



JUSTICE AND PEACE

Summer 2022

Editor writes: As I was putting the final touches to Spring Mouthpeace on February 24th, Russian tanks were entering Ukraine. Three months later and we have just entertained a Ukrainian mother, her daughter aged 10 and her son aged 6. Their home is in Kyiv but they have Ukrainian friends in Manchester who have helped them come here. They are living at present with our neighbours and we offered to 'keep an eye on them' while their hosts are away. So out came the grandchildren's toys which they rooted through. We had planned a walk and picnic but the weather defeated us.

It has been an interesting three months with plenty to reflect on. At the start of the present invasion we prayed earnestly for the people of Ukraine. The resistance of the Ukrainians was a surprise (to me and I suspect to President Putin) and the new president Zelensky has rather unexpectedly proved well up to the task that has fallen on his shoulders. So the war continues. Now the scope of our prayers has widened and we pray not just for Ukraine but for all those other parts of the world troubled by war...and there are many, some of which were previously forgotten. War close at hand seems to hone our understanding of the lack of peace throughout our world.

The same has happened with refugees. In the past maybe, unless it was a special personal commitment, many of us did not spend time with refugees. But now it is an easy neighbourly activity as Ukrainian families seem to be arriving throughout the UK. But again our vision has broadened. We think of all those who have arrived here but have not been welcomed into a family home and are stuck in hotels, hostels etc. unable to move on. Even worse there are those who face the prospect of being deported to Rwanda.

I could not have foreseen all this in February and wonder now what the next three months will bring.

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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury

www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk <https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk



44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK
22-24 July 2022 The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire



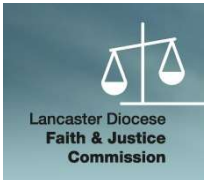
Paul Southgate NJPN Chair at their AGM on May 7th asked 'Where is the hope?' 'How do you maintain hope when surrounded by so many problems as we are today?'

He suggested hope was not passive like being in a dark tunnel with a star of light at the end. We have to take action, move over the obstacles to reach towards the light. When you have this active hope others get inspired too.

This year's conference is partnered by several organisations which like NJPN are actively moving towards the light: Christians Aware www.christiansaware.co.uk . Stella Maris www.stellamaris.org.uk/ , ACTA <https://acalltoaction.org.uk/> and Joint Public Issues Team. <https://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

To book download form here <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>

Conference Chair: Tim Livesey, CEO of Embrace the Middle East, who work with Christian partners in Egypt, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Syria and Iraq serving marginalised and excluded communities including refugees, people living with disabilities, vulnerable women and girls, very poor rural and urban slum communities. Previously Tim has worked as Director of Public Affairs for Dr Rowan Williams when he was Archbishop of Canterbury, and was Chief of Staff for Ed Milliband, Leader of the Labour Party. He had 19 years in a variety of roles in the Foreign Office and Downing Street, including four years running the UK's development programme in Nigeria. See 'My Middle East' page 9



'FINDING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST, THE POOR AND CREATION' SATURDAY 4th JUNE
at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Preston (5 mins from railway station) from 10am - 3.30pm.

Fr Eamonn Mulcahy has kindly agreed to be our keynote speaker on the subject and will also celebrate Mass at 12.15pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch or buy locally from Fishergate. After lunch there will be several short presentations.

Book via: [Eventbrite - Finding Jesus in the Eucharist](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/finding-jesus-in-the-eucharist-the-poor-and-creation-tickets-31234567890) or via link on www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk contact Sue Grubic (Faith & Justice Worker) at ldfjsue@gmail.com for further details.



18 JUNE 2022 PAX CHRISTI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
10.30 am for 11.00 start to 4.30 pm at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London, WC2H 8EP
and online via zoom.

