



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace

Spring 2021

## An appeal for peace, justice and fraternity :

*"In the name of God, who has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and who has called them to live together as brothers and sisters, to fill the earth and make known the values of goodness, love and peace;*

*"In the name of innocent human life that God has forbidden to kill, affirming that whoever kills a person is like one who kills the whole of humanity, and that whoever saves a person is like one who saves the whole of humanity;*

*"In the name of the poor, the destitute, the marginalized and those most in need, whom God has commanded us to help as a duty required of all persons, especially the wealthy and those of means;*

*"In the name of orphans, widows, refugees and those exiled from their homes and their countries; in the name of all victims of wars, persecution and injustice; in the name of the weak, those who live in fear, prisoners of war and those tortured in any part of the world, without distinction;*

*"In the name of peoples who have lost their security, peace and the possibility of living together, becoming victims of destruction, calamity and war;*

*"In the name of human fraternity, that embraces all human beings, unites them and renders them equal;*

*"In the name of this fraternity torn apart by policies of extremism and division, by systems of unrestrained profit or by hateful ideological tendencies that manipulate the actions and the future of men and women;*

*"In the name of freedom, that God has given to all human beings, creating them free and setting them apart by this gift;*

*"In the name of justice and mercy, the foundations of prosperity and the cornerstone of faith;*

*"In the name of all persons of goodwill present in every part of the world;*

*"In the name of God and of everything stated thus far, [we] declare the adoption of a culture of dialogue as the path; mutual cooperation as the code of conduct; reciprocal understanding as the method and standard."*

From Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti* quoting a document on *Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together* during his visit to UAE.

## What are you seeing? What do you want to see?

These were questions posed by Rev. Ian Rutherford from Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network at the November 2020 open networking meeting and AGM. Around 40 participants were reminded of the words of Isaiah where we are explicitly told what is required of us. We have the assurance that:

*"The LORD will guide you always ... you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings"* (Isaiah 58:11-12)

Of deep concern to those present was evidence of the homeless crisis all around us whenever we walk the streets of any town or city and ask how our Church should respond. Ian was very clear that no one sector can solve the problem, it is everyone's issue. The solution requires committed partnerships. In developing a strategy for action Ian suggested we work on the '4Rs' **Reduction** – considering causes and taking appropriate action involving political campaigning. **Respite** – providing safe places. **Recovery** – providing ongoing support. **Reconnection** – enabling people to lead meaningful lives within the community. Ian suggested that generally churches focus more on providing respite, which meets the immediate need for shelter, but we must recognise this is part of a much more complex problem and a holistic vision is required. Ian suggested the possibility of faith groups creating networks of support for vulnerable families. Ian recognised the fact that there are many groups offering compassionate support to vulnerable families and individuals but stated that there is a crying need for systemic change, and we must raise our voices against injustice and suggested that campaigning is key



to effecting meaningful change. So where do we begin? Ian suggested we learn harsh lessons from Covid and campaign for an increase in mandatory universal credit, call for an integrated housing policy with a focus on providing more social and

affordable housing, which would include an effective homeless prevention strategy, a more integrated health and well-being policy taking account of the need for more sustained mental health support. We should be working on the premise that intervention and recovery leads to prevention. There is also the major issue of those stuck in an unfair and failing structure with no recourse to public funding. People of faith must speak up for those who have no voice in the public arena.

So, what do we see? Constant scapegoating of the 'other' within our society, hostility, inaccurate perceptions largely as a result of fear of the unknown exacerbated by negative and inaccurate reporting of facts. What are we going to say to those who say 'we have to look after our own'? On a more positive note we see many people of good will who feel helpless and in need of a good 'steer' (maybe this is where we should be shouting the loudest and reminding ourselves of the gospel imperative) We must share the 'good news stories' Maybe we should be taking more seriously



the impact of what Pope Francis is demanding of the followers of Christ.

So, where do we go from here? We are fortunate that we have the freedom to decide.

Anne Peacey  
NJPN Vice Chair

## The 4 R's

**Reduction:** tackling the causes of homelessness. This includes practical and political actions.

**Respite:** providing a safe place for people off the street.

**Recovery:** managing issues, stabilising individuals and working towards independence through support, wellbeing, life skills and steps towards employment, volunteering, training and education.

**Reconnection:** enabling individuals to lead meaningful lives with choice and agency in our community.



## 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Justice & Peace Conference

2021: action for life on earth: moment of truth

23—25 July 2021 The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire

As climate change, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the COP26 climate summit and in the recovery from the pandemic are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity the like of which we will never see again.



At Conference 2021 we will take inspiration from *Laudato Si*, *Fratelli Tutti* and secular thinking on integral ecology. We will seize this moment of grace for the changes and choices now confronting us.

