

**Minutes: 60th Meeting of the National Justice and Peace Network
Environment Group**

**24 February 2021
Zoom Meeting**

Those attending:

Ashley Ralston (Convenor, Green Christian, and Arundel and Brighton Diocese), Paul Southgate NJPN Chair and Hexham and Newcastle), Maria Elena Arana (CAFOD Campaigns), Bernard Shaw (East Anglia Diocese J&P), Ellen Teague (Columban JPIC), Paul Kelly (Northern Dioceses Environment Group), Andrew Rollinson (Consultant), John Paul de Quay (Ecological Conversion Group), Edward De Quay (Carbon Transition Office, Laudato Si Centre)

Apologies:

Sr Louisa Poole (NBCW Environment Group/Operation Noah Executive)

Emma Gardner (Head of Environment, Salford) has been invited to future meetings and may share attendance with Edward de Quay.

Minutes also going to:

James Buchanan and Bokani Tshidzu (Operation Noah), Mary McCartney (Southwark Archdiocese J&P), Phil Kingston (Christian Climate Action), Martin Newall (Christian Climate Action), Sheila Gallagher (Westminster Diocese), Maggie McSherry (Lancaster Faith and Justice), Anne Peacey (NJPN Vice Chair), Geoff Thompson (NJPN Administrator), Bishop Declan Lang (International Department of CBCEW), Bishop John Arnold (Episcopal Liaison on Environment), Mary Colwell, Fr Peter Hughes, Fr Sean McDonagh, Fr Dan O'Malley, James Trewby (Columban JPIC), Barbara Echlin (Green Christian), Paul Bodenham (Green Christian/ Nottingham J&P), Christine Allen (CAFOD), Bishop Paul McAleenan, Bishop Ralph Heskett, Bishop Alan Hopes, Archbishop John Wilson, Bishop William Kenney, Bishop Paul Hendricks (Southwark), Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Fr Christopher Thomas (CBCEW), Steve Atherton and Stephen Cooke (Liverpool J&P), Emma Darling, (Columbans), Sr Kate Midgley (Columban Sister), Mark Wiggin (Caritas Salford), Emma Gardner (Salford), Melanie Nazareth (CCCA), Sue Ingham (Clifton J&P).

NJPN: Bruce Kent, Nan Saeki, Lauri Clarke, Jessica Gatty. Barbara Hungin

Ashley to circulate edited notes for NJPN Communications to NJPN Admin (for NJPN Executive and J&P Fieldworkers) and to Stephen Cooke (Website) and Sharon Chambers (NJPN e-Bulletin).

Opening Prayer and Welcome:

From 'Gaudete et Exsultate', led by Ashley Ralston

"Your personal mission is inseparable from the building of God's kingdom."

Conference 23-25 July 2021

NJPN is planning to go ahead with its annual conference in July. Some of this group are on the conference planning group. It will be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire 23-25 July 2021. Organisers feel the issues of the conference should not be postponed for another year. Though planned as an in-person event at Swanwick, if continued COVID 19 restrictions prevent the conference going ahead in person NJPN will present the programme, or similar, as a bookable only online conference. The conference aims for long-term renewal of the justice and peace movement in the light of *Laudato Si'* and the economic-ecological crisis.

The conference will be chaired by CAFOD's Director Christine Allen. Marty Haugen, the liturgical composer and pastoral musician, will lead the Liturgy. Speakers include Lorna Gold from FaithInvest, Bishop John Arnold who is the lead bishop on the environment in England and Wales, the Spiritan Priest Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and the Integral Thinker Mark Rotherham. Recently confirmed is Lord Deben, Chairman of the Committee on Climate Change, and Emma Gardner of Salford.

Workshops and activities to include: COP26 and divestment, Conflict and the Environment, Name that weed (outdoor); Biodiversity loss; Extractive Industries; Eco-anxiety, Waste recycling practical session, Liturgy planning, Presence at COP26 (real or virtual). There will be age-appropriate parallel programmes for young children and teens. The *JUST FAIR* to consists of more than 20 stalls from different agencies displaying goods and resources, as well as information and ideas about practical action throughout the weekend.