To register to attend in person: email admin@paxchristi.org.uk. To attend online, register at <https://tinyurl.com/3cw33jp9>

The morning's business will be followed by afternoon input from Guest Speaker: The Reverend Mary Gregory, Canon for Arts and Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, who has chosen the title **Engaged, Wounded: Reframing Ourselves for Peace and Reconciliation**

Participants are invited to bring their own lunch. For 2022 Annual Report; 2022 AGM invitation; Minutes from last year's AGM are and details for voting <https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/newsletter>



Other PAX CHRISTI EVENTS

Wednesday June 8 The Ukraine Crisis Professor Paul Rogers, Emeritus Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University. Join on Zoom. 7pm. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/paulrogersukraine>

Tuesday June 14 Discussion: Welcoming the Stranger in a hostile environment The zoom meeting will be led by Enver Solomon, Chief Executive of The Refugee Council UK, and the Rev Chris Brice, Chair of the London Churches Refugee Fund. The theme will include: Welcoming refugees, sponsoring a family, opposing the Government's hostile Immigration Law, speaking out on refugee injustice, and more. Register in advance for this meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuceyoqTksG9cANMzU2SyQFVADmWhUCKNe> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

PAX CHRISTI E-Bulletin May 2022

Advertising for a new CEO resulted in a good response and a short list of candidates who took part in a rigorous interview process. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond anyone's control, we have been unable to make an appointment.

Peace Sunday The total received so far from Peace Sunday donations is £31,898. Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously. If you haven't had the opportunity to celebrate peace yet this year, please see if your parish, school or community can choose a day to do that. It could be around Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day, International Peace Day or a Feast Day that is special to you.

Some schools have had a Peace Day or Week and one even had a Peace Month and helped to raise much needed donations for us. We can help with resources and would be grateful for any donations you can raise.

As a result of Peace Sunday in January, we have gained 11 new members – a very warm welcome to you all.

The need for peacemakers and to support the work of peace is so very apparent now. We can't do that work without the financial and practical help of our members and we thank you for your commitment and generosity. If you are reading this and are not a member, please join us. Members, please encourage others to join. Please ask people, ensure that there are resources, prayer cards and membership leaflets in churches, staff rooms and community venues. Your Parish, School or Community can also join. Let us know how we can support you.



AISLING'S VISIT

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission was delighted to welcome Aisling Griffin from Pax Christi to the Diocese. Aisling undertook a number of 'Peace and Conflict' workshops with secondary schools within the area including St Bedes, Our Lady's, Fulwood, St Cecelia's and Our Lady's, Lancaster. Aisling asked pupils to consider and discuss statements such as 'If you want peace, you must prepare for war' and 'If you want peace, you must work for justice'. Pupils were also



asked to imagine how they would work for a better world if they were Prime Minister and what action they would take. Grateful thanks to Aisling and Pax Christi for a wonderful, informative visit and many thanks too, to the Xaverians who kindly hosted her accommodation.

Photos show Aisling working with the pupils in Our Lady's School, Lancaster



THE NORTH WEST TAKES ACTION

The inaugural GREEN EXPO in Chester in June 2022 will show what has been achieved in the region on progress to Net Zero and climate change and how it will impact how we live, work and play.

Green Expo will have components for business – The Green Expo Welcome & Awards Dinner on Wednesday 15th June and The Green Expo Conference with a special Inward Investment focus, on Thursday 16th June. A Youth Conference for school and college students is on Friday 17th June.

And the Green Expo Exposition, FREE to attend, which will run alongside the River Dee in Chester, on Castle Drive from Thursday 16th to Saturday 18th June. All will feature the latest sustainable technologies for powering our future homes, transport and lives. There will be demonstrations, exhibits and presentations for many leading organisations in the region, and it will offer a chance for both businesses and individuals to gain an understanding of how these technologies will impact upon their lives.

