



*If you want to go fast, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.*
(African Proverb)

Dear Friends,

It looks like it's going to be a shorter e-Bulletin this week. Often these days, I find time just seems to run away with me, and that has indeed happened this weekend. I think this time I'll just chalk it up to old age!

The news since our last e-Bulletin has been completely covered with the Conservative Leadership race, and a lot of the campaign promises from both Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss seem to show a certain disregard for the marginalised people of our society. On top of that, with the extensive leadership race coverage, it is obviously drowning out the voices of those who truly need to be heard.

Now, I couldn't write my editor's note without saying a big thank you to everyone involved in the NJPN Annual Conference that took place between the 22nd and 24th July. Like last year it was a wonderful and enlightening weekend, filled with insight and education. For those who didn't come this year, I hope to see you next year (or at any one of our upcoming meetings!). It is so encouraging to see the huge amount of people who really do want to make a difference.

I was listening to the Gospel reading today, and in the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus explained to his disciples that it was best to be ready and waiting when the Master arrives. Perhaps Jesus was talking about the Day of Reckoning, or perhaps our own deaths. Regardless of whether or not you are a Christian, I think these words could still apply. Now more than ever, we are aware that we have to try and leave the planet in a better state than how we found it.

Off the back of our Conference, I have a few related bits and pieces in this week's e-Bulletin, but also I have tried to add in a bit of variety here and there as well.

The next edition will be out around the first weekend in September. If you have anything you want included please send it through.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,
Sharon

Footnote: - it was actually my son, Michael, that wrote this editorial - he offered, and I agreed - hence the old age comment in the first paragraph!

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Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit

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*****ACTION OF THE WEEK*****



REMEMBERING HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI 6 - 9 AUGUST

Over the next few days we will be remembering the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Pax Christi write: -

Current concerns over the possibility for storing US nuclear weapons at RAF Lakenheath and the war in Ukraine/Russia add extra impetus to this year's commemoration. We know of events taking place in Coventry, Liverpool and Westminster. If you can't get to one of these, can you, spend time in prayer, speak of the anniversary to a friend. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/hiroshima-and-nagasaki/>

As our Action of the Week, we are asking that you get your local Council to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

CND recently held a workshop on 'How to get our councils to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)'. If you didn't manage to see it live, it's now available to watch on CND's website, see <https://cnduk.org/cnds-lockdown-seminars/>.

CND UK have produced a document with some ideas and a draft motion that you can use. If you email kate.hudson@cnduk.org she will be able to provide you with a copy.

Thank you!

In a related article: -

Marking Hiroshima and Nagasaki Anniversaries

[Independent Catholic News](#) have a report from Pax Christi England and Wales about this weekend's commemoration, and there are links to events taking place, plus details of Michael Mears' new play, 'The Mistake' which explores personal stories around the catastrophic event in Hiroshima.

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. NJPN Annual Conference

As mentioned above, we had a great Conference, and there are articles and links to the talks below: -

Independent Catholic News -

['Let us build the City of God'](#) - Ellen Teague's Press Release on the Conference

['How might we begin a rational dialogue in the war with Ukraine'](#) (Philip McDonagh)

[Peacebuilding in Africa](#) (Fr. Patrick Devine)

Journey to 2030 -

[Let us Dream](#) - Gallery of Shared Dreams from an activity that they organised during the Conference. 'Dreams are where a journey starts.'

[NJPN Conference Videos](#) - available to watch on YouTube.

2. Climate/Environment (includes an Event and Actions)



Countdown to COP27

ICN have reported on the Campaigning Paper on Climate Change that the NJPN Environment Group have produced. They have stated how important it is that churches '*speak up and hold the Government to account.*'

The full details can be read [here](#), including links to various websites.

Action - Walk2COP27 (Sharm El-Sheikh)

This initiative starts on the 1st September and ends in November, and they say that Walk2COP27 builds on the experience and lessons learned from Walk2COP26. This is a virtual walk, whereby participants can sign up to walk, run, cycle or wheelchair as far as they can cover over the 45 days, in their chosen location. More details are available through their [website](#).

Desperately Seeking Water

Guy Singh-Watson, founder-owner of Riverford, writes about the lack of rain and how they are dealing with it, along with the problems they are facing with some crops. What is just as interesting are the comments that people post in relation to the article, [Wicked Leeks](#) is always worth a read.

Event - Find out more about becoming a Laudato Si' Animator

Join the Laudato Si' Movement in acting to care for our common home.

