

## NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin mid - January 2023

The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

### EDITORIAL

The New Year editorial with its focus on hope seems to have struck a chord with our readers. These are some of the comments received:

*Thank you, for your valiant efforts. Also, the courage to reproduce the wise, tough words of Greta Thunberg, with which I totally agree.*

*We must not give up the struggle for social, economic & environmental justice, though the obstacles & inaction by many make the task harder.*

*Well said. You are right it is easy to give up hope when often so little seems to change. But you are right .... We need hope converted into action!*

*Thank you so much for your message of HOPE being something we strive for.*

Here are Greta Thunberg's words again, taken from *The Climate Book* (published October 2022):

*Right now, we are in desperate need of hope. But hope is not about pretending that everything will be fine. To me, hope is not something that is given to you, it is something you have to earn, to create. It cannot be gained passively, through standing by and waiting for someone else to do something. Hope is taking action.*

Despite this week's cold snap the magnolia tree in my garden is starting to bud and in the flower beds green shoots are forcing their way out of the ground through the dead brown leaves. We are starting to move from the bleakness of the winter months to the freshness of new life as spring approaches. And so it is for us when we glimpse signs of hope. Our spirits are stirred by campaigning groups, activists, agencies, parish groups, ordinary people – all 'rolling up their sleeves' and taking action, inspiring us to dig deep with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.

### OPINION: SIGNS OF HOPE

**Green Christian Trustee, Paul Bodenham, writes...** Something's stirring in the public conscience. Last week four Insulate Britain protestors stood trial for public nuisance after blocking access to the M4. The protest was highly disruptive; incontrovertible videos were played in court; and the judge forbade the defendants to justify their protest. Despite all this, the jurors understood the context and refused to find them guilty.

None of the first four prosecutions of Insulate Britain protestors have so far succeeded. In the face of the climate and ecological emergency there is a deepening fissure between the 'rule of law' and the moral grain of Creation. All credit to last week's jury for their wisdom, and the defendants, including Ben Buse, Sue Parfitt and Ruth Jarman who are also members of Green Christian, for their courage.

The wedge will soon be driven further. On 30 January the House of Lords will again debate the Public Order Bill, as the government seeks powers which deny protestors their human rights. From 21 April Extinction Rebellion has called for 100,000 people to gather at Parliament to exercise their freedom to protest and build common cause across society. In November, COP28 will be chaired by the head of the state oil company of the United Arab Emirates.

This is going to be quite a year. Let's travel it together. Paul Bodenham

### A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Hope is ... Compassion, Fairness, Trust

Hope is... Working together for a positive outcome for everyone and a fairer world

Hope is... Where race, gender and current divides are removed and we all live in equality

Hope is... For a Government that cares

Hope is... The youth challenging the current system through social movements

Hope is... Community coming together in times of crisis

Hope is... Sharing skills, knowledge and understanding of the world from different perspectives

Hope is... Sharing stories, shared hope, spreading more love

Hope is... Good news to the poor, sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed, love, laughter and light

• Extract from a poem composed by a participant in Church Action on Poverty's Anniversary Year Pilgrimage on the Margins event. Read in full and see other poems of hope here: <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/pilgrimagemargins/>

## CHRISTIAN AID: BEACON OF HOPE

A SYMBOL OF THE INCREDIBLE THINGS WE CAN ACHIEVE WHEN WE ARE UNITED BY HOPE.

From 16-29 January, beaming brightly in the grounds of Southwark Cathedral<sup>1</sup>, our stained-glass style 'Beacon of Hope' will create an awe-inspiring spectacle of light and colour with messages of hope to lift everyone's spirits.

The Beacon will illuminate five powerful messages of hope about hunger, equality, health, climate, and injustice. Each message of hope was brought to life by Ugandan artist, Matt Kayem, from and working in Kampala. Matt's work explores identity, race, history, and culture through installations, collage-paintings and photography. Working in his signature style Matt used recycled denim, sourced from the markets of Kampala then stretched onto frames, as the unique canvas for his vivid, colourful creations.

**Watch: 'Art has the power... to shift the minds of people'** In this short video, Matt Kayem shows us where he buys his materials, and speaks about the transformative power of art.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/beacon-hope>

## THE BEACON OF HOPE PRAYER

God				
We strive		We yearn		
For ourselves		For those in need	For your kingdom	
To be free from	To overcome	To understand	To fight against	
The pain of hunger	An unequal world	Preventable illness	Climate injustice	Oppression
Give us strength	Show us how	Help us now	Let us try	
To use our power	To spread your light	To live your word		
So that we may become		So together, we shine as		
A beacon of hope				

### How to recite the Beacon of Hope prayer

The diamond-shaped structure\* of the Beacon of Hope prayer allows you to create your own individual prayers. Selecting a word/words from each line in sequence, you can choose which injustice you would like to prioritise to create a new prayer each day.

Laura Mead, Christian Aid's Community and Events Fundraising Advisor, kindly created the Beacon of Hope prayer and shares her version with us:

God  
We yearn  
For your kingdom  
To overcome  
Climate injustice  
Help us now  
To use our power  
So that we may become  
A beacon of hope

\*Credit: The diamond-shaped structure that forms the Beacon of Hope prayer was inspired by the poem 'Obligations 2' by Layli Long Soldier from *New Poets of Native Nations* (2018)

Read her poem here: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/149976/obligations-2>  
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/beacon-of-hope-prayer.pdf>

<sup>1</sup> If you not able to get to the exhibition in Southwark Cathedral do take a look at artist Matt Kayem's beacon of hope video, read Layli Long Soldier's poem and create your own beacon of hope prayer, either using the words above or substitute your own priorities and concerns.

## CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY: ENACTING HOPE

Source: Church Action on Poverty 2022 [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

**Niall Cooper Director Church Action on Poverty writes:** We're very grateful to all the donors who helped us raise £40,000 for our anniversary appeal during 2022. That support will really help to grow the network of Local Pantries and Self-Reliant Groups; to promote a true 'Church on the Margins'; and enable people to Speak Truth to Power together. But these are tough times. We are apparently now living in a time of 'perma-crisis.' To be clear, the crises undoubtedly impact more deeply on increasing numbers of people who are struggling to make ends meet, struggling to keep warm, struggling to eat. In the midst of this, how can we avoid sinking into despair? How can we retain our hope, and offer others a message of hope?

