



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Justice and Peace News

Spring 2019

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Welcome to the Spring newsletter of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council, which we hope you find varied and interesting.

Articles in this newsletter are as follows:

- Just what is the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council?
- Tyne and Wear Citizens mayoral assembly
- Action Hosting
- Justice and Peace Refugee project.
- An Evening on Global Healing with Dr Carmody Grey
- News from the Mercy Hub
- Transaid, work in Zambia.
- The Campaign Against the Arms trade information
- Report from Church Action On Poverty, North East
- Report from St Charles' Justice and Peace Group AGM

Upcoming events

- Global Healing film at St Charles Gosforth , April 5th 2019
- Mass for Justice, Peace and the Celebration of Creation, May 11th 2019
- AGM and Day Conference of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating council, May 11th 2019
- National Justice and Peace Network Conference, July 26th - 28th 2019

We regularly update our webpage on the Diocesan website. This can be accessed by going to our page on the [Diocesan website](#).

You are receiving this newsletter because you have signed up in the past to receive information from the Justice and Peace Co-Ordinating Council. If you no longer wish to receive this please contact me at lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com.

We do not share your details with any third parties

Just what is the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council?

The Justice and Peace movement within the Catholic Church is based on Catholic Social teaching. It was back in the 1970's, that Pope Paul VI encouraged all dioceses to actively promote Justice and Peace, saying *"If you want peace, then work for justice."*

It was then that the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council was formed in our Diocese. There are currently 12 members on the Co-ordinating council (two of whom who have served on the council since the 1970's!). We are elected each year at the AGM (our next one is on May 11th....all welcome) and there is a constitution which guides our work. We sit within the Diocesan Department for Justice and Peace and the members are all people who appreciate that seeking Justice and Peace is an essential aspect of the teaching and mission of the Church. We meet monthly, on the second Saturday of each month from 10.30 till 12 noon. Currently, the meetings are held in Newcastle.

It is worth pointing out that the council **does not** seek to co-ordinate the work of Justice and Peace groups and activists across the diocese, but....**does** try to co-ordinate **support, information and networking** so that groups can contact and support one another. So how does the Co-ordinating Council promote Justice and Peace work? We seek to do this through

- study days
- an annual Mass, usually held at St Mary's Cathedral
- a quarterly newsletter
- a webpage (RCDHN, Justice and Peace Dep't.)
- actively promoting events about Justice and Peace in the Diocese
- articles and letters in the diocesan newspaper.

We also work closely with other groups working for the common good, promoting and supporting their work, such as

- Tyne and Wear Citizens
- Church Action on Poverty
- Pax Christi
- Housing Justice
- Prison Matters and many others.

Over 17 years ago the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council developed work with refugees and asylum seekers across the diocese and we continue provide line management for the Justice and Peace refugee project in Newcastle which supports around 700 refugees and asylum seekers.

Over the last year, we have made close links with the Youth Ministry Team, preparing some work for the Youth Toolkit around encouraging young people to work for Justice and Peace. We have also made links with CAFOD, resulting in us having a joint J and P/CAFOD Mass this year at the cathedral. Members of the council have worked with the curial departments to put the diocesan Social and Environmental Justice policy into action. Through our networking we have been able to find a volunteer to represent the diocese on the Northern Dioceses Environmental Group and a volunteer to represent the diocese at CSAN meetings. We have also helped to develop the work and policies of the Justice and Peace Refugee Project, to meet the ever increasing challenges it faces. The volunteer project manager, John Dowling, is a member of the council.

There is so much more we would like to do.

Would you like to join us? We are always looking for new members. Please, come along to our AGM/day conference on May 11th from 11.00am to 3.15pm when you will hear in more detail the work of the Co-ordinating Council over the last year.

