



JUSTICE AND PEACE

Summer 2020

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK MOUTHPEACE

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In Autumn 2006 I first edited Mouthpeace, taking over from Anne O'Connor (see top of page 2) In those days everyone received a printed copy by post so it was obvious to keep the black and white 12 page format. But circumstances have changed. More and more of us have become digitally able and it therefore makes sense to send round material this way and save on paper, ink and postage. So we had planned BV (before virus) that this Summer edition would be the last in the old format. Now slightly ahead of plans, I am producing my first digital only Mouthpeace. It has given me the freedom ...to be colourful, to have photos and produce as many pages as are useful. It is noticeable that all group events have changed and we have now become Zoom junkies. Personally I have 'attended' far more talks, webinars, meetings and theatre productions than I would ever have been able to manage if I had had to travel old style. So the things in this Mouthpeace reflect this new way of living and working.

I have also noticed from family and friends that lockdown has raised some interesting divisions: between those working hard from home and those furloughed looking for something to do with their time; between those staying at home because of various vulnerabilities and those going out and about to work, to shop and socialise; between those who are with their family all day every day and those cautiously meeting up with their children and grandchildren in parks and gardens; between those with fixed incomes building up a cash surplus as they as they have few opportunities to spend and those not working and worrying about present and future finances and between those with the means and

ability to get onto the web and those without the skills or the money to be digital. It was those in this last category that we were concerned about when we decided to make Mouthpeace digital only and I am sorry that they have not received the promised last printed copy.

I am very aware that the big news items at the moment are racism following the murder of George Floyd and also the global and local impact of Corvid-19, both of which raise many issues of justice and peace. But much is already being written and said about these as they develop. So I have tried to draw attention to some other things that are important too and may be overlooked. I hope to produce the next edition new format for the Autumn and will be pleased to hear from any of you who have suggestions for this.

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MouthPeace are the views
of the individual
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and do not necessarily
reflect those of the Justice
and Peace Commissions of
the dioceses of Liverpool
and Shrewsbury

VERY SAD NEWS Recently Anne O'Connor's daughter, Annie, aged 41, died very unexpectedly . Please pray for Anne, Calvin and all their family at this vey difficult time.

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 the rest of the world. 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

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 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."

For more information about The Catholic Association for Racial Justice CARJ visit: www.carj.org.uk/ Tel: 020 8802 8080. email: Info@ca9j.org.uk



Archdiocese of Liverpool
Justice & Peace Commission

**'See, I am making
all things new'
our Christian response
to the COVID-19 crisis**



Sunday 28 June (7.30 – 8pm)
Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald MAfr
offers a spiritual reflection



Monday 29 June (7.30 – 8.30pm)
Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu MSC
discusses 'framing the conversation':
local and national issues followed by
breakout groups



Wednesday 1 July (7.30 – 8.30pm)
Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD
discusses international issues followed
by breakout groups



Saturday 4 July (10am – 12pm)
sharing of responses to the earlier talks,
followed by Q&A to a panel made up of
the **speakers and politicians**

Live feeds available

 [Liverpool J&P](#)

 [4pliverpooljp](#)

Registration and further information

limited places for zoom events,
so book as soon as possible [here](#).

Steve Atherton: 07740 008 970

LIVERPOOL J & P COMMISSION ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Full details of this year's virtual assembly and sign up page

<https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/events/asmblies/>

You can also view the videos of past assemblies here on this page:

2019 Apocolypse Now? Climate Change: What We Must Do,

2018 Blessed are the Peacemakers -resolving personal and political conflict

2017 The signs of the times – hope in an uncertain age

REFLECTIONS DURING LOCKDOWN

From Steve Atherton

The lock-down during the present crisis has made many amazing changes to our lives and the way we view the world. Almost overnight, humble, low-

wage jobs have been revealed as crucial to society. I don't think that their wages have increased but the stackers of shelves, the drivers of white vans, the staff of care homes have been revealed as essential to us all while it turns out that we can actually manage without the Premier League and hedge-fund managers.