Salford Research Project

The Diocese of Salford has launched a new research project that Bishop John Arnold of Salford hopes will, "put a Catholic diocese on the path to carbon neutrality". It will then be a beacon to the rest of the Catholic community. The two-year pilot aims to involve over 100 parishes and over 200 schools, alongside religious communities, and lay groups to reduce the diocese's carbon footprint and improve energy efficiency. The study is part of the Church's response to what Pope Francis has described as the 'cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.' The walled garden at the *Laudato Si'* Centre, Wardley Hall, is the first phase of the project and houses vegetable patches and beehives. Future phases there include a wildflower meadow, learning spaces for schoolchildren, and the planting of memorial trees for loved ones.

Salford Diocese is collaborating with St Mary's University, Twickenham, and the Laudato Si' Research Institute, Oxford, and is supported by the Bishops' Conference. The research team will collaborate with other dioceses, parish communities, industry experts, theologians, and others to develop carbon accounting and environmental management tools that will lead to an implementation framework for use in other dioceses. Dr Emma Gardner is the first diocesan Environment appointment. In 2019, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales stated their commitment to engage with ecological issues in, 'Guardians of God's Creation'. <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/13851/church-embraces-drive-for-sustainability>

COP 26 - Glasgow

Many of us assume we will be there if COP26 goes ahead in November 2021, especially the Day of Action on 6 November. Prayer Chain - joint CAFOD-Christian Aid-Tearfund prayer initiative goes on until after the Glasgow COP.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-without-ceasing>

Useful links:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Climate>

<https://cop26coalition.org/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/faith-and-science-towards-cop26>

Plastic Pollution

Andrew Rollinson gave a presentation on the chemical recycling process. His power point highlighted the problems of plastic recycling producing toxins, processes being costly, and the push of the oil and gas industry to greenwash the dangers. "This is an environmental disaster waiting to happen" he said, and "chemical recycling is not an answer to plastic waste management." He felt the real need is for society to produce less plastic, focusing on society's need to transition from a throw-away culture to - REDUCE REUSE REPAIR. He explored the problems of exporting plastic waste to developing nations and felt it should be banned. He urged the group to raise awareness on the issue.

Andrew's PowerPoint and an additional paper are attached.

And see:

[Why pyrolysis and 'plastic to fuels' is not a solution to the plastics problem - Low impact living info, training, products & services](#)

And:

www.no-burn.org

Andrew works with the NGO UKWIN and they recently worked with an investigative journalist to uncover corruption in local and national governments concerning the waste sector. Their report came out this week: <https://www.source-material.org/blog/dirty-white-elephants>

CAFOD

Maria Elena reported on the **Livesimply Award** - The 85th award was given on 11 February to St. Mary's Primary School, Isleworth, Westminster Diocese. 64 of the awards have gone to parishes.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41547>

Attached: Cafod's Campaign sheet – 'Reclaim our common home'

*Information about the **G7 Summit in Britain 11-13 June:***

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Reclaim-our-common-home/What-is-the-G7-Summit-2021>

An ecumenical service/vigil will be available.

Parliament in your parish will be a new initiative post Easter, with resources at end of March

Laudato Si provides the framework for a 10- year programme within CAFOD.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical>

Season of Creation / Climate Sunday

Despite restrictions there was diocesan action for the Season of Creation 2020.

Some feedback:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40266> - Lancaster Diocese

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40452> - Westminster Schools Video competition

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40384> - Abingdon Parish in Portsmouth Diocese

CAFOD has produced a Mass template for Climate Sunday 2021.

<https://www.climatesunday.org/>

There will be a national ecumenical service on 5 September in Glasgow and possibly an ecumenical Climate Festival that month.

Christian Aid: Climate change the world's greatest security threat

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41615>

Faiths for the climate at: <https://www.faithfortheclimate.org.uk/COP-Faiths-Task-Group>

The Ecological Conversion Group

'Journey to 2030' in Arundel and Brighton is a great resource for helping to mobilise the Catholic Church to act on the ecological crisis. It has the support of the CBCEW. website - <https://journeyto2030.org/>. John Paul reported getting new materials out after requests from parishes and running retreats with Boarbank Hall. Focus on dioceses and on ecumenical climate action networks.

And see The Ecological Conversion group website - <https://theecg.org/>. John Paul de Quay's blog is at: www.theecg.org/blog

Diocesan environmental leads

There is a growing network of diocesan environmental leads – around 14 dioceses have them and Bishop Arnold would like a contact in every diocese. NJPN members aim to work with them. There is wisdom in the J&P community and the hope is that it will be tapped into. There have been three meetings of these reps so far and there is more activity in dioceses on ecological conversion than was realised.

