

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)

### OPINION: TURKEY SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

10/02/2023 **Joseph Kelly writes:**

*“An earthquake is a natural disaster, but the death toll and suffering on the northern Syrian border is anything but natural.”*

As of this morning, more than 28,000 people are known to have died in Monday's two devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, and the death toll is going to continue to rise as the rescue and clear-up work continues.

The sheer scale of the destruction is obvious, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has called it “the disaster of the century.” The World Health Organisation is also warning of a second humanitarian disaster, as well over one million already vulnerable people have been displaced by tragedy. There is a desperate lack of shelter, food, fuel and electricity in a region currently experiencing near freezing temperatures by day, and far worse by night.

It wasn't until four days after the tragedy hit that the first international aid supplies to reach the stricken region. Six UN lorries carrying blankets, mattresses, tents and basic relief items sufficient for 5,000 people, crossed into Syria from Turkey through the Bab al-Hawa crossing. The convoy wasn't actually a response to the earthquakes, but just a scheduled run of relief aid to the region, which had been happening since before the earthquake. The most urgent needs – for medical equipment, medicines and rescue equipment, have still yet to reach the disaster area in any meaningful amounts.

Although there is huge experience and expertise in responding to global calamities, the aid logistics – if they are to be effective – inevitably consume precious time, exactly when this commodity is least available. As numerous international aid agencies swing into action, it is hoped that the situation on supplies will improve significantly over the weekend.

In any such disaster politics is rarely far from the surface, and this one is no exception. The bitter civil war between the Free Syrian Army led by Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and various opposition forces has been rumbling on since March 2011. This ruthless conflict has displaced millions of Syrians to the north of the country, and across the border into southern Turkey, the epicentre of Monday's earthquakes. In his turn, Turkey's president, Tayyip Erdogan, has backed rebels fighting to topple Assad and even sent his own troops into northern Syria, leading to diplomatic ties between the two countries being severed.

With conditions after the earthquake far worse than anything seen during the 12 years of civil war, the pressure is on both governments to open a humanitarian corridor to allow large-scale supplies to reach the devastated region, where 90% of the population was already reliant on humanitarian aid even before the earthquake hit. The demands come after the Syrian Ambassador to the UN, Bassam Sabbagh, was accused of ‘playing politics with aid’, when he stated earlier this week that Syria should be responsible for the delivery of all aid into Syria, even those areas not currently under government control. Understandably, al-Assad's well documented history of aid diversion is making western governments wary of complying with this particular demand.

Over at the United Nations, where Vladimir Putin is a protector of the al-Assad regime, the Russian power of veto has also been hampering cross border aid. Just yesterday the Syrian Network for Human Rights released a report entitled, Russia's Veto Blocking the UN Cross-Border Relief Aid is Unlawful and its Only Aim is to Seize UN Relief Aid, stressing that Russia's exploitation of the UN relief aid for political gain must be stopped.

Currently there is only one supply corridor, and one border crossing, in northern Syria, and there's even a doubt as to whether or not this is being controlled by the Syrian government, or Turkish-controlled opposition. Following the quake the route has been all but destroyed, with snow and freezing temperatures adding to the problems. In response, the US Secretary of State has ruled out delivering aid via the Syrian government, saying: “it would be ironic, if not even counterproductive, for us to reach out to a government that has brutalised its people over the course of a dozen years now – gassing them, slaughtering them, being responsible for much of the suffering that they have endured.”

There are deep questions too on the Turkish side. Following the catastrophic earthquake there in 1999 that killed more than 18,000 people, the government imposed an earthquake tax on its citizens, designed to create a reserve of billions of dollars to help with future such disasters. By all accounts the money collected over the past 20 years seems to have disappeared, under accusations of cronyism and corruption.

“They grease their cronies’ palms with earthquake taxes,” says political opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu. “Where is that money? It’s gone.”

It is believed that that the reserve was spent on highway and other construction projects, with the contracts being handed to associates of Erdogan and his coalition government. Some of these contracts are believed to have been for the construction of domestic properties, many of which were poorly constructed and linked to corruption within the Turkish building industry.

Stricter building safety standards were introduced across Turkey following the 1999 quake, but there has also been a policy of granting “construction amnesties” (for a suitable fee) that offer legal exemptions to buildings constructed without the required earthquake safety certificate. according to Pelin Pinar Giritlioglu, Istanbul head of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects’ Chamber of City Planners, there could be up to 75,000 building across the earthquake zone with an exemption certificate, which points to a far more systematic abuse of the system than just periodic exemptions. A study this week by the BBC of video and social media images of collapsed buildings has raised worrying questions about some of the most modern apartment blocks in the affected region. These structures, several only completed as recently as 2019, should have been able to withstand the quake – but video has shown them crumbling to dust. With more than four million Syrian refugees displaced into southern Turkey, there was undoubtedly considerable pressure to provide housing, but lax practices and government corruption has added immeasurably to the suffering and loss being experienced this week.