We may not have seen the church-as-we-know-it on the frontline but a new form of church is surely evident. God is active in the selfless behaviour of doctors and nurses, the eruption of kindness among people, rainbow messages of support for the NHS appearing in windows and even the Conservative government putting the welfare of people at the top of its priorities. The Catholic Social Teachings of The Common Good and Solidarity are being enacted in front of our eyes. I am astonished to see a socialist policy of universal income (ridiculed as an impossible dream during the recent general election) being enacted by the government.

How long will society remain turned on its head?

I've just been reading a booklet called 'Mersey Reflections ... on Faith in the City' that was written in late 1995, shortly after Margaret Thatcher had declared that there was no such thing as society, and I was amazed at how relevant it is to our current experience during the Covid-19 pandemic.

But our churches are surely being called to re-integrate life and faith, to get a feeling for the 'secular' as the locus of the sacred.

This re-integration will involve a certain redefinition of what it is to be church at all. Many people, inside and outside the churches, think of them as enclaves of the saved, enclaves which at least give the impression that human affairs outside their confines are indifferent to God. Are we not called to affirm the presence of God in all of people's lives, to acknowledge and indeed to celebrate the creative and redeeming power of Christ wherever it is discernible? After

all, we profess a God who creates all people in his image and likeness, and a Word of God who enlightens all people. Our role as churches is to be sacraments of this creative and redeeming God, communities of those who freely want to be living witnesses to 'the one who stand in their midst, unrecognised'.

Although notionally we assent to this unfettered presence of God – of God who is always in situations before we get there – yet we confess to finding many of our churchly attitudes, actions and structures in fact belie it. We are humbled by Augustine's comment: "God knows many whom the church knows not, and the church knows many whom God knows not".

I am hoping and praying that when the pandemic has become a memory we will have emerged, re-energised, as the church that nourishes people in the joys and sorrows of their lives, and that the upside down world of the Kingdom of God will continue to be evident in the church we will have become.

Following the postponement of this year's NJPN Annual Justice and Peace Conference at Swanwick to July 23-25 2021, the planning team are in the process of developing a Mini-Conference via Zoom. This will be 2 sessions on Saturday 18th July 10.30 to 12 and 2 to 3.30.

Preparing for a new world order. How do we, as Church, move to an alternative model of being. In the light of the Gospel message and Pope Francis Catholic Social Teaching documents (Laudato Si', Evangelii Gaudium) How do we begin to build and 'Care for Our Common Home'. This will lead us into preparing for '2021 – Action for Life on Earth', the new name for our postponed '2020 Vision: Action for Life on Earth'.



The poster is for a mini-conference by Zoom of the National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN). It features a blue background with white and yellow text. At the top left is a logo with a rainbow cross and the text 'Justice and Peace' and 'Act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God'. The main title is 'Post Pandemic Church: paralysed or energised? recovered or re-imagined?'. Below this, it says 'Saturday 18th July 2020' and 'a MINI-CONFERENCE by ZOOM of the NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK'. The sessions are 'Session 1 10.30-12.00 Forgotten People' and 'Session 2 2.00-3.30 Our Response?'. At the bottom, it says 'Book via eventbrite (bookings close 11pm Friday 10th July)' and provides the URL 'https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets-108604414728'. The NJPN logo is also present at the bottom right.

Timetable and speakers will be sent out to you once confirmed. Booking in advance allows us to sort out the technology of having breakout groups with facilitators in the session. Book via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/post-pandemic-church-paralysed-or-energised-recovered-or-re-imagined-tickets-108604414728>

We look forward to seeing you on zoom as we can't see you in person.



LET'S BUILD PEACE TOGETHER

PAX CHRISTI AGM ON LINE JUNE 7

Joan Sharples writes: More than 60 Pax Christi members joined the meeting in this, Pax Christi International's 75th Anniversary, year.

'Tell us one thing you would like us to pass on to Pope Francis to be included in the Vatican discussions about changes for a better future' was the invitation made to those who attended Pax Christi's Zoom AGM at the beginning of June.

It had been a busy meeting. Celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Pax Christi, Valerie Flessati described its beginnings following the Second World War, through the determined efforts of French woman Marthe Dortel-Claudot, with the support of Bishop Pierre-Marie Théas.

