



Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

# Justice and Peace News

## Summer 2019

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*Welcome to the summer newsletter of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council, which we hope you find varied and interesting. We welcome articles and notices from any group, individuals, parishes and partnerships across the diocese in order to promote Justice and Peace events or highlight Justice and Peace issues.*

Articles in this newsletter are as follows:

- AGM and Mass 2019 report.
- The Diocesan Social and Environmental Justice Policy
- CAFOD climate change petition.
- Climate change information evening, Whitley Bay
- The Extinction Rebellion, a personal view.
- CAFOD Holy Island Pilgrimage and Climate Change Mass lobby of Parliament
- Tyne and Wear Citizens updates: The mayoral assembly and Justchange campaign.
- South Tyneside Prison Matters...information and request for support
- The Hexham Debates
- SVP ball, July 27<sup>th</sup>
- NJPN conference. July 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> 2019
- Dates for your diary

***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](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com).*

*We do not share your details with any third parties*

# Annual Mass and AGM of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council

The annual Mass, AGM and Day Conference of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council was held on May 11th 2019 at St Mary's Cathedral and the Mercy Hub.

The day started with a Mass for Justice, Peace and the Celebration of Creation attended by over 70 people. Mgr. Faley presided, Fr. Chris Hughes preached and music was provided by the group from St Bede's church...particularly fitting as they are a '*Live Simply*' accredited parish. In his homily Fr. Chris brought together the themes of Laudato Si, urging us to hear the cries of the poor and the earth and to be dependent upon God's grace to lead us to a lifestyle free of addictions to consumer lifestyles.

This theme continued into the day conference and AGM with over 30 people in attendance.

Joe Kirwin talked about the work of the Mercy Hub and his plans for working with people with dementia, homeless people and children of refugees, all examples of hearing the cries of the poor and isolated.

John Dowling, Volunteer Project Manager at the Justice and Peace Refugee Project gave an update on the work of the project now used by over 600 asylum seekers. The project relies on the generosity of its volunteers and supporters responding to the cries of the poor and marginalised.

The focus then changed slightly to responding to the cries of the earth. Sarah Croft from the Campaigns Team at CAFOD gave a thought provoking and informative presentation about their latest campaign "Our Common Home" with practical suggestions about how to join in the campaign to seek net zero carbon emissions in the UK by 2045. (See link to petition further on in this newsletter) Net zero means only putting the same amount of emissions into the atmosphere as we take out (e.g. by protecting and planting more trees, which take in carbon dioxide as they grow). Several countries have already committed to reach net zero emissions between 2030 and 2050. CAFOD is campaigning and lobbying to make sure the UK also makes this commitment.

Fr. Chris spoke about the Diocesan Social and Environmental Justice Policy which led to valuable group discussions about how to truly embed the policy into our everyday lives. This is crucial if we are to really respond to the cries of the earth and the poor as Pope Francis is urging us. In the discussion that followed there were helpful suggestions as to how the policy could be 'rolled out' throughout diocesan parishes and schools and the Co-Ordinating Council pledged to develop this work over the coming year. This is important work and there was a real sense of purpose as conference participants shared ideas and hopes. It was recognised that young people are very aware of environmental challenges and as a church we should be harnessing their enthusiasm.

In the business part of the AGM, a financial report and the Chair's report for the past year were delivered. Liz Archibald, chair, Veronica Whitty, vice chair, and Susan Firbank, secretary were re-elected and Marjory Knowles was elected as treasurer. A vote of thanks was given to Pat Conway who was standing down as treasurer after 5 years of service. Current Co-Ordinating Council members pledged to continue on the council for another year and those present were asked to consider serving on the Co-Ordinating Council.

## Sarah Croft, Cafod Campaigns team and Fr Chris Hughes at the Justice and Peace Co-Ordinating Council AGM



## The RCDHN Social and Environmental Justice Policy

The current diocesan Social and Environmental Justice Policy, a copy of which Fr Chris is holding in the photo, can be found on our webpage by following this link:

[Diocesan website.](#)

It is in 2 formats on the webpage....one that can be read online and one that can be downloaded to make into a booklet. We are really keen to get this policy out into the parishes, and more importantly, acted upon!