### Enacting hope

As we enter 2023, Church Action on Poverty is determined to offer a message of hope. Another world is still possible, and is already struggling to be brought into being by people and communities 'on the margins' across the country.

"There are big powers, big ideas and big things to resist, but the ways to act on hope are local" - Revd Kate Gray, minister of the Dandelion Community in Wythenshawe, south Manchester

Our aim for 2023 is to continue the task of reclaiming dignity, agency and power with local people and communities across the UK. Our vision is to enact hope together. We hope you'll continue to be part of the movement with us. We welcome your continued support – whether through giving, acting or praying – in this vital task, in the year ahead. If you're able to make an extra donation to support this vital work in the coming year, we'd be very grateful. You can donate here: <https://give.church-poverty.org.uk/page/119810/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=email&ea.url.id=6225802>

We start this new year inspired by the wisdom and insight that was shared by participants in the Pilgrimage on the Margins during our anniversary year <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/pilgrimage/margins/> May they offer us all hope for the year ahead.

## CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY ON 19 FEBRUARY 2023

**Liam Purcell Church Action on Poverty writes:** the worship and fundraising pack is now available for Church Action on Poverty Sunday on 19 February 2023. Read on to find out more and get your copy so you can be part of it.

### Give, Act and Pray as part of the movement to unlock UK poverty

When people come together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power, we can make huge changes. In ourselves. In our communities. In the world. Building a powerful movement to unlock poverty has never been more important. The cost of living crisis threatens to sweep millions into poverty, threatening their dignity and agency. No one should have to face the choice between heating and eating. To prevent more people being swept deeper into poverty, it's vital that those of us affected have a say. Now more than ever, churches and communities need to stand together and uphold each other's dignity, agency and power.

On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, 19 February 2023, join with other churches across the UK in giving, action and prayer. Celebrate the transformational possibilities of people coming together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power.

Use our free worship resources to reflect and pray for change, and raise funds to enable more people like Gemma to speak truth to power.

**Download here:** <https://give.church-poverty.org.uk/page/115061/subscribe/1?ea.url.id=6175899>

## UK POVERTY 2023: THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING POVERTY IN THE UK

**Joseph Rowntree Foundation** Zoom Webinar 26 January 2023 11am - 12midday

What is the picture of poverty in the UK at the start of 2023, as the UK faces a profound cost of living crisis less than three years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic? Who is more likely to experience poverty, and how does this effect their lives? Who is facing deep and persistent poverty? Who was helped by the temporary support introduced during the pandemic, and who is most at risk in the cost of living crisis?

Although the latest official poverty data covers only the first year of the pandemic, it has shown that many of the groups facing poverty before the pandemic continue to do so, and risk falling into deep and persistent poverty. Since then, we have seen that the situation has only worsened for many low-income families who face even greater challenges in the face of the rising cost of living.

Join us next week for this event to hear about JRF's perspective on what has happened to poverty and living standards since the start of the pandemic, as well as what the future prospects are.

**Register here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1816704140540/WN\\_-8BJXQ-cQxiHiodK1qD\\_Ug](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1816704140540/WN_-8BJXQ-cQxiHiodK1qD_Ug)

## OPINION: FEEDING POVERTY - ARE WE DOING A DIS-SERVICE TO THOSE IN NEED?

**Jo Moore** 14/1/2023: A while ago, a lady came into the office of the charity I work in demanding a food parcel. I sat her down and gently told her I needed to find out a little more about why she needed the food. She was not happy with any questions being asked. I tried to explain there were criteria to be met but her voice got louder demanding food for her and her children.

I asked her if she was getting all of the benefits she was entitled to. She told me it was none of my business, but confirmed she was. I then asked her if she had any deductions that caused the difficulty in obtaining food. She exploded and shouted "Spend my benefits on food!? Why should I do that when I can get it free from you?"

### Unpopular

Sometimes I think the charity I run has become very unpopular in our local town. It's because we don't give out free food parcels without asking questions. It makes us different to most of the other agencies who give to anyone who approaches them. We are concerned that the church and other charities are potentially at risk of doing people a dis-service because they don't make enough of an effort to address the base problem behind the immediate need for food.

### Questions

When people approach us for food, we ask them: why do you need the food today? We explore what we can do to support them with to remedy that issue first.

Is it about a benefit sanction, delay or a wait for it to be processed? Can we contact the agency and resolve the issue meaning they will be back on track? If there are unaffordable debts can we support them to create a manageable affordable repayment plan? Sometimes people are needing to spend their food money on repairs or a new washing machine. In this case we will see if we can obtain a grant for the items first. Are they claiming all the benefits they are entitled to? If not, we will support an application or request a mandatory reconsideration.

### Ultimate aim

Some people think its kinder to 'never ask any questions' when you help someone. But this is naïve. Asking good questions, in a sensitive way, is one of the most important ways we help people in a way which really helps them. Our ultimate aim for our work is to help people not need a food parcel again next week. This may seem harsh but if someone is not prepared to take steps to resolve the problem why should our charity simply keep giving them goods or funds when we too are struggling to pay our bills and fund our work?

### Empower

Please don't get me wrong, we want to help people. But to do this by empowering them to help themselves going forward and not simply remain dependant on organisations like us.

The key challenge for society to improve how they help people in need is not simply more generosity. The most important thing we can do is help people to believe they have the answers and with support can change their lives. If we cannot do this, how can they ever believe that they do not have to be dependent on others for their needs?

### Root causes

As the cost of living crisis deepens I believe that, organisations really do need to address the root causes in people's lives. If we don't, we are simply putting a sticking plaster over the wounds when in reality we need to clean out the wound and give it the best opportunity to heal and become whole again.

If any charity or church truly wants to help people has a moral obligation to support them in a way which helps them get themselves out of poverty.

### More powerful

Surely, this is more like the gospel message, the good news that Jesus spoke about and lived out? He often accompanied physical healing with inner cleansing. There was not just physical change but inward and spiritual change too. Also, on many occasions he asked people in need 'What do you want me to do?' There is no assumption, but an acknowledgement that asking is also hard for some. But the act of naming what you want changed is crucial in acknowledging a desire to improve the situation and not remain in it.

These are the ways that Jesus empowered people to genuine change. If we truly care for people, let's do likewise.

- **Jo Moore** is CEO of the charity Accommodation Concern based in Kettering.