Reporting on their current work of Pax Christi in England and Wales, staff described the creative ways they have managed to continue working during lockdown. The regular zoom events, in particular, have made it much easier for

many of us to stay connected with the organisation. Readers in the North West will be pleased to learn that Matt Jeziorski, Pax Christi's former Schools and Outreach Worker, who now works for the Archdiocese of Liverpool as Synod Coordinator, was elected on to the Executive. Liverpool's Archbishop, Malcolm McMahon, paid tribute to the work of outgoing Chair, Holly Ball. Ann Farr is to be the new Chair.

If you want to build peace, you could ...

- Connect with Pax Christi on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook
- Take part in Pax Christi's zoom calls
- Donate to help with Pax Christi's work
- Let Pax Christi know what is going on to bring about peace where you are
- Share with Pax Christi the one message you would like to pass on to Pope Francis
- Identify one thing you could do to bring about peace!

Report from Holly Ball the outgoing Chair of Pax Christi

In my article in the Annual Report, I talked about the past year. Today I want to talk about the future.

We are living in the Covid Era - a perfect storm of pandemic, mass unemployment, a global financial crash, systemic racism and inequality. Amid pandemic uncertainty, two things are clear. First, the virus is universal and ubiquitous - a threat to all humankind. Second, its impacts are deeply unequal, determined by social class, race, ethnicity, income, nutrition, education, living conditions, geographical location, gender, age and even 'celebrity'.

Racism As an American, I am deeply disturbed and sad about what is happening in my country. The horrific death of George Floyd shocked the world, but it has also been a wake-up call that racism, and hatred must end. I grew up with racism, inequality, police brutality and white supremacy. I graduated from high school in 1969, and I never went to school with a black person. Schools were still segregated in the South, and this was over 100 years after the end of the American Civil War. Think about that. Racism is deeply engrained in the American psyche. Taming racism is not the responsibility of those who suffer its consequences. All races, ethnicities and classes need to be part of that movement. The spirit of George Floyd is making that happen. He did not die in vain.

Pax Christi's response: To fight apartheid in Israel/Palestine. Palestinians are treated like American blacks - a 'problem' to be controlled and dehumanised. Our work there is essential.

Climate change The environment has thrived in this period of lockdown. The lack of airplanes, cars and other polluters has made our air cleaner and carbon emissions the lowest in decades. We have an opportunity to start fresh and build on this unexpected bonanza.

Pax Christi response: To continue our educational work on the environment and climate change, using 'Laudato si' as our platform.

Nonviolence, especially in schools, knife crime Young people are very aware of the dangerous and violent world they live in. Working with schools, Pax Christi can reach out to young people and show them that there is another way.

Pax Christi's response: The NonvioLENT initiative can be used as a highlight of the school year.

Nuclear weapons The Covid pandemic has proved that nuclear weapons are powerless against an invisible enemy. We are wasting billions that could be used for healthcare, climate change action and a host of social causes.

Pax Christi response: To work for the redeployment of Trident funding to tangible initiatives that build up our society.

Essential key workers The pandemic has proved who are really the essential workers, those who have kept us going throughout the lockdown. You know who they are, and it is time not merely to clap for them, but to rectify the injustice that they are some of the lowest paid workers in the country. It is time for a guaranteed living wage for all, or a universal basic income

Pax Christi response: Work on justice for all.

A revolutionary agenda

A revolutionary agenda for the post-pandemic world includes meaningful steps to address poverty and the north-south wealth gap, more urgent approaches to climate, energy, water and mass extinction crises, and an economic system that measures prosperity by counting shared social, health and environmental benefits, not GDP growth. It may seem like pie in the sky. But so too did the idea of millions working from home, and halting road and air travel, until it happened almost overnight. We find ourselves doing and saying things we never dreamed we would do or say.

Whether recognised as such or not, this is a revolutionary manifesto, and if it is pursued - as many believe it must be - it will demand the transformation of political behaviour and all of society.