If you would like to be involved in spreading the word about the policy, or have ideas about the best way to do this, please get in touch at: [lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)



**Have you signed CAFOD's petition to the prime minister yet?** CAFOD are calling on the UK government to support a net zero greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2045, and enshrine this in law within the lifetime of this parliament. Follow this link to sign it and to encourage your parish/ group or partnership to sign it too. With summer approaching, and lots of events around climate change being planned, perhaps this is a good time to publicise the petition.

You can find it by following this link:

[https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/48377/582092/version/3/OCH\\_petition\\_for\\_downloading.pdf](https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/48377/582092/version/3/OCH_petition_for_downloading.pdf)



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**Climate Change - how Christians can respond  
with faith and hope  
Inter-Church Film & Discussion Event, 7.00-  
9.00pm, Saturday 15th June,  
Whitley Bay Baptist Church, Park Avenue,  
NE26 1DX:**

This 'film & discussion event' at the coast will feature short clips from a range of Christian traditions (i.e., Cafod, Christian Aid, Tearfund, Micah Challenge). There will be a selection of interesting, varied and inspiring combination of films, with an opportunity for questions and discussion about how we as Christians can respond to the challenges of climate change. Fr Chris Hughes, of North Shields, will provide closing comments. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome to attend this event which is being organized by NE-CAP and supported by Whitley

## 2019 Extinction Rebellion

### The Movement of our Time.

The Movement of our Time.

When I heard of Extinction Rebellion (XR) from a friend of mine – Ben Young, Chair of NECAP, (Northeast call for Action against Poverty and Climate Change), I knew straight away that this was the grouping I had been on the lookout for. I am a Volunteer for CAFOD, a committed Christian and a member of the above NECAP, but this was an organisation that appeared to me to have the impetus and focus for change.

A friend and I went to XR's Christmas Party in the Star and Shadow Newcastle and talked to Jac who told us about the NVDA training schedule, that is **Non Violent Direct Action training**.

This was and still is very important to me. If this was XR's rationale I wanted to hear more.

Since then I have been to meetings and, on various protests – with the Durham Johnson kids in Durham Market Square, two funerals, one in Newcastle and one in Durham City, both mourning the death of our species ) and, of course, London.

We know now that London was a game changer – Since the 11 days in April where London was held hostage and, also the film by David Attenborough – Climate Change the facts, the movement has started to develop its potential.

I was in London for a short time and among fellow protestors I found strength, commitment, and solidarity in everyone I met. The organisation of the protest was fantastic. We have what are called Affinity Groups that each has around 6 to 8 folks who all know each other and identify with them. In each group we have a co-ordinator, who would be an experienced leader, a Link person who had everyone's number to keep in touch and a wellbeing officer who was to look after anyone who had been arrested, to be there when they were released. The strategic plan of where we all were to be placed was amazing and as we all know now worked exactly as had been hoped.

Our three demands were:-

- For Government to tell the hard truth and declare a climate emergency. Since then an emergency has been declared but words are one thing and action is another
- To start a Citizens Assembly and work together with lay people and lawyers and scientists to work for a way forward.
- The Government to enact a legally binding policy to reduce carbon emissions by 2025.

Have you heard the term “Looking down the barrel of a gun” or “it’s one minute to midnight.” It is no exaggeration to say that we are at the point of no return - it is very scary, yes absolutely frightening to see what is happening to the climate and how we are going to redress the impact of Global Warming!

I am blessed with eight grandchildren and I don't know what they will be faced with in the not too distant future! We have watched how sea levels have risen, how massive tracts of land have been laid to waste and, how thousands have died for want of water and drowning. The recent tsunami in Africa has killed thousands and, made millions homeless in Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Don't ask me, check out what Scientists, and Climatologists are saying enmasse. The science is there; all these experts are saying to a man that the facts are there. The only thing they differ on is when we will become extinct..... yes.... extinct ! We are looking at water shortages, energy poverty, and scarcity of basic food items and, we are in the middle of the sixth mass extinction! What are our leaders doing? Arguing about whether we should be part of an Economic Community or not! Brexit, I am not kidding you, compared with what is happening to the climate Brexit is not on the same scale.

Have you seen that an Autistic teenager from Sweden, Greta Thunberg has a clearer idea of the climate change situation than our Government officials and their so called qualified advisers? If you haven't seen any of the films “*The Age of Stupid*”, “*An Inconvenient Truth*”, or the recent TV programme by David Attenborough on Climate Change the Facts, please check them out or at least watch the last one.