As ever, the inability of national leaders to settle their differences, and a fixation with the accumulation of personal wealth, has brought tragedy and grief to millions of innocent ordinary people. Dictators and autocrats have been around since time itself, but we don’t seem to have made much progress in our ability to deal with such despots, and the terrible consequences of their actions. In the case of Syria and Turkey we have two dictators who have been engaging for decades in the annihilation of their own citizens, and the denial of their basic human rights and freedoms. Just this week, Dame Barbara Woodward, UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, gave evidence to the UN Security Council meeting on Syria that: “the Assad regime has been working actively to rebuild its chemical weapons stockpile since at least 2018.” Dame Barbara also spoke of: “the latest overwhelming evidence of Syria’s chemical weapons use.”

The UK has had a highly questionable relationship with Syria’s President al-Assad ever since Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed him enthusiastically to the UK on an official visit in 2002, and a similar welcome was accorded Turkish President Erdogan on a UK official three-day visit in 2018, after which Erdogan praised Britain as “an ally and a strategic partner, but also a real friend”.

In politics there will always be an element of strategy, and arguments for maintaining dialogue with even the worst of dictators – in the hope of enlightenment and transformation. There are, however, times when blatant injustice, corruption and inhumanity just needs to be called out for what it is. Disasters such as earthquakes are entirely natural phenomena, but there’s nothing natural in the terrible, mounting casualty figures in Syria and Turkey, nor in the difficulties being experienced by aid agencies in reaching the devastated region. As well as praying for the victims and all who are working to provide them with help and support, we should pray too for legislators, dictators and despots – that better ways might be found to resolve our human differences.

- **Joseph Kelly** is a Catholic writer and political theologian

<https://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk/an-earthquake-is-a-natural-disaster-but-the-death-toll-and-suffering-on-the-northern-syrian-border-is-anything-but-natural/>

## CAFOD AND SCIAF LAUNCH EARTHQUAKE APPEALS

07/02/2023: The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF) have launched emergency appeals in response to the devastating Syria Turkey earthquake, which has already killed thousands of people. The agencies partners were already responding to the severe humanitarian need in Syria, which meant they were able to support the emergency effort as soon as the earthquake hit. The response has included supporting the search and rescue operation, as well as helping with the humanitarian need that arises when earthquakes hit, such as making sure people have water, hot meals, warm clothes and moving them to safe places.

To ensure teams on the ground can continue in their efforts, CAFOD has committed an initial £100,000 in support. SCIAF has released £20,000 for partners and are liaising closely with them to determine how best to help. Supporting these appeals will help those responding to the search and rescue operation, as well as ensuring they can deliver the humanitarian aid that will be needed in the coming weeks, months and even years.

The earthquake has proved particularly catastrophic in Syria, as the infrastructure was already damaged from a brutal conflict.

Hombeline Dulière, CAFOD's Programme Manager for Syria Crisis Response said: "While the eyes of the world have been elsewhere, our partners in Syria remained on the ground responding to the severe humanitarian need in the country. This meant that when the earthquake tragically hit, they were already there and were able to respond quickly to the disaster. Our partners are working tirelessly to support the search and rescue operation, as well as making sure people have water, hot meals, warm clothing and somewhere safe to go. It is heart-breaking that this disaster has hit people who have already suffered so much. The impact has been catastrophic and will be felt in the country for years to come."

CAFOD is also calling on the international community, including the UN, governments and international NGOs, to focus on supporting local organisations already rooted in the community. It is civil society networks and organisations already embedded in the communities affected by the crisis that can most effectively get aid to people who are in need, and offer hope for recovery over the longer-term.

Alistair Dutton, Director of SCIAF, has many years' experience of humanitarian aid and led the response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti in his previous role as Humanitarian Director of Caritas Internationalis. He said: "It is heart breaking to see the scale of destruction caused by the earthquake and the level of suffering it has caused."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46492>

**To support CAFOD's appeal see:** [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**Support SCIAF's appeal here:** [www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/475-2023-syria-turkey-earthquake-appeal](http://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/475-2023-syria-turkey-earthquake-appeal)

### **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/>

### **LONDON: CND DEMONSTRATION TO STOP THE WAR IN UKRAINE**

At the end of February it will be one year since Russia invaded Ukraine. To mark the day, CND and Stop the War have called a national demonstration in central London on Saturday 25 February at midday to say no to war, and no to the risk of nuclear war.

From the very beginning, we have demanded 'Russian troops out,' and we also opposed NATO expansion, which was one of the causes of the war and the rapid military escalation in the conflict. One year on, the situation is deadlocked and it is clear there can be no winners in this war, that is why we need to be on the streets to demand peace talks now.

The existential threat of a nuclear war between NATO and Russia must be eliminated. Between them, they have around 12,000 nuclear weapons —some 100 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb. Join us as we call for peace, and an end to the very real threat of a nuclear war.

This week the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists pushed forward the hands of the Doomsday Clock ten seconds, in large part due to the war in Ukraine and Russia's nuclear threats. Now standing at 90 seconds to midnight, this is the closest we have ever been to nuclear war. With the invasion approaching its first year, the conflict shows no signs of ending as heavy weapons continue to flow into Ukraine risking further escalation.