This feels different. This is a moment. This is not an era of change but a change of era.
May Pax Christi be a bold voice in this new post-Covid manifesto. Let the revolution begin

She is succeeded as chair by Ann Farr, who has a special interest in advocacy for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel after working for three months in the West Bank as an Ecumenical Accompanier on a World Council of Churches Programme. She has served on the Board of Pax Christi International for six years and is a member of its International Working Group on Palestine and Israel. see her report below on page 7

If you missed this film about the battle for the hearts and minds of Britain's children, there is another chance to see it. It is available on YouTube until the end of June 2020. There is a new trailer with link to the full film here <https://youtu.be/Wj7JD62mVjQ> and the full film is here https://youtu.be/bl5Zc71KV_g



JUNE 15 -21

You are invited to explore the theme of 'Imagine'. Because when things feel stuck; when the old ways of doing things are no longer working, that's what we need to do. In the era of Covid-19, the call to imagine feels more important than ever. 'To imagine' means to picture something you can't currently see. To step beyond the current moment, and perceive something different. Rather than being a flight away from reality, imagination is sometimes the best response to it – the only way to get us somewhere new.

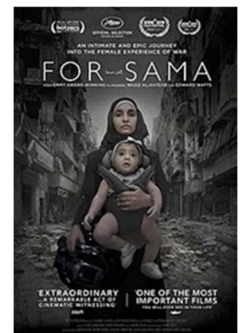
Maybe you'll imagine a future where we've found new ways to care for our planet, transcend borders or protect human life. Or perhaps you'll imagine what it's like to have to leave your family behind, or what your hometown might look like to someone walking its streets for the first time.

You can get involved by holding or taking part in an online Refugee Week event or activity: see Manchester Libraries <https://manclibraries.blog/2020/06/11/refugee-week-15-20th-june-2020/> or do one of our Refugee Week 2020 Simple Acts. <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts/>

One of the suggested acts is to watch a film –
FOR SAMA is both an intimate and epic journey into the female experience of war. A love letter from a young mother to her daughter, the film tells the story of Waad al-Kateab's life through five years of the uprising in Aleppo, Syria as she falls in love, gets married and gives birth to Sama, all while cataclysmic conflict rises around her.

Her camera captures incredible stories of loss, laughter and survival as Waad wrestles with an impossible choice– whether or not to flee the city to protect her daughter's life, when leaving means abandoning the struggle for freedom for which she has already sacrificed so much.

You can access the film for free via the Channel 4 website:
<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/for-sama/on-demand/66428-001>



Or you could write to your MP about the Israeli plan to annexe parts of the West Bank from July 1st



1948.....AND STILL GOING ON TODAY.

Palestinian families are being forced out of their homes, watching their houses and villages being destroyed, becoming refugees.

Left: Ilham and two of her children, Talin (8) and Raghad (5) stand outside the twisted remains of their former house in al-Walajah. The home was demolished by the Israeli authorities in September 2018

COMMEMORATING THE NAKBA – THE CATASTROPHE

15 May 2020 Palestinians all over the world, commemorated The Nakba, The Catastrophe. It is the day when in 1948 the Israeli State was established, without any declared borders and Palestinians were dispossessed. The human cost of this plan was, and still is, very high. More than 200,000 Palestinians were dispossessed of their properties between 1947 and 1948 and in 1948 a further 55,000-600,000. Over 400 Palestinian villages were completely depopulated or destroyed and 800,000 Palestinians became refugees.

Report from Ann Farr who is the present Pax Christi UK Executive Chair

When we visit refugee camps in the West Bank we meet fourth generation refugees, young people, who will tell us which villages their families are from. In their homes many have a tin in which they keep a large, precious key, the one that opened the door of the house that was left in 1948. They are not allowed to visit those homes or their land. They have no right of return and have never received any compensation for all that they have lost.

Our visits show us that the Nakba is on-going, the loss of land, house demolitions, the detentions without trial, the imprisonment and torture of children, the daily Israeli military and settler attacks on villages and family homes has increased drastically, even in the last few months. Israel's Separation Barriers imprison communities in large sections of the West Bank and hundreds of checkpoints deny them access to hospitals, schools and universities, to worship and to visit their families. These are all experiences which we will recognise from the last six weeks. For Palestinians, this has been their experience for 72 years!



The Aida Refugee Camp Bethlehem

The call from Palestinian and Israeli peacemakers is for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the siege of Gaza. Nora Carmi from Jerusalem, a Pax Christi International Board Member, says: "Will the international world continue to keep silent or will it take action to end our on-going Nakba?" Zoughbi Zoughbi, Director of Wi'am Conflict Transformation Centre in Bethlehem says: "Our message to the world is, enough is enough. As much as we believe in life after death, we want to live our life before death, echoing what Jesus said, 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.' We want to celebrate life with you all. Please don't let us down."

