness and respect for law.'

Investment decisions of banks and pension funds in other countries have already changed. The PAX/ICAN Don't Bank on the Bomb project highlights 36 major financial institutions that now have comprehensive nuclear weapons exclusion policies in place. [Read full article](https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/39666)

Pax Christi National President,
Archbishop Malcolm McMahon,
[endorsed the report](#) saying,
**'I encourage you to contact your bank
and/or pension provider to discuss your
concern about any continuing
investment in nuclear weapons'.**

[Read the report](#) to see how your bank and/or pension provider compares. Use the tools on the [dedicated website](#) to help you take action.

Share the information widely!

We anticipate that investment in nuclear weapons production will be delegitimised when the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) passes into international law.

The dedicated website with tools to contact financial institutions:
<https://moneyoutofnukes.wordpress.com/>



Preston parishes 5km challenge for CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal

These are difficult times. Many of us here in the UK have suffered terribly because of coronavirus, coping with grief, anxiety and hardship. In the world's poorest countries, health care systems are not coping with the coronavirus and families are going hungry because people cannot go out to earn money. CAFOD is helping protect and improve the lives of our sisters and brothers during this global emergency.

Peter Towers, CAFOD parish volunteer from St Anthony's Catholic Church in Preston, decided he wanted to do something and make a difference. He wanted to organise a 5km event that his fellow parishioners could take part in, albeit on an individual basis in this time of lockdown. It started as a CAFOD fundraiser for Peter's parish, then he wanted to open it up and invite all the parishes in the Preston area.

Although our churches are currently closed, our parishes live well and truly on and it is wonderful to hear of the different ways in which parishes are reaching out to their communities and beyond.

We invited our Preston CAFOD parish volunteers to take part and to help promote the 5km in their parish newsletters, on parish websites, and on parish Facebook pages.

Peter explains more about the event below:

I am sure you are aware that Coronavirus is affecting every country that CAFOD works in. The poorest and excluded are most vulnerable. As you can imagine, the outlook is very serious in places where healthcare is inadequate and washing regularly and social distancing are luxuries.

*Members of Saint Anthony's parish in Preston have committed to a fundraising event on **Saturday 11th July 2020**.*

You are invited to either walk, run, cycle or wheel 5 kilometres (3.1 miles), choosing your individual routes and times. We will be taking up our challenges individually in the knowledge that we are together in spirit at one community event. Social distancing will be observed at all times. We very much hope that members of other Preston parishes will join in. Please ask your parish priest to publicise the CAFOD Preston Coronavirus 5k, and ask your friends to join in

To take part click on the Facebook link below

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/549868239250525/>

To donate click on the JustGiving link below

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafodprestoncy>

This summer, like never before, we are called to be signs of hope for our world.

Could you recreate at home the social or sporting events you will miss this summer and raise money for our coronavirus appeal?

Thank you to all taking part and supporting the CAFOD Preston Coronavirus 5km on Saturday 11th July.

To donate <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cafodprestoncy>

Why not create a similar event this summer in your parish or deanery?

For more information contact Patrick or Emma at CAFOD in Lancaster: Email: lanaster@cafod.org.uk



Peter Towers (left) CAFOD parish volunteer at St Anthony's Preston

Please also promote the CAFOD "[Unite against Coronavirus](#)" petition, urging the government to remember that we are one global family, and that now is the time for the world to unite in love and compassion.

Thank you for your support

Peter Towers

CAFOD parish volunteer—St Anthony's, Preston

Join CAFOD

online talks
and

Eucharistic Celebrations.



You can listen live or listen later to a recording. Recently we've had reports from our local experts in Zimbabwe and Nigeria, questions to CAFOD's senior staff and volunteer prayer gatherings.

[Browse our past and upcoming talks and events](https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks)
<https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Online-talks>

The Cost of Our Misbehaviour—Covid-19 and the destruction of Biodiversity

Columban eco-theologian. *Sean McDonagh*

In just four months, a very contagious novel virus that began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 has been spread by people right around the world. By Easter 2020, it has infected more than one million and a half people and killed 100,000, most of whom died alone without the comfort of family or friends. The last time something similar happened was during the 'Spanish flu' which ravaged the world after World War 1.

