

NJPN E-Bulletin 15th January 2023



(Above image copied from the Pax Christi UK website)

***God of life and reconciliation and healing,
stop the warfare in the world and in my heart
and grant that peace will reign.
Lord Jesus Christ,
who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy.
Amen.***

(Prayer taken from CAFOD's Weekly Reflection for the 13th January 2023)

Dear Friends,

A belated Happy New Year to you all. The start of mine has been a busy one, with a few hurdles, hence this going out a week later than originally planned.

So far, certainly in my area, January has been a miserable month. Constant rain, and we are now being lashed by strong winds. There has even been a mention of snow next week. We were lucky to avoid it before Christmas, but I am sure our turn will come soon enough. It was such a bleak morning that I actually went out and bought myself a posy of flowers sold in a jam jar by a local florist. As I am writing this, though, I am wondering about where the flowers came from, and how they travelled....

Talking of which, I don't really stick to New Year's resolutions, but this year I am determined to think about what I am buying (except for today!), how much plastic is involved, and where it comes from. At a meeting of the NJPN Executive Committee the other day, at which I took the minutes, someone made the very valid point that there are many people that would like to be able to shop sustainably, and do their bit to save the planet, but cannot do so on a budget. With the shock of my gas/electric bill for the month of December, I too will probably fall into that category.

As today is Peace Sunday, our Action of the Week is based around that subject. We also have lots of information to do with the climate and environment, as well as the situation with migrants and refugees. Please share anything that you can for the next edition, which I am hoping will be out the weekend of the 29th January.

Wishing you a peaceful and healthy start to 2023,

God bless,

Sharon

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34. **Plastic bottle caps open up future for youth**

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About these E-Bulletins

Donate to NJPN

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

Today is Peace Sunday, and we ask that you pray for peace in our troubled world.



church and peace



The Methodist Peace Fellowship
Peace together

The above online Prayer Sessions take place every Friday, and have done since the start of the conflict in Ukraine.

To join in, please click on the link through the Church and Peace [website here](#).

A small amount of time to give for such an important issue.

From the Pax Christi Website: -

People Putting Peace Into Action

Peace – based on justice. A world where human rights are respected, basic needs are met, people feel safe and valued in their communities and we care for our common home

Reconciliation – a process which begins when people try to mend relationships – between individuals or whole countries after times of violence or dispute

Nonviolence – a way of living and making choices that respects others and offers alternatives to violence and war

Thank you!

Articles on the theme of War and Peace: -

Christian CND have brought out a new peace resource for young people

Called 'Peace Be With You' it helps young people to be peacemakers. You can order it through the [Christian CND](#) website.

Japanese Bishops strongly object to rearmament plan

[Vatican News](#) report on the Japanese Bishops writing to their Prime Minister and Defence Minister asking them to withdraw three key documents which provide for rearming the country and revising its defence strategies, which they say is unconstitutional and dangerous.

Embarking together on paths of peace

Ellen Teague reports through [ICN](#) on Pope Francis' World Peace Day Message. He feels that *"we cannot continue to focus simply on preserving ourselves; rather, the time has come for all of us to endeavour to heal our society and our planet, to lay the foundations for a more just and peaceful world."*

Through this article there are also links to the Pax Christi Peace Sunday resources, as well as the Columban Schools Competition (which is also mentioned further down in this e-bulletin).

NEWS AND COMMENT

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

Court finds three Christian climate campaigners not guilty

This was an interesting outcome, reported by [Independent Catholic News](#). Three climate campaigners, Ruth Jarman, Rev. Sue Parfitt and Benjamin Buse all joined in with the Insulate Britain protest at Cranford Parkway on the M4 in October 2021. This week they were found not guilty by the Jury at the Inner London Crown Court, despite the judge directing them to find the defendants guilty!

During their defence, they were each barred from referring to the climate crisis, insulation or fuel poverty. Despite all of this, the twelve members of the jury took the decision to find in their favour, and as Rev. Sue said *"Despite all the odds I am thankful that 12 of my fellow citizens were able to see the bigger picture and, even when directed by the judge to find us guilty, they were able to understand that the unprecedented times in which we live calls for us all to step out of the box and make courageous decisions. Thank you jury."*

"I think reasonable people can see that inconveniencing a few people on their way to work does not compare with the appalling threat to humanity caused by the blindness, stubbornness and greed of just a few people, including our government."

Maybe more people care than the Government, and often the media, have us believe.