TODAY ISRAEL IS PLANNING TO ANNEXE PARTS OF THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK, INCLUDING THE JORDAN VALLEY

From as early as July 1st, the new Israeli government will legislate to formally annexe parts of the occupied West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. This has immense implications for the Palestinian people. Annexation, as well as being illegal under international law, threatens the livelihoods, hopes and daily lives of thousands of Palestinian families who are already experiencing severe restrictions under Israeli occupation since 1967.

Report from Iona Community Common Concern Networks 17th May, 2020:

<https://iona.org.uk/2020/05/25/e-coracle-may-2020/>

BACKGROUND APRIL 20 THE ISRAELI COALITION DEAL Mr Netanyahu and Mr Gantz signed at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, as Israel remained in near-total lockdown.

"I promised the State of Israel a national emergency government that will act to save the lives and livelihoods of Israeli citizens," Mr Netanyahu tweeted afterwards.

Mr Gantz wrote: "We have prevented a fourth election. We will protect democracy. We will fight coronavirus and care for all Israel's citizens."

HIDDEN WITHIN THE DEAL – THE ANNEXATION OF WEST BANK. This Unity deal also allows PM Netanyahu to begin advancing West Bank annexation from July 1. The move must be carried out in full cooperation with US, which has all but given its blessing already; can be advanced through cabinet or Knesset, where right enjoys clear majority.

According to clause 29 of the deal, Netanyahu "will be able to bring the agreement reached with the US on the application of sovereignty [in the West Bank]... for the approval of the cabinet and/or the Knesset starting July 1, 2020."

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/unity-deal-allows-netanyahu-to-begin-advancing-annexation-from-july-1/t>

MAY 1ST LETTER FROM 127 BRITISH POLITICIANS from all parties written to the British Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary urging them to make clear publicly to Israel that any annexation of occupied Palestinian territory "will have severe consequences including sanctions".

In an unprecedented intervention, politicians including former cabinet members, ministers and senior diplomats, demanded actions not words in opposing any Israeli annexation. This would be "a mortal blow to chances of peace between Israelis and Palestinians based on any viable two-state solution."

The letter points out that when Russia illegally annexed Crimea in 2014, "Britain quite properly opposed these acts with appropriate measures, including robust sanctions."

Signatories to the letter included Lord Chris Patten of Barnes, the former European Commissioner for External Relations; Lord Michael Jay, the former Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Sir Edward Davey, the leader of Liberal Democrats; and former Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell and Baroness Helena Kennedy.

By 7 May 2020, 145 British politicians had signed or indicated support for the letter. All names and additions can be found at the bottom of this page.

Read MP's letter here: <https://www.caabu.org/news/news/127-british-politicians-demand-uk-impose-sanctions-israel-event-annexation-occupied-palest>

MAY 8 CHURCH LEADERS IN THE HOLY LAND APPEAL FOR OUR HELP TO PREVENT ANNEXATION BY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OF WEST BANK LAND IN PALESTINE A Statement was issued by 13 Patriarchs and Heads of the Holy Land Churches on Israeli Unilateral Annexation Plans.

. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/39534>

MAY 11 AN EARLY DAY MOTION EDM 464 WAS TABLED -

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/56954/proposed-israeli-annexation-of-part-of-the-west-bank>

PLEASE HELP by writing to your MPs. Congratulate them if they have signed the letter and EDM and if not ask them to consider doing so or give a reason why not



EL SALVADOR

The various events planned in Liverpool for this March to mark the 40th Anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Oscar Romero were sadly cancelled.