**Demonstration Saturday, 25 February 2023 Assemble 12 noon, Portland Place, London (opposite the BBC)**

**Let us know you're coming, RSVP here:** <https://actionnetwork.org/events/stop-the-war-in-ukraine-london-demonstration>

**More information on speakers here:** <https://cnduk.org/events/stop-the-war-in-ukraine-london-demonstration>

**For any queries, please contact** [enquiries@cnduk.org](mailto:enquiries@cnduk.org)

## A PLEA FOR PEACE

Confused and distressed amid the clamour and din of claim and counter claim by the belligerents in the current tragic situation in Ukraine, I sought solace in silence.

There I came to understand that victory and defeat are two sides of the same coin: that victor and vanquished are inextricably bound together by bonds of hubris and humiliation, by guilt and shame but also by grief for the loss of family, friends and homes.

Those who choose the path of kindness and compassion as taught by all the world's great religions find true freedom though it may cost them their lives.

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## DO YOU HAVE ROOM IN YOUR HOME FOR A UKRAINIAN REFUGEE?

**Mariia Pashkova** 11/02/2023 **Source: SJOG**

As the first anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine approaches, we are faced with the reality of the ongoing war and its devastating impact on the lives of innocent people. With temperatures in Ukraine dropping as low as -20 C during the winter months, continued Russian attacks on Ukrainian critical infrastructure have left millions with only intermittent access to basic utilities. Furthermore, attacks on civilian homes, one of the latest being the devastating missile strike on an apartment building in Dnipro killing 40 on January 14, continue to result in loss of civilian life. A year into the invasion, many people are still looking to evacuate and find refuge in a safe place.

As Christians, it is our duty to offer love and support to those in need, and the UK government's Homes for Ukraine scheme provides a unique opportunity to do just that. Under this scheme, hosts commit to providing a spare room with access to shared facilities for a minimum of six months and will be entitled to compensation of £350 a month as a 'Thank you' payment. After one year of hosting, this payment increases to £500 a month.

Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG) Homes for Ukraine is an official provider of this government scheme. It is a matching, training and support pathway for guests from Ukraine and hosts in the UK willing to provide much-needed support.

In the past, hosts and guests often met on social media sites, such as Facebook, and sometimes did not even arrange a video call before deciding to share a home. Needless to say, such approach has often resulted in miscommunication, unrealised expectations, and negative stories we have seen in the media. At SJOG Homes for Ukraine, we provide plenty of support to both hosts and guests to make the transition as smooth as possible for both parties. We provide online training for hosts and guests, transfer from the Polish-Ukrainian border, a welcome box for Ukrainian guests upon arrival, and a multilingual team to support the needs of both hosts and guests, and thoroughly developed resources for both hosts and guests to help navigate the process. Additionally, we ensure support from local communities to make the experience as seamless and fulfilling as possible.

One host, under SJOG Homes for Ukraine, commented on his experience of hosting: "SJOG looked after much of this. Setting up a zoom meeting was helpful and the WhatsApp group was an ideal way to communicate needs initially. The settling in process was a huge learning curve. [...] It has been a positive experience for us learning about a different culture and broadened our horizons meeting such good people."

Another host commented: "My guest is a delight to share my home with. I am very happy to share the shopping and my kitchen with her and we take turns making evening meals for each other. With the help of the SJOG booklet, I was able to find out all the help available to her, such as the Red Cross payment and the Vodaphone sim card, and help her obtain these. Hopefully she feels as comfortable with me as I feel with her." By becoming a host through the SJOG Homes for Ukraine scheme, you have the opportunity to form a meaningful connection with your Ukrainian guest and learn about their culture and experiences. You will also be able to make a real impact in their lives during a time of great need.

So, as we mark the first anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, let us also celebrate the generosity and compassion of those who have opened their hearts and homes to those in need. And, to those who are considering becoming a host, we encourage you to join the SJOG Homes for Ukraine programme and make a difference in the lives of Ukrainians. Together, we can show the love of Christ to those who need it most.

**For more information go to:** <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> or email: [homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk)  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46525>

## SIR MO FARAH BECOMES PATRON OF LEADING MODERN SLAVERY RESEARCH CENTRE

**Source: The Catholic Network** 09/09/2023

Britain's greatest ever distance runner, and campaigner against modern slavery and human trafficking, Sir Mo Farah has become a Patron of the Bakhita Centre for Research on Slavery, Exploitation and Abuse at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

Sir Mo has a long relationship with St Mary's and trained, studied, and lived at the University from 2001-2011. He began campaigning against human trafficking and modern slavery following his decision in 2022 to reveal he himself was a victim of these crimes. Sir Mo was trafficked to the UK from Djibouti at the age of eight and forced to work in domestic servitude until he was ultimately able to escape when he confided in his teacher.

The announcement comes on 8 February, the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of victims of human trafficking. The Centre is named in honour of St Josephine, who herself was a victim of human trafficking in Sudan and Italy, becoming the first black female saint in 1992.

Speaking of his appointment as Patron, Sir Mo Farah said, "I am honoured to have the opportunity to support the work of the Bakhita Centre as its first Patron. Fighting the crimes of human exploitation is a cause close to my heart and I hope I can support the Centre in their work."

