



The Burning Bush

**Listen to the
Voice of Creation**
SEASON OF CREATION 2022

Thanksgiving for the Earth

Remember the fruits of the earth, for sowing and for harvest.

Remember the dew of the air.

Remember the downcoming of the rains and the waters and the rivers.

Remember the plants and the blooms of every year.

Remember the safety of humans and of animals and of me, your sinful servant.

For the rain, the wind of the sky, seed, plants, the fruit of the trees and also the vineyards, and

for every tree in the entire world,

We are grateful

For the Holy Trinity who brings us to perfection in safety and peace, forgives us our sins, brings us up according to their measure that we may grow and prosper through your grace,

who makes the face of the earth to rejoice, waters her furrows, lets her grain be abundantly multiplied and makes ready her seed-time and harvest,

We give You thanks

*(adapted from the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Pre-Anaphora, and Anaphora of Basil;
and taken from the Celebration Guide for the Season of Creation)*

Dear Friends,

So here we are - at the end of the summer - at least school holiday-wise, even if the weather has not yet caught on (where we are it is still far too hot). Climate change is definitely starting to make a difference.

By tomorrow we will have a new Prime Minister, and it is not looking like it will be a change for the good. I am sure that there will be more to say in that regard in the next e-bulletin.

Our Action of the Week is based on the energy and cost of living crises that will be upon us in the next couple of weeks. I am already trying to save on lighting and electricity/gas usage and I am hoping it doesn't get too cold too quickly. Organisations are looking at what can be done to help, and all eyes will be on the new PM as to what package of measures they will introduce to help those who need it the most (although the cost of energy alone will mean that many more people will be struggling).

The next e-bulletin will be out in around two weeks time, so if you can bear that in mind when sending me something you want included.

God bless

Sharon

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



DON'T LET THE ENERGY CRISIS SNOWBALL INTO A DEBT CRISIS

In the course of pulling items together for this e-bulletin I found several of these energy crisis petitions from various organisations. Please do add your name to one of them...

Debt Justice writes: - *Unless we act fast, the energy crisis will snowball into a debt crisis.*

Energy bills are set to soar to over £3,549 a year by October, plunging more families into debt. Citizens Advice predicts 13 million families will go into debt trying to pay for power this winter.

Millions are already anxious because of rising living costs. Once in debt, it can be really hard to get out, energy debts could follow you around for up to six years.

We're in a national crisis, but if enough of us come together and demand change, they can't ignore us.

In a few days we'll have a new Prime Minister. We have to let the government know loud and clear that they must act urgently to bring down energy bills and help people with their debts.

Please add your name to the petition [here](#).

Thank you!

Articles related to the cost of living crisis: -

How should the Church respond to cost of living crisis?

Over a month ago, John Coleby, Director of Caritas Westminster, wrote this article for [Independent Catholic News](#). He speaks about the problems many of us will be facing over the coming months, and the initiatives that they already have in place, including links to them.

Also, NJPN has signed up to a coalition, facilitated by JPIT, concerning the cost of living crisis. There will be a letter being sent to the new Prime Minister around the 18th September from members of the coalition which will set out criteria for a comprehensive support package to protect people in low income households.

Once the Government has announced any support measures (expected to be around the 21st September) there will be an analysis made by the coalition as to whether they meet their criteria.

Watch this space for more news throughout September.

Surplus for Supper - Salvaging crops and tackling a broken food system: meet the 'gleaners'

This article crosses between helping in regards to the cost of living crisis, and being good for the environment.

Robin Eveleigh through [Positive News](#) has written about the practice of gleaning, and the fact that there are now 25 such groups throughout the

UK. Basically, people are coming together to salvage unpicked produce, which addresses both farm waste and food poverty.

NEWS AND COMMENT

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

Going through the articles for this section was really hard - I have about 30 that I could include, but obviously don't have the space. This is such an important section, though, that it is hard to whittle it down. I have only included a handful, but what I would say is that you might want to sign up to the various websites that this e-bulletin signposts you to so that you can see everything that is going on.