'If you win the popular imagination, you change the game': why we need new stories on climate

This article was published in The Long Read this weekend by [The Guardian](#), and was written by Rebecca Solnit. She talks about needing a more artistic solution to climate change, one that will engage people more. The third paragraph reads: - *In order to do what the climate crisis demands of us, we have to find stories of a livable future, stories of popular power, stories that motivate people to do what it takes to make the world we need. Perhaps we also need to become better critics and listeners, more careful about what we take in and who's telling it, and what we believe and repeat, because stories can give power – or they can take it away.*

As it says, it is a long read, but you need to stick with it. There is a huge amount of information about where we were, where we are going and where we need to be - as well as talk of the greenwashing, mining of cobalt and lithium and the search for new battery materials. The last bit of the article nails it for me when Rebecca quotes Greta Thunberg, and a piece of writing by Octavia Butler.

The climate crisis is a problem with no single solution, but many, just as there is no one saviour, but many protagonists in the struggle. In 2019, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg said we must embrace “cathedral thinking”, adding: “We must lay the foundation while we may not know exactly how to build the ceiling.” The speculative fiction writer Octavia Butler included this passage in one of her essays:

“OK,” the young man challenged. “So what’s the answer?”

“There isn’t one,” I told him.

“No answer? You mean we’re just doomed?” He smiled as though he thought this might be a joke.

“No,” I said. “I mean there’s no single answer that will solve all of our future problems. There’s no magic bullet. Instead there are thousands of answers – at least. You can be one of them if you choose to be.”

Greenpeace 2023 Vision: The World We All Want to See

If you haven't seen it already, take a minute to watch this [Greenpeace](#) video, showing different generations and cultures saying what their vision for the world is. The video is nicely put together and pretty much sums up what we are all about.

Top ten climate disasters cost the world billions in 2022

Christian Aid issued a new report in December which identified the top ten costliest climate disasters in 2022, which each caused over \$3 billion of damage. It also reported on the top ten other extreme events that caused massive human and environmental damage, mostly in the poorest countries.

Christian Aid said: - *these extreme events highlight the need for more urgent climate action. They underline the importance of the loss and damage fund recently agreed at COP27 to provide financial support to people in developing countries who have suffered huge losses due to a climate crisis they have not caused. The international development charity is calling on world leaders to decide how the fund is managed and get money flowing into it.*

To read more about the report, check out the [Christian Aid website](#).

Honey bees do not help wild bees

Virginia Bell of the Laudato Si' Animators has written this article on honey bees, and the detrimental effect that they can have on indigenous bees. It certainly made me realise a couple of things...firstly, how little I knew about bees, and secondly, how we end up causing a problem with biodiversity by our desire to buy products that we want or that companies can make money out of. If we ate less honey, that would actually help the bee population. You can read it through [ICN](#).

Action - Pesticide-Free Towns Pledge

This one came in courtesy of the Injustice Advent Calendar before Christmas, but as someone who has dogs, it is close to my heart. Every so often a note goes onto our local Residents Associate Facebook page advising people with dogs not to go to certain areas as the Council have been spraying pesticides there. You then notice the yellowing/dying back of verges etc. over the next week or so.

Pesticide Action Network UK are asking us to send a quick email to our councillors asking us to make our towns pesticide-free. Details are available [here](#).

Profit before people and planet

Again, courtesy of [Christian Aid](#), a report on how the Brazilian Amazon and its people are being exploited. It particularly focuses on the bauxite mining company MRN. [ICN](#) quotes the report: - *MRN's mining operations in Oriximiná in the state of Pará have contributed to the deforestation of extensive areas of the Amazon Forest and serious adverse human rights and environmental impacts on Quilombola and riverine communities. MRN's mining operations have polluted watercourses, hindering the access of these communities to good quality water, generating diseases and impacting on fishing activity, and deforestation by MRN's mining operations has affected access to food and natural resources that support livelihoods for these marginalised communities.*

Event - Living Laudato Si': Your Parish, Your Planet - Zoom Weekend

For those who missed the first zoom weekend in 2020, Sr. Margaret Atkins, Trish Sandbach and John Paul de Quay will be running another one over the weekend of the 17th - 20th February.

To apply, email Sr. Margaret: margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk.

More details have been published through [ICN](#).