<https://greenexpo.uk/>





SUNDAY 19 JUNE "CONCERT FOR PEACE"
St Michael & All Angels Church, Market Place, Macclesfield SK10 1D

3.30 pm

An afternoon concert of music featuring DAN McKINNON singer/songwriter/solo guitarist and TAYLOR GIACOMA, soloists and choir in aid of 'Refugees Welcome Macclesfield'

Entry by ticket only (£3) from www.wegotickets.com/event/546258

Donations to 'Refugees Welcome' when booking your ticket via WeGotTickets Cash collection on the day and poetry anthology "Worn With Pride" at £5 - proceeds to Refugees Welcome

Catch DAN McKINNON, with his warm baritone voice and superb guitar arrangements on the last day of his 2022 UK Tour before returning to his native Nova Scotia. Hear the world premiere of 'What Will You Say?' written and conducted by TAYLOR GIACOMA, local composer, arising from poetry written by Macclesfield pupils. This unique, moving and thought-provoking piece takes us on a musical journey through Conflict, Peace and the Dilemmas of War



Refugee Week June 20 – 26 2022 invites us to explore the theme of 'Healing'. Through creativity and conversations, the week will be a celebration of community, mutual care, and the human ability to start again.

Healing means recovering from a painful experience or situation, so that we can continue to live. No-one understands this better than those who have lost their homes and had to build new lives from scratch. We have much to learn from refugees about holding onto hope when going on seems impossible – as well as about how art, creativity and community can help us to heal. Those going through the asylum system also know that healing is an ongoing process, made harder by poverty, housing difficulties and the threat of being detained or deported. Asking for change, so that refugees can truly feel safe, is an act of care. Whether it's about looking after ourselves and each other at difficult times, overcoming political divisions or coming together to fight for the survival of our shared planet, healing matters to all of us. Whoever and wherever you are, we hope you'll join us for Refugee Week 2022 to imagine a world where healing replaces harm, and care becomes our shared currency. <https://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

HELP FIGHT THE ANTI-REFUGEE LAWS



In April 2022 the Nationality and Borders Bill passed in Parliament, turning the anti-refugee bill into the anti-refugee laws. For the Jesuit Refugee Service response see <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/44574>

The Government has chosen to punish refugees rather than protect them. It's a tragedy that must be put right. Unless we fight back, Britain's days as a safe haven could be over. When the anti-refugee laws are repealed it won't be a second too soon, but it will be too late for many of the lives ruined by this legislation. We believe that people seeking protection from war and persecution should be welcomed and that everyone's claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly. We believe that the UK should offer sanctuary to those who need it. That's why we're taking a stand.

Launching the pledge for the public! Following hundreds of organisations signing the pledge, and thousands of people emailing their MP to ask them to sign it as well, we have now opened up signatories to individual members of the public with this action.

Now you can sign the pledge as an individual... <https://act.refugee-action.org.uk/page/106452/petition/1>

Please support the promotion of the pledge by sharing this action with your networks. A draft tweet is below:

The @ukhomeoffice's new #AntiRefugeeLaws will have devastating consequences for people seeking safety. We will fight these cruel laws at every turn. Stand with us and pledge to defend the right to seek safety: <https://act.refugee-action.org.uk/page/106452/petition/1>



NO TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Dr Kate Hudson CND General Secretary wrote on April 13th 2022:

“News that US nuclear weapons may already be back in Britain, at RAF/USAF Lakenheath in East Anglia, makes Britain once again a forward nuclear base for the US in Europe.

“110 US/NATO free-fall B61 nuclear bombs were removed from Lakenheath in 2008, following sustained protest at the base by CND and the Lakenheath Action Group. US nuclear bombs had been located there since 1954. Their return – assigned to NATO – will increase global tensions and put Britain on the front line in a NATO/Russia war. B61s have continued to be sited in five other countries in across Europe – Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Turkey – in spite of strong opposition to them in some of the ‘host’ countries.

“The news was revealed by expert Hans Kristiansen after scrutinising a recent US Department of Defense (DoD) document, justifying its 2023 budget plans to Congress. It added the UK to the list of European sites in line for infrastructure investment for storing “special weapons within secure sites and facilities”. Special weapons mean nuclear weapons and the DoD has cited the need to improve NATO infrastructure within alliance territories, in the context of increasing tension with Russia and the current escalating war. The UK was not on the comparable list for the previous year, so this looks like a very recent decision.