How climate breakdown is supercharging toll of extreme weather

Damian Carrington of [The Guardian](#) has put together this analysis of how humans have caused the heating up of the planet, and how that is driving the more frequent deadly disaster occurring across the world.

We all know this, but it is still quite shocking to see it all laid out in one article.

Action - Tell the next Prime Minister not to lift the fracking ban

I included this last time, but in case you missed it or forgot to sign it, it is here again...

Can you believe that both candidates are in favour of fracking, despite it being banned for a reason? As Friends of the Earth say: - *Fracking won't meaningfully lower our energy bills. But it will be terrible for our climate.*

Please add your name to their petition [here](#).

Pakistan's Melting Glaciers

[Mill Hill Missionaries](#) shared this article and video back in July. And now, as we know, these are one of the contributing factors to the devastating monsoon season floods that have cost over 1,000 lives in Pakistan, and 200,000 homes have been destroyed.

Fr. Liam O'Callaghan, Columban Coordinator for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation in Pakistan, has given this eyewitness report to [Independent Catholic News](#).

Action - Protect us from heatwaves, droughts and floods

[Greenpeace](#) have organised this petition, calling on the UK Government to protect us from climate change. This is particularly relevant at present, when much of the country hasn't had proper rain in weeks, and the farmers are struggling to get enough water. (see this article from [Wicked Leeks](#))

Youth demand climate justice



Photo credit: - Paul Jeffrey/WCC

[World Council of Churches](#) report: - *"If you're for climate justice, say 'AMEN!'" was the chant as young people led a protest marching through the Brunnen exhibition zone at the 11th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Karlsruhe, Germany on September 2, 2022.*

The protest was organised by people from around the world, demanding urgency in addressing the climate crisis. Jessica Bwali from Zambia

News from Traidcraft Exchange

A couple of weeks ago, I received these words from Traidcraft Exchange, following on from a letter that I added my name to back in June, calling on the Government to push for a climate waiver at the World Trade Organisation: -

We recently met with civil servants to discuss the need for climate action to be at the heart of UK trade policy – and in a way that meets the needs of developing countries. We wouldn't have secured this meeting without the amazing support you gave this letter – over 8,000 people signed on!

We learnt that the UK Government plans to keep pushing action on trade and climate – not through a waiver at the WTO – but through agreements between smaller groups of countries that help boost exports of 'green' UK products.

The focus on trade and climate is welcome, but we're wary that this focus on 'win-wins' - for the UK and for the climate – ignores important realities.

Countries in the Global South will need much more than green imports from countries like the UK to leapfrog fossil-fuels to clean growth. The UK needs to step up to provide climate finance and share green technology – and build trust globally that they aren't just in it for the exports boost. And we'll be there to push them on this.

For a more detailed look at the climate outcomes from the WTO meeting, read our [blog](#).

It just goes to show that enough people putting their names to things can make a difference.

Re Traidcraft Exchange, they have announced that they are changing their name to Transform Trade from the 15th September. You can watch this simple [video](#), which explains the rationale behind it.

Action - Rockhopper 1 - Climate 0

We have covered the Energy Charter Treaty before, but this report from Global Justice Now is just mind-boggling:-

A tribunal authorised by the [Energy Charter Treaty](#) has ordered Italy to pay a UK fossil fuel company over £210 million, after Rockhopper sued the country over its ban on offshore oil drilling – six times more than the company's actual investment in the drilling project.

Rockhopper's project triggered local outrage, and was set to frack and acidise extracted materials using aggressive chemicals that are banned here in the UK. Over 10 years Italians fought the project, and won: the government passed legislation protecting the coastline from oil drilling.

Enter the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) – the means by which fossil fuel companies like Rockhopper are challenging national policies for crucial climate action and the wins of people power, threatening democracy itself.

This treaty allows them to sue governments in “corporate courts” - private, closed-door tribunals outside of the national legal system.