Catholics for Catholic Climate Action (CCCA)

Martin Newall of CCA has convened several zoom meetings since August 2021 for religious orders and Catholic groups to look into Catholic climate action. Now that he is provincial of the Passionists, Melanie Nazareth will be taking on more of the coordination and undertaking a mapping exercise of the dioceses. There are "3 Calls" from the group, especially recognising the need for UK Zero Carbon by 2030, in order to play our part in the global 1.5C target. NJPN was well represented. Ashley, Anne Peacey, Sr Marie Power and Martin had a very positive meeting with Bishop John Arnold in late 2020. In a number of dioceses, group members have been meeting with their own bishops to discuss climate action by the Church. Engagement with bishops/diocesan authorities have been held in Westminster, Clifton, Birmingham and Hallam. At the last meeting of the group on 22 February, members of this group called for more attention to be given to advocacy and for the urgency of acting immediately to be underlined. Pastoral letters from bishops are being urged. And an increase in bottom-up pressure too.

Climate Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE)

A group of MPs are urging the government to get serious on tackling the climate crisis with the tabling of a Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. It's Early Day Motion #832 and 84 MPs are behind it currently, but no conservative MPs on board.

The bill calls for the UK to consider its carbon footprint, including consumption emissions releases overseas as a result of goods manufactured abroad for use in the UK, as well as introducing a citizens' assembly to recommend measures. The group was not hopeful about it getting very far without any support from Conservative politicians.

Fairtrade Fortnight 22 February – 7 March 2021

Theme: Climate Emergency – Impact of climate on small producers.

Downloadable ecumenical service at:

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/resources-library/current-campaigns/fairtrade-and-the-climate-crisis/ecumenical-service/>

Divestment/Investment

Three out of the 22 Catholic dioceses have now divested from fossil fuels – well done!

Catholic Divestment/Investment Webinars – promoted by **Operation Noah** continue to be very good. The latest Divestment webinar: 'We cannot be people who profit from the wreckage of this planet' was addressed by Bill McKibben on 17 February

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41571>

Bright Now: www.brightnow.org.uk

350.org: <https://350.org/>

Seven-year *Laudato Si'* Plan

A key Vatican document announcing a 7-year plan for implementing *Laudato Si'* is at: <http://www.humandevlopment.va/en/news/laudato-si-special-anniversary-year-plan.html>

and <https://youtu.be/dncPaiqJg20>

Message of Pope Francis to participants in 'The Economy of Francesco'

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40957>

Green Christian

GREEN CHRISTIAN MONTHLY PRAYER GUIDE

Subscribe: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/prayer-guide/>

Email Monthly - Have an email sent to you announcing when the monthly guide is online or

Email Daily - Arrange to have emails sent for daily prayers/meditations

Other campaigns:

London Mining Network highlights the worst aspects of extractive industries and they have also lobbied that mining companies observe lockdown and stop going into rainforests.

<http://londonminingnetwork.org/>

Campaigns on Trade, Food and Climate at **Global Justice Now** at:

<https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/>

Biodiversity

In the leadup to the May 2021 international conference on biodiversity in China, Columban JPIC international has produced a podcast series for the Season of Creation. Ellen is on 5: 'Nonviolence for the Earth'

<https://columbancenter.org/jubileepodcast>

Speakers the Columbans have suggested as being expert from a Christian perspective are:

Sean McDonagh, eco-theologian and author of 'The Death of Life'

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Death-Life-Extinction-Forever/dp/1856074641>

Professor Ghilleen Prance, former Director of Kew Gardens.

The Spring 2021 newsletter **Vocation for Justice** took the theme 'A Time for Healing'

<https://columbans.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/David-FINALNewsletterWednesday.pdf>

The centerspread provides study on *Fratelli Tutti*.

AOB

Churches back new nuclear weapons ban treaty

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/news/13767/churches-back-nuclear-weapons-ban-treaty>

Japanese and Korean bishops protest plan to dump radioactive water into sea

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41573>

A bishop explains why the decision to open new coal mine in Cumbria is problematic

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/1/1717/a-bishop-explains-why-the-decision-to-open-new-coal-mine-in-cumbria-is-so-hard-to-call>

This was the 60th meeting of the NJPN Environment group! It has been going for 15 years.