By mid-April 2020, one quarter of the world's population was on lockdown. The advice from the medical world is to keep a physical distance of two metres from each other, use a tissue when coughing or sneezing and bin it, and to wash our hands thoroughly.

History teaches us that pandemics can change things dramatically. Although the death toll was massively higher during the plague of Justinian (541-542 AD) which undermined the Byzantine Empire, or the Black Death in the middle of the 14th century which wiped out one third of the population of Europe during the following five years, Covid-19 will also change history dramatically.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND ECONOMICS.

Given the fact that many people are in lockdown and out of work, people are assessing what the economic impact of the pandemic will be. Already, we have seen that global economic projections made in January 2020 have collapsed. In January 2020, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projected a global growth rate of 3.3% in 2020. In a speech before the spring meeting of the IMF and World Bank, which is being held online from 17 to 19 April 2020, the managing director of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva, stated that "global growth will turn sharply negative in 2020." She continued saying that "we anticipate the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression."

Since January 2020, the media has followed the spread of Covid-19, which began in China, then moved on to Korea, Italy, Spain, Britain, Ireland and the United States. In all of these countries, it is possible to social distance and wash one's hands, but it is not possible for the T'boli people of Southeast Mindanao in the Philippines whose lives I shared as a Columban missionary during the 1980s. How can you social distance or wash your hands when ten people share a two-room house without running water? This is not just a problem for the T'boli, but for one quarter of the world's population who do not have access to running water and adequate sanitation. It is feared that, given how contagious Covid-19 is, it will wreak havoc in India, Latin America and Africa and cause millions of deaths because their public health systems are rudimentary.

ECONOMIC HELP FOR THE POOR.

The economic consequences for the poor are also being overlooked. On 9 April 2020, Oxfam International, in a report called Dignity not Destitution, warned world leaders that, unless richer countries commit to a rescue package of \$2.5 trillion dollars, about a half a billion people might be pushed back into poverty by Covid-19. Many rich countries are currently engaged in providing multi-billion dollar or euro stimuli for those who have lost their jobs. Poor countries cannot do this, so the money from the \$2.5 trillion dollar rescue package would provide cash for those who have lost their incomes and a bail-out for small, vulnerable businesses. The money could also be used to cancel the staggering \$1 trillion debt which poor and developing countries are due to pay in 2020 to richer countries and institutions. Finally, \$1 trillion would provide a new international reserve for economically poor countries. But will rich countries, who are borrowing phenomenal amounts of money for their own domestic needs, even think of responding to the plight of poor people globally?

PANDEMICS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF BIODIVERSITY.

In discussing Covid-19 in an interview with Austen Ivereigh in The Tablet, Pope Francis called to mind the Spanish phrase "God always forgives, we forgive but, sometimes, nature never forgives." However, in his 'Urbi et Orbi' (To the City and to the World), address given after Easter Sunday Mass on April 12th 2020, he focused exclusively on the human element of the crisis. He acknowledged that "the world already (is) faced with epochal challenges and (is) now oppressed by a pandemic severely testing our human family." He continued that "this is an Easter of solitude lived amid the sorrow and hardship that the pandemic is causing, from physical suffering to economic difficulties."

All this is true, as people are shocked by the pain and death of loved ones and the economic chaos that Covid-19 is causing.

Continue on Page 6

Continued from p. 5 However, many commentators on Covid-19 fail to make any connection between it and the destruction of the natural world which, in little more than two decades, has given us Covid-19, SARS, MERS, Ebola, HIV, Zika, and H1N1. Similarly, on Good Friday, I listened to Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Humanist leaders speaking on RTE, Radio 1 about the celebration of Easter, the Passover and Ramadan in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic when worshippers will not be able to gather physically in churches, mosques and synagogues. No one mentioned the fact that large-scale deforestation, habitat degradation, intensive agriculture, trade in species and climate change all contribute to biodiversity loss and, in the process, facilitate the rise of new pandemics.