In the meantime, if you would like more information about joining the Co-ordinating Council, feel free to get in touch with me either by email

lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com or by phone; 07910578310

Liz Archibald



Mayoral Assembly for the North of Tyne Combined Authority

Tyne and Wear Citizens is preparing for an accountable Assembly of the candidates of the election of the 'North of Tyne Mayor' for May 2nd. This is taking place on April 30 at the Tyne Opera House on the Westgate Road, Newcastle. There have been commitments from the Labour and Liberal Democrat Candidates to be present. Once the Conservative Party has announced their candidate, it will be asked if their candidate is willing to take part. The 'asks' will include issues from our 3 campaign about mental health, food poverty and safer cities. We also hope to have a rural 'ask' and an 'ask' from mothers of young children who are part of the 'Mum Space' group that meets in North Shields. It is very likely that the 'ask' of the mental health campaign will be led by pupils of St Thomas More Academy, who will be wanting a commitment from the candidates that will encourage every school in the region to offer counselling for their pupils.

To take part you need to register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tyne-wear-citizens-mayoral-assembly-tickets-56500739232>

Jeremy Cain who is responsible for Mission in the Diocese has kindly agreed to be the 'Turn Out Captain' for the Diocese. We are hoping to have at least 50 people there on April 30. If you have registered to take part, please let Jeremy know you have registered at:

jeremy.cain@diocesehn.org.uk

Fr Chris Hughes



Action Hosting is a project developed within Action Foundation, a local award-winning charity, which aims to overcome exclusion that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers may be experiencing in the Tyne and Wear area, by providing free English classes and supported accommodation.

Action Hosting matches volunteers (hosts) offering a spare room in their own home with a destitute asylum seeker (guests). All hosts are fully trained by us and the thorough matching process means that placements are a positive experience for both hosts and guests. Our support workers work with our guests to find a longer-term solution to their destitution. Our Hosting Coordinator provides on-going support to hosts.

To date this scheme has organised over 3,500 nights of accommodation to asylum seekers in the Tyne and Wear area. Despite this success **there is a constant need for more volunteer hosts** who have a spare bedroom and may be willing to host a destitute person seeking asylum for a period of around four weeks (or longer).

Find out more at hosting@actionfoundation.org.uk

0191 2313113 <https://actionfoundation.org.uk/action-hosting/>

Join us at our next Hosting Open Evenings in Newcastle:

A promotional poster for Action Hosting Open Evenings. The poster features the Action Hosting logo at the top left. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Interested in becoming a host or simply want to find out more? Come along to our Action Hosting Open Evenings in Newcastle'. The dates and times are listed as 'Tuesday 26 February' and 'Tuesday 26 March' from '17:30 - 18:30 pm'. The location is 'The CastleGate, Melbourne Street, Newcastle, NE1 2JQ'. Contact information includes '0191 2313113' and 'hosting@actionfoundation.org.uk'. A final instruction says 'Please visit our Eventbrite page to book your place.' The right side of the poster shows a smiling woman with a shoulder bag and a green shopping bag, standing in a doorway with a stained glass window.

Lesley Dunn, Action Hosting Co-ordinator

Conversation with an Action Hosting volunteer couple

I met with Stella and Dave, who have been volunteering with Action Hosting for over 3 years. Over that time they have welcomed 4 asylum seekers into their home. I asked them what encouraged them to volunteer. They said that they read about the project in "The Northern Cross" they were interested and went along to an information evening. They knew they had a spare room and couldn't bear to think of people having nowhere to go when they had space to share.

Over the time they have been volunteering, they say they have enjoyed getting to know people from different cultures. One of their guests introduced Stella to the ethnic grocery shops on the West Road and encouraged her to buy ingredients which she had never tried till then; Dave, on his part has enjoyed trying out his "schoolboy French" with a guest for whom French was a shared language.

They pay tribute to Lesley, coordinator for Action Hosting who supports them very well....as Stella said, she is always on the end of the phone if they have queries. I came away full of admiration for the work that is being done and was reminded of what we read in Chapter 25 of St Matthew's Gospel. *"I was a stranger and you made me welcome."*

Liz Archibald

Justice and Peace Refugee Project

Demand continues to be high, with new people arriving all the time. We are based at 2 Summerhill Grove, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EE.

We currently have over 600 people using the project, which is open every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 1.30pm All are given a bag of groceries and our destitute clients also receive £25 a month.

We are really appreciative of the many parishes who donate tinned goods regularly. Please keep it up!

If your parish our school would like to start donating, please get in touch with our project manager, John Dowling on 0191 23627013.