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## Faith in Affordable Housing - Editorial

Faith in Affordable Housing (FIAH) is one of the flagship projects within Housing Justice. It was launched in Wales in 2013 and works with churches of all denominations to release surplus land or redundant buildings for the development of new social and affordable housing by Registered Social Landlords. With many denominations seeking solutions for the growing numbers of surplus and redundant church and chapel buildings, the FIAH project is uniquely placed to help bring about greater partnership working between the church and the housing association sector to deliver more new genuinely affordable homes.

Research suggests that each year an increasing number of the 4,500 church and chapel buildings in Wales are closing due to declining congregations and changing social trends. These may be places of worship themselves or other related buildings such as church halls. Similarly, many churches are seeking to reconfigure and modernise their existing facilities to provide sustainable places of worship but also flexible, multi-purpose buildings for wider community activity and use as well as worship thereby releasing part or all of the property and land. Many of these buildings and associated land can be part of the solution to housing need, whilst sustaining worship and in many instances protecting our heritage.

The FIAH project works across all Wales and across all denominations to encourage policy and practice change to enable the disposal of surplus or redundant assets for affordable housing. It also supports local congregations through the process of partnering with a housing association. This has made possible the sale of a number of church sites across Wales to housing associations for the development of new affordable housing. The FIAH project also works closely with housing strategy and regeneration officers within local authorities and Welsh Government to identify strategic housing need and wider regeneration opportunities in Welsh communities and through CADW and the Welsh Places of Worship Forum given the distinct historical and architectural heritage of churches and chapels in Wales.

The current level of 'live' activity of the project across all Wales as of October 2020 is demonstrated by some headline facts and figures:

**Completed New Affordable Dwellings Since 2016** 75

**New Dwellings Under Construction or Land Acquired** 92

**Dwellings at Feasibility and Design Stage** 360

Translating this activity into actual investment in new affordable homes leads to an estimated investment in the order of £20 million on those homes completed, under construction or where sites have been acquired in

readiness for construction. This is a considerable investment in our local communities.

Looking to the future, the FIAH project has a clear role to play in the post-Covid planning around housing issues in general and specifically in the supply of decent and genuinely affordable homes. By working collaboratively with churches and housing associations, FIAH has the ability to create a medium and long term pipeline of opportunities to enhance the overall supply of new homes and to provide greater overall social value outcomes through for example meeting specialist housing needs, driving innovative solutions to dealing with sensitive, often listed buildings, contributing to the application of MMCs (Modern Methods of Construction), and finally, promoting zero carbon housing standards. At the same time as meeting housing needs, FIAH can contribute to local churches, chapels and congregations sustaining their worship and mission and enhancing the wider community activities and engagement in the local community.

### Case Example: St Matthew's Church, Newport

– the scheme to create 14 new homes at Yr Hen Eglwys was completed by Pobl Group in March 2019 with a visit by the Chair of the Housing Justice Cymru Steering Group the Archbishop of Wales The Most Reverend John Davies to meet residents at the beginning of May 2019:



*'There can come a time, a sad time, when a place of worship that has been much loved over the years, comes to the end of its viable life. It becomes a liability rather than being an asset. The least attractive option for that building is that it closes and becomes a ruin – a poor advertisement for any community. There are occasions when such a building can be re-ordered and adapted for community or residential use. There are others when the clearance of the site and the construction of new facilities is the more feasible option. For St Matthew's, that was the way forward, and I'm delighted to be able to commend those who took difficult decisions for their courage and vision to engage in such a fruitful project.'*

**The Most Reverend John Davies  
Archbishop of Wales**

*"We were pleased to have been able to work with key partners - FIAH, Welsh Government, Newport City Council and the project team to create these wonderful new apartments. St Matthews Church had been an important part of the fabric of the Maendee community for 125 years. It was not possible to save the building but the design of the apartments seeks to respect the size and massing of the Church. The Hen Eglwys development is a great example of how collaborative working with other like-minded organisations helps us to deliver much needed affordable housing and supports the regeneration of local communities."*

**Sarah Hodges  
Pobl Project  
Manager**



## Where does evangelization begin?

*Where does evangelization begin?* I work in my allotment most days although there's not much to do in Winter. I'd like to introduce you to a few allotmenters I rub shoulders with.

Take George, whose son punched and killed a man in a scuffle a few years ago. George's son went to prison for manslaughter. Or Alex, who gave me a bag of onion bulbs he had left over and asked "Paul, can I ask you something – Why did the priest refuse to baptise my granddaughter? He said it was because her mother didn't go to church, but that can't be right, can it?"