Here is an article marking the 50th meeting in 2018:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/35839>

Events:

Lent series on 'Global Healing'

This Lent, a series of reflective evenings with speakers, prayer and discussion, is underway using the film-based resource 'Global Healing'. These documentaries inform and challenge participants to respond to Pope Francis' call to care for "our common home". Speakers include Bishop John Arnold of Salford, lead bishop for the environment in England and Wales, and a representative of a livesimply parish. The zoom events, which are free, take place on six Thursdays until 25th March 2021, 7.30pm - 8.30pm. *To register contact jane@catholicclimatemovement.global*

Or

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvcOuuqzsvEtMBwz2hxBzhhvwy0hcgyoEb>

First session at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhBlwXxBhHA&feature=youtu.be>

(Keynote speaker was Carmody Grey and more than 400 people participated)

Scottish Laity Network: Lenten Journey 2021. Thursdays until 27th March

The Scottish Laity Network's Lenten Journey - Discipleship for Artisans of our own Destiny ~ Preparing the Future – began on Thursday 18 February with Professor Jim Skea addressing the theme of What is the Hope of COP 26? Professor Skea is the Co-chair of Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), leading their work on climate change mitigation, a founding member of the UK's Committee on Climate Change and chair of the Scottish Government's Just Transition Commission - advising on a carbon-neutral economy that is fair for all. Details plus recording at <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41599>

Other great speakers on the Thursdays.

Thursday 25 February 7-8.30pm

Lorna Gold - Acting Chair of the Board of Directors of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and a member of the Vatican's COVID 19 Commission Economics Taskforce.

Scottish Laity Network Lenten Journey series

To register please email slaitynetwork@gmail.com

12- 15 March and 16-19 April

Zoom Retreats at Boarbank Hall: Living Laudato Si

See: www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41582 and

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41582>

31 May to 1 June

Online Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN)

Addressing the theme 'Reconciled with Creation: a Call for Urgent Action on Climate and Biodiversity' at the Evangelical Academy in Germany.

<https://www.ecen.org/index.php/assemblies/13th-assembly-online>

23-25 July 2021 – NJPN Annual Conference ‘Action for Life on Earth’

- **Swanwick in Derbyshire.**

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

1 - 12 November 2021

United Nations Climate Conference of Parties 26 (COP26)

Scottish Events Campus, Glasgow, UK. The climate talks will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together over 30,000 delegates including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. The Vatican will be represented.

Resources:

The Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare: A Policy Framework for Churches and Christian Organizations is a 60 page report from the AHRC-funded Christian Ethics of Farmed Animal Welfare project. It sets out:

- why farmed animal welfare should be a Christian concern;
- a Christian approach to farmed animal welfare grounded in the concept of creaturely flourishing;
- an overview informed by veterinary science of what major farmed animal species (chickens, fish, sheep, pigs, and cattle) need to flourish and how far current UK farming systems enable this flourishing;
- conclusions and recommendations for churches, Christian organizations, Christian investors, and other stakeholders.

The report is available from <https://www1.chester.ac.uk/christian-ethics-farmed-animal-welfare>

Faith for Earth — A Call for Action

United Nations Environment Programme

Describes the essential reverence that all religions have for creation and nature, and introduces the world's major life support systems. The book hopes to give

information and inspiration to learn more about our planet, to share knowledge and commitment to care for it, and to become part of the flourishing global interfaith movement that is increasingly bringing people together to protect and sustain life on Earth.

Free download at:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33991/FECA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Invisible Hand

A new documentary, *'Invisible Hand'*, narrated by actor Mark Ruffalo, is a documentary on the Rights of Nature Movement. Critics are calling it a “paradigm shifting” story about the global battle between Nature and society. *INVISIBLE HAND* weaves together fights for the natural world in Pennsylvania and Ohio, the international fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock, North Dakota, and the adoption of Rights of Nature into Ecuador’s national constitution. The film that asks, “*If a corporation has rights, why can’t an ecosystem?*”

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

Book: Robots, Ethics and the Future of Jobs by Sean McDonagh
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41563>

Viewpoint by Ellen Teague: ‘Laudato Si’ inspires us to challenge HS2’s destruction of trees’

HS2 is the biggest deforestation project in Europe.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/40647>

Updated daily news on twitter – Boots on the Ground News! @bearwitness2019

This coming weekend ***The Universe*** carries stories on:

The NJPN July conference, NJPN Column on Climate Action, Lancaster bishop challenging a coalmine, a challenge to the Gates Foundation funding GM crops in Africa, and a quote from the Columbans re the Business Clean up Fund. Some at

<https://thecatholicuniverse.com/>

Next meeting: Wednesday 26 May 11am Zoom