The Bakhita Centre was founded in 2015 to conduct research on modern slavery and human trafficking, to influence practice and policy, and to raise awareness across the university, in local communities and further afield. The Centre aims to broaden the University's research on global issues that intersect with modern slavery, including gender-based violence, sexual and other forms of exploitation, abuse and discrimination based on structural inequalities, race, ethnicity, asylum seeking/refugee and migrant status.

St Mary's Vice-Chancellor Anthony McClaran said, "We are delighted Sir Mo has agreed to become a Patron of the Bakhita Centre. On the athletics track, he is our most famous and successful alumnus, and it is a great honour that he will continue his relationship with the University on this topic that is both close to Sir Mo's personal experience, and our mission as a University."

Director of the Bakhita Centre Dr Carole Murphy added, "Sir Mo's presence as our patron will help us raise the profile of the work of the Centre and our commitment to expose the structural factors that underpin the crimes of human exploitation and in turn provide more support to more survivors and anti-exploitation practitioners."

The Bakhita Centre is highly active in the public square, producing regular reports and hosting conferences to share best practise with practitioners, legislators, and journalists to support victims and help agencies identify victims of human exploitation.

### About Bakhita Centre

Since its establishment in 2015, the Bakhita Centre has built up a strong network of partners in civil society, law enforcement, other universities, and government, and draws on the expertise of internal and external partners. Honorary Research Fellows active in the Centre have expertise in social work, policing, business, tackling organised crime, and survivor support. Internal partners at St Mary's include academic experts in Criminology, Law, Media, Business and Education. These partnerships enable the Centre to approach the multifaceted issue of modern slavery and human trafficking from a wide-ranging perspective.

The Centre also works closely with NGOs to identify gaps in service provision for survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking and to recommend changes to policy and practice. Over the years, it has also worked with government departments to identify gaps in knowledge, generating empirical evidence to make the response more targeted, and generate better results for those subject to slavery and trafficking. The Centre's work will continue to impact on policy, practice and prevention through applied research, education, training, and awareness raising.

The Centre supports Cardinal Vincent Nichols' initiative to combat slavery and trafficking, along with Bakhita House (a London-based safe-house for trafficked women) and the Santa Marta group which seeks to co-ordinate the efforts of law enforcement authorities, NGOs, and governments worldwide.

**See more here:** <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/centres/bakhita/overview.aspx>  
<https://www.thecatholicnetwork.co.uk/sir-mo-farah-becomes-patron-of-leading-modern-slavery-research-centre/>

## IAN LINDEN: HOW 'GLOBAL BRITAIN' IS LETTING DOWN THE WORLD'S POOR

09/02/2023: From Friday 27 January a Yemeni family tuning in to the BBC World Service Arabic broadcasts would be disappointed. To save £28 million towards a shortfall caused by inflation and freezing of the license fee, BBC radio's ten language services are being shut down and several hundred staff made redundant. It's digital or TV now for those who can afford it.

Yemen is a destitute, hungry, war-torn country. Few will have the money to buy a mobile phone to catch the only independent news on-line. This unseen discrimination against the poorest in the world may seem a minor, distant matter. But it is small part of a bigger picture. And we should be concerned.

For the last few years, the UK has been behaving as if it didn't have enough money to pursue a coherent Foreign, Commonwealth and Development policy (FCDO). Yet we were one of the 19 founder signatories of the OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) in 1960. It numbers 38 democracies today. Its mandate is to promote 'a collaboration in policy standards to promote sustainable growth'. It describes development assistance as directed at "economic development and welfare of developing countries". Do we really share these goals? There is growing evidence we don't.

In 2021 the aid budget was 'temporarily' (weasel words - it is likely to stay that way until the end of the decade) reduced from the UN target of 0.7% of GNP (Gross National Product) to 0.5%. This amounted to a cut of 21% from £14.5 billion to c.£11.4 billion of which c.£7.14 billion (62.6%) was in the form of direct bilateral aid to individual countries, some of it via the World Food Programme, for example feeding the starving in Yemen. The overall budget for Yemen was halved in 2021 from £221 million to £114 million. Yet need continued to grow.

Cuts in spending for Lebanon are another egregious example. In July 2021, a year after a huge explosion in a port warehouse caused extensive devastation in Beirut, and on top of Lebanon's economic collapse, the incoming British ambassador, Ian Collard, inherited an aid budget of £140 million cut from £260 million for the period 2019-2020. According to the newspaper L'Orient Today a further 2021-2022 cut was scheduled to reduce the budget to c. £32 million. Lebanon hosts 2.2 million Syrian refugees and over 200,000 Palestinians. Its total population is 5.6 million, 40% of whom now require humanitarian assistance. It doesn't take much imagination to predict the impact of across-the-board cuts of this magnitude on British embassies' capacity to promote 'economic development and welfare'. You might have thought that Lebanon, a failed State, tucked perilously between Israel and Syria, would fall within the Foreign and Development Office priority category, alongside Syria and Afghanistan. Not so.