If anyone would like to make a financial donation, please make cheques payable to DH&N Destitute Asylum Fund and send c/o John Dowling, Justice and Peace Refugee Project, 2 Summerhill Grove, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EE

An Evening on Global Healing with Dr Carmody Grey

We were privileged on Tuesday evening, February 12th, at St Joseph's, Birtley, to have Dr Carmody Grey of Durham University present/with us to help us [to]explore Pope Francis's, 2015 encyclical letter; 'Laudato Si – On Care For Our Common Home.'

Reflecting later, I was reminded that many children throughout the diocese will know the hymn 'Our God is a great big God' – but I wondered if we realised just how 'big' God is. The Brian Coxes of this world reckon our Universe (and there are many other universes) kicked off about 14 billion years ago. A mere 6 or so million years ago, the first ape like creatures began to walk upright in East Africa. Then about 1000 BC the first texts of the Bible began to be written down and Jesus was born around 2000 years ago.

John's Gospel tells us that 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God...' We usually associate the 'Word of God' with the words of Jesus and the words of the Scriptures – but clearly, God has been speaking to us for billions and millions of years through creation. The Word of God has been spoken for 14 billion years in the rocks and dust and gases of the Universe, long before human beings were even able to speak or use words. The Word of God was expressed when the first single-celled creatures swam in the primordial ooze and the dinosaurs roamed the earth. And God's word said "It was good".

All of this - the whole of creation - is an immense gift of God. Pope Francis warns us, however, that we may be leaving to coming generations a wasteland full of "debris, desolation and filth" [LS 161]. The images of floating rafts of plastic pollution we have recently seen on our television screens are testament to this.

Reflecting on the words of St Francis of Assisi, from which 'Laudato Si' takes its name, Pope Francis reminds us that when we walk among trees and plants we are walking amongst our brothers and sisters and that: "the world is God's loving gift ... we are not disconnected from the rest of creation, but joined in a splendid universal communion" [LS 220].

The Psalms themselves tell us of the exuberant joy of the created world, where the trees of the forest and the mountains together shout for joy, the rivers clap their hands and the sun, moon and shining stars praise God. In case we think that God doesn't care about the created world, we are reminded that the heavens were shaped by God's hand and the moon and stars were set firm. Though this is clearly poetic rather than literal language, it expresses and reminds us that God's word said; "it was good".

This theme of the sacramental aspect of the created world, is further taken up by Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, whom Pope Francis quotes, when the Patriarch states that; "As Christians, we are called 'to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale. [It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet.]'" [LS 9]

Everything is holy – there is nothing which is not holy except sin. Pope Francis, again quotes the challenging words of Patriarch Bartholomew as he states: "' for human beings to contaminate the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life – these are sins.' For 'to commit a crime against the natural world is a sin against ourselves and a sin against God'" [LS 8]

"He [Bartholomew] asks us to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing, an asceticism which 'entails learning to give, and not simply to give up. It is a way of loving, of moving gradually away from what I want to what God's world needs. It is liberation from fear, greed and consumption. As Christians , we are also called 'to

accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbours on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet." "of the need for each of us to repent of the ways we have harmed the planet." [LS 8&9] As Archbishop Desmond Tutu has said; "There is nowhere in the world where God's writ does not run".

Pope Francis traces the Church's concern for the challenges facing the world from Pope Saint John XXIII's 'Pacem in Terris', through Pope Saint Paul VI, Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI who in 2009 said: "'Purchasing is always a moral - and not simply economic - act' and in 2010 he said; "'the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle.'" [LS 206]