16 November 2019 marked 30 years since the army massacre of 6 Jesuits and their two women co-workers at the Central American University (UCA) in San Salvador. On Monday June 8th the trial began in Madrid of those accused of planning the murders. Five of the murdered priests were Spaniards. The trial is taking place in Spain under the principle of 'universal jurisdiction', which allows human rights crimes committed in one country to be tried in another. The trial is being broadcast live. You can watch a video about the Martyrs of El Salvador: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkFHD34oXwks



ADAPTING TO LIFE WITH CORONAVIRUS

Bernadette Bailey of St Albans, Macclesfield J&P Network writes: –

After a few weeks of the lockdown some of the members of the group were thinking about how to keep the group going especially if the situation was to continue for a while. Following a few conversations and inspiration on the 5th Anniversary of Laudato si' Pope Francis' encyclical on "Care for our Common Home" from the NWJPN eBulletin and other sources of communication we decided to hold our first virtual event. So on 24th May we held a prayer service to celebrate Laudato si' and reflect on how we care for our common home during the current situation and what more we could do. This virtual service was enabled by one member having access to the "St Bede Lay Community" Zoom facilities and knowing how to work it and control or manage to help our event.

The material for the service is on a power point presentation which all could follow with different members of the group doing different readings. It includes an introduction to Laudato Si', readings of Psalm 147 and Acts of the Apostles 2 v 42-46, CAFOD slides with reflections, prayers and Lockdown legacy: What are the things we will change and what want to keep? Good things: Peace and quietness Hearing birdsong Less air pollution More time to listen and to notice the world around us More time outside Travelling less, less busy just running around Working at home patterns changed forever Re-focused us on what we really need to live, e.g. limited outings, shopping Using local shops more Family meal times every day Time back from commuting – how do we use this productively? Manufacturing adapting to new world: e.g. PPE

Bad things: Poverty and desperation up Impact on migration in future? Farmland becoming unworkable People fleeing environment which doesn't sustain life anymore Climate is an emergency too – how do we think differently? Overcrowding intensive farming cross contamination Change needed in global food chain



HOW DID OUR VIRTUAL FAIR COME ABOUT?

Helen Tandy Coordinator Friends of the Earth Chester & District and Director Eco Community UK writes: My spare time is all about crafts and campaigning and more recently at certain points organising our Sustainable Chester Fair. We had no option but to cancel our March Fair which was to be all about fast fashion, plus a great line up of eco, plastic free, sustainable businesses. I felt

so bad for all our Independent businesses as their main source of income, fairs, festivals and makers markets were all cancelled. So why not a virtual version? The great thing is that anyone from anywhere can be involved in the virtual world and my range of speakers are from all over the UK....plus its much kinder for the environment as well. I'm not organising it to promote a business, I'm not organising it for profit. My embedded principles are to make our world better. We organise our events under our new Eco communities, a not for profit community Interest Company, founded by members of Friends of the Earth Chester & District.

Marian Thompson writes:

I heard about this Eco Fair from a Chester WDF email and easily joined several of these 'events'. They varied from learning how to upcycle clothes hidden unworn in your wardrobe to a serious talk on the importance of Bio diversity. I particularly liked the keynote speaker, Craig Bennett who was formerly CEO of Friends of the Earth and this April became CEO of The Wildlife Trusts. His talk on World Environment Day started by showing how the climate crisis and the ecological problems such loss of biodiversity were intertwined. He talked about the breakdown in relationship between humans and nature and also amongst humans giving rise to social justice issues. Although it was never mentioned he seemed to me to reflect the things Pope Francis wrote of in Laudato Si'. It also reminded me of a bit from the address Pope Francis made from Rome on a wet night in March: 'We were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick' As Craig pointed out there is only one species responsible for this sickness, for spreading this virus, us humans. We have fragmented natural habitats with roads, deforestation, logging and mining; we have traded in other species moving them around the world and flown around everywhere ourselves. Craig stressed it was critical we had a green recovery and in future invested in a natural infrastructure. He thought local solutions to global challenges were important and mentioned some we could consider. You can listen to his full talk and most of the others on <https://www.crowdcast.io/ecocommunities>

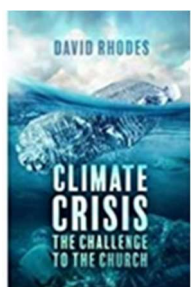
Like any fair some of the speakers were advertising the goods they sold which can be bought on line.

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS All these are available online from a variety of book sellers



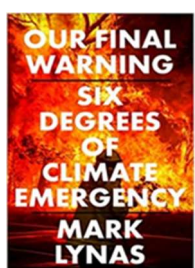
After decades of political consensus, we are entering a time in which everything about the way we live today, and about how our society and communities are structured, is up for discussion. Many people are feeling empowered to ask: What kind of world do we want to live in? One that works for a few, or one that works for the common good? What part can Christians play in building a future of hope, peace, equality and justice? Reclaiming the Common Good is a collection of essays which consider these themes.