**Grace + Truth: Faith, Transformation & Social Justice Guest writer** <https://gracetruth.blog/2023/01/14/feeding-poverty-are-we-doing-a-dis-service-to-those-in-need-by-jo-moore/>

## PLATER TRUST LAUNCHES £400,000 GRANTS PROGRAMME FOR DOMESTIC GOOD CAUSES

15/1/2023: The Charles Plater Trust has launched its 2023 large grants programme today, 13 January, and hopes to offer up to £400,000 in grants for domestic good causes. The Trust is calling on all registered charities, with annual income below £10 million, who share its Catholic Social Teaching values, to apply for a large grant of up to £50,000 for social action, lay leadership or applied research projects.

Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the CPT said: "The new year stands before us, but the cost-of-living crisis has pushed many more into poverty and hardship in the UK. The Holy Father has reminded us at the start of a new year that we need to battle the virus of inequality and to ensure food and dignified labour for all. At the Trust, we are eager to partner with charities who want to respond creatively to these hard times to seek justice for people on the sharp end of these challenges. So let us welcome the new year, full of new possibilities to create justice."

Cathy Corcoran, Chair of the CPT grant-making committee said: "We're so concerned about rising poverty here in the UK, that we've launched our large grants programme early this year and extended the window to apply, to do as much as we can to attract partners we can support to tackle the current crisis. The situation is quite simply unacceptable in the sixth wealthiest nation on earth with millions of people unable to afford the basics such as food and heating."

### Criteria

The Trust has introduced a number of changes to its eligibility criteria this year to try and target funding more effectively to the frontline. Charities with over £10 million in annual income are now no longer eligible to apply for CPT funding. However, any registered English or Welsh charity can apply for funding, as long as the proposed work has direct benefit in England and Wales, and they have not had a previous grant from CPT in the last two years. Capital cost projects and organisational overheads also cannot now be covered by the Trust in an effort to spread its funding further.

### Background

What the Plater Trust can't support:

- Charities with an annual income above £10 million. The only exception to this is for Universities and HE Institutions, who irrespective of their size and annual income, can apply for both small or large grants from CPT, on condition that they must be partnering with a micro, small, medium or large charity in their project proposal to be eligible for CPT funding in a joint bid of this nature.
- Projects that are outside CPT's three priority themes - leadership for lay people; social action and/or applied research.
- Projects from organisations that are not registered charities or are not currently working towards establishing their charitable status.
- Work that does not have a direct benefit in England or Wales or where the applicant organisation is not based in England or Wales.
- Grants to individuals - CPT only provides support to registered charities not individuals. The only exception to this is that CPT will consider funding individual postgraduate scholarship projects in the applied research priority theme, providing that the applying academic organisation ensures that it holds an open competition to select a candidate to undertake the grant-funded research and that it takes place in partnership within a charity practice-based setting.
- Organisations without at least three non-executive trustees or directors.
- Capital costs: CPT will only fund revenue project costs, not capital costs. Revenue costs are the costs of making projects happen. They occur during the project, for that project. Capital costs are for items which last beyond the project, and these cannot be funded by CPT and so should not be included in project budgets.
- Organisational core costs: Core costs are the running costs of an organisation. This is the money you need to make the work happen. These are also sometimes called overheads, running costs or operating costs. Unfortunately, due to the demands on CPT's limited resources they do not now cover core costs/overheads in project grants, so please do not include these types of costs in any project budget to CPT.
- Repeat funding: If your organisation has been successful in securing funds from CPT before, they will only accept another application from you if two years has elapsed from the date you last received a grant instalment from the CPT.
- Multiple successful applications: Each successful applicant can only hold one grant from CPT at a given time.

### These are the key dates for applicants:

Deadline for applications to be received is Friday 17 March 2023 by 5pm.

All large grant applicants will know CPT decision by Friday 9 June 2023.

Successful applicants will attend the CPT awards ceremony on Wednesday 21 June 2023.

Dates for the 2023 small grants round will be available on our website by 1 September 2023.

For further details and to apply online visit: [www.plater.org.uk](http://www.plater.org.uk)  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46316>

## CAFOD LAUNCHES BIG LENT WALK TO FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

This Lent CAFOD, the official aid agency of the Catholic Church, is setting an inspiring challenge to help raise money to fight global poverty.

The challenge is simple – walk 200km over 40 days, while raising money for families impacted by the climate crisis. How and when people walk the 5km a day is up to them, but it can be done alone, with friends, family or with a school. Every £1 raised for the Big Lent Walk will help CAFOD support families in their efforts to respond to the impact that the crisis is having in their communities and across the world. Signing up couldn't be easier, just head search Big Lent Walk in google or head to <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> and get going.

Jo Kitterick, CAFOD's Director of Fundraising and parish participation, says: "Lent is a time for reflection, which helps us to challenge ourselves, and a period where we think about others and what we can do to help those in need. That's why I'm really excited about taking part in the Big Lent Walk, I'll be using the walk each day to think about people working every day to overcome extreme global poverty and its causes."

Families CAFOD support include Dristy and her Mum Rupali in Bangladesh. Together, they are protecting nature and livelihoods, building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect crops from flooding and cyclones. Rupali has a powerful message on her desire to help others around her, she says: "It's not right if I always have food on my table, yet my neighbour barely has anything to eat. I will stay well, I will keep my environment well, and I need to fight to help the people who are around me too. When they are all in a good place, the entire village will be in a good place."

Supporting the Big Lent Walk, will help families like Dristy and Rupali to protect their livelihoods and to support their community. Any money raised can make a huge difference to people's lives.

- £10 can provide four palm trees to protect land from extreme weather caused by the climate crisis.
- £26 can provide tools and training to build raised beds to protect vegetables from floods.
- £185 can provide a place on a two-week course: growing food, adapting to extreme weather and new ways of earning a living.

While the challenge starts on Ash Wednesday (22 February), people, parishes and schools are already fundraising. Those taking part are encouraged to share on social media, using the [#TheBigLentWalk](#) hashtag. Anyone who raises £200 through their Big Lent Walk page will receive a special free gift as a special thank you.

For those who want to clock the activity with something other than walking, they can do a 15 minute cycle or 35 minute exercise class.

The Big Lent Walk page has all the details for sign-up, as well as handy guides on how to track your walks. **Go to:** <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> for resources and information on the Big Lent Walk.