Action - Call on your MP to stop subsidies for Drax's tree-burning

Biofuelwatch have asked us to share this campaign. They write: - *Did you know that the UK Government is wasting £1.5 billion a year subsidising tree burning for electricity at power stations like Drax, with devastating impacts on forests, wildlife, communities and the climate?*

According to their article, Drax receives £2million every day from the UK Government to burn trees, and this is paid for through an extra charge on UK energy bills.

Add your name to their pile of letters sent to MPs [here](#).

2. Refugees/Migrants (includes an Action and Event)

Action - Afghan families must be reunited

Safe Passage need our help in emailing our MPs, asking them to deliver on their promise to reunite Afghan families after the fall of Afghanistan. Families were torn apart in the scramble to get flights out of there in August 2021.

All details are available through [Safe Passage](#).

Event - Future London Prayer Vigils

As mentioned in the last e-bulletin, a prayer vigil for those who have died seeking sanctuary takes place on the third Monday of each month - outside the Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF from 12.30-1.30pm. All are welcome to join.

The next dates will be 16 January, 20 February and 20 March.

For more information contact: barbarakentish@talktalk.net

Home Office ignored Government warnings on climate threat to Rwanda deportees

This Press Release from Christian Aid dated the 19th December states that no risk assessment was carried out by the Home Office in regards to climate harms to refugees, despite a Government paper outlining the threat of major climate issues in Rwanda.

More details, including the foreword by Dr John Sentamu (former Archbishop of York) can be found [here](#).

If you want to know more about the Court ruling in December, and what is happening in regards to sending refugees to Rwanda, [Care4Calais](#) have produced information on it.

Also, Ellen Teague wrote an article for [The Tablet](#) following the tragic deaths of four people in the Channel in mid-December. The article includes several quotes from various refugee organisations, including [Seeking Sanctuary](#). They have their own press release on the same tragedy included on their website.

Action - Send a message of support to a refugee

Care4Calais write: - *This winter, will you show someone sleeping rough in Calais you're thinking of them by sending a message of support? Your warm words could make all the difference.*

Click on this [link](#) to send a message to a refugee sleeping rough in Calais.

In regards to [Care4Calais](#), they are in particular need of winter coats and clothes for refugees that they support. If you can spare anything, please see their website for your local drop-off point.

3. Cost of Living/Energy Crisis

The real price of the cost of living crisis

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) have brought out this report giving stories on how the cost of living is affecting people. The rising prices in energy and food, and the decline in household incomes are really taking their toll. However, in their report they are also sharing signs of hope. You can read it [here](#).

A welfare state for food

This article kind of links into what I was saying in the introduction about people on low incomes not being able to have the choice as to whether they eat sustainably-grown food or not. Nina Pullman for [Wicked Leeks](#) discusses the economic side of providing nutritious food. The comments on the article are also very interesting.

Also on the [Wicked Leeks](#) website is a reader letter from Jeremy Holloway citing how he has avoided buying in supermarkets over the last ten years.

I think it is what most of us would like to do, but it often depends on the time that you have, and where you live (as to whether there are farm shops and the like near you). It also depends on what you can afford to spend on food and how many mouths you have to feed.

Feeding poverty: are we doing a dis-service to those in need

This article from guest writer Jo Moore, through [Grace + Truth](#), talks about the need to empower those in need so that they can turn things around for the better. I am sure that some of you will disagree with the sentiment, but Jo's point of view certainly resonates with some stories that I have been told about how things have been in my area in local foodbanks and the like.

4. Palestine/Israel (includes **Actions and Events)**

What's Christmas like for Christians in Bethlehem today

[Embrace the Middle East](#) have shared this blog from Dr. Munther Isaac (who was mentioned in the last e-bulletin). Dr. Munther shares that, as a Palestinian, he is made to feel that he is illegally occupying land, but which the Palestinians have lived in for thousands of years.

A paragraph that sums up something many of us probably wouldn't have thought about: -

Christian Zionism is the most extreme expression of this. At the same time, there are many of what I call 'diplomatic churches', churches who pray for both sides and pray for peace and think that they are contributing to peace. But by not challenging Israel on its human rights abuses, breaking the International Law, and by looking at the conflict as if it's a conflict between equals, they are enabling the occupier. Today we are struggling, not just because of Christian Zionists but because of churches who are silent.

United Nations OCHA occupied Palestinian Territory

On 31st December, the [Facebook](#) page above advertised the Factsheet that they have produced, highlighting the humanitarian impact in the 20 years since the Barrier was constructed, which runs 700 kilometres, mostly inside the West Bank.

Click on the Facebook link above for the post, and for the link to the Factsheet.