For a long time, we have known that viruses and pathogens have leaped from other species to the human population. However, the destruction of biodiversity means that these events are happening much more frequently now than in the past. Worse still, pandemics will continue to happen at an even greater rate in the future unless we change some of the practices listed above. Thankfully, we are much better placed to survive pandemics than previous generations were as we expect our scientists to come up with cures or vaccines to protect us. But, given that humans are colonising every ecosystem, we can expect more and, often, more deadly pandemics in the future. At the moment, the human population stands at 7.8 billion but it is expected to increase to 10 billion within the next 30 years.

Many people believe that the coronavirus first jumped across to humans who were working at a 'wet' market in Wuhan in China in December 2019. In these markets, animals who would seldom encounter one another in the wild such as civets, live wolf pups and pangolins, are crammed together into small cages, often in filthy conditions. This is an ideal environment in which to incubate diseases that will spill over into the human population. That is why Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, the acting executive secretary on the UN Convention on Biodiversity, said that countries should ban 'wet' markets. At the moment, China has introduced a temporary ban on 'wet' markets. The secretary general of the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, Jinfeng Zhou, has called for a permanent ban on all wildlife markets.

The ethicist, Viveca Morris, who is the executive director of the Law, Ethics and Animal Program Yale Law School, writing in the Los Angeles Times points out that the Chinese are not the only ones involved in trading wild animals. "Every year, Americans pay to capture, box-up, and import hundreds of millions of live animals for agriculture, the pet and aquarium industries, and other uses."

Morris asks us to look at what we are doing in our modern, industrial farms. In many places, we crowd cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and other animals into cramped living spaces. These situations can become a breeding ground for viral and bacterial pathogens, so to ensure this does not happen, we lace their feed with antibiotics. This, of course, creates the perfect conditions for antibiotic-resistant pathogens to develop and thrive. We humans pay the price in the form of drug-resistant UTIs and MRSA infections. This kind of farming also increases the risk of deadly viral epidemics such as the 2009 H1N1 outbreak that sickened 59 million people. The ways humans destroy much of the natural world and engage in factory farming is based on the fallacy that what we do to the natural world will not have a negative impact on human health and well-being. Covid-19 tells us that this is untrue. Either we need to drastically change our ways of relating to the natural world or get ready for the next pandemic. The choice is in our hands.

Sean McDonagh's book, 'The Death of life: The Horror of Extinction', was published in 2004

Article from <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/39632> and Comboni mission magazine 'Worldwide', Fr Sean McDonagh writes about the issue of Covid-19 and biodiversity.

<https://columbans.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Worldwide-June-July-2020-PP12-13.pdf>



Pangolins are the most trafficked mammal in the world.

Their scales have been used in traditional Chinese medicine, and their meat viewed as a luxury item.

CONTROVERSY over National Minority Commission

Pakistani minorities, non-Muslim citizens of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and human rights organisations have refused the newly formed minority commission by the government of Pakistan, as it was constituted by an executive order rather than an act of Parliament. Moreover, its membership is not transparent. Many Muslim members are included, while the Ahmadi community is excluded because of pressure from right-wing groups.

By Aftab Alexander Mughal

The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was notified on 11 May by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony (MRAIH). The cabinet approved it on 5 May, but opposed the inclusion of the Ahmaddiya community's representative. Pakistan's civil society organisations, lawyers and media persons across the country opposed the newly formed body, because it is established through the executive order rather than by act of Parliament. Executive Director of the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), and the Chairman of the People's Commission for Minority Rights (PCMR), Peter Jacob, observed that government had tried to mislead public opinion by creating a toothless body for minorities through a cabinet decision. Jacob has been campaigning for the institution of a statutory national commission for minorities' rights, which Pakistan has pledged to do under international norms several times without delivering on it. Human rights organisations ask the government to establish an independent commission through an adequate, fair and consultative process, where minorities are consulted. Furthermore, it should be done by the parliament rather as a body in a ministry. Additionally, the present commission's members' selection criteria was not transparent. There is no representation of Schedule Casts, who formed the biggest section of the Hindu community in the country. It should be an autonomous body as The National Commission on Human Rights, the National Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on the Rights of the Child, human rights activists demanded. A Christian political leader Sarfraz Clement said, "The way the commission has formed will not resolve minorities' issues, such as cases under blasphemy laws and forced conversion of Christian and Hindu girls. Moreover, the issues like, church property disputes, and denationalisation of Christian schools." Interestingly, two members of the commission are Muslim. The six official members are from various ministries, all Muslim, including the chairman of the Islamic Council of Ideology (ICI), who is also Muslim. Minority leaders said if non-Muslim cannot be part of the Islamic Council of Ideology (ICI), a constitutional body, then why include Muslim members in the minority commission? They claimed that the inclusion of Muslims and bureaucrats will undermine the representation of minorities. The members of the commission belong to the Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Parsi and Kalash communities. The three Christian members of the commission are: Roman Catholic Archbishop Sebastian Francis Shaw of Lahore, Prof. Dr. Sarah Safdar, and Mr. Albert David. **Continue on page 8**