“Since the weapons were removed in 2008, the empty storage vaults for the weapons have been on ‘caretaker’ status, but reports of nuclear exercises at Lakenheath increase the likelihood that nuclear weapons are back, or on their way; the base currently hosts F-15E fighter-bombers with nuclear capability but these are being replaced by the new nuclear-capable F-35A Lightning. The first of these new fighter-bombers arrived in December 2021. Within the next year US/NATO nuclear bases in Europe will also receive the new B61-12 guided nuclear bomb which is entering full-scale production in the US.

“The return of US nuclear weapons to Britain and the upgrading of its nuclear weapons across Europe constitutes a further undermining of prospects for peace in Europe and beyond. The US is the only country to locate its nuclear weapons outside its own borders and this major increase in NATO’s capacity to wage nuclear war in Europe is dangerously destabilising.

“The big question is whether they have already been returned to Britain, or is their delivery still in preparation. Either way this is a huge challenge for the peace movement and we will do everything we can to prevent these weapons being sited here. Speaking recently about the risks of the Ukraine war turning nuclear, I said that it was precisely these weapons, at bases across Europe, that would be likely to be used first in a nuclear war over Ukraine – that the US/Russia war will be fought in Europe. This was our worst fear in the 1980s when millions mobilised across Europe against cruise and Pershing missiles being sited here. In the 1980s we got rid of all those weapons, and we have to have the energy, the commitment and the confidence to do that again.”

Since April, members of Parliamentary CND have submitted written questions to the Ministry of Defence to seek clarity on whether US nuclear weapons were returning to Lakenheath.



Saturday 21 May peace activists from across the country joined to demonstrate at Lakenheath.

While the MoD refused to answer questions on the return of US nuclear bombs, on May 23rd Jeremy Quin, the Secretary of State for Defence admitted that the MoD “has agreed to deliver a number of infrastructure programmes and projects on behalf of the United States Visiting Forces at RAF Lakenheath.”

Parliamentary CND is now tabling an Early Day Motion (EDM) to call on the government to decline to host these weapons of mass destruction and to use all possible diplomatic efforts to de-escalate current nuclear tensions. You can help by writing to your MP, urging them to support EDM 98 by following the link <https://cnd.eaction.org.uk/EDM98>.

In February 2022 Church Action for Tax Justice launched its new Good Measure campaign, calling on the UK Government to introduce an initial one-off wealth tax on the country's richest 1%. We are also asking for a review of the UK's system of personal taxes, such that an ongoing, progressive net wealth tax may be introduced in the future. Join the campaign <https://www.eccr.org.uk/good-measure-campaign/>

We believe it's time we created a tax system that enabled the wealthiest in society to pay their fair share. Church Action for Tax Justice stands for a fairer, greener tax system where taxes are set to reflect the Common Good, and individuals and corporations pay their fair share. We believe that tax should not be seen as a burden; it's a way of showing love for our neighbour and creating the type of just society which we find in the teachings of Jesus and the prophets.

In the context of increasing global inequality and unprecedented environmental challenges, the tax system can play a vital role in building more just and sustainable societies, and in fostering good relations between human beings. Christians are encouraged to 'act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly' (Micah 6:8) in all areas of our lives.

Tax Justice Sunday is an opportunity for churches across the UK to celebrate this commitment – and in particular, to consider how Christians can stand up for a more just and fair tax system; one which enables all people to pay their fair share and contribute to the common good. Church Action for Tax Justice: www.eccr.org.uk/church-action-for-tax-justice/

STRUCK DOWN BUT NOT DESTROYED 20 years of prayer and protest for Eritrea



Thursday 19th May Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), Church in Chains (Ireland), the Eritrean Orthodox Church in the UK, Human Rights Concern-Eritrea and Release Eritrea organised a time of prayer and protest to stand alongside our Eritrean friends to mark 20 years since the beginning of a campaign of repression that continues to target the Church in Eritrea today. If you missed this event you can catch up <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMca8JjfPAI>

To take part in the suggested campaign action for Eritrea: Send a message to the Eritrean embassies in the UK and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. To do so, simply copy the below text and paste it as a comment on any of the embassy's Facebook posts <https://www.facebook.com/eritreanembassy.addisababa.1> and also <https://www.facebook.com/Eritrea.Embassy.Media> (you need a Facebook account to do this).