Compiled and edited by **Virginia Moffatt**, a writer, community activist and former Chief Operating Officer of the belief and values think-tank, Ekklesia, its other contributors are: Dr Patrick Riordan SJ, John Moffatt SJ, Simon Barrow, Bernadette Meaden, Dr Simon Duffy, Rev. Vaughan Jones, Savitri Hensman, Ellen Teague, Edward P. Echlin, Henrietta Cullinan, Susan Clarkson and Rev. Dr Simon Woodman.



The world is in a mess and that mess is getting worse. Climate change is rapidly destroying God's creation. Our poorest neighbours are already suffering acutely but it will be our children and grandchildren who bear the full impact of the disaster. If the Church rediscovered the real meaning of Jesus it could play a pivotal role in averting this catastrophe. Instead, it frets about its own survival and agonises over who is sleeping with whom.

The human race is staring into the abyss. **David Rhodes** points a way forward that could bring life and hope to the planet - and the Church.

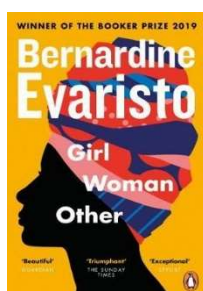


Rigorously cataloguing the very latest climate science, **Mark Lynas** explores the course we have set for Earth over the next century and beyond. Degree by terrifying degree, he charts the likely consequences of global heating and the ensuing climate catastrophe.

He 'follows the science' but uses it in a way that non scientific readers will understand. This is a helpful read for those already converted but an essential read for those who still have difficulty in facing up to the present climate crisis



Jen Gale offers easy, do-able, down to earth ideas and suggestions for everyone to help save the planet. If you want to save the planet, but your to-do list is already pretty long and remembering your re-usable coffee cup feels like a Herculean task, then this is the book for you. Covering every aspect of our lives from the stuff we buy and the food we eat, to how we travel, work, and celebrate. This book provides stacks of practical, down to earth ideas to slot into your daily life, alongside a gentle kick up the butt to put your newfound knowledge into action. Find out how to fit "sustainable living" into your life, in a way that works for you. Change your impact without radically changing your life and figure out the small steps you can make that will add up to make a big difference.



From Newcastle to Cornwall, from the birth of the twentieth century to the teens of the twenty-first, **Bernardine Evaristo** follows a cast of twelve characters on their personal journeys through this country and the last hundred years. They're each looking for something - a shared past, an unexpected future, a place to call home, somewhere to fit in, a lover, a missed mother, a lost father, even just a touch of hop follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.

THE WORLD IN LOCKDOWN



What does the coronavirus response look like in the rest of the world? As you'll read below, the spread of the virus is at different stages different countries, and the measures taken to combat it have varied hugely <https://traidcraftexchange.org/blog>

A PRAYER IN DESPAIR AND HOPE

John Phillips

How is God speaking to us through our present experience, you ask.

Dear God, why is it that I cannot hear you speaking to me...

- In the locked-in home of the woman beaten and bruised by her violent partner
- In the disturbed schedule of the autistic child who craves a certain and reassuring routine
- In the cast away bottles of the struggling alcoholic separated from the support of her group
- In the empty crematorium as a loved one's coffin enters the burners with only echoes in attendance
- In the hollow grave as a dead child is lowered before an absent, grieving family
- In the bed of the infected care worker gasping for breath
- In the exhaustion of the doctor working an endless shift
- In the pain of the nurse switching off the life support equipment
- In the refugee camp fighting to keep the virus out of its tents
- In the bemused gaze of the East African farmer staring at another failed crop, and fearing what next

I do not hear your voice speaking to me in any of these places. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

But, my God, perhaps when you were speaking to me, I wasn't listening. Those times, and they were often enough, when you spoke and told me...

To look after the weak

To tend to the sick

To shelter the homeless

To feed the hungry

To protect the poor

To love my neighbour

To give up all I had...

...so that we would build a society that cared for its weakest members, a society that promoted health and not wealth, that valued service not profit, that sought justice in our relationships together, and not power and privilege, that provided for the common good and our common home, and not our individual gain.