An article through [ICN](#) reports that *on the 30th December, the United Nations voted in favour of a resolution requesting the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the legal nature of Israel's prolonged military occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the responsibilities of third party-states.*

You can read it through the link above, and read other articles through links on the same page.

Urgent appeal as Israel announces forced eviction of entire village (includes **Actions**)

[ICN](#) reported on the 5th January that *the Israeli government had announced that the mass forced displacement of the entire community of Masafer Yatta in the Occupied West Bank - more than 1,000 residents, including women, children and elderly people, will happen in the next few days. The Israeli army has already supervised the demolition of hundreds of homes, destruction of wells, olive groves and confiscation of livestock in the area.*

I haven't found any more information out on the above, but included in the article is a template letter for lobbying elected reps and faith leaders in the UK or Ireland. Please get involved.

Also, the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign is asking you to write to the Foreign Office to defend Masafer Yatta. You can do so through this [link](#).

Events - The Balfour Project are invited you to the following events: -

Use this link to register :
www.balfourproject.org/raja2023

Chronicler of Palestine

Author *Raja Shehadi*
in conversation with
journalist *Tim Llewellyn*
about his new book
*We Could Have Been
Friends my Father and I*

**Thursday
19th January** ^{3PM}
UK Time

Please support our work with a donation - www.tinyurl.com/donatetoBP

Balfour Project
Balfour Project is a Scottish
Registered Charity (SC 047090)

Book your place at the above event [here](#).

Also,

[Palestine: overview of 2022 and prospects for this year](#)
[Thursday 2nd February at 3pm](#)

5. Fashion Industry

Transform Trade's first resolution for 2023

Transform Trade say that their first resolution this year is to take on fast fashion. They write: - *The Guardian* reported only two weeks ago that *Tesco* are being sued by 130 former workers at a garment factory where they report they faced "effective forced labour".

It's one more sign of a broken industry and something needs to be done.

As the year progresses they will be sharing ways in which we can help.

Keep an eye on their [website](#) or sign up for more information.

Are the people who make your clothes paid enough to live on?

This [Fashion Checker Quiz](#) is brought to us by '[Labour Behind the Label](#)'. They write: - *The Fashion Checker tool allows us to shine a light on fashion brands' supply chains. Get your detective skills ready and take our new quiz to see how much you know about where fashion comes from and learn how you can find out more.*

Each question will share a new way to find out more about the workers who made your clothes. The quiz will only take about five minutes!

6. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP

We pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who passed away on the 31st December. The last Pope to visit the UK back in 2010, he didn't have the mass appeal that Pope John Paul II had some years earlier, but his gentle ways found him a place in many Catholic hearts.

Tributes to the Pope Emeritus are everywhere, but I wanted to share the following: -

ACI Africa have given a timeline of his life, which you can read [here](#).

They have also produced an article '[10 quotes from Pope Benedict on the Beauty of Love and Suffering.](#)' One of my favourites was this one, from World Youth Day 2007: -

"My dear young friends, I want to invite you to 'dare to love.' Do not desire anything less for your life than a love that is strong and beautiful and that is capable of making the whole of your existence a joyful undertaking of giving yourselves as a gift to God and your brothers and sisters, in imitation of the One who vanquished hatred and death forever through love."

May perpetual light shine upon him, and through the mercy of God may he rest in peace. Amen.

7. Columban Schools Competition

SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION

Columban Missionaries are looking for students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme:

- ✓ Is conflict inevitable?
- ✓ Where and how is peacebuilding taking place?
- ✓ What role can faith play in peacemaking?

"Our proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus challenges us to build communities of peace."
From the Columban Statement on Peace

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2023

For more information see: www.columbancompetition.com

COLUMBAN MISSIONARIES BRITAIN

PRINT PRIZES
1ST £300
2ND £150 • 3RD £100

IMAGE PRIZES
1ST £300
2ND £150 • 3RD £100

A reminder that the deadline for the above competition is the 10th February. The Columban Missionaries write: -

We are looking for articles and images that demonstrate an awareness and understanding of conflict in the world today and shine a light on people, communities and/or organisations trying to make the world a better place for everyone by building peaceful futures.

Is conflict inevitable?

Where and how is peacebuilding taking place?

What role can faith play in peacemaking?

We are looking for students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme: *Building Peaceful Futures*

For more information please see the details on their [website](http://www.columbancompetition.com).