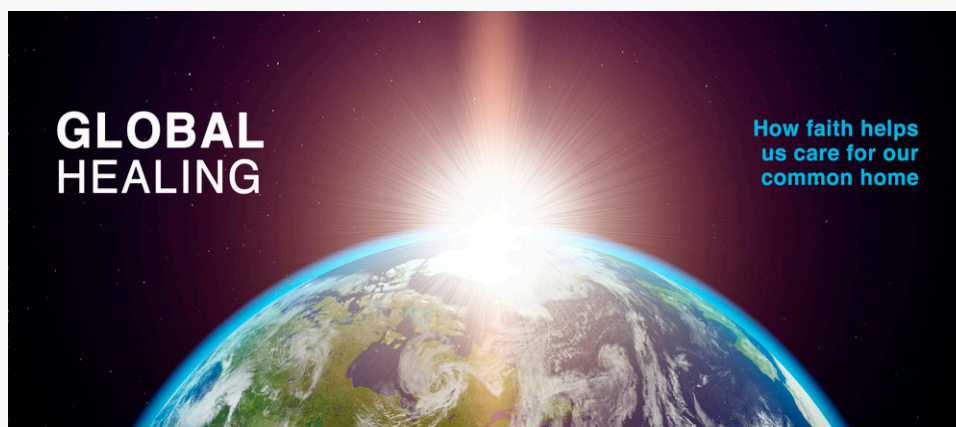
Pope Francis, in talking about the challenges facing human populations and the natural world, points out that: " ... self-improvement on the part of individuals will not by itself remedy the extremely complex situation facing our world today... Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not by the sum of individual good deeds" [LS 219]

Towards the end of 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis calls us to "an 'ecological conversion' whereby the effect of our encounter with Jesus Christ becomes evident in our relationship with the world around us.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience... In calling to mind the figure of Saint Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change." [LS 217/218]

Carmody Grey helped us to take the first steps on a journey in fully respecting "both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" [LS49]. We were invited to look at Pope Francis' letter and reflect deeply on its challenges for us.

Fr Jim O'Keefe and Maria Byrne



See <https://www.ourcommonhome.co.uk> to download the film and resources

The Mercy Project

Who are we?

The Mercy Project is St Mary's Cathedral's new outreach project that aims to relieve suffering and distress of people by who are in need because of their youth, age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in the North East.

What do we do?

As a new project we are growing fast and setting up different projects to meet the different needs of our communities. The list below is not exhaustive and with your support we will continue to grow and support those in need.

Mercy on the Move – Supporting the homeless

Homeless people and especially homeless young people find it difficult to access services, attend appointments and fill out forms. Mercy on the Move is matches a homeless person or vulnerable adult with a volunteer to support them and give them a pathway out of homelessness.

Dementia Café

The average person living with dementia leaves the house less than once a month. A Dementia Café gives people living with dementia and their carers a place to go where people understand dementia and its symptoms. It's an opportunity to meet others in the same situation and to enjoy activities, such as, singing, dancing, crafts, quizzes, etc.

Drop In

With reducing library hours and rising costs many people struggle to access computers for job searches, benefit claims or anything else. The Drop In provides laptops and internet access to the general public. The drop in also provides an opportunity for those who are lonely or isolated to pop in for a cup of tea and enjoy a friendly chat with the volunteers.

Coming Soon!

Supporting Children of Refugees

Many children of refugees and asylum seekers feel lonely and isolated and struggle to make friends. We will support these children through a youth club setting, giving them an opportunity to meet new people, have new experiences and improve their language skills.

Cooking with young people

Being able to prepare and cook a meal is a skill for life. Why not share your cooking skills with young people, teach them how to prepare new and delicious meals and then sit down as a group and enjoy a shared meal?

What can you do?

We are looking for individuals to come and be part of the Mercy Project team. That could be through volunteering with one of our existing projects, setting up your own project, working in the office or providing a

friendly face and a listening ear for those that come to our drop-in.

If you don't see a role that suits you then let us know and we can work with you to find a role that you would like to undertake.

If you would like to make a difference and help out with any of the projects above then please send us a message via email joe.kirwin@themeracyproject.org.uk

Joe Kirwin

Transaid

Transaid is an international development charity. They identify, champion, implement and share local transport solutions to improve access to basic services and economic opportunity for people in Africa and in developing countries.

St Charles' Justice and Peace group have sent this article about one of Transaid's projects



Alan Thornton, Malcolm Logistics Commercial Director alongside other supporters, Transaid staff and district health staff in Serenje District, Zambia.

At the end of March, four long-term supporters of Transaid embarked on a self-funded trip to Zambia to visit our projects, meet our partners and learn more about what Transaid is doing to transform lives through safe, available and sustainable transport.