PRAYER SERVICES Outside Churches



During the month of May, because of the lockdown imposed as a preventive measure against the COVID-19, Christians throughout Pakistan performed the Sunday prayer services outside the church premises. Many churches conducted online prayer services or through local Christian TV channels. Several Christian organisations have been providing food items to thousands of Christians and Muslims who are experiencing financial hardships because of the lockdown in Pakistan.

IMAGE: During a Sunday service, Catholic worshipers attended a prayer service outside Sacred Heart Cathedral, Lahore, Pakistan - AFP/Dawn, 18 May 2020

Cont. from p.7 There is no representation of Ahmadis. A petition was filed at Islamabad High Court (IHC) by Shohda Foundation of Pakistan that the court should issue a direction for the inclusion of Ahmadis in the NCM.

This is not the first minority commission. Since 1990, a couple of times the commission was constituted, but these commissions were never sustained because of the political involvements. According to the national population census 2017, Muslims make up 96.47% of the total population, while minorities make up only 3.53%. Hindus are 1.73%, while Christians are 1.27%. Other minority communities are Ahmadis, Sikh, Kalash and Schedule Casts. Generally, minorities face discrimination and experience persecution because of their faith.

(Full Article at: South Asian Journal, 14 May 2020. <http://southasiajournal.net/controversy-over-newly-formed-national-minority-commission-in-pakistan/>.) and in [Minority Concern Pakistan June Newsletter](#)

Muslims, Christians And Sikhs Pray With The Pope For An End To The Pandemic

FAISALABAD: Pakistani Muslims, Christians and Sikhs met at the residence of the Catholic Bishop Indrias Rehmat of Faisalabad to pray and fast against the coronavirus along with Pope Francis. The initiative is a response to an appeal from the Higher Committee of Human Fraternity, supported by the pontiff, Asia News reported on 14 May 2020.

Pope issues new Vatican law for awarding public contracts

Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter, with new legislation to govern the awarding of public contracts of the Holy See and Vatican City ... [Read More](#)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/39720>

Find more from ICN –independent catholic news at:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>



 HM Government



Government announced in May a £2 billion package to create new era for cycling and walking

This is part of the £5 billion already announced in February.

Government Emergency active travel fund has indicative funding allocations for the local transport authorities of the emergency active travel fund.

In **Lancashire** £3.5 million, in **Cumbria** it is £1.1 million.

The emergency grant funding supports local transport authorities with producing cycling and walking facilities, the funding is in 2 tranches.

- 1 supports the installation of temporary projects for the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2 the creation of longer term projects

The funding was [announced by the Secretary of State on 23 May 2020](#) as part of the work to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

It will be important to show your councilors that there is public support for the measures and schemes that are proposed and will benefit from the funding. This will enable the communities to move to a sustainable future.

To find allocation for other authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-active-travel-fund-local-transport-authority-allocations/emergency-active-travel-fund-total-indicative-allocations>

Churches Together in Cumbria Social Responsibility Update

During this time of lockdown which affects us all, churches remain very active in supporting their communities through action and prayer. Many of us are reaching out to our neighbours to help with shopping, accessing church services in a variety of formats and engaging with prayer in many ways.

Social responsibility remains a priority for Churches Together in Cumbria, although we are restrained in how we can do that due to travel and other limitations. However, much is still being done behind the scenes. Isolation and loneliness could not be more prevalent than now, and remains an overarching theme for us to address. We are in contact with Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service www.cumbriacvs.org.uk who update regularly on the many initiatives happening in our communities, and ways to get involved.