8. Synodality - is there anything in it for us?

Brian Austin from the Laudato Si' Animators UK Writing Group talks about the Synodal process, and the fact that, despite all the effort that was made

(in a relatively short space of time) to encourage parishes and groups to engage with it, nothing much has been done since the Catholic Bishops issued their National Synthesis Document.

You can connect with Brian's article through the [Laudato Si' Animators Facebook](#) page.

Newsletters/Reports

9. NW NJPN E-Bulletin January 2023

Another inspirational e-bulletin from Anne O'Connor, who has looked back at the various issues she has produced since 2014, and taken samples from them. Lots of initiatives and signs of hope. The highlights for me are Fr. Rob Esdaile's piece 'If Christ were born today' and the poem from Church Action on Poverty's 'Pilgrimage on the Margins' about 'When we come together...!'.
You can read it through the [NJPN website](#).

10. Christian CND

Resources and how to join in. Read it in your browser [here](#).

11. Laudato Si' Movement January 2023

Dates and news for the start of the year. Available [here](#).

12. Joy in Enough January 2023

Events including one on the 18th January on Catholic Social Teaching. Details through this [link](#).

13. Salesians of Don Bosco December 2022

Promoting and praying for the work of the Catholic Children's Society. Read it [here](#).

14. Debt Justice Celebrating Support in 2022

Containing the five highlights of their campaigning throughout 2022. Find it [here](#).

15. Campaign Against Arms Trade 2022 Round-Up

A celebration of their highlights from 2022. Read it [here](#).

16. Global Justice Now: Victories in 2022

Read about their achievements in 2022 [here](#).

17. Biofuelwatch December 2022

A round-up of 2022. Click [here](#) to read.

18. Housing Justice Winter News

All of the information in their interesting newsletter is available to read through their [website](#). (or you can sign up to receive your own copy).

19. Operation Noah December 2022

Looking back at their top ten moments in 2022. Join them [here](#).

20. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland December 2022

Highlights, resources and news - available [here](#).

21. Joint Public Issues Team December 2022

Lots of interesting information and articles, which can be found [here](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

22. 18th January - 7pm - Joy in Enough online talk

[Catholic Social Teaching - Towards a Politics of Communion \(Anna Rowlands\)](#)

23. 18th January - 6pm - 8pm - London Mining Network online event

[Resisting Mining Book Club: The Extractive Zone](#)

24. 24th January - 7pm - Birmingham Justice and Peace Forum

[To discuss the future of their Assembly](#)

25. 29th January - 10am onwards- Campaign Against Climate Change

[Annual General Meeting](#)

26. 1st February - 3.30pm - 5pm - London Mining Network

[Toxic Bonds: Fossil Fuels, Funding & Fighting for Our Future](#)

27. 16th February - 7.30pm - 9pm - London Mining Network

Global Justice and Climate Solutions - at Cyclehub, 47-49 Wood Street, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 1UJ (We will be joining Kingston Climate Hive to speak on how global justice is a necessary part of how we deal with the climate emergency.)

28. 25th February - 10.45am - 3.30pm - NJPN

[Open Networking Day via Zoom](#)

29. 25th March - 11am - 6pm - Global Justice Now

[Resisting Monopoly Capitalism](#)

30. 13th May - NJPN Open Meeting and AGM

Details to follow

31. 11th June - Tax Justice Sunday

Details to follow

32. 21st - 23rd July - NJPN Annual Conference

Watch this space!

33. Various dates - Meditatio Centre, London

Our friends at the Meditatio Centre London have a full programme of events (you may remember they held a workshop at the NJPN Conference

last year). Check out details [here](#).

THE LAST WORD

34. Plastic bottle caps open up future for youth

[Vatican News](#) tells this interesting tale of how throw-away items of plastic, bottle caps, have ended up funding scholarships for young people in South Sudan, through the "Open Caps" project.

It follows Marta Genova and her husband, Antonino Costa, as they make their way from Villaciambra in Italy to Juba in South Sudan, and there is a video which explains how it all works.

What a great idea!

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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)

If you shop online, you can support us at no extra cost to yourself by signing up with easyfundraising.org.uk, where lots of companies will make a donation to us when you shop online with them.

As a small charity NJPN relies on donations from its members and friends, as well as grants for specific work or projects, if you feel you are able to make a contribution you can either: make a bacs payment to our account: Sort code 16-31-15 account 10089516 reference Donation

with your surname or our CAF donate

page: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8130#!/DonationDetails>