If I had listened, I would not have stopped this virus, but I might have better provided for the communion of our saints, those in the National Health Service, those in our care homes, those key workers tending to the dying, keeping us alive.

I might have helped them with more resources, a willingness to pay more taxes; I might have helped them with more respect for the dignity of their labour; and with gratitude before the event, and not during and after it.

I might have looked further to feed the world.

I might have tried harder to stop wars. I might have lived out some decent values that translated into some decent actions.

I might have truly loved my neighbour.

O if only yesterday I had listened to your voice, I would not have hardened my heart.

My God, my God, why have I forsaken you? Forgive me; o that today I will listen to your voice.

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY DURING CORVID-19



This is a crucial moment in our nation's life. Some talk of the importance of 'building back better'. Others, inspired by Christian tradition, might describe this as a 'kairos' moment. The pandemic has cast a light on the injustices and inequalities in our society. At the same time, the responses we've seen in our communities have reminded us of the values that we all share, and which should guide us on this journey. On 3 June, they gathered theologians, writers and ministers to reflect together on what the church's role should be in 'building back better' after the pandemic.

See the video of this meeting and other posts during the pandemic on

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/category/opinion/>

Thank you to the following helpful websites:

ICN Independent Catholic News <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

National Justice and Peace Network <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/>

with links to their monthly news letter and also monthly North West NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor

DIARY DATES

JUNE

14 Tax Justice Sunday - online service prepared by Church Action for Tax Justice available on youtube. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzKV4yFvmfl>

15-21 Refugee Week. Page 6

21 and 22 Liverpool Commission J & P virtual assembly 'See I am making all things new' page 3

26 United Nations Day for Victims of Torture <http://www.irct.org/our-work/day-against-torture-on-26-june.aspx>
<https://www.un.org/en/events/torturevictimsday/resources.html> www.acatuk.org.uk

JULY

1 and 4 Liverpool J & P virtual assembly 'See I am making all things new' page 3

9 Sea Sunday www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/about-sea-sunday More information:
johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk 07505 653 801

18 NJPN Mini-Conference via Zoom 'Post pandemic church: paralysed or energised? Recovered or re-imagined?' P.4
23-28 World Youth Day

AUGUST

6&9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki www.paxchristi.org.uk

9 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

23 International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition <http://www.hrea.org/>

30 International Day of the Disappeared and Stop the Traffik.org/ <http://www.stopthetraffik.org/>
<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Finding-missing-family/International-Day-of-the-Disappeared>

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 4 THE SEASON OF CREATION

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER SABEEL-KAIROS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

We have made the difficult but important decision to change our 2020 conference and AGM from a face-to-face event to an online one. Given that social distancing is likely to have to continue for some time and the situation in September is an unknown, we do not want to put our members at unnecessary risk by holding a large gathering. It is also likely that international travel will still be affected, making it difficult for us to bring a Palestinian speaker to the UK, something we feel is a very important part of our yearly event.



However, despite not being able to meet in person, we do have a fantastic event lined up for our members! Our online conference will take place on the same day – Saturday 19th September, from 10 am-12 noon.

We are delighted that we will be joined by speakers from our two key partners in Palestine – **Rev Dr Munther Isaac from Kairos Palestine, and Omar Haramy from Sabeel Jerusalem**. These two fantastic speakers will cover the key themes of the conference; 'You cannot serve God and the occupation' and 'Antisemitism, Israel and Palestine.' There will be chance to ask your questions in an interactive Q+A on both topics.

In addition to this we will be led in worship by Amos Trust founder Garth Hewitt, and there will be chance to take an online campaigning action together.

The AGM

We are still planning to go ahead and hold our AGM on Saturday 19th September, following the online conference. Members who have paid their fees for 2019-2020 will be invited to attend the virtual AGM following a short break at the end of the conference. The AGM will last no longer than 30 minutes and will contain all of the essentials reports and business that needs to be done. If you have any queries about the AGM please contact info@sabeel-kairos.org.uk

<https://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk/category/news-and-events/sabeel-kairos-conference-2020/>

And finally DUCKLINGS GALORE! A video to make you smile https://youtu.be/5N9Aq460_dA