There remains a lot of interest in our Green Health initiative to use gardening and horticulture as a way of addressing mental, physical and spiritual health issues. I spoke with the newly appointed High Sherriff of Cumbria last week, who read about Green Health in our recent newsletter.

Julie Barton www.highsherriffofcumbria.co.uk chose isolation and loneliness as her theme for her period in office, and is interested in the Green health approach. We hope to be able to work together in the future.

Sandra Radcliffe at Cumbria police keeps us informed about modern slavery issues though her monthly updates – please let me know if you would like to receive these.

The environment remains a high priority, and we all hear discussions about the affect of the lockdown on air quality, wildlife and other environmental issues. CTiC is part of a group comprising other church representatives across all denominations and our recently appointed Diocesan Environment Officer is Dr Richard Waller. <https://www.keele.ac.uk/gge/people/richardwaller/>

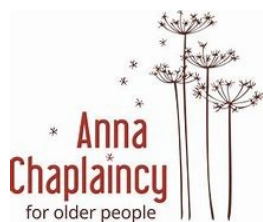
I have been party to discussions considering how we address environment issues across Cumbria for churches and beyond, and we hope to play an active role in this.

If you would like to know more about any of these issues, please do get in touch.

Shelagh Goldie

Social Responsibility Officer Churches Together in Cumbria

Email: shelagh.goldie@gmail.com



We continue to look towards an autumn launch of Anna Chaplaincy in Cumbria. Anna Chaplaincy is a community- based approach to chaplaincy that is concerned with the spiritual care of older people and which focuses on visiting older people wherever they may be living, be it in nursing and residential care settings, extra care schemes, sheltered housing complexes or in private homes.

The website www.annachaplaincy.org.uk is a rich source of information. If you would like to find out more about Anna Chaplaincy, whether it might be an area of ministry God is calling you to, or how it might fit into the life of your church, please do get in touch with me.

Yvonne Povey Dementia Project Officer/Temp Anna Chaplaincy Lead

Email: dpotic@outlook.com Phone: 01768 897138

Appeal for Food Donations from the North Lakes Foodbank

With Churches and public buildings closing, Foodbanks across Cumbria will have lost many of their regular food donation sites. With shop shelves empty, it is difficult to find the food to donate to the Foodbank. This is an appeal from the North Lakes Foodbank to all those who may have donated at their local Church in the past - thank you everyone - to ask people to try and donate items of food at an alternative donation point. When the supermarket shelves are empty, so are the shelves in the Foodbank warehouse. We are specifically asking people at this difficult time, if they are able, to donate items of food in preference to making a financial donation towards the work, because it is proving to be a significant challenge for the Foodbank to actually source the food items

To find out where to donate and when the Foodbank Centres are open: <https://www.thefoodbank.org.uk>

Reacting to the Institute of International Finance proposal on a voluntary debt payment suspension to private lenders launched today, Tim Jones, Head of Policy at Jubilee Debt Campaign said:

“Any country wanting to suspend debt payments under this proposal will need to negotiate directly with individual lenders, including on the interest rate that will be charged on deferred payments. A country desperately needing to stop debt payments now could end up paying far more in the medium term due to accrued interest. Furthermore, even if a country can reach agreement with some private lenders for a suspension, other lenders will be free to ignore it.

“Overall, the G20 agreement in April and IIF proposal today go nowhere near responding to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus debt crisis.

“The UK and New York need to urgently act to pass legislation to prevent borrowing countries from being sued if they suspend debt payments as suggested by the G20. We need to see the comprehensive cancellation of debt payments across all creditors to avoid a major debt crisis in two years’ time, and an agreement on a multilateral debt workout mechanism to reduce debt to a sustainable level in the medium term.”