## LIVING LAUDATO SI': YOUR PARISH AND YOUR PLANET, ZOOM WEEKEND 17-20 February 2023

We are repeating our popular weekend for those who missed it the first time around. For more see below.

Our February Retreat will be led by Sr Margaret Atkins, an Augustinian Canoness at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria and author of *Catholics and Our Common Home: Caring for the Planet in a Time of Crisis (CTS)*, Trish Sandbach, who worked in Oxfam Education and is an assessor for the CAFOD LiveSimply award (see <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>) and John Paul de Quay, founder member of the Ecological Conversion Group and Journey to 2030 (see <https://journeyto2030.org/>). There will also be a panel discussion for sharing advice on practical projects.

Bishop Patrick McKinney of Nottingham has kindly agreed to introduce the weekend. It would be especially good if parishioners from his diocese could join up to support him!

- **What will happen?** A long weekend of talks and discussions on zoom, and practical activities, on living the message of *Laudato Si'* in and through your parish. Sessions will be in the evenings Friday to Monday, Saturday morning, and Saturday and Sunday late afternoon, so leaving you free for work and other activities.
- **Who is it for?** Any interested parishioner is most welcome to join us. The weekend is aimed especially at people with parish responsibilities or who are part of or want to start a relevant parish group.
- **Times:** Sessions will be on Friday night, Saturday morning and night, Sunday afternoon and night and Monday night (leaving people free during the day on Monday).

Cost - voluntary donations gratefully accepted, but there will be no fee for the weekend

**To apply, simply email Sr Margaret Atkins on** [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk)

## INDEX ON CENSORSHIP TWITTER STORM OF PROTEST AGAINST SALMA AL-SHEHAB'S 34-YEAR SENTENCE

Sunday 15 January, marks the two-year anniversary of the arrest of the University of Leeds PhD student Salma al-Shehab's 34-year jail sentence with a twitter storm of protest in her native Saudi Arabia simply for tweeting her support for prisoners of conscience in the country and calling for better women's rights.

Salma was studying for a PhD in oral and human health when she was arrested after going back to Saudi Arabia to spend the holiday with her husband and two children, Adam and Noah. She was questioned for almost a year before being charged by the Specialised Criminal Court under various parts of the country's Counter-Terrorism Law and the Anti-Cybercrime Law for "supporting those seeking to disrupt public order, undermining the safety of the general public and stability of the state, and publishing false and tendentious rumours on Twitter". She was initially handed a six-year sentence but on appeal this was increased to 34 years, including a discretionary five years added by the judge. She has been slapped with a travel ban for a further 34 years following her sentence. All of this is horrific. The Gulf Centre for Human Rights says it is in fact the longest sentence ever given to a peaceful activist.

Index on Censorship is working with ALQST for Human Rights to re-focus international attention on Salma's case. In September, ALQST sent an open letter signed by NGOs and 400 academics to then-Prime Minister Liz Truss and Foreign Secretary James Cleverly to raise awareness of this inhumane sentence. We sent a further letter to the UK Foreign Secretary signed by other human rights organisations in October 2022.

Salma was arrested and sentenced for standing in solidarity with imprisoned human rights defenders, such as Loujain al-Hathloul. Now we must stand in solidarity with her.

**Find out more here:** <https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2023/01/join-our-twitter-storm-of-protest-against-salma-al-shehabs-34-year-sentence/>

**See also:** <https://www.indexoncensorship.org/2022/08/index-condemns-34-year-sentence-for-salma-al-shehab/>

### ALQST FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ALQST for Human Rights is an independent NGO established in 2014 by Saudi Arabian human rights defender Yahya Assiri for the purpose of defending and promoting human rights in Saudi Arabia. 'Al-qist' means 'justice' in Arabic, and a passion for justice lies at the heart of all our work. We take a consistent human rights-based approach based on international human rights law and international standards, and defend fundamental rights for all without any distinction of race, colour, sex, language, religion or national or social origin. We conduct on-the-ground research, engage in international legal and public advocacy, and campaign on behalf of victims of human rights abuses.

**OUR VISION:** We strive for a Saudi Arabia where human rights are respected by all; where all enjoy the right to freely and peacefully express their opinions; where all benefit from transparency and legal due process guarantees; where prisoners are at all times treated humanely and their rights upheld by the judiciary; where the rights of religious minorities, migrant workers and stateless persons are recognised and upheld; and where women are empowered to take an active and equal part in society.

### HOW WE WORK: Monitoring & Documentation

While civil society in Saudi Arabia has largely been silenced, and individuals communicating with the outside world are at high risk of reprisals, we maintain an extensive network of sources within Saudi Arabia that enables us to closely monitor human rights violations on the ground and bring them to the attention of the international community. Our Europe-based team analyses the information and disseminates it widely by sharing breaking news, writing urgent statements, and researching and publishing larger reports, including our Annual Report. Being a principal source for human rights information relating to Saudi Arabia, ALQST plays a pivotal role in helping to inform other civil society actors, political and business stakeholders, the media and the wider public.

**Advocacy:** We raise individual cases as well as patterns and new trends of human rights violations with various international, regional and national bodies, including the UN human rights system, EU institutions and the British parliament, as well as individual stakeholders such as diplomats and companies doing business with Saudi Arabia. ALQST's advocacy and lobbying activities are aimed at encouraging key decision makers to develop policy positions that will increase pressure on the authorities in Saudi Arabia to improve the human rights situation on the ground.

### Campaigning & Awareness Raising:

ALQST conducts global campaigns via social media activity as well as online materials and in-person protests to raise awareness about human rights violations inside Saudi Arabia. ALQST also regularly participates in UN Human Rights Council sessions as well as holding public events, including an annual conference that brings together a wide range of experts on Saudi Arabia to discuss the various human rights concerns in the country. ALQST maintains an active presence in the media, giving interviews and quotes to the press, and its work is regularly quoted in major international outlets.

<https://alqst.org/en>

## A TALE OF TWO POPES

Ian Linden 16/1/2023

In *The Two Popes* Anthony Hopkins as Pope Benedict XVI and Jonathan Pryce as Pope Francis - then Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio - portray two very different personalities but also a touching, indeed charming, relationship between the two. The Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles's film is taken up with their - obviously imagined - conversations and discussions. Who might know to what degree screenplay and reality coincide? Archbishop Georg Gänswein, Benedict's private secretary, for one.