There's Jimmy, a retired policeman whose wife died of cancer 2 years ago. Terry, a massive hulk of a man, told me there'd been a few glasses of wine drunk and tears shed at home last Sunday when it would have been his son's 35th birthday. His son died 6 years ago after a drugs overdose at a Rave. Ian, whose adopted daughter is mentally ill and homeless.

Tony, a DIY man with an opinion on everything, who helped me put up my greenhouse: "Do it right first time, then you can forget about it. And remember, don't spend any money – it's just an allotment. By the way, do you need any beetroot? And did you know I was diagnosed with prostate cancer last week?" Carol, who has learning difficulties, picked on and humiliated by some people on her estate.

I love these people. They love and respect nature. Frank (my favourite) in another life - given opportunity - would be a zoologist. His powers of observation, knowledge and memory are prodigious; a born naturalist who became instead simply the best painter and decorator in the business. They're all passionate about their allotments and families. Practical people, grounded, inventive, they spend hours nosing around each other's plots, always looking for opportunities to share, to have a bit of 'craic', and to help each other out. None of them goes to church, and some show strains of racism, homophobia, etc.

My allotment is a microcosm of our country. These are the ordinary people that the Church needs to befriend, listen to, talk to, comfort. These are the people the Church needs to astonish, lift their spirits, inspire their souls. People who feel shame and shock at a killer son in prison, bewilderment and grief at a son dead from an overdose, longing and loneliness of bereavement, rejection and incomprehension at being refused baptism, depression and anxiety at the mental torture a teenage daughter is going through.

The Lord sends us to work with them in His vineyard – or allotment. Pope Francis puts it this way in 'Joy of the Gospel': "To be evangelizers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people's lives."



Please help me to answer a question I ask myself daily: *How do we begin to evangelize these beautiful children of God, and show them Emmanuel, "God with us"?*

**Paul Southgate  
New NJPN Chair**



## Our Future Networking Days in 2021 (Zoom or in person will depend on Covid 19 conditions at the time)

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2021 11.00 – 3.00 on Zoom 'Inter-Faith issues for Justice & Peace'**

Speakers: Dr Harriett Crabtree OBE, Director of the UK Inter-Faith Network and Jon Dal Dim, Westminster Inter-Faith

**Saturdays - 8<sup>th</sup> May Open Networking Day and NJPN AGM, 11<sup>th</sup> September & 13<sup>th</sup> November Open Networking Days**



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# DIARY

This is a selection of dates. Find more on the Rolling Calendar and Year Planner on our website [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**26th January: Archdiocese of Birmingham Justice and Peace Discussion Forum** at 7pm via Zoom: [birminghamjandp.org.uk](http://birminghamjandp.org.uk)

**31st January: Racial Justice Sunday** – An opportunity to reflect on the action needed to counteract racism and promote diversity, belonging and inclusion: [www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/)



**ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA**  
Born: 1869 Darfur, Sudan  
Died: 8 February 1947 Italy

**8th February: Feast of St Josephine Bakhita** – a Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking: [catholicchurch.org.uk](http://catholicchurch.org.uk)

**20th February: World Day of Social Justice:** [www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday](http://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday)

**Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**  
Working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world



**Ash Wednesday – 17 February: Christian CND and Pax Christi** will be hosting a Zoom Witness for Ash Wednesday, replacing the usual event which takes place outside the Ministry of Defence in London. There will be an opportunity for reflection, prayer and actions. It's a free event but registration is important so we can send you a pack for the day: [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)  
[www.christiancnd.org.uk/events/](http://www.christiancnd.org.uk/events/)

**PAX CHRISTI**  
International Catholic Movement for Peace



**21st February: Church Action on Poverty Sunday**

will be on the theme of 'New Wineskins'. Join churches around the UK in prayer, giving and action this Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Share a vision for a society founded on compassion and justice, where all people are able to exercise dignity, agency and power. [www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/)

**NEW WINESKINS**



**22nd Feb – 7th March: Fairtrade Fortnight:** [fairtrade.org.uk](http://fairtrade.org.uk)

**26th February: CAFOD Lent Fast Day:** [cafod.org.uk/News](http://cafod.org.uk/News)

**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

**27th February: NJPN Networking Meeting**

Come and join us for our next Networking Day, starting at 11am-3pm, and held via Zoom. Book your free place via Evenbrite



**5th March: Women's World Day of Prayer** prepared by women of Vanuatu: [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk)

**8th March: International Women's Day:** [internationalwomensday.com](http://internationalwomensday.com)



**21st March: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:** [un.org/en/events](http://un.org/en/events)

**22nd March: World Water Day:** [worldwaterday.org](http://worldwaterday.org)

**27th March: Earth Hour:** [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org)

**4th April: Easter Sunday**

**26th April: Chernobyl Day:** [chernobyl-day.org](http://chernobyl-day.org)

**8th May: NJPN AGM & Open Networking Day:** either by Zoom (11-3) or in London (10.30 – 4): [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)



**9th-15th May: Christian Aid week:** [christianaid.org.uk](http://christianaid.org.uk)



**15th May: International Conscientious Objectors Day:** [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk) 020 8203 4884: [ppu.org.uk](http://ppu.org.uk) 020 7424 9444



**17th – 30th May: UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15) in China:** This will review progress (& failures) since the big biodiversity COP in 2010.