Dear Ambassador

As the nation approaches its 31st independence anniversary, I extend my warmest regards to the people of Eritrea. I am saddened, however, by the realisation that so many Eritrean citizens are yet to enjoy the full dividends of independence for which so much was sacrificed by so many.

May also marks the 20th year since most of the nation's Christian denominations were proscribed. I remain concerned at the continuing unjust, arbitrary, and indefinite detention of tens of thousands of Eritrean citizens in harsh conditions, including hundreds of Christians imprisoned solely on account of their faith.

In addition, I am dismayed by reports of Eritrean lives being lost in the war in neighbouring Ethiopia, including those of conscripts and minors. It is also deeply regrettable that an army previously associated with an heroic liberation struggle is now implicated in the gravest of international crimes, both domestically and in Ethiopia's Tigray and Oromia regions.

I urge you, therefore, to use your good offices to encourage your government to release every prisoner of conscience unconditionally, to withdraw Eritrean forces from Ethiopia, and to use Eritrea's current term on the UN Human Rights Council to cooperate with its special procedures to address the nation's human rights crisis.

Yours sincerely



“DISASTER RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL SAFETY IN NIGERIA” Dominic Brain

This presentation was made on 2 March 2022 to a joint meeting with Chester World Development Forum in the University of Chester Department of Geography and International Development. Gill Miller introduced Dominic, who is the Global Head of Programme Development and Funding at Christian Aid.

Dominic began by noting that Christian Aid had been founded after WWII to support refugees in Europe, and made reference to the unfortunate repetition of a European refugee crisis brought on by the attack on the Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

Nigeria is a very large country, with a population of 300 million across 36 states in a federal system of government. It is Africa’s largest economy, and the continent’s largest exporter of oil. It is also Africa’s largest importer of refined petroleum products. The projects which Dominic described are being delivered by Christian Aid’s (CA) Nigerian staff in two of the states in the northern part of Nigeria – Sokoto and Kaduna – which are in the semi-arid sub-Saharan ‘Sahel’ region. In north-eastern Nigeria, in the areas closest to Lake Chad, there is a serious insurgency by Boko Haram, which has created an unstable security situation. This instability and conflict has set back years of progress. Dominic quoted a figure of 1.8 million internally displaced people in that area, about 80% of whom are being hosted by families and 20% are in camps. Unfortunately, the security situation in the north west is also worsening, to the extent that aid workers and CA staff can not drive around without being at risk of abduction and being held to ransom by insurgents.

Dominic talked a little about the roots of the insurgency. Because of over-extraction of water for irrigation, Lake Chad has shrunk considerably, which has contributed to instability and extremism. Climate change has also contributed to the problem. There are long standing tensions between settled farmers growing crops, and semi- nomadic animal herders. Dominic’s view was that instability and insecurity were the results of a failure of development. With appropriate development in place, there would be effective infrastructure – both physical and of governance – to make the communities resilient and able to remain stable and secure in the face of these pressures. [This view was challenged in one of the questions after the end of Dominic’s presentation.]

In spite of the northern part of Nigeria being semi-arid, flooding is the most prevalent natural disaster. It happens annually, and seems to be worsening (due to climate change?). In 2012, there were massive floods in Nigeria which affected 7 million people: 2 million were displaced by the floods, and the total estimated cost at the time was US\$17 billion.

The Christian Aid projects Dominic described aim to improve community resilience to natural (climatic) disasters. Disasters expose failures of development, and it is always the poorest people who suffer the most. They can’t stop the floods happening but can mitigate against the worst effects of them. Often poverty leads to no coping strategies. Hence one of Christian Aid’s approaches aims to empower poor and vulnerable groups of people to enable them to manage risks themselves and to improve their wellbeing so that they can live with dignity. This is called “Survivor / Community led response” – SCLR. The other is “Disaster Reduction and Social Safety – DRaSS.