After Francis became Pope in February 2013, Gänswein retained his role as prefect to the papal household but moved to the monastery in the Vatican gardens where he cared for the Pope Emeritus for the next ten years. On 12 January, with Benedict interred in the crypt of St. Peter's, and with the help of an Italian journalist, Archbishop Gänswein published *Nothing but the Truth: My Life Beside Pope Benedict XVI*.

His story is of Benedict's exemplary papacy. He clearly has a filial love for Benedict. But this is no feel-good story. Not quite as contentious as *Spare*, the Duke of Sussex, Harry's tell-all, but a detailed memoir revealing a lot more than Vatican decorum would normally permit, some of it petty.

Previews of Gänswein's book revealed written exchanges which showed important unresolved disagreements and tensions between the two Popes. There was, it seems, disagreement over Pope Francis curbing the growing celebration of the Latin Mass, his opening up of debate on the question of priestly celibacy in the context of the 2019 Synod on the Church in the Amazon, and his openness to considering the plight of couples divorced but in a civil marriage and not allowed to receive communion. Add to that Francis' Synodale Weg (Synodal Path), his innovative rolling global consultation on the future of the Church focused on mission, participation and communion. During 2022 the consultation surfaced more neuralgic issues: the ordination of women – entirely off piste for John Paul II - and the blessing of same-sex marriages. The message from his opponents: Pope Francis was capitulating to the 'modern zeitgeist'.

Publishing *Nothing but the Truth*, with the moderating and restraining presence of Benedict gone, Gänswein is expressing the views of a minority of bishops. When Pope John Paul II died in 2005, Cardinal Ratzinger, the intellectual German Professor who became Pope Benedict XVI was the 'continuity' candidate. But Cardinal Bergoglio, the 'Italian' Argentine who personified a global Church and reflected the Latin American origins of 'the preferential option for the poor' offered a different compass bearing. He won the second largest number of votes from the assembled cardinals in 2005 and a majority in 2013.

The two Popes shared common concerns and commitments but embodied two different and apparently incompatible visions of the needs and future of the Church, as well as having two different personalities and priorities. Popes don't just live in an ecclesiastical or theological world. The context in which they grow up, the historical moment, their experience of life differs and matters.

As an adolescent during the Second World War Joseph Ratzinger, forced into membership of Hitler Youth and conscripted into the army, was forming his views of the world. He saw National Socialism, a rag-bag of fascist and racist ideas, reduce his country to an unimaginable nightmare of destruction and genocide. In 1968 as a theology professor in Tübingen he witnessed another rag-bag of political ideas, this time from the student Left, and supported by lecturers, disrupting the university's intellectual life. He was deeply, perhaps disproportionately, upset. I once asked his fellow German Cardinal Walter Kasper if accounts of the impact of this experience hadn't been exaggerated. But he confirmed their accuracy. The events at Tübingen had a lasting effect.

After 1968, Rev. Professor Ratzinger turned from contributing to and championing the aggiornamento of the Second Vatican Council to worrying about to what extremes its ideas might lead. Whilst serving as Pope John Paul II's head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, he censored and silenced theologians, notably proponents of the theology of liberation. Was it for fear of what their ideas might develop into and where they might end up? Is it too much to suggest such anxieties might have had their origins in 1940s Germany?

On the other hand, many would say that it was during the Guerra Sucia, Argentina's Dirty War, that the future Pope Francis went through his most critical experiences. Between 1974 and 1983 when he was Jesuit Superior, the military regime murdered and tortured at least ten thousand of its opponents. Two of his Jesuits who refused to leave their work amongst the poor were taken and tortured by the military. Reflecting on these events – and others agreed - Francis concluded that he had let his brethren down by failing to confront the regime and by overestimating the effect of quiet influence.



Different formative experiences at different stages of their lives undoubtedly influenced the different leadership styles, personal behaviour, teaching and ecclesiastical priorities of the two Popes. We all have our comfort zones. To all appearances Pope Benedict's natural environment was a theological seminar, faith seeking knowledge. Pope Francis is naturally at home meeting people, modelling respect for the individual and the simple demands of justice. In 2017 I was amazed to see him, after a gruelling day and a long conference, shaking hands with, and being photographed with, each person emerging from the packed aula. His theology is as much about 'show' as 'tell'.

Cardinal Ratzinger as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and loyal servant to John Paul II, nurtured and enforced unity in the Church. German and Polish experience had taught them that unity based on strength and solidarity was the necessary bulwark against first fascism then bureaucratic communism. Divisive questioning was not to be tolerated. Pope Francis believes in resolving questions that beset the universal Church by opening them up even when they are creating divisions. He is treated with disdain and disloyalty by those who disagree with him.

For the last decade, the whole of Francis' papacy, there have been not just two sources of authority in the Vatican, but two narratives mapped onto their personalities, mind-sets and teaching. This is not about to stop. The absence of Pope Emeritus Benedict's restraining influence will, most likely, sharpen the disagreements and intensify disloyalty to Francis. The divisive issues are real and important, but as *The Two Popes* shows, dialogue in friendship with mutual respect and a shared sense of responsibility is always possible.

Already battle lines are being drawn up over the election of the next Pope. It is time passionate partisans find the words "I am right but you're not wrong", and for all to acknowledge that the principle "to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction" may apply to the papacy as well as to physics.

[www.ianlinden.com/latest-blogs/a-tale-of-two-popes](http://www.ianlinden.com/latest-blogs/a-tale-of-two-popes)

- Professor Ian Linden is Visiting Professor at St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill, London. A past director of the Catholic Institute for International Relations, he was awarded a CMG for his work for human rights in 2000. He has also been an adviser on Europe and Justice and Peace issues to the Department of International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales. Ian chairs a new charity for After-school schooling in Beirut for Syrian refugees and Lebanese kids in danger of dropping out partnering with CARITAS Lebanon and work on board of Las Casas Institute in Oxford with Richard Finn OP. His latest book was Global Catholicism published by Hurst in 2009.

## LONDON PRAYER VIGILS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED SEEKING SANCTUARY

The death toll of refugees attempting to seek asylum in the UK increases each week. A limited number of visas are being granted to people from Afghanistan and Ukraine, but there is no 'legal' way for people from other war-torn countries to apply for asylum here until they step on British soil. (The UK takes in just one per cent of the world's refugees at the present time, David Milliband head of the International Rescue Committee stated recently.)