This free leadership development course will empower you to bring Laudato Si' to life. Registration for their current free leadership

development course is now open. Register [here](#) to receive information about our next course, beginning August 24.

Action - Tell the next PM not to lift the fracking ban

Friends of the Earth say: - *Candidates for the next prime minister - Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak - have both declared that they want to revive the failed fracking industry. Even though their government was forced to ban fracking following a series of earthquakes in 2019.*

Amid a cost-of-living crisis and record-breaking temperatures, the next prime minister must prioritise affordable renewable energy and home insulation, not dangerous fossil fuel extraction.

Fracking won't meaningfully lower our energy bills. But it will be terrible for our climate.

Please add [your name](#) to their petition to the next Prime Minister.

Sewage Sleuths: the men who revealed the slow, dirty death of Welsh and English rivers

This Long Read from [The Guardian](#) is the story of Peter Hammond and Ashley Smith's investigation into the poisoning of Welsh and English rivers, after noticing that their local river, Windrush, had gradually lost all of its fish. It is a shocking tale of pollution and incompetency by the Environment Agency, OFWAT and various other bodies.

Action - Object to Drax's dangerous carbon capture plans

Biofuelwatch write: - *The UK's single largest carbon emitter and the world's biggest tree burner, Drax, has applied to the Planning Inspectorate to add unproven carbon capture equipment to two of its wood-burning units at Drax Power Station near Selby in Yorkshire.*

We believe that Drax does not have the technical know-how to successfully capture large amounts of CO2. Instead, we assume that Drax wants to obtain this planning consent in order to attract new subsidies and investments based on the promise of Drax becoming the first company in the world to develop a large-scale Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) scheme. Drax's current subsidies (amounting to £982.5 million in 2021) are due to expire in 2027.

For more information and to add your objection, click [here](#).

Season of Creation 2022



The Season of Creation, which runs from the 1st September until the 4th October, is a time to join with our brothers and sisters to reflect and pray for our Common Home. John Woodhouse, through [ICN](#), has put together some information regarding the Season of Creation, which includes links to various websites.

The Case for Climate Justice

Global Justice Now writes: - *Earlier this week the government released its so-called Jet Zero strategy. The document is a risible piece of greenwashing which proposes that UK aviation continue to grow on the basis of non-existent clean technology and offsetting. It was somehow fitting, then, that on the very same day the UK recorded its highest ever temperature, 40.2C, at Heathrow Airport.*

'Jet Zero' is the kind of dangerous fantasy you end up with when climate policies aren't allowed to break with big business as usual. It's clearer than ever that if we want to stop climate change, we need system change. To help push this message home, we're about to do a third print run of our hugely popular illustrated booklet, [The Case for Climate Justice](#). If you'd

like some, please get your order in now so we can get a sense of how many to get printed.

35 faith institutions announce divestment and call for no new fossil fuels

[Bright Now](#) have reported that 35 faith institutions, across seven countries, have announced their divestment from fossil fuels.

Their report says: - Both the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the UN have warned against new fossil fuel projects anywhere in the world, as scientists say we cannot safely burn the vast majority of fossil fuels still in the ground. Yet just nine months after world leaders pledged to 'keep 1.5 alive' at the COP26 conference in Glasgow, 20 fossil fuel companies – including Shell, Total, BP and ExxonMobil – are moving ahead with fossil fuel expansion plans totalling \$932 billion that would push the world past 1.5°C of heating.

Why cork is good for wildlife

This is targeted at all you wine enthusiasts out there who have been quite happy to accept metal screw caps on your bottles of wine. My rationale has been that you don't need to fiddle with getting a cork out, the wine is less likely to have been affected by a sub-standard cork, and it keeps the wine fresh if you are not drinking it all at once.

Imagine my shock when I was signposted to this article from the RSPB about the decrease of natural cork use in wine bottles, and how it presents a threat to the cork oak forests of southern Europe and the people and wildlife which depend on this ancient habitat and sustainable industry.

Sadly, like most things that we have got used to buying that have been designed for our convenience, there is a cost to the environment (and I am including plastic wrappings in this too). Read it through the [RSPB](#).

3. Modern Slavery/Trafficking

Sir Mo Farah reveals he was trafficked as a child

This story is now a few weeks old, and if you haven't seen the BBC documentary (link to the BBC News story is [here](#)), you would have heard about it. By telling his story, Sir Mo has brought modern slavery and the things that go on into the consciousness of the British public, which can only be a good thing. Thanks to his PE Teacher, to whom he confided about his life, he was taken into care and fostered by a Somali family, and his life changed for the better. But it does make you ask the question, 'how many more are there just like him.' It is our duty to keep our eyes open...