In June 2020 Boris Johnson described the aid budget as a "giant cashpoint in the sky" and amalgamated our development ministry with the Foreign Office. But who is making the withdrawals and for what purpose? The Home Office for one. A more accurate description is the budget for plugging holes - of which there are many such as the rising cost of housing and feeding refugees in this country.

We have an aid ceiling in the UK. So payment of hotels, for food and other burgeoning refugee expenses cannot be covered by adding to the overall budget which is fixed. An interesting set of submissions to a December 2022 Parliamentary Select Committee on International Aid on the funding of asylum seekers and economic migrants arriving in UK, (on-line thanks to the Washington and London based Global Centre for Development), provides detailed evidence. 12% of the UK aid budget is being used to meet some of the current Treasury shortfall. And the sum could double. Just as the effects of climate change are being felt, this means drastic cuts in life-saving humanitarian aid let alone development aid. £700 million went to East Africa to mitigate the consequences of the 2016-2018 droughts. £156 million was budgeted for last year's continuing and no less severe drought.

Over 150,000 thousand applicants for asylum in Britain are waiting for a decision on their status, tens of thousands have been waiting for over three years. In Germany, using a UNHCR triage system, the wait is on average 6-7 months. We are dealing with far fewer Ukrainian refugees than Germany which has issued six times the number of UK visas, or neighbouring Poland which has accepted 1.26 million. Yet, here in the UK the arrival of 45,750 people in small boats in 2022 is treated as a national crisis while the inefficiency and waste of the Home Office is covered by money taken from the world's hungry....

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46510>

**To read on see:** [www.ianlinden.com/latest-blogs/how-global-britain-is-letting-down-the-worlds-poor](http://www.ianlinden.com/latest-blogs/how-global-britain-is-letting-down-the-worlds-poor)

• 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.

## 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.

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.”

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.

**Go to:** <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/> for resources and information on the Big Lent Walk.

## WHAT SHOULD A ‘CHURCH ON THE MARGINS’ LOOK LIKE?

Church Action on Poverty’s Church on the Margins Research Officer Sarah Purcell has been exploring how churches can better prioritise and be led by people from marginalised communities. Since 2020, our ‘Church on the Margins’ programme has been listening to churches that are doing inspiring work in deprived communities across Greater Manchester. Here are a couple of the stories that emerged from our shared reflections:

### **“I had this feeling that I belonged”**

As a refugee, finding places of acceptance and belonging can be difficult, and a warm welcome is not on offer everywhere. So when one participant was invited to go to church, he politely declined. “I wasn’t a Christian at the time,” he says, so thought, “I won’t go there.” However, his wife was keen to try it, and when she returned saying, “This is the best place we can go because everybody is just hugging you, welcoming you,” he was persuaded to give it a try.

Not only did he receive a warm welcome, but he felt included in ways he’d never imagined possible. Thinking that only those who work and pay taxes would be able to be involved in the church’s decision-making processes, he was really surprised to be invited by the pastor to attend the church meeting so he could say something. “It was a really great feeling for me ... I had this feeling that I belonged.”

### **“This is my church! That welcome.”**

Reflecting on serving an eight-month prison sentence, one participant in Wythenshawe said, “You spend all the time when you’re in prison saying – I want to get home, I want to get home – but when I got home, it was very frightening, I was very anxious because you suddenly think you’ve got a big tattoo on your head that says I’ve just come out of prison.”

Even though the minister of the church she attended, and many of its members, had visited her while she was in prison, she still felt very nervous about returning to church services. The first Sunday she was home, the minister arranged to pick her up and take her to the evening gathering, and she remembers the dread of walking through the doors. One of the members she knew was on the other side of the room and, on spotting her, shouted over, “I’ve put you down on the coffee rota because you’ve got quite a few to catch up on, and will you see Sheila about the flowers?” All she could do was laugh and think, “This is my church! That welcome: you don’t need to make a big song and dance about it; you’ve done it, you’ve served your time and now you’re back, get back to making the brews.”

**Source:** <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SPARK-newsletter-winter-2022%E2%80%9323.pdf>

## MANCHESTER MUSEUM ANNOUNCES FUNDING AND PLANS FOR A NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE MANAGER

25/01/2023: The Manchester Museum has announced that it has received significant philanthropic support from Savannah Wisdom to create a new Social Justice Manager role and drive forward its work on family poverty, inclusion and social mobility over the next five years.

The museum is widely regarded as a leading model of social responsibility within the cultural sector. It is committed to understanding and meeting local needs and collaborating with others who are making a difference on the issues that are most important to local communities.

The newly created role demonstrates the museum's steadfast commitment to becoming more inclusive, caring and imaginative. Many of the museum's most local communities are socially fragmented, experience high levels of poor health and inequality, and are among those most heavily affected by the current and future impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. 11,000 children live in poverty within a two-mile radius of Manchester Museum. The museum's ongoing work to embed social justice in its practices responds to this.

It launched a pilot programme for the cultural sector, Local Matters, in 2021 which advocates for a different response to addressing the needs of children and families living in poverty. Led by Dr Carl Emery and Louisa Dawes from the University of Manchester, the programme addresses how poverty and disadvantage are understood and responded to within the museum and through its relationships and activities.