Alan Thornton, Commercial Director of Malcolm Logistics; Mike Daly, Transaid Ambassador and Clipper Non-Executive Director; Chris Dolby, Head of Talent development at XPO Logistics and Martin Port, Founder and CEO of BigChange, were joined by Freelance Journalist Ian Norwell, and were welcomed to Zambia by Transaid's Chief Executive, Caroline Barber, Corporate Partnerships Officer, Jade Ashby, and Project Manager, Victor Simfukwe.

Martin Port explained the rationale of organising such a trip: *"BigChange are a corporate partner of*

Transaid and as part of our close ties with the charity I decided I wanted to view all the great work the organisation does to save lives in Zambia.”

Together, the group made the 14 hour round trip from Lusaka to Serenje, where Transaid is working alongside a consortium of partners and the Zambian Ministry of Health to tackle severe malaria in children aged under six years old, by improving access to a new World Health Organisation (WHO) approved drug, rectal artesunate (RAS).

In Serenje, the group were able to meet with a range of stakeholders: the District Health Management Team, local health facility staff, community health volunteers, emergency transport scheme (bicycle ambulance) riders, traditional leaders, and community members, including families whose children have survived severe malaria thanks to timely access to RAS and the injectable form of artesunate.

“It was truly humbling, touching and extremely powerful to see the impact that the work is having on the people living in very remote and hard to reach communities,” commented Chris Dolby.

On returning to Lusaka, the group were introduced to Transaid’s road safety and professional driver training programme, delivered in partnership with the Industrial Training Centre (ITC). Here, they were invited to celebrate the formal handover of a training vehicle, donated by W H Malcolm, alongside all ITC staff, board members, students, trainers and the Zambian Ministry.

Alan Thornton said "Malcolm Logistics is delighted to be able to donate a truck to the ITC. Personally, I have been overwhelmed by the response from everyone at the ITC and feel privileged that this vehicle will have a positive impact on road safety in Zambia, reducing the number of incidents on the roads."

Transaid’s corporate partners, of whom the Malcolm Group is one, are crucial to Transaid’s work. Without their support, whether that is financial, the donation of vehicles, the secondment of staff overseas or providing guidance, Transaid would struggle to achieve everything it does.



Pictured above is the donated Malcolm truck in its new home – the Industrial Training Centre (ITC.)

Campaign Against the Arms Trade

According to the Stockholm International Peace Institute, the UK was the sixth-biggest arms dealer in the world in 2017, and the second-largest exporter of arms to Saudi Arabia, behind the US. This is reflective of a large spike in sales. The latest figures reveal that UK military sales to Saudi Arabia increased by two thirds between 2016 and 2017. News reports indicate that the UK issued licences relating to military goods in 2017, with a value of £1.129bn, compared with licences relating to military goods in 2016, with a value of £679m.

After Saudi Arabia intervened in the civil war in Yemen in early 2015, the UK approved more than £3.3bn in military sales to the kingdom between April 2015 and September 2016, according to the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT). This included £2.2bn worth of licences for aircraft, helicopters and drones, and £1.1bn for grenades, bombs and missiles.

Two years ago, the UN published a report declaring that the Saudi-led coalition was guilty of serious breaches of international humanitarian law by deliberately targeting civilians. At about the same time, in 2016, a leaked parliamentary committee report concluded that it was likely that British weapons had been used by the Saudi-led coalition to violate international law, and that Typhoon and Tornado aircraft, manufactured by BAE Systems, have been used in combat missions in Yemen.

These reports indicate that our country is complicit in violations of human rights. Please take the time to go to the CAAT web site <https://www.caat.org.uk/> and sign their petition demanding an end to arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

John Dowling



Church Action on Poverty, North East

Brief report CAPNE Annual General Meeting and Poverty Sunday event, St Thomas's Church, Newcastle 6th March 2019.

The event started with a North of Tyne Combined Authority Mayoral candidates' platform. A video from **Labour candidate Jamie Driscoll** spoke of a focus on community wealth building. The need for a local co-operative bank to help combat the poverty premium. Community food Cafes to meet holiday hunger. Workshops, broadband being available in community centres. The combined authority working with the voluntary sector and community groups.