Can you spot the signs of modern slavery?

Anti-Slavery have produced [this quiz](#) to see if you can recognise the signs of slavery.

A letter to Mo Farah

JRS and their refugee friends have written a letter to Sir Mo Farah, in which they share their hopes, thoughts and inspirations. Read it [here](#).

Urgent action is needed to tackle child trafficking

This good article from Joseph Kelly through [The Catholic Network](#) recounts Sir Mo's story, and mentions the lack of Government support on social concerns. In fact Bishop Kenny wrote to Priti Patel in May 2021 taking the Government to task about their lack of action on immigration and modern slavery. It also likens his story to that of St. Josephine Bakhita and quotes Cardinal Vincent Nicholls.

Stella Maris chaplain receives major anti-trafficking hero award

Stella Maris reports: - Apinya Tajit, Stella Maris Deputy Director in Chanthaburi Diocese, Thailand, has received the U.S. Department of State 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report Hero Award for her dedicated and untiring work supporting trafficked fishers and seafarers.

You can read the rest of the report and watch her being interviewed through their [website](#).

4. Palestine/Israel (includes an Action)

Action - Boycott Puma Day of Action

Palestine Solidarity Campaign report on the latest attack by the Israeli forces on Gaza, which at the time they wrote it, had killed 15 people including a 5 year old child, and injured many more. At that point there had been no condemnation of the attack from anyone in Parliament - either Government or Shadow front bench. Without any form of sanctions against Israel, this will just continue. PSC is asking that you join their [Boycott Puma Day of Action](#) on the 10th September (Puma sponsors the Israel Football Association).

Holy Land: UN gravely concerned at escalating violence

[ICN](#) have reported on the statement that Lynn Hastings, UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in the occupied Palestinian territory, issued on the 6th August concerning the escalating violence in the region.

5. Anthony McNicholl RIP

Tony McNicholl passed away peacefully at home on the 25th July 2022, after being diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in May 2021. He was known through his work as the Diocesan Justice and Peace worker for Wrexham, and amongst other things supported CAFOD, Pax Christi and the Romero Trust. Anne O'Connor in the [NJPN NW E-Bulletin](#) has posted some lovely tributes to Tony. We have also been asked to publish this fundraising tribute to him. Click [here](#) to read.

Please remember Tony and his loving family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

6. Celebrate the Commonwealth Games and the Lionesses. Then fight for real diversity.

Anne Wafula Strike writes in [The Guardian](#) about the fact that too often minorities, such as women and people with disabilities, still find the odds are stacked against them. She comments on the lack of diversity in the England Women's Team and that more needs to be done to represent marginalised groups in sport.

7. Burma Military executes four activists (includes an Action)

Burma Campaign passes on the news that four democracy activists, Ko Jimmy, Phyo Zeya Thaw, Hla Myo Aung and Aung Thura Zaw, have been executed.

Burma Campaign write: - *It has been decades since the Burmese military has carried out executions. The executions are a sign of desperation, not strength by the Burmese military, as they face growing resistance since the attempted coup began last year. The military is hoping they will terrify people into submission. It will not succeed.*

“This is a desperately sad day for family and friends of those executed,” said Wai Hnin Pwint Thon, Senior Advocacy Officer at Burma Campaign UK. “I have known Ko Jimmy my whole life, he was an inspiration to me. He dedicated his life to freedom and democracy for the people of Burma.”

More details are available through Burma Campaign [here](#). They want to encourage people to [email Liz Truss](#), in her role as Foreign Secretary, to demand the expelling of the Burmese Attaché from the UK. They also want people to [email the EU](#) asking for more sanctions to be imposed on the Burmese military.

8. New evaluation shows benefits of scheme to keep women prisoners in touch with children

Pact, the Prison Advice and Care Trust, reports on a pilot scheme called 'Together a Chance' which is being run in HMPs Eastwood Park and Send. Social workers have been placed in both prisons whose role is to improve outcomes for mothers in custody and their children.

Pact write: - *Unlike local authority social workers, Pact social workers are specialist prison-based staff, and their work begins with the women as their primary caseload. However, their work complements that of their local authority counterparts in safeguarding the best interests of the child, while also providing vital support for mothers, many of whom have been victims of violence and domestic abuse.*

According to an interim report by the University of Cardiff the scheme is already 'yielding significant benefits.'

The full press release is available through the [Pact website](#).