The basic building blocks underlying the project actions are very simple, aiming to build support systems before disaster strikes:

- Create early warning systems, which can be as simple as having a river level indicator which villagers will check regularly.
- Hold safety drills, especially targeting helping older, more vulnerable and disabled residents to get to higher ground.
- Provide first aid training.
- Create and train local committees who will be responsible for their own communities.
- Encourage enrolment in social support, bringing together neighbours, families, villages.
- Connect with the agencies that exist at state and national level which offer practical, logistical and financial support for disaster (flood) response.

Dominic acknowledged that there are significant gender issues: women and girls may suffer exclusion (from emergency evacuation). Northern Nigeria is mostly muslim, with a rural population that is very traditional and conservative in its outlook. It is essential for development agencies like Christian Aid to work through the local religious organisations, who may have initial suspicions which need to be overcome. It takes time to build the necessary trust which is essential if the project is to succeed. Dominic was very clear that the measure for success would not be established until a few years after the formal end of a project, after the aid workers had moved on to another area. Were the simple measures put in place – early warnings; preparedness; risk

reduction – still being used by the community in question? Data collected so far showed that the expenditure on community resilience has been hugely cost effective: each dollar spent on these preventative measures could result in a saving of as much as \$20 in the event of a flood, depending on the local circumstances. But as ever, there are political considerations which will determine if and where money is spent on preventative measures against natural disasters.

I did not take notes on the audience questions, but don't remember them really bringing new aspects of these projects to the fore. Rather, my impression was that they were probing deeper into some of the issues Dominic had already covered – perhaps reflecting the specific interests of individual members of the audience.

While the presentation was specifically about Christian Aid projects in northern Nigeria, the principles from them are widely applicable. Many parts of the world are liable to suffering what we usually call "natural disasters", but which in reality are just the hazards of living in that particular place. This might be severe storms, floods, droughts, avalanches, earthquakes or epidemics. Any community that is well prepared, with solid infrastructures and good governance in place, will suffer far less lasting damage. Indeed, Dominic contrasted the effects of recent major earth- quakes in Haiti and Japan. In Japan, the recovery has been swift, while in Haiti the situation remains dire many years afterwards.

Posted by Vicki Jenner on CWDF website May 5 2022



A message from Niall Cooper Director, Church Action on Poverty

2022 marks 40 years of Church Action on Poverty. It's a big milestone. But we're not resting on our laurels. This year we are launching a new long-term strategy, to grow a movement of churches, community partners and people struggling against poverty themselves, to reclaim dignity, agency and power together. You can be part of this exciting movement for change. To mark our 40th anniversary, Church Action on Poverty supporter Urzula Glienecke asked people to make a donation instead of giving her birthday presents this year.

She says: "I chose Church Action on Poverty for my birthday fundraiser because its work means a lot to me. It's more needed now than ever with the effects of Covid, Brexit and the crisis in Ukraine. It is a joy to see how the Local Pantries and other initiatives help people to change their lives: gaining confidence and hope back, becoming a supportive community with each other."

Could you do the same? We aim to raise £40,000 this year, and we are already nearly halfway there. Your donations could make a real difference. <https://ca-p2p.engagingnetworks.app/22625/give-your-birthday>

ONLINE BOOK LAUNCH WEDNESDAY 8TH JUNE 7.30 – 8 pm

CAP have drawn on 40 years of experience to create an inspiring collection of poems; prayers, hymns and liturgies; Stories of people's real experiences and struggles against poverty and much more besides.

This is a book that is an invaluable resource for churches and individuals who want to be part of the movement to end UK poverty. You'll hear from some of the contributors and get the chance to talk to them about the stories, prayers and poems they've shared.