John Appleby, Liberal-Democrat mayoral candidate said he would work to get the 3 existing separate Local Authorities (Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland) to work together on such issues as the environment and poverty. He would focus on 1) Devolution – give voice to local people. 2) Environment -invest in 'green' jobs. 3) Education. The new combined authority would be responsible for the adult education budget.

The Conservative party have not named their candidate as yet. There are no **independent** candidates.

Panel. Three people then gave their perspective from consecutively a grassroots, policy and theological basis.

Margaret Reynolds, North Tyneside councillor. Grassroots. The authorities need to know what is going on in communities. The issues of the generation unemployed in the 1980s are still the prevailing issues now. She thought that the council did not think locally and the vulnerable were suffering most. A problem is that people on benefits were not represented on the council, due to the financial costs being a deterrent, and also ethnic minority involvement needs to be encouraged.

Sara Bryson. Community Organiser Citizens Tyne and Wear. Member IPPR Commission on Economic Justice. Policy. Sara said that she was from Cowgate and had lived experience of poverty. She had been part of the IPPR Commission on Justice. Numerous statistics such as free school meal numbers show the problems faced in the north-east. Social mobility is worse than in the 1970s. The gap between rich and poor was increasing. Households are in poverty due to low wage jobs and zero hours contracts. None of the 3 existing local authorities pay the real Living Wage, neither do local Universities. Radical thinking is needed to meet these challenges. Deliberate policy decisions have caused a mess. We need 1940s style reform. Sara welcomed the idea of devolving power to the people of the North East.

Rev Deidre Brown Latz. Contextual Theologian, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester. Deidre said there were pockets of poverty where people were reluctant to engage and had lost hope. From a theological framework, people are drawn together; nothing without us is for us. Each person has an inherent value, made in the image of God. How the least are treated is an indication

of society wellbeing. It is important to listen to those given a voice. They need to learn new stories of hope. A radical imagination is needed to go to a new place economically.

From Manchester's experience of having a mayor. It needs work across party lines to get things done. The homeless themselves were involved with the Homeless Charter. Things take a long time to solve. He uses leaders of different faith groups to help the city.

Question Time. Several people then took the opportunity of asking questions to the panel.

CAPNE Annual General Meeting then took place, with business attended to. Attention was drawn to the Annual Report .

An invitation was made to everyone present, that they were welcome to join the CAPNE group in meeting on (generally) the last Friday in the month at 2pm at St Lawrence's church in Byker.

Service. The event concluded with a service, based on CAP resources themed on A Different Light. An address was given by Rev Brower Latz, and prayers heard from representatives of various communities in the North East. The service concluded with the message that we should help our church to stand alongside the people on the margins, and to speak out for justice in a different world.

Tony Woods.



As you will see at the end of this newsletter, Church Action On Poverty is a partner in this year's National Justice and Peace Network conference: Forgotten people, Forgotten Places, Being Church on the Margins.

News from St Charles Justice and Peace Group

Our J&P group decided to open up our AGM, this year on Shrove Tuesday, to the parish and follow it with a cheese and wine social so invitations were issued, personally and in the parish bulletin. The AGM followed the usual pattern. Fr. Bill welcomed everyone and began with a prayer. Helen, our Chair, gave an excellent report of the year's activities, - involvement with CAFOD, with the Justice and Peace Refugee Project, fund raising events, soup and One World lunches, donations to charities for the homeless, prisoners of conscience letters and card writing. Personal contributions from group members gave added impact to the report. Elections or re-elections of officers were speedily dealt with.

Michael Wilcox gave an excellent talk on the work of the SVP, one of the charities we regularly support and gave information that was new to many of us.

The official meeting ended with the Peace Prayer and we went on to a very convivial informal gathering.

We felt this had been a worthwhile venture. It was a gesture of thanks to the parish, an opportunity to raise awareness and give an overall picture of our efforts, in some small way, to meet the needs of so many with prayers and practical help. A good way to begin Lent.

Upcoming event at St Charles, Gosforth NE3 1TX

Global Healing – a film for the partnership

April 5th at 7.30pm in St Charles Hall. All are welcome.