Fossil fuel companies are making obscene profits during the cost of living crisis and now they want to cash in even more when governments actually take action to limit the destructive projects driving the climate crisis – with taxpayers bearing the cost.

This case will have a chilling effect on climate action, as climate scientists have warned in the most recent IPCC report. It also bankrolls Rockhopper to pursue ever more destructive projects: its share price has jumped up following the verdict.

The UK government and other member countries of the ECT have been discussing changes to “modernise” the treaty. But the current proposals would keep fossil fuel projects protected for ten more years. We know what we do in the next few years is critical to avert climate catastrophe.

We need to be cancelling climate-bomb fossil fuel projects without delay. Sign the petition - [Don't let corporate courts block climate action.](#)

The UK and countries across Europe must exit the Energy Charter Treaty in a coordinated withdrawal and put an end to the huge risk they face of being sued.

[Spread the word about the Rockhopper verdict](#) by sharing on social media, or forwarding this email to a friend. (link above takes you to the Global Justice Now Facebook page).

Laudato Si' Animators on Green Funerals

The more funerals I have been to, the more I have questioned the resources used with expensive coffins that get burnt, and the energy used for cremation. Having said that, I know that burial land is at a premium (and

indeed our local churchyard is closed to new burials now).

Virginia Bell from Laudato Si' Animators has written an article through [ICN](#) which suggests ways in which you can have a more environmentally-friendly funeral. It is certainly something that I will be thinking about.

In regards to funerals, however difficult a subject it is to bring up with your family, please make sure that they know what your wishes are (mine are written down in my Will). Being involved with the planning of funerals over some years, you realise how many families do not have a clue as to what their loved ones would have wanted, and it has ended up causing undue stress, at a time that is hard enough as it is.

In our family, my father, my sisters and I were all talking at a get together recently about what tune we would all be coming out of the Crematorium to when it is Dad's funeral (don't get me wrong, Dad is not planning on going anywhere yet, but he very much wanted to be involved in talking, and indeed laughing about it - and if you knew what we are planning, you would probably give a wry smile too).

2. Season of Creation 2022 (includes Events)

Pope encourages commitments for Season of Creation

This special time of year began on the 1st September, with the World Day of Prayer for Creation, and runs through until the 4th October, and we are actively encouraged to bring some form of special creation worship into our churches.

Pope Francis is calling upon people to make a concrete commitment to care for our common home.

[Vatican News](#) reports: - *“At the mercy of our consumerist excesses,” said the Pope, the Earth “groans and begs us to stop our abuse and her destruction.”*

Season of Creation Events

You can either find an event or register an event through the official [Season of Creation](#) website.

[Season of Creation Celebration Guide](#)

You can download the Celebration Guide through the link above.

[Laudato Si' Animators Resources](#)

Lots of resources from the Laudato Si' Facebook page - again, click the link above.

3. Palestine/Israel (includes an **Actions and **Event**)**

Jerusalem: Diocese condemns Israeli attack on Anglican Church

A couple of weeks ago, Israeli soldiers led a raid on The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East at around 3am. [ICN](#) report on the statement that the Church issued following the raid.

In relation to the above raid, along with raids on seven Palestinian human rights and humanitarian organisations that took place on the same night, the [Balfour Project](#) is asking that we put our name to a letter that they have drafted for our MPs to protest to the Foreign Secretary about the raids.

Action - Barclays: Don't bank on apartheid

Palestine Solidarity Campaign are demanding that Barclays end their investments, worth over £1billion, with companies supplying Israel with weapons and military technology.

You can add your name to their campaign [here](#).

Events - Screening of 'Boycott' (followed by Q & A with the Director)

Balfour Project are inviting us to the screening of [The Human Factor](#) on the 20th September, and [Boycott](#), on 4th October - both at 6pm.

More details and registration through the links above.