[TAKE ACTION](https://jubileedebt.org.uk/actions/stop-coronavirus-debt-disaster)

<https://jubileedebt.org.uk/actions/stop-coronavirus-debt-disaster>

New stats show that denying migrants access to services in pandemic is negligence says JRS UK
New analysis from ONS and High Court ruling today shows negligence towards minorities



7th May 2020 <https://www.jrsuk.net/>

The ONS today released (Office for National Statistics) new analysis demonstrating stark differences on the impact of COVID-19 between different ethnic groups. It suggests the different death rates are partly accounted for by socioeconomic disadvantage but that a lot remains unexplained. Sarah Teather, Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK said: *“Given the large disparity in death-rates for different ethnic groups, it is critical that we do all within our power to remove obstacles we know make a difference. That is why the Jesuit Refugee Service UK and around 30 other organisations are calling on the government to grant a period of leave to remain for all with insecure immigration status and to end its use of No Access to Public Funds (NAPF) policies denying migrants access to services and welfare.”*

The Jesuit Refugee Service UK, along with around 30 other front line organisations supporting asylum seekers and migrants with insecure immigration status wrote to the Prime Minister on 2 May urging him to grant all without this security a period of leave to remain, for their safety, wider public health, and so that all may be engaged in the country’s recovery. The organisation also called on the government to immediately end its use of NRPF restrictions. Details of the letter were published in the Observer on Sunday and in The Independent. The High Court ruled today that the government’s policy of denying families access to the welfare safety net, which increases the risk of destitution and risks public health by forcing people into overcrowded accommodation and onto the streets, was unlawful.

Sarah Teather added: *“There is a huge amount we don’t know about why some ethnic groups are more severely affected than others. But we do know that insecure immigration status and NRPF restrictions are a barrier for accessing safe housing, a barrier to the health service and that deny many the basic essentials needed to live. Leaving so many people denied access to essential services and support when they are the very group also most likely to be impacted by the virus is an act of negligence.*

“Work must continue to work to understand the risk factors underlying this stark difference in death rates between people of different ethnicities. And in the meantime, the government must act quickly to do what it can to reduce the impact on people’s lives. Now is the time for the government to grant a period of leave for all and to immediately lift NRPF restrictions”

To donate to work of JRS: <https://www.jrsuk.net/donate/>

Bishop John Arnold on Laudato Si' on its fifth anniversary

homily at a special Mass in Salford Cathedral on the Vigil of the Feast of the Ascension

It was very early in 2015 that the announcement first came that Pope Francis would be publishing an encyclical on the environment. Most of the speculation as far as I remember was that he would confirm what his predecessors St John Paul II and Pope Benedict had said about the environment, quite forceful declarations on their part about care for our environment. But then the document was published and it sent shock waves because Pope Francis was talking about the environment, yes, but in his genius he was actually connecting the environment with everything else, with care for our brothers and sisters, with the building of our cities, with relationships, with the use of resources, with waste. It was an extraordinary document and there was no doubt it made an impact. It became the most published Papal document of all time, I gather, and it appealed way outside the Catholic community to governments, to NGOs, to environmentalists, to indigenous people. It spoke to so many people. It was really changing the whole approach to the sense of the environment making it a global issue and we are celebrating five years since it was published.

And where have we got to? Well we have certainly become so much more aware of climate change and its' damage to the environment. The media have reported so much more thoroughly on so many really disturbing events in those five years, the dreadful fires in California, Australia and the Amazon that went on for weeks, even months. We've heard about the droughts in Africa, we've heard about the four trillion tonnes of ice lost on the icecaps. So many difficulties, so many appalling situations created by extreme weather conditions. And even locally in our own country, we've seen unseasonal extremes in weather both in heat and in rain which upsets our whole agricultural cycle. But we've been made much more aware of it and that's a good thing. We've also seen a change in attitudes among governments who want to talk together about a global issue. It's rather been overtaken by the global issue facing us at the moment in the pandemic but that actually underlines the need to think globally in all things. We've seen how industry is beginning to look at new technologies to see how best they can have a healthy way of using the industry for our benefit. And that whole development of that circular economy which says that there will be no waste, everything will be recycled. We'll get to it - will we? I hope so. We've also seen an extraordinary move within parishes and school communities where the environment has become really important on a day by day basis and we recognise, as Pope Francis urged us to, our own individual importance and that even the small things we do day by day, thinking carefully how we may live, that sense of ecological conversion, being kinder to the environment in which we live, thinking about our brothers and sisters, remembering those who are suffering most from Climate Change are the ones who have done least to deserve it. ..