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](mailto:barbarakentish@talktalk.net)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46235>

## ONLINE PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE

**Church and Peace** invites you to pray for peace in Ukraine. Together with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (England and Scotland), Cymdeithos y Cymod (Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales) and the Methodist Peace Fellowship, we meet on Fridays at 7:30pm (London)/ 8:30pm (CET)/ 9:30pm (Kyiv)/ 10:30pm (Moscow) on Zoom.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckduCoqD4uG9AngQGoHRbDdannig3\\_o89D](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckduCoqD4uG9AngQGoHRbDdannig3_o89D)

Church and Peace is the European ecumenical peace church network of communities, training centres, peace organisations and peace service agencies. It is a meeting place and a forum for dialogue, it offers its members and friends a space for reflection and is a catalyst for common initiatives and projects. Church and Peace stands for a mosaic of peace church witness and is a face of the Church.

<https://www.church-and-peace.org/en/2022/03/online-prayer-for-peace-in-ukraine/>

## STOP PRESS: UKRAINE'S INTERIOR LEADERSHIP KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

News just in that a helicopter has crashed in an eastern suburb of the capital Kyiv into a kindergarten building, killing 17 people including the Interior Minister, his first deputy and state secretary and four children. The crash is thought to have been an accident due to poor weather conditions.

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18–25 January 2023

### PALESTINE: PRAYING FOR AN END TO THE NAKBA GENOCIDE

This week we fully endorse the cry of Palestinian Christians, the Kairos Document of 2009, which begins :-

“We, a group of Christian Palestinians, after prayer, reflection and an exchange of opinion, cry out from within the suffering in our country, under the Israeli occupation, with a cry of hope in the absence of all hope, a cry full of prayer and faith in a God ever vigilant, in God’s divine providence for all the inhabitants of this land. Inspired by the mystery of God’s love for all, the mystery of God’s divine presence in the history of all peoples and, in a particular way, in the history of our country, we proclaim our word based on our Christian faith and our sense of Palestinian belonging – a word of faith, hope and love.”

<http://www.kairopalestine.ps>

Palestine has been under a brutal military occupation for 75 years. Ukraine has been occupied for less than one year – yet let us compare our response. It’s time for clear-eyed Christian discernment.

225 Palestinians were murdered by Jews in 2022 – that’s over 4 each week.

14 Palestinians were killed by Jews in the first 16 days of 2023.

The Genocide continues. Jews are genociding Palestinians.

We fully endorse the right and duty of the Palestinian people to defend themselves against the Genocide by appropriate means. We condemn the violence of the terrorist Judenstaat, and all similar regimes.

#### What can we do ?

Love, not anger, must guide our prayers and actions:-

1. Our group asks Christians to pray daily for the Palestinians and their Jewish persecutors.
2. Keep yourself correctly informed at <https://israelpalestineneews.org/>
3. Write to your political representative to demand that they get Ireland to officially recognise the State of Palestine (The Vatican recognised Palestine some years ago, like over 70% of the world’s nations, and over 10 European countries including Sweden and Iceland) and ask them to support the Occupied Territories Bill to boycott Judenstaat products, like we did with South Africa.
4. Talk about Palestine.

On Friday 27 January we especially remember the Palestinian victims of the current Genocide (NAKBA) and their Jewish persecutors in our prayers.

**Joseph O’ Neill**

**Interfaith for Palestine Moderate Jews and Gentiles praying and working to end the Genocide of the Palestinians.**

ENDS

#### PALESTINE/ISRAEL/UK: LAUNCH OF BALFOUR PROJECT “ABANDONING PALESTINE”

A 45 minute recording of the Balfour Project’s recent webinar with Layla Moran MP which was held on 9 January 2023. Layla, our chair Andrew Whitley and trustee John McHugo launched the Balfour Project booklet recording our 2022 conference “*Abandoning Palestine: the end of the British Mandate and our continuing responsibility*”.

**Download the 100 page booklet:** [https://balfourproject.org/bp/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SOUVENIR-BOOKLET-FINAL\\_compressed.pdf](https://balfourproject.org/bp/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SOUVENIR-BOOKLET-FINAL_compressed.pdf) If you would like a hard copy posted to you, we would appreciate a donation to cover postage. Please email [diana@balfourproject.org](mailto:diana@balfourproject.org) with the address you would like the booklet posted to.

The webinar looks at the prospects for Palestine/Israel in 2023, the role of the United Kingdom – past and present – and the Balfour Project’s plans for a major conference on 17 May on Equal Rights – 75 years on from Britain’s abandonment of Palestine, with all that entailed.

**To watch a recording of the webinar or to download an audio recording go to:** <https://balfourproject.org/launch/>

#### FILM: FARHA

**Jo Siedlecka** 15 January 2023: This powerful film tells the story of a 14 year-old Palestinian girl during the Nakba, the displacement of Palestinians from their homeland in 1948 when the State of Israel was established.

Farha is a Quranic name girl's name meaning 'A Joyous Time'. The serene opening scenes in the film show the beauty of Palestinian village life in the 1940s: the honey-coloured stone buildings, olive and fig trees.

Farha, sensitively played by Jordanian actress Karam Taher, is a thoughtful and quiet young teenager. Wearing an embroidered headscarf and long dress, she confides with her friend from the city about how much she wants to go to school. Her Dad, the town mayor would prefer her to stay home in the country, learn the Qu’ran with the local Imam and get married to a local boy. But her uncle persuades him to allow Farha to come to the city, live with his family and attend school there - where she will have a chance to study more subjects.

Things are looking up. Farha has such high hopes, but her dream gradually falls apart when the Israeli soldiers arrive. Her Dad hides her in a dark cramped storage cupboard where she waits and waits and waits.... listening to terrifying sounds outside and witnessing some atrocities through a small crack in the door. It's a harrowing watch. There are many parallels with the Anne Frank story here - (although Farha does get out alive.)

Some Israeli figures have claimed the film has created "a false narrative" about the Nakba. Israel's outgoing finance minister, Avigdor Lieberman, said in a statement. "It's crazy that Netflix decided to stream a movie whose whole purpose is to create a false pretence and incite against Israeli soldiers." But director Darin J Sallam says she wrote the script based on a true story she was told as a child by her mother. She said she decided to make the film "Not because I'm political, but because I'm loyal to the story that I heard."

And that story is one which many thousands of elderly Palestinians, and their children and grandchildren, still languishing in refugee camps in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan will recognise all too clearly.