9. The goal is equality (includes an **Action**)

Cat Jenkins, from Church Action for Tax Justice, writes: - *As I write, we're still in the relatively early stages of a two-horse Conservative leadership race and tax cuts seem to be high on the agenda for both Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, the hopefuls.*

*It's clearly an important topic for Conservative politicians – perhaps more so than it is for the electorate, conservative or otherwise, in fact. Research from our friends at [Tax Justice UK](#) suggests that 'ordinary' conservative-voting people (as opposed to, say, conservative politicians) don't actually have that much appetite for tax cuts, especially if they mean that public services suffer. It seems reasonable to assume that other parties' constituents feel the same, and it does make you wonder whether politicians really understand what it is that the public value. **We'd suggest that the majority support a system where taxes are levied, according to peoples' ability to contribute, so that everyone has a decent standard of living and opportunity to do well.***

*"¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. **The goal is equality,** ¹⁵ as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little." (2 Corinthians 8, my emphasis added).*

Meanwhile, in the world of corporate taxation, it's a similarly bemusing story. In recent days, the biggest oil companies operating in the UK have declared their profits for the second quarter of the year – and yes, you guessed it, it's been another bumper season for them. Shell, for example, banked £9.4bn in Q2 of 2022 – twice what they made in the same period last year, and its highest single-quarter profit ever. Indeed, in the three months just gone, five of these oil and gas majors have collectively made over £50bn in profits.

Profit in and of itself isn't a bad thing. But what are these companies doing with their windfalls (and make no mistake, 'windfalls' is exactly what they are...)?

Whilst across the UK, ordinary people are already struggling with their energy bills, the companies profiting at their expense are handing a sizeable portion of their gains to their shareholders in the form of dividends and share buybacks. They're not coy about admitting it either...BP's own

Finance Director, Murray Auchincloss, spoke recently of the possibility of [“...getting more cash than we know what to do with”](#). Mr Auchincloss, we'd like to offer some suggestions...

Christian values would suggest that those in positions of power – whether policy-makers, or those in charge of companies which dominate the economy – should be ensuring that those least able to defend themselves are treated fairly. Clearly that isn't happening – rather the opposite, and it puts me in mind of the words in Ezekiel 34:4, “The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them.” Where is the compassion and care for the vulnerable, in a society where corporate shareholders profiteer whilst ordinary families face the future with real anxiety? The recent ‘windfall tax’ announcement went some small way to recognising the inbuilt unfairness in this situation, but it fell far short of what's really needed. We'll keep campaigning for a better outcome for individuals and families, we promise you that.

Have you had the chance yet to encourage your MP to speak up for better tax justice, by way of a wealth tax on the richest 1% in the country? If not, we've made it as easy as can be for you – all you have to do is put in your postcode, and our [online toolkit](#) will find out who your MP is and provide a letter to her or him – which you're welcome to use ‘as is’, or adapt as you see fit. Please let your political representatives know that you care about these issues! **Cat**

Newsletters/Reports

10. Abolish War

The [June 2022 newsletter](#) for the Movement for the Abolition of War has lots of interesting articles in it, including details of a live event in September.

11. NW NJPN Newsletter August 2022

Anne O'Connor's very comprehensive e-bulletin has included articles about poverty, climate action, the situation in Palestine/Israel, plus has obituaries for Tony McNicholl, Patrick Darnes, (both of whom sadly died of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis), Roy Hackett and Nichelle Nichols. You can read it through the [Shrewsbury J & P website](#).

12. Boaz News July 2022

A very positive [newsletter](#) including the news that three of their clients have been granted refugee status, and news on their art therapy sessions.

13. Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility July 2022

Details on how to join in, attend their conference and a link to their blogs and articles. Click [here](#) to read.

14. Salesians of Don Bosco Justice and Peace July 2022

A single sheet newsletter with their Organisation of the Month being The Samaritans. Download it [here](#).

15. Laudato Si' Movement - August

Lots of interesting articles, including a link for the Season of Creation launch. Read it [here](#).

16. Green Christian News - 21st and 31st July 2022

Events and details of how to get involved. 21st July is [here](#) and 31st July is [here](#).

17. Traidcraft Exchange Report

Read 'The Difference You Made 2021/22' [here](#).

18. Embrace the Middle East Annual Report 2021

Details of who they are and what they do. Read it [here](#).

19. Campaign Against Arms Trade Issue 263 (July 2022)

Read everything they are involved in [here](#).

20. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Advertising their Conference and Networking Event, plus the current

actions their members are involved in. Available [here](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

21. 16th August - 4.30pm - London Mining Network
[10th Anniversary Vigil for the Marikana Massacre](#)

22. 17th August - 6pm - Green Christian
Plenty! Facilitator Training (can be flexible on date/time)
Please email catturmer@greenchristian.org.uk

23. 20th August - 10am - Catholic Association for Racial Justice
Report on the Historical Roots of the Windrush Scandal/Nationality and Borders Act
Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk

24. 26th - 29th August - Christian CND have a stall
[Greenbelt Festival](#)

25. 1st September - 6pm - Catholic Association for Racial Justice
RCN Employment Survey 2021: Workforce Diversity and Employment Experiences
Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk

26. 2nd - 4th September - The Runnymede Trust
[We Move: Race Equality & Migrants Rights Summit](#)

27. 3rd September - 9.30am - 3.30pm - Green Christian
[On the Road Together in Dronfield](#)

28. 3rd September - 4pm - Southern Dioceses Environment Network
Mass for the Season of Creation at Farm Street Church, Mayfair, London

29. 7th September - 2pm - Challenge Poverty England and Wales
[Get involved in Challenge Poverty Week: An introduction](#)

30. 14th September - 6.30pm - 8.30pm - Jesuit Refugee Service
[Hosting Information Session](#)

31. 17th September - JPIC Save the Date
Golden Jubilee Celebration in London- Details to Follow

32. 17th September -10am - Catholic Association for Racial Justice
Private Rented Sector White Paper / Social Housing Regulation Bill
(as trailed in the Queens Speech) / The Grenfell Inquiry
Please register with the CARJ Administrator at info@carj.org.uk

33. 22nd September - 4pm - 6.30pm - Anti-Slavery
[Annual Supporter Conference](#)

34. 24th September - NJPN
[Open Networking Day hosted by Darlington with Middlesborough, on the topic of refugees/migrants](#)

35. 24th September - 10am - 4pm - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
'Building Hope for People and Planet'
Details from Margaret Healy: margarethealysl@gmail.com

36. [7th-8th October – Green Christian Conference](#)

37. 9th October - [Prisoner's Sunday: A Fresh Start](#)

38. 17th - 23rd October - Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales
[Download Toolkit](#)

39. 8th November - 11am - 4pm - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
[Life Beyond Borders](#)

40. 12th November - NJPN
Open Networking Day - London/South East tbc

41. 19th November - 11am - 3pm - ECCR

Save the Date! More details to follow

THE LAST WORD

42. Bikes for Refugees

Donate old bikes to provide free and healthy transport for refugees and asylum seekers living in the UK

Katie Hill from My Green Pod has written the following: - *The Bike Project has launched an appeal for unused and abandoned bikes to boost the number of bicycles the charity is able to renovate and provide to refugees and asylum seekers.*

With the recent arrival of 82,100 Ukrainian refugees to the UK, The Bike Project – a UK charity that provides refurbished second-hand bikes to refugees and asylum seekers – has never been in more demand. This latest appeal has been launched in response to its long waiting list.

Anyone can donate a bike at one of the numerous bike drop-off points, the majority of which are based in Greater London and the West Midlands.

Read the rest of the article [here](#).

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NEWS LINKS

Independent Catholic News

Find Justice and Peace stories at:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/justice-peace-environment>

[Sign up](#) to receive these regularly.

Catholic Communications Network

Find news stories at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Latest Zenit Headlines [here](#)

Vatican News homepage: www.vaticannews.va

World Council of Churches

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/>

UK Parliament News

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/>

Follow us on Twitter: @NJandPNetwork

Follow us on Facebook: National Justice and Peace Network

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About these E-BULLETINS

The items above are emails received from around the Network which may be of interest to those involved in working for justice and peace.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of NJPN.

To **unsubscribe** from these mailings, email bulletin@justice-and-peace.org with “unsubscribe” in the subject box. We also welcome your **feedback** at the same address.

Forwarding these emails: Please feel free to forward these emails on to your contacts – *but please remember to tell them to contact YOU if they want to unsubscribe!*

Urgent Actions:

We sometimes receive emails that need immediate action and cannot wait for the weekly bulletin. To receive these items email the same address with “**urgent actions**” in the subject box.

If you appreciate these bulletins, help to keep them coming by donating to NJPN:

Send cheques payable to NJPN to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.

*Make a regular donation by **standing order**: Download standing order/membership forms from <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>*

(NJPN is a registered charity no: 1114947 Company no: 5036866)

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