**1st-12th November: COP26 (UN Climate Change Conference)** in Glasgow



**Urge the Prime Minister to put poor communities at the heart of COP26 climate talks**

[cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home](http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home)



**GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT** invites you to  
In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.



**When? Six Thursdays**

from 18th February – 25th March 7.30–8.30pm

**How to join? To register email**

[jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global)

Hosted by GCCM Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.

*"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience... Truly, much can be done!"*

(Laudato Si', 217, 180)

## Towards a Better World?

Since the 1980's my wife and I have worked on one of the world's biggest threats, the existence of nuclear weapons.

Attention to a major problem over a long period can easily result in reflection on matters of faith. It has led me to compose the following. (Please don't imagine I am versed in theology. I am open to what others think.)

**Our World** minus nuclear weapons, would certainly be better, and can be seen as a first step towards a great future. But first things first, i.e. making the new United Nations Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) succeed. Over several years I have pondered on existence and its purpose.

"What a risk God took in creating people with free will!" Have you ever heard someone say that? Maybe prompted by the realisation that the Almighty must be self sufficient, with zero needs.

"So why did he bother to make us anyway, let alone give us free will?" My explanation for having been created is the same as that of others informed by scripture. God is not only infinitely able ("God is Great!") but is also loving, deeply loving. We have a God of relationship; relationship in the three persons and in the relationship he seeks with us. So very loving, that agony and crucifixion was taken on.

"So where does free will come in?" I think the answer must be that free will is essential for fully selfless love. It enables crucial choice. One can foolishly choose just to love oneself, or, while respecting oneself as an example of God's marvelous work, make the correct choice; to love both Him and all the people He has made. (Selfishness is another name for misdirection of free will and cannot produce ultimate happiness.)

"But loving all the people?" Christians are instructed to love their enemies. There is often a need to work on how to do this, but neglecting it would be a sin of omission.

Since God is the loving father of the human race, prayer and dialogue helps. Busy as one might be, it can be beneficial to make an opportunity each day to make oneself available to Him. It might be in the quiet of the night (a way to exchange this for the annoyance of insomnia?)

However this is managed, regular experience of meeting with the very source of love can be transferred into the world, equipping activists to relate well with others, and so assisting change for the better. (Also, fulfilment comes in doing God's will and creating happiness)

*\*May I ask readers two things? As well as comments on the above, it would be very helpful if you could share your ideas on ways to spread knowledge of the TPNW - and especially in your locality. Surprisingly (or unsurprisingly) few people so far seem to know about it.*

Michael Pulham  
([thosepulhams@gmail.com](mailto:thosepulhams@gmail.com))

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

**DONATE TO NJPN:** Online via our website. By cheque payable to NJPN. BACS to NJPN Sort Code:16-31-15 Account No: 10089516, put your name and Donation in the reference field. Caf donate on: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8130#/DonationDetails>.

To make a regular donation by Standing Order, use your online banking or contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form on the website

**If you have items for the NJPN ebulletin or Calendar please send them direct to Sharon:**  
[ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)



The National Justice & Peace Network welcomes all who share a vision of a world in which people live in peace and harmony, where our common humanity is respected and all are able to contribute freely to the common good. NJPN seeks to encourage work for justice and peace by promoting communication and shared action between members, supporters and partners.

*This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network.*

*The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.*

Editorial Group: Sharon Chambers, Stephen Cooke, Sue Ingham, Ann Kelly, Anne O'Connor, Anne Peacey, Geoff Thompson.

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**National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)**

39 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1BX Tel: 020 7901 4864 or 07365 838535 Fax: 020 7901 4821

Email: [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

[www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

A UK Registered Charity no. 1114947 A company limited by guarantee: Company no. 5036866 Registered Office 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

## BECOME A MEMBER OF NJPN

Membership is open to local groups, families and individuals. Individual Subscription only £25 a year (but you are welcome to give more!) Low Income £15. Download a membership form from the website, contact the office or Ann Kelly, Membership Development, [membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:membership@justice-and-peace.org.uk)