Esme Ward, Museum Director: "Manchester Museum's hello future transformation is nearing completion, and it has not only increased the museum's capacity to showcase extraordinary collections, it has also led to new collaborations with the people of Greater Manchester. This is part of our ambition to become even more inclusive and caring for the communities we serve. We are proud of the work we have done but are also aware of how much more there is to do.

"At this defining moment in our future, we are committing to unparalleled collaboration with schools, third sector organisations, statutory organisations, individuals and communities: seeking to create new opportunity and inspiration; helping to raise aspiration and achievement; and providing the practical support that is most urgently needed."

Julian Skyrme, Director of Social Responsibility at the University of Manchester: "By harnessing the museum's distinctive position – as one of Manchester's best-loved cultural venues, that collaborates with communities across the city-region, and is backed by cutting-edge research driven by The University of Manchester – this transformative gift will play a critical role in realising the museum's potential as a leading hub for social justice in our city."

Manchester Museum has been closed since August 2021 for a capital development and it will reopen to the public on 18 February 2023. [www.manchestermuseum.co.uk](http://www.manchestermuseum.co.uk)

Entry to the museum is free. Opening times: Tuesday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 10am-9pm, Thursday 10am-5pm, Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday 8am-5pm, Sunday 10am-5pm

Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL Contact us: +44 (0) 161 275 2648

## FUTURE OF COLLECTIONS

The Manchester Museum was born of civic spirit, curiosity and ambition at the height of British colonial rule, and how we acknowledge, interrogate and address this complex history is critical and urgent work.

The unconditional repatriation of secret sacred objects to communities of origin helps create healing, justice and reconciliation. By taking this action, we will become more inclusive, caring and relevant to the communities we serve both locally and globally.

Our work with Aboriginal communities and AIATSIS (The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies) <https://aiatsis.gov.au/> to promote understanding between cultures, learn together and build new relationships for the future has never been more important or timely. We are expanding our direct work with communities of origin to build new knowledge and be accountable to where we as a museum and all the collections come from. We look forward to working with other museums to strengthen trust with communities globally, work collaboratively, encourage open conversations about the future of collections and critically, take action.

We respect and follow the advice of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>



## RETURN OF 43 CEREMONIAL AND SACRED OBJECTS TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

2020 marked the 250th anniversary of James Cook's first voyage to the east coast of Australia and the beginning of the large-scale removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage to overseas collections. Coinciding with the anniversary, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) proposed and led a project, funded by the Australian government, called the Return of Cultural Heritage (RoCH) project.

**Read more here:** <https://www.mmfromhome.com/repatriation-of-objects>

AIATSIS and the University of Manchester have signed a Memorandum of Understanding encompassing a commitment from both parties to collaborate and share knowledge on how to manage collections which include items related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This commitment typifies all aspects of the repatriation, which focused on the wealth of mutual understanding and knowledge to be gained from a collaborative enterprise which was approached with care and sensitivity on all sides.

<https://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/making-the-museum/futureofcollections/>

## DIGITAL BENIN

A digital data base, launched on 4 November 2022, has images of over 5,240 objects looted during the 19th century British punitive expedition on the Kingdom of Benin (now Edo State, Nigeria). The digital images of these objects are drawn from 131 museums and institutions from 20 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Canada and Israel, as well as 14 European countries.

The historic Benin objects are an expression of Benin arts, culture and history, and were originally used as royal representational arts, to depict historical events, to communicate, to worship and perform rituals. This digital platform introduces new scholarship which connects digital documentation about the translocated objects to oral histories, object research, historical context, a foundational Edo language catalogue, provenance names, a map of the Benin Kingdom and museum collections worldwide.

Manchester museum's involvement in the Digital Benin programme is a reflection of our commitment in making what we hold visible in order to help people and institutions leading on repatriation in Nigeria and across the diaspora to select and prioritise cultural heritage material for return and to access their cultural heritage virtually.

**Explore Digital Benin here:** <https://digitalbenin.org/>

## INCE BENET: NEW PRAYER AND RETREAT CENTRE ON MERSEYSIDE

07/02/2023: Ince Benet is a new prayer/retreat centre near Liverpool set in acres of beautiful woodland. This marks a new chapter in the life of the monastery built by Fr Tom Cullinan in 1980, through the generosity and support of the Augustinian sisters at Ince Blundell Hall. Over the next forty years Fr Tom lived the monastic life of a Benedictine monk, putting Ince Benet at the service of the local and wider community, offering hospitality and an atmosphere of prayer, study, conversation and guidance to many people of all faiths and none.

As an evolution of Fr Tom's life and work, Ince Benet has been renovated, thanks to the continued generosity of the Augustinian sisters and is now available to individuals, couples and groups of all faiths or none as a place of prayer, reflection and renewal.