To read full on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/39635> or Listen to the homily here: <https://soundcloud.com/salford-diocese/bishop-john-homily-for-the-feast-of-the-ascension-and-5th-anniversary-of-laudato-si>

We can Keep Cumbrian Coal in the Hole !!

Cumbria County Council's Development Control and Regulation Committee has, in effect, withdrawn its previous decision to approve the Whitehaven Coal Mine, in order to allow West Cumbria Mining to submit revised proposals which they think will be harder to challenge in the courts.

Cumbria County Council has confirmed that it will no longer rely on the resolution decision that was challenged.

This turn around would not have happened without the amazing support for the Judicial Review (which had been granted full approval to go ahead and challenge the County Council's decision).

West Cumbria Mining has now submitted a revised planning application to Cumbria County Council. This revised plan seeks to answer the legal challenges which were to be brought in the Judicial Review.

It is thought that the reason why West Cumbria Mining has submitted a revised planning application is to try to defeat the legal challenge. For example the middlings coal in the original plan will now, say West Cumbria Mining, in this new plan be described as coking coal.

The lawyers at Leigh Day will now seek costs from Cumbria County Council and WCM, because in effect they have overturned the council's unanimous decision to approve the coal mine. This would ensure there would be funds, if required, after the council's planning meeting to decide whether or not to approve WCM's new plan.

So, there is now an opportunity to lobby the council so they do not, yet again, say yes to this revised planning application for the first deep coal mine in the UK in decades.

Should Cumbria County Council say yes again, Keep Cumbrian Coal in the Hole will challenge that, again!

The revised plan can be seen Online via the County Council's website at: planning.cumbria.gov.uk.

Application Ref No: 4/17/9007

Even if you have written in opposition to the plan before please do write again. This is, in effect, a new plan.

The (first) official deadline is June 15th

More information and help with writing objections available at <https://keepcumbriancoalinthehole.wordpress.com/>
<https://keepcumbriancoalinthehole.wordpress.com/2020/06/04/letter-of-objection-from-local-resident-please-write-write-write-and-say-no-to-the-first-deep-coal-mine-in-decades/>

Keep Cumbrian Coal in the Hole !!

Refugee Week



Refugee Week 15th 21st June 2020

Sometimes, the smallest things can start the biggest changes. When we founded the Simple Acts campaign in 2009, we knew that as one person wanting to make a difference, it can feel hard to know where to begin. We believed that if lots of us did one simple, everyday action, together we could begin to make lasting changes to the world around us. Since then, thousands of people of all ages have taken part in Simple Acts – in schools, universities, museums, theatres, choirs, youth clubs, or at home ([here](#) are some examples of recent responses).

For Refugee Week 2020 we're inviting you to do one or more of our eight Simple Acts linked to the theme of 'Imagine'. You can build an activity around one of the Simple Acts, tie them in to a Refugee Week activity you're already planning, or simply get involved during Refugee Week itself.

Whether you watch a film, take part in a campaign or share your vision for the future, you'll be joining a big creative, collective movement to stand with refugees, change how we see displacement and together, imagine a better world. Simple Acts are illustrated by the brilliant Karin Akesson and include suggestions of inspiration and resources to get you started.

Visit the [Simple Acts page](#) to find out more, and help spread the word using #SimpleActs

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/do-a-simple-act-for-refugee-week-2020/>



Registration and further information

limited places for zoom events, so book as soon as possible [here](#).
Steve Atherton: 07740 008 970

Live feeds available

 [Liverpool J&P](#)

 [/jpliverpooljp](#)

Liverpool Archdiocese Justice & Peace Commission Annual Assembly

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this year's Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission Annual Assembly will be held on line over number of platforms including Zoom, YouTube and live streamed on our Facebook page.

Speakers will include:

Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald 28th June 7:30-8:0 pm spiritual reflection

Diarmuid O'Murchu 29th June 7:30 –8:30pm discusses "framing the conversation" local and national issues followed by breakout group

Christine Allen Director of CAFOD 1st July 7:30 –8:30pm discusses international issues followed by breakout groups

Panel debate with all speakers and Q+A 4th July 10am –12 pm sharing of responses to the earlier talks, followed by Q&A to a panel made up of the speakers and politicians

To sign up for a session/s please visit <https://forms.gle/w3M731LuEjdKozYG7>