Register to join <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dignity-agency-power-online-launch-event-tickets-334559605787>



THE NEXT GLOBAL DIVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FAITH ORGANISATIONS TUESDAY 5 JULY 2022

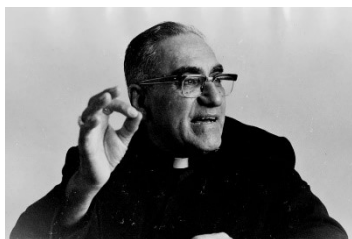
launched by The Laudato Si' Movement, World Council of Churches, Green Anglicans, GreenFaith, and Operation Noah'

Recent months have highlighted the urgent need for energy that is clean, just and affordable. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underlined the urgent need for a fair and fast transition from fossil fuels and towards clean alternatives. It said, "limiting warming requires shifting energy investments away from fossil fuels and towards low carbon technologies."

Yet, new research published in recent weeks, has showed that just 20 oil and gas companies - including Exxon, Shell, Total and BP - are planning to spend \$932 billion on new oil and gas projects up to 2030.

If you would be interested in getting your local church, regional Church structures (dioceses and equivalents) or religious order to make a divestment commitment, we would be delighted to hear from you. Any groups interested in joining the announcement will confirm (i) that they have divested from fossil fuel investments; or (ii) that they will divest from any investments in fossil fuels as soon as possible, and within five years at the latest; or (iii) that they do not hold any fossil fuel investments and will not invest in fossil fuels in the future.

Please get in touch with Bokani Tshidzu on bokani.tshidzu@operationnoah.org before 28 June 2022 for further information or to register your interest.



BE GOD'S MICROPHONE

Dr Edgardo Colón-Emeric, Dean of the Divinity School at Duke University, in North Carolina, gave a powerful address on Saturday March 19th at an ecumenical service in St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, beginning a week of events marking the 42nd anniversary of the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero.

The service was introduced by Revd Richard Carter, Associate Vicar for Mission at St Martin's. Video of the service - www.facebook.com/stmartininthefields/videos/656290225643826

Clare Dixon Regional Manager Latin America and Caribbean at CAFOD read the following extract from a homily given by Oscar Romero soon after the radio station, funded by CAFOD was bombed.

"We might be left without a radio station: God's best microphone is Christ, and Christ's best microphone is the Church, and the Church is all of you. Let each one of you, in your own job, in your own vocation - nun, married person, bishop, priest, high school or university student, day labourers wage earner, market woman - one in your own place ... live the faith intensely and feel that in your surroundings you are a true microphone of God Our Lord.

Each one of you has to be God's microphone . Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist as long as there is someone who has been baptised ... Where is your baptism. You are baptised in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptised , that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the tales that God gave us on the day of our baptism and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people."

BAD ADVERTISING!

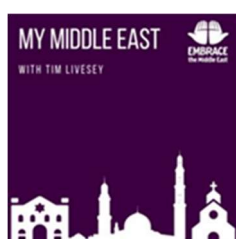
Fossil fuel companies, car companies and airlines spend billions each year advertising their high carbon products - despite growing public concerns over air pollution and climate breakdown.

Whoever you are, Badvertising gives you the tools you need to tackle high carbon advertising, supporting a shift in social attitudes away from these products and towards a cleaner, sustainable future. <https://www.badverts.org/>



Badvert of the month – April . Free flights for plastic bottles. Green wash reaches new heights with Manchester City and Etihad. The campaign “Stay blue by going green” launched from March 6th is encouraging customers to ‘recycle’ their plastic bottles at the stadium by rewarding them with Etihad Guest Miles to go towards taking climate-polluting flights. The bizarre scheme gives incentives to fly for being good at recycling, even though the environmental impact from flying is far greater. Through this initiative, the football club is promoting a new managed waste system on its Etihad campus, claiming it will remove all

single use plastics from its stadium. “All you have to do is drop your plastic bottles in any of the pods and scan the QR code next to them to earn Etihad Guest Miles and help make a difference to the planet.”