### **Versatility for relaxing and recharging, prayer and planning**

Half an hour from Liverpool and 10 minutes from the M57 & M58 motorways, it is ideal for those looking for somewhere that is easy to reach, yet has an 'away from it all' feel from the moment you enter the woods. The chapel, bedrooms and communal areas have been designed not just to be set in the beautiful surroundings, but to be part of them, allowing visitors to blend contemplation and conversation according to their needs. Ince Benet is ideal for retreats or for quiet days of rest and prayer, for planning and Inset days, and is available for residential stays and away days for individuals and for groups. We welcome people of all faiths and none.

Since opening, it has been used by individuals, small groups and groups of 15-20

- Clergy: groups of priests both for planning days and for overnight stays
- Parish groups: retreat days
- Schools: Inset days for staff
- Individuals: both for quiet days and short stays of quiet, rest and prayer
- small groups: using the meeting room for planning days.

**Read more about Ince Benet here:** <https://incebenet.co.uk/>

**Find out more** about Fr Tom Cullinan and his work (articles and audios), along with the work of two other well-known Liverpool priests, Fr Austin Smith and Fr Kevin Kelly on: [www.fr-tom-cullinan.co.uk/](http://www.fr-tom-cullinan.co.uk/)

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/46494>

## THE SACRED BALANCE

**Heather Kiernan writes:** Canadian author and environmentalist, David Suzuki's *'The Sacred Balance'* is vintage Suzuki. He argues that our actions are throwing the Earth's life support systems off balance and possibly endangering all life forms; that to save ourselves and the planet we must change our profligate ways and restore the sacred balance. Suzuki suggests that this is best achieved by learning from Indigenous peoples.

"Our stories tell us where we come from and why we are here. In the beginning, these stories say, there was water, and then there was sky and fire, there was Earth, and there was life. We humans crawled out of the womb of the planet, or we were shaped out of clay and water, carved from twigs, compounded of seeds and ashes, or hatched from the cosmic egg. One way or another, we were from the sacred elements that together compose the Earth. We are made from the Earth, we breathe it in with every breath we take, we drink it and eat it, and we share the same spark that animates the whole planet. Our stories tell us this, and so does our science..."

***The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature* ~David Suzuki**

## STAR COUNT 2023 IS COMING!

**Campaign to Protect Rural England writes:** between 17-24 February join us in counting the stars in Orion. Your results will help us make a map of where star-spotters are enjoying deep, dark skies. By showing on a map where light pollution is most serious, we can work with local councils and others to decide what to do about it. Every count helps - sign up to take part below if you haven't already!

Star-filled skies are one of the most magical sights our countryside has to offer. But sadly, light pollution is leaving fewer stars than ever visible to the naked eye. That's why we need your help to track how light levels are changing. Together, we can work towards rewilding our skies for the benefit of people and wildlife.

★ Become a 'citizen scientist' and take part in our Star Count, a cosmic census to map light pollution.

🔭 We'll be asking you to choose a clear night between 17-24 February 2023 and look to the skies to see how many stars you can spot within Orion.

📄 And don't worry, we'll give lots of guidance so you know where to look! It's a great, easy piece of stargazing for kids and adults – no telescopes required!

**Register here:** <https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/118799/data/1?ea.tracking.id=campaigns-update-eneus>

Campaign to Protect Rural England, 15-21 Provost Street, London, N1 7NH | Tel: 020 7981 2800 | Email: [supportercare@cpre.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@cpre.org.uk) | [www.cpre.org.uk](http://www.cpre.org.uk)

## JOY IN ENOUGH MONTHLY TALKS

**Wednesday 15 February, starting at 7.30pm**

***A Torn Safety Net: How the Cost of Living Crisis Threatens Its Own Last Line of Defence.* Hannah Rich – Theos**

Hannah is a senior researcher at Theos think tank, focussing on faith groups, social action and economic insecurity. She will be speaking about the findings of her latest report, ***A Torn Safety Net***, which explores how the cost of living crisis is affecting faith groups and charities as well as households and individuals.

The report draws on 48 interviews with faith leaders, charity workers, volunteers and community members in four local authorities across England and Scotland, conducted over the course of 2022 as the economic crisis deepened. As the research progressed, the interviews tracked the scale and scope of insecurity as it affects individuals and communities. The report identifies four key forms of insecurity that are widely experienced: income and employment; food insecurity; housing; and migration status. All four forms of insecurity have been on the increase far longer than the current crisis, albeit made more acute now.

**Read the report here:** <https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/a-torn-safety-net-how-the-cost-of-living-crisis-threatens-its-own-last-line-of-defence>

**Register for the talk here:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qcuutqDwiH93DPKLJpcZ5XFzpbu-G8Bw7>

**About Theos:** Theos conducts research, publishes reports, and holds debates, seminars and lectures on the relationship between religion, politics and society in the contemporary world. We are a Christian think tank based in the UK. We are part of The British and Foreign Bible Society, charity number 232759.

<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/about/who-we-are>

**Catch up on previous talks in the Joy in Enough series:** <https://joyinenough.org/2021/10/28/upcoming-events-and-talks/>

## 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)**

## 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 20 February and 20 March.**

**For more information contact: [barbarakentish@talktalk.net](mailto:barbarakentish@talktalk.net)**

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

## TALKING ABOUT HOMES: THE FOUNDATION FOR A DECENT LIFE

**Natalie Tate Talking about Housing - Project lead at Joseph Rowntree Foundation writes:** If we are to build a better, more equal society in which everyone can thrive, we must make sure everyone has access to a decent and affordable home.