Farha premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in September 2021. It won the Best Youth Feature Film category at the 2022 Asia Pacific Screen Awards, and began airing on Netflix last month. The film is Jordan's submission in the Best International Feature Film category at the 95th Academy Awards in March. This film is a fitting companion to the Netflix 2021 Palestinian Movie Collection.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46314>

See also: [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/43292](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/43292) (Ave Maria and The Present are particularly good.)

Read a more in-depth review here: [www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1653553](http://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1653553)

Watch a trailer for Farha here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3STq43E2HcU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3STq43E2HcU)

## SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION

**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 invite students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme: **Building Peaceful Futures**. Deadline 10 February. **More information:** <https://www.columbancompetition.com/>.

## CAFOD'S STEP INTO THE GAP PROGRAMME FOR 18-30S

13/1/2023: Thinking of taking a Gap year, and wondering what to do? In the last 15 years CAFOD Step into the Gap volunteers have raised awareness of global justice and inspired a new generation to use their Faith in Action. CAFOD's Gap year programme is a great opportunity for those aged between 18-30 to gain experience, develop leadership skills and spend a year inspiring others to act for the poor and most marginalised.

Based in the UK in a retreat centre or secondary school with accommodation, travel and stipend included, you can enjoy an immersive and interactive experience as an ambassador for CAFOD. The year includes opportunities to build skills and wider life experience as well as a fully funded learning pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. As well as the full gap year, CAFOD also has opportunities for shorter volunteering placements throughout this year at a variety of summer retreat centres for successful candidates.

The CAFOD Step Into the Gap scheme offers:

- In person visit to your conferences, mission days or young adult group meetings leading a session on Service and Leadership with CAFOD and to find out more about the gap year programme.
- Online zoom/teams call for groups of young adults to learn more about the programme, Q & A space and how to apply (this could also be an evening talk)
- We can offer face to face, online or via PowerPoint information sharing to suit where possible in our diary – Book now to secure dates!

If you would like to know more, please get in touch with Arianne McIntyre at [youngleadership@cafod.org](mailto:youngleadership@cafod.org) with any questions or to book in a session on service, leadership, and volunteering opportunities with CAFOD to support young adult Catholic life. To apply for September 2023 go to: [www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://www.cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

## SAY NO TO TWICKENHAM ARMS FAIR

'This is not a sport' - That's the message peace campaigners in west London are taking to the Rugby Stadium in Twickenham - near St Mary's University - where arms manufacturers are planning to hold a fair next week.

The Twickenham Arms Fair, "International Armoured Vehicles" plans to return on 23rd January to the Rugby Stadium. Exhibitors and speakers at the arms fair will include representatives drone maker Elbit Systems, missile maker Rafael, warplane maker Leonardo among others. Richmond and Kingston PSC, along with other local groups and CAAT campaigners are saying "Tanks Out of Twickenham!"

### PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**Film Showing and Author talk:** Tuesday 17 January 7 pm, The Exchange Twickenham. Screening of *The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade*, followed by Q&A with the author/director Andrew Feinstein. Entry £5 via eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-shadow-world-inside-the-global-arms-trade-with-andrew-feinstein-tickets-500097333587> If the entry fee or travel (including accessible travel) to this event are unaffordable, support is available from CAAT thanks to kind donations from our supporters. Contact CAAT for details.

**Street Stalls: Saturday 14 & 21 January** corner of Water Lane and Church Street, Twickenham

**Protest, first day of the arms fair: Monday 23 January 2.30-4.30 pm** demonstration outside the Stadium, Whitton Road TW2 7BA (by the statue). You can also **write to the RFU**, who own the stadium, and say no, via the following link: <https://palestinecampaign.eaction.online/twickenham> More than 2000 people have done so already!

**Stay updated via** CAAT Events **page**, which also has details of other upcoming protests, vigils and events: <https://caat.org.uk/events/>

## WHAT'S YOUR VISION OF A GREEN, FAIR AND PEACEFUL WORLD?

**Watch and share a short video by Greenpeace**, so other people can see that change is possible – when we work together.

[https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/take-action/world-you-want/?source=EM&subsource=GOFRNAINEM04FA&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=Jan+2023+Vision+-+VIDEO+IN+20221216&utm\\_term=Full+List#video](https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/take-action/world-you-want/?source=EM&subsource=GOFRNAINEM04FA&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Jan+2023+Vision+-+VIDEO+IN+20221216&utm_term=Full+List#video)

## AT WAR WITH NATURE?

### Green Christian Guest post by GC member Edward Gildea

That cold snap we had just before Christmas was exceptional, with some ice encrusted cars registering -12°C for those setting off to work early, but it was nothing compared to the horrendously cold 'Bomb cyclone' in America in which 60 lives have been lost, 15,000 flights were cancelled, 1.7 million suffered power cuts and temperatures plummeted to minus 31°C in Montana.

The New York governor, Kathy Hochul, said, "This is a war with Mother Nature." But she is wrong. Mother Nature is not at war with us; she is just behaving the way we have invited her to behave. Extreme weather events are the consequence of the thousands of giga tonnes of Greenhouse gases we have pumped into the atmosphere which have destabilised the delicate balance of our climate. We have emitted more CO<sub>2</sub> since 1991 than in the whole of the rest of human history. Where natural climate changes happen over hundreds of thousands of years, we have done this in a few decades.

There were many times when I was at the helm during my circumnavigation that I felt I was battling against the wind and the waves, but I would tell myself off for thinking that way. The wind was powering us even when it was against us, and the waves were often a wonderful source of surfs. As a crew we were working with Nature, sensitive to every gust and wave. That is what we need to relearn.

Let's learn how to work in harmony with Nature, not try to control, subdue or obliterate her. If we go into a head-on battle, I know who will win. Maybe 2023 will be the year in which we learn a little humility.

Edward Gildea

- Edward Gildea writes magazine articles for his local church, St Mary's, Saffron Walden in north west Essex, each month. He has kindly given permission to anyone to re-edit for your own parish newsletters. Please credit him and his church website. [https://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/Articles/561999/What\\_s\\_going.aspx](https://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/Articles/561999/What_s_going.aspx)

## JOB OPPORTUNITY: PROJECT WORKER - FAITH COMMUNITIES & CLIMATE ACTION

An exciting opportunity to join the Faiths4Change Team – we're recruiting a creative, proactive Project Worker to support the delivery of an exciting and diverse portfolio of practical projects with faith and community partners on climate change, including carbon net zero.