4. Refugees/Migrants (includes an Action)

World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees - 25th September 2022

“Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees” is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 108th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR). Pope Francis highlights the commitment that we are all called to share in building a future that embraces God’s plan, leaving no one behind.

Resources are available to download [here](#).

12,000 Afghans still living in hotels

William Kelly from The Catholic Network reports on the fact that over a year after the evacuation of Kabul, 12,000 Afghans are still living in hotels awaiting resettlement according to the SVP.

He says that due to the situation in Ukraine, the Afghan's plight is in danger of being forgotten. You can read the article [here](#).

Action - Stand up for Afghan refugees

Safe Passage are reporting that, despite the Government saying that no Afghan will be left behind, many have been left to the mercy of the Taliban.

They are asking the next Prime Minister to fix this so that there are more places available. Add your name [here](#).

Actions - re Rwanda Policy

Whether it is Rishi or Liz as the new Prime Minister tomorrow, both are strong advocates of the Rwanda policy and it is expected that flights will be planned.

Freedom from Torture want us to [email the airline](#) that has been commissioned to take the refugees.

Care4Calais are taking the Government to court on the 5th September, and want you to [write to your local newspaper](#) to #StopRwanda.

Reports from the Southwark Archdiocese Commission for JPIC Spring Assembly

The Southwark Diocesan Assembly took place in Dover back in June and it looked at the challenges of being a displaced person in the UK as new legislation comes into force.

Click [here](#) to go to the main JPIC events page. You can then click on the individual presentations.

5. How I survived a Chinese 're-education' camp for Uyghurs

[The Guardian](#) report on the shocking story of Gulbahar Haitiwaji and her imprisonment and brainwashing by the Chinese - all due to her being an Uyghur.

6. News from Stella Maris

Stella Maris have reported that Fr Julian Wong, who is their East Anglia Port Chaplain, has been supporting seafarers berthed on ships at Felixstowe during the dockworkers strike. The story is available to read [here](#).

Also, a group of 32 Thai fishermen, who were abandoned by their employer in Somalia with some wages owing, and not much food, have been awarded compensation by Thailand's Central Labour Court. These fishers were supported through their ordeal by Stella Maris in Thailand, as well as Stella Maris initiating legal proceedings for human trafficking, as well as to recover their wages. You can read about it [here](#).

7. Prisoner's Sunday - A Fresh Start

Prisoner's Sunday takes place on the 9th October, and in advance of this, Pact (the Catholic charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families across England & Wales) have sent out a Press Release about their work, which available to read through [ICN](#).

8. Statement on UN Nuclear Disarmament Conferences

Justice and Peace Europe have issued a Statement on the outcome of recent UN nuclear disarmament conferences - *“Respect for international disarmament agreements is not a form of weakness, but a source of strength”*

You can read it through this [link](#).

Newsletters/Reports

9. NW NJPN E-Bulletin September 2022

Anne O'Connor has a real mix of interesting issues and leads with the cost of living crisis. She is also looking for suggestions for a new Climate Monitor piece for each NW e-bulletin. You can read it through the [NJPN website](#).

10. Mouthpeace Autumn 2022

Lots of positive things going on in the North West, and there are lots of events you can get involved in. Again, it can be read through our [website](#).

11. Boaz News August 2022

Always an upbeat edition about the good work that they have been doing. Read it [here](#).

12. Salesians of Don Bosco Justice and Peace August 2022

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

13. Laudato Si' World

Lots of links to various things they are doing. Read it [here](#).

14. Joint Public Issues Team August 2022

Interesting articles and events. Available [here](#).

15. Biofuelwatch August 2022

Leading with an action to ban Drax's carbon capture plans, plus details on other campaigns - catch up with it on their [website](#).

16. Embrace the Middle East Autumn 2022

Up to date information on the work that they are doing in the Middle East. Download it from their [website](#).

17. Church of England Environment Bulletin Summer 2022

Their bulletin focuses on the publication of the Routemap to Net Zero Carbon and the Season of Creation. Read it [here](#).

18. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Lots of links advertising various events. Available [here](#).

19. Operation Noah August 2022

Lots of information and events including a reflection on the soaring energy bills, and an invitation to Autumn webinar on church land and the climate crisis. Available through their [website](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

20. 5th September - 9am - 5pm - Care4Calais
[#StopRwanda Demo](#)

21. 7th September -2pm - Challenge Poverty England and Wales
Get involved in Challenge Poverty Week: An introduction

22. 12th September - 12.45pm - 2pm - Southern Dioceses Environmental Network
[Monthly online event, with the guest speaker being Shanon Shah](#)

23. 13th September - 7pm-8.30pm - Footsteps
[The Nature of Change](#)

24. 14th September - 6.30pm - 8.30pm - Jesuit Refugee Service
[Hosting Information Session](#)

25. 14th September - 6pm - 8pm - London Mining Network
[Resisting Mining Book Club: Between the Plough and the Pick](#)

26. 17th September - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission
[Golden Jubilee Celebration in London- starting from 11.30am](#)

27. 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

28. 19th, 26th September and 3rd October - 7pm -
[Birmingham Justice and Peace Assembly 2022](#)
1st Session - Tax Justice: What? Why? For Whom?
2nd Session - Refugees, Current Laws and Church Teachings
3rd Session - Poverty/ Cost of Living/ Energy Crisis

29. 20th September -7pm - 8.30pm - Operation Noah
[Church Land and the Climate Crisis](#)

30. 22nd September - 4pm - 6.30pm - Anti-Slavery
[Annual Supporter Conference](#)

31. 22nd September - 6th October - London Mining Network
[Powerlands UK Screening Tour](#)

32. 24th September - 10.30am - 4pm - NJPN
[Open Networking Day hosted by Darlington with Middlesborough, on the topic of refugees/migrants](#)

33. 24th September - 10am - 4pm - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

'Building Hope for People and Planet'
Details from Margaret Healy: margarethealysl@gmail.com

34. 24th September - 24th - 27th September - The World Transformed
[Various events - click here for details.](#)

35. 1st October - 10.30am - Debt Justice
[National Activist Gathering](#)

36. 1st October - 10.30am - 4pm - World Community for Christian Meditation
[The Gospel of Love according to Julian of Norwich \(a Retreat Day with Mark S. Burrows\) - either online or at the The Medatio Centre](#)
(also, further events on [15th October](#); [12th November](#); [17th November](#))
The above are either online AND at the Centre, or online only.
Several of us participated in a workshop that Kate ran at the NJPN Conference, and it gave us a good idea of the work that they are doing.

37. [7th-8th October – Green Christian Conference](#)

38. 9th October - [Prisoner's Sunday: A Fresh Start](#)

39. 17th - 23rd October - Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales
[Download Toolkit](#)

40. 8th November - 11am - 4pm - Churches Together in Britain and Ireland
[Life Beyond Borders](#)

41. 12th November - NJPN
Open Networking Day - London/South East tbc

42. 19th November - 11am - 3pm - Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility

[Just Money Conference](#)

THE LAST WORD

43. Most Ethical Banks in the UK (plus the ones to avoid!)

I found the website 'Tiny Eco Home Life' whilst trying to find information about Ethical Banks. It is run by a guy called Ben, who has a *'passion for simple, sustainable living, as well as doing what I can to protect the environment and act in a climate positive way.'*

Back to banks...it is quite a minefield, and very disappointing that all of the big high street banks are not at all ethical..

The main one in the ethical stakes is Triodos Bank, which has been around for years but is not that well known in most households. The one everyone thinks as being ethical, the Co-op, no longer wears that crown.

Anyway, Ben has a very good, clear article on the [top ethical banks](#), and good reasons why the Co-op is no longer up there with the best of them.

I did also do my own research on the subject, and certainly the opinions in the article coincide with the information that my Google searching provided me with.

You know what they say - you need to put your money where your mouth is!

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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 ebulletin@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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