In partnership with the Nationwide Foundation and JRF, FrameWorks' communications research into housing in the UK focuses on how to build the understanding that our homes are fundamental to our lives.

**On 28 February, FrameWorks is hosting a zoom webinar** that coincides with the launch of a toolkit of practical tips and guidance. The free event is aimed at not only communicators in the housing sector, but anyone who is talking and writing about homes. **Time: 12:00 - 13:00**

FrameWorks will share how people think about homes, and how we can shape a new story – building public understanding and support for solutions which will make our housing system better.

**Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/talking-about-homes-the-foundation-for-a-decent-life-tickets-519696154187>**

Meanwhile, find out more about how this new communications guidance can support you if you write or talk about the importance of decent and affordable homes, by reading our latest blog: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/helping-people-think-housing-homes>

**See also:** UK Poverty 2023: The essential guide to understanding poverty in the UK a report released by JRF on 26 Jan 2023 <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2023>

## **NJPN OPEN NETWORKING DAY – ‘COST OF LIVING CRISIS – LIVING OR EXISTING’**

The next networking day will take place on Saturday 25 February 2023 from 10.45am – 3.30pm and will be a zoom meeting. There will be contributions from and discussion with those involved in supporting people who are struggling to survive in very difficult circumstances. Book via Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.com/e/njpn-networking-day-tickets-466226314457](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/njpn-networking-day-tickets-466226314457)

Details and booking on NJPN Meetings page. Contact: NJPN Administrator: [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

## **DIARY**

### **FEBRUARY**

**19 Church Action on Poverty Sunday 2023** <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>

**22 Merseyside CND and local Pax Christi group Ash Wednesday Vigil for Peace and for Repentance for Nuclear Weapons.** All are invited to join us as we gather at St. Luke's Bombed Out Church, Bold St. at 11.45 a.m. We will walk to the Town Hall via Bold St Statue of Reconciliation, Church St and Lord St. Ashes will be distributed in Church St. At this time of increased threat of nuclear war, and of conflict in so many areas throughout the world, Pope Francis encourages us to work 'together' for peace and justice. (Peace Message for 2023)

Queries and offers of help with planning, music and readings please contact [janharper1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janharper1@yahoo.co.uk)

**25 NJPN Networking Open Day** see the box above

**27 February – 12 March Fairtrade Fortnight 2023** [https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight-/](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight/)

### **MARCH**

**Lenten Talks at the Irenaeus Centre Liverpool**

**Tuesdays 7,14, 21,28 March 7-9 pm** Irenaeus Centre Great Georges St Liverpool L221RD **To book email Jenny:** [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk) 0151 949 1199

**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>

**2 Lent Lunch** from 12 noon to 1:30pm at Hoole URC, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT

**3 CAFOD Family Fast Day**

**4 Fair Trade Coffee Morning** from 10 to 12 noon at Our Lady's Parish Hall, Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port CH65 8BY  
There will be a variety of stalls supporting Fair Trade and local charities including Chifundo selling Chanasa Products from Malawi, a Cake Stall, and a Raffle. Parking on site. For more info, contact: Eileen Brennan 07432 782 877.

**4 Fairtrade Activities Day** from 10am to 2pm in the Wesley Church Centre, St. John Street, Chester. Craft activities, Fairtrade board games, a "selfie board", and opportunities to find out about Fairtrade bananas and chocolate.

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

**14 CWDF Forum meeting**, 7pm at The Unity Centre. Dr Rebecca Collins, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography, University of Chester, will give a talk on "Current Trends and Challenges in the Global Fashion Industry".

**15 Green Christian Joy in Enough online workshop 7pm.** Mark Dick will be talking about global democracy. More info: <https://joyinenough.org/2021/10/28/upcoming-events-and-talks/>

**21 International Day for 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.** Central London. Details and booking: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/resisting-monopoly-capitalism-tickets-511557300657>

### **APRIL**

**14 Climate Justice Evening** St. Mary's Centre, Handbridge, 7-9pm. Organised by Helen Pritchard, the representative at St Mary's and now a member of the Chester Christian Aid Group, with help from Katy Rowe and a CA staff member. Dr Richard Baker, an expert on climate science and climate justice and a Christian Aid volunteer speaker, will give a talk, followed by a group discussion. Refreshments provided. Christian Aid has been campaigning with others for some time on the issue of climate justice, and with some success - though it remains to be seen whether all the funds pledged by the richer countries at the recent COP27 meeting will be handed over to those poorer countries so hard hit by climate change.

**STOP PRESS: Challenge Poverty Week England and Wales 2023 is provisionally planned for 16–22 October.** Put the date in your diary now, and we'll let you know how you can be part of it soon! <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/>  
**Email Us:** [Info@Church-Poverty.Org.Uk](mailto:Info@Church-Poverty.Org.Uk)

- 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](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org) 020 7901 4864

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