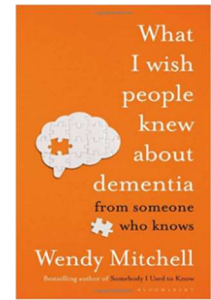


EMBRACE CEO TIM LIVESEY speaks to people from all walks of life with different perspectives of the Middle East to try to paint a picture of what the Middle East really looks like. These include Dr Rowan Williams on Middle Eastern Christianity, Elizabeth Harris Sawczenko on Israel, Serop Ohanian on my Lebanese hospital, Sister Bridget Tighe General Secretary of Caritas Jerusalem and a Franciscan Missionary sister on Gaza and Sylvia Haddad, executive director of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon on my refugee camp. <https://embraceme.org/podcast/>

Marian Thompson writes:

WHAT I WISH PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT DEMENTIA from someone who knows by Wendy Mitchell 2022

Wendy was diagnosed with early onset dementia in July 2014 when she was in her 50s. She then knew very little about the disease except that it involved loss of memory. In the following years she has learnt so much more and particularly has developed many strategies that enable her to live alone with the encouragement of her two adult daughters. She is determined that they do not become her 'carers'. This book is very positive and helpful in understanding the wide variety of ways dementia can affect people, their lives and their relationships. It is not just about 'memory loss'. Wendy describes how people with dementia can easily be excluded from various groups and activities by people who do not have the necessary skills and insights to include them. She describes what she calls 'niche groups' for people with dementia. In her ideal world there wouldn't be a need for these. 'We only really have support groups because society won't make the adjustments that would allow us to integrate'. Perhaps if many more people - not just those who are involved in some way with dementia - read her book this dream could come true.



The same week as I was reading this book there was an article in the Sunday Times by Amy Bloom an American author who escorted her husband Brian to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland to die. He had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. In less than a week from the diagnosis, he had decided he did not want 'the long goodbye'. He said to his wife "I want to die on my feet, not live on my knees, and you will help me because you love me". The arrangements had to be made quickly as the clinic will not accept anyone who cannot clearly make the choice themselves and Brian didn't know when he would reach that stage. Two very different approaches are described here to the same diagnosis offering challenges to us as Christians.

DIARY

JUNE

- 4 'Finding Jesus in the Eucharist, the Poor and Creation' keynote speaker- Fr Eamonn Mulcahy: St Wilfrid's Preston: Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission page 2
- 5 World Environment Day <https://www.unep.org/events/un-day/world-environment-day-2022>
- 8 World Oceans Day <https://worldoceanday.org/>
- 8 Pax Christi Paul Rogers on The Ukraine Crisis Join on Zoom. 7pm. Page 2
- 12 Tax Justice Sunday page 6
- 14 Pax Christi discussion: Welcoming the Stranger in a hostile environment Online at 7.30 pm page 2
- 16 World Refill Day <https://www.refill.org.uk/world-refill-day/>
- 16 – 18 Green Expo in Chester page 3
- 18 Pax Christi AGM: paxchristi.org.uk page 2
- 19 Day for Life <http://www.dayforlife.org>
- 19 "Concert for Peace" St Michael Church, Macclesfield SK10 1D in aid of Refugees Welcome Macclesfield Page 4
- 20–26 Refugee Week 2022 'Healing' Page 4
- 26 International Day of Support for Victims of Torture: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day>

JULY

- 9 Global Justice Now AGM for members : 11am National gathering with speakers 1-6 pm - all welcome: Owen Building Sheffield Hallam University <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/event/hope-dark/>
- 10 Sea Sunday <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/seasunday/> 020 79011931
- 19 CWDF Forum meeting at The Unity Centre, 7pm. CWDF members Linda & Stewart Shuttleworth will give us an update on their ongoing work in Uganda to improve mental health services in this large developing country.
- 22 -24 National J&P Conference: Swanwick, Derbyshire justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference Page 2

AUGUST

- 6 & 9 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations:
- 26-29 Greenbelt Festival: Boughton Hall, Northants: greenbelt.org.uk; 0207 329 0038

SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4

- Season of Creation www.cbcew.org.uk/season-of-creation/
- 1st September: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

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/>
- NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-north-west/>

If you have any material for the Autumn Mouthpiece please send to Marian Thompson marian37et@gmail.com by August 15th