Entrance and car park in Alwinton Terrace

Responding to Laudato Si

How our faith helps us care for our common home

This event will be chaired by Kevin Haigh from CAFOD

The film is sponsored by the Bishop's Conference"

Light refreshments will be available

Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly With Your God



CAF+D
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

A Mass for Justice, Peace and the Celebration of Creation

On: Saturday May 11th 2019 at 10am

At: St Mary's Cathedral,
Newcastle NE1 5HH

Celebrant: Mgr. Andrew Faley

Homily: Fr. Chris Hughes

**Followed by the AGM and day conference of the
Justice and Peace Co-Ordinating Council at the
Mercy Hub, St Mary's Cathedral 11am-3.15.**

All welcome

Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly With Your God



RCDHN Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council

AGM and Day Conference

Saturday May 11th 11am to 3.15pm

**At the Mercy Hub, St Mary's Cathedral,
Newcastle NE1 5HH**

(Following Mass at 10am in the cathedral)

Speakers:

- **Fr Chris Hughes, Head of the RCDHN Justice and Peace Dept, who will be sharing with us the Diocesan Social and Environmental Justice Policy 'Hearing the Cries of the Earth and the Poor'.**
- **Joe Kirwin, co-ordinator at the Mercy Hub, who will be sharing his hopes and plans for the Mercy Project.**
- **Sarah Croft, CAFOD campaigns team, who will be explaining their new climate change campaign, "Our Common Home."**

There will also be a short business meeting, where up to date reports from the Co-Ordinating Council will be shared followed by election of members to the Council for the next year.

Please bring your own packed lunch (the cathedral cafe will also be open)

ALL WELCOME!

Please also contact us if you have any communication or access needs which you wish us to take into consideration to enable your participation in the day.

jandp@diocesehn.org.uk

41st Annual Justice and Peace Conference

26-28 July 2019

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

National Justice and Peace Network with Church Action on Poverty



Pope Francis calls us to be '... a Church which is poor and for the poor'. To be with those on the margins as equal partners, enabling them to find their own solutions to the issues they face.

Conference 2019 will work with Church Action on Poverty who are undertaking a three year project to challenge the Churches about where they put their resources. It will hear from 'communities of praxis' who are already involved on the margins, and engage in social analysis and theological reflection from the perspective of those on the margins.

Join us in 2019 to explore mission, theological reflection and social action with people who have been pushed to the margins of society by poverty.

How can we build churches that.....

- are interested in building the kingdom, not growing the church;
- listen to voices from the margins
- expect to be challenged and changed by our neighbours,
- put an emphasis on sharing food and hospitality;
- are hungry and thirsty for justice.

We will also hear inspiring and challenging stories from churches and groups that are living out the vision of a 'church for the poor' – being church on the margins of our society.

Speakers:

Revd Deirdre Brower Latz: has worked as a pastor in urban/marginalised communities in Bristol and Manchester and lectures at the Nazarene Theological College in Manchester.

Professor Anthony Reddie: the leading scholar in the practice of Black theology in grassroots communities of faithful practice.

We will also hear inspiring and challenging stories from churches and groups that are living out the vision of a 'church of the poor' – being church on the margins of our society. (Speakers and chair for this session to be confirmed)

Conference Chair:

John Battle, former Labour MP, Chair of Leeds Justice & Peace Commission

Workshops

There will be workshops from a range of organisations and speakers, all looking creatively at how our churches can be more open to people on the margins.

Children and young people

Children and young people are a vital part of the NJPN conference. There will be a crèche for children under 5 and a programme of activities for 5–11-year-olds. 12–18-year-olds will explore the conference theme in an active and thought-provoking weekend.

NJPN is committed to the protection of children, young people and vulnerable people. People of all ages and backgrounds are welcome and encouraged to attend conference. Our rates for children and people on low incomes are subsidised. We count on the generous donations of those who can afford a little extra to make that possible

Download booking form here:

[Forgotten People Forgotten Places booking form](#)

[Click here to find out more about Church Action on Poverty](#)

If you are thinking of attending conference, please get in touch. It would be fantastic to have a group from the diocese. If we get enough people we could look at organising transport, or at least car sharing. Email me lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com for more details.