Faiths4Change (F4C) is a dynamic environmental charity active at local and strategic level across the Liverpool City Region and beyond; working in partnership to co-create climate action and resilience projects, education, and positive change.

We are not a religious organisation but draw on our multi-faith roots & values for inspiration, engagement and action; our work is deeply rooted in actively caring for the Earth and communities as an integrated whole. You don't need to have religious beliefs to work with us, you will need empathy, understanding and a commitment to equity. Our mission is to work in partnership to achieve a truly just, thriving Earth home for all.

We are a registered Living Wage Employer, offer 31 days annual leave (FTE), an annual pay review, flexible working and a truly supportive Team environment. Hours per week: 24 flexible working & job share applicants welcome. Hourly rate: £12.20 - £13.50. Actual annual salary range: £15,225.60 - £16,848.00

Application information: To apply, please download the job description and skills/experience documents from our website <https://www.faiths4change.org.uk/project-worker---faith--climate-action.html>

Please use these documents to create a covering letter. Send your covering letter and CV to [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk) To discuss the role, please email [annie@faiths4change.org.uk](mailto:annie@faiths4change.org.uk) to arrange a conversation.

**Deadline for completed applications:** Wednesday 25 January 2023. Interviews on Wednesday 1 February 2023.

- **Read the Winter issue of *MouthPeace* the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Winter-Mouthpeace-2022-3.pdf>
- **Read NJPN's weekly column** online on Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) or find articles be uploaded onto our website at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)
- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.
- **Sign up** for regular news and information from NJPN including **a new fortnightly e-bulletin with a comprehensive round-up of current events, campaigns, e-petitions and resources** (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org) or [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk) 020 7901 4864

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR A PACKED DIARY

## DIARY

### JANUARY

**19 Chronicler of Palestine Balfour Project Webinar 3pm** Author Raja Shehadi in conversation with journalist Tim Llewellyn about his new book *We Could Have Been Friends my Father and I*. Raja Shehadeh is a lawyer and writer and the founder of the pioneering Palestinian human rights organisation Al Haq. He lives in Ramallah Palestine. **Register free here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2VDIO5gpR4mPfdWQiwN1Qw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2VDIO5gpR4mPfdWQiwN1Qw)

**25 CWDF Forum meeting** 4:30 to 5:30pm at the Best Building, University of Chester Parkgate Campus. Dr. Rich Waller, Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography at the University of Keele, will give a talk on “Contemporary Energy Crises and Sustainable Energy Futures”. All are welcome, and admission is free.

**26 UK POVERTY 2023: The Essential Guide to Understanding Poverty in the UK** Joseph Rowntree Foundation Zoom Webinar 11am - 12midday. **Register here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1816704140540/WN\\_-8BJXQ-cQxiHiodK1qD\\_Ug](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1816704140540/WN_-8BJXQ-cQxiHiodK1qD_Ug)

### FEBRUARY

**1 A new series of online workshops for 2023 from Green Christian** on the first Wednesday of each month 7pm to 8.15pm **Keeping warm and saving energy**. Details: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/green-christian-workshops/> Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcu-hqzkvHNTODbn54PznDA3-NThhu2Ek>

**2 Palestine: Balfour Project overview of 2022 and prospects for this year 3pm** with Ray Dolphin who worked in the West Bank and Gaza for over 30 years, most recently for the UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), where he was Senior Analyst. In addition to numerous UN reports, his book ‘The West Bank Wall: Unmaking Palestine’ was published by Pluto Books in 2006 and he collaborated with Magnum photographer Joseph Koudelka for the photo-book, ‘Wall’, published by Aperture in 2013. **Register free here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_lkdwdCESzCESINCECZLA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lkdwdCESzCESINCECZLA)

**10 CAFOD QUIZ** in Our Lady's Parish Centre Ellesmere Port starting at 7.30pm. As usual there will be a raffle with good prizes and entry is still only £3 - contact Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

**19 Church Action on Poverty Sunday 2023** Give, Act and Pray as part of the movement to unlock UK poverty. The cost of living crisis threatens to sweep millions into poverty, threatening their dignity and agency. No one should have to face the choice between heating and eating. To prevent more people being swept deeper into poverty, it's vital that those of us affected have a say. On Church Action on Poverty Sunday, we are invited to join with other churches across the UK in giving, action and prayer and to celebrate the transformational possibilities of people coming together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power. Use our free worship resources to reflect and pray for change, and raise funds to enable more people to speak truth to power. We're looking for at least 150 churches across the UK to hold a special service or take a collection on Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Register here to be one of these: <https://churchpoverty.e-activist.com/page/115061/subscribe/1>

**25 NJPN Networking Open Day** The Cost of Living Crisis: living versus existing 10.45am for 11am–3.30pm on Zoom. Book via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/njpn-networking-day-tickets-466226314457>

**27 February – 12 March Fairtrade Fortnight 2023**. This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight-/> Did you know cocoa, bananas and coffee could soon be much more difficult to find on our shelves? Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink. But here's the good news. More of us choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power, and support for those communities, as they work to build sustainable and prosperous futures. So not only is choosing Fairtrade best for people and planet, it could help save everyday treats like chocolate, bananas and a hot cuppa!

### MARCH

**1 Online workshop from Green Christian** 6.15-7.15pm **Fairtrade & LOAF** with Faiths4Change in Liverpool and **Barbara Echlin** from Green Christian. Details: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/green-christian-workshops/> Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fairtrade-loaf-principles-tickets-492640439817>

**8 International Women's Day #EmbraceEquity** <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/2023Theme>

**21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day>

**22 World Water Day** <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

**25 Resisting Monopoly Capitalism Global Justice Now activist conference**. Location: Central London. Multinational corporations have grown wealthy by monopolising essential resources – food, medicines technology. These leviathans set the rules of the game, forcing countries to compete with each other. This triggers not only a race to the bottom in terms of workers' rights and environmental protection, but also leads the way to potentially devastating international conflict. Monopoly capitalism needs to be confronted on an international basis, as well as at the level of the nation state. The movement against monopolies is growing. Only by taxing and regulating, breaking up and taking over these private monoliths can we hope to reclaim our democracy, reverse inequality and leave a habitable planet for future generations. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/resisting-monopoly-capitalism-tickets-511557300657>