‘*The Time is Now*’. Something has to give. We need massive change, someone suggested to me that we need to be on a war footing and I don't think that is an over exaggeration. If there is to be a general election which seems likely, we will be asking anyone who we think might be in charge:

Will the first thing you do be to immediately address the Global Warming situation?

And the second question will be when will you scrap the third runway?

BUT, we can still turn things around. We should be angry NOT sad. In XR we have proved that we care, we have taken on the responsibility and, we have shown that we are prepared to put ourselves in danger, and in prison! We are about making the world a safer place for others, we are thinking about those who are suffering and dying now, and those who are to come after us.

**BUT action must be now!**

**Kevin Haigh, St Joseph's, Birtley**



## Call of Creation CAFOD Pilgrimage to Holy Island, Saturday 22 June

Where will you be on Saturday 22 June? Join us for our annual CAFOD Pilgrimage to Holy Island. This year we will be reflecting on and praying about the challenge of climate change. We will be asking people to sign CAFOD's Petition to the Prime Minister to limit global temperature growth to **1.5°C**

Our pilgrimage across the sands begins at 11.30am opposite the refuge station on the causeway. (Gather from 11.15am)

There will be a liturgy in St Aidan's at 12 noon followed by our CAFOD Mass of Thanksgiving, celebrated by Fr. Chris Hughes, at 3.00pm in the Priory Church of St Mary.

**Causeway Safe crossing times are between 9.35am to 5.20pm**

**Coaches please meet at Purdy Lodge, ready to depart at 11.00**

**no one  
beyond reach**

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### Mass lobby of Parliament Thursday 26 June

We've just under a month until '*The Time is Now*' mass lobby and the day is taking shape. For those of you travelling on your own and arriving early, you may want to sign up for the [interfaith workshops](#) and [speakers' event](#). If you're coming from further afield, why not join our [climate pilgrimage coach service](#)? For all that information and more, including tips on how to lobby your MP, what to bring on the day and what to expect, visit [our climate lobby page](#).

**THE TIME IS  
NOW**



## **Mayoral Assembly for the North of Tyne Combined Authority**

This took place on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle. As the BBC Look North programme on its report of the assembly the following night acknowledged, it was the biggest gathering of electors in the entire campaign for the North of Tyne Combined Authority Mayor with over 700 people present.

The candidates were asked if they would support the Living Wage, combat hate crime, allow Muslims to take time off to celebrate Eid by making it a council recognised holiday and ensure that counselling provision is made available in all schools in the north east.

Members of Tyne and Wear Citizens were present to welcome to new North of Tyne Mayor, Jamie Driscoll, as he entered the North of Tyne Mayoral Office on May 7th. Mr. Driscoll has promised to work with TWC in promoting civic society.

My thanks also to Jeremy Cain who coordinated the Diocesan turnout.

## **Launch of the Just Change Campaign**

On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Just Change Campaign was launched with a report on BBC 1's Breakfast Show by their reporter, Amol Rajan who visited Carmel College, Darlington to discuss the importance of enabling pupils who are on school meals to be able to claim all the money they are entitled to.

Maura Regan Chief executive of the Carmel Educational Trust was interviewed. Since the report she has been inundated with expressions of interest of other Heads of schools who would like to follow their example. The RCDHN Director of Education, Deborah Fox, has encouraged other heads of our secondary schools to follow the lead of Carmel Educational Trust. I would like to acknowledge the help and support given by Maura Regan, Bishop Robert, all the members of the Diocesan Communications Department, and Deborah Fox in ensuring that the Diocese had such a high profile in the launch of a national campaign. The BBC coverage can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKSXwMx5uM8&feature=share>

**Fr. Chris Hughes.**



### **South Tyneside Prison Matters**

Since setting up Prison Matters in 2017, through meetings during the Year of Mercy In St Matthew's Church Jarrow and following Pope Francis' encouragement to 'set prisoners free', we have been registered as a charity (2018) and employed our first part time worker, Chris, as our Project Worker. Chris works with and on behalf of ex offenders needing support within our communities. He supports two Drop In centres held at Independent Methodist Church, Hebburn each Tuesday and Friday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm providing friendship, emotional and practical support. Chris is also developing networks with professional, voluntary and charitable agencies who look after the needs of ex offenders so that together we can grow and support those in need of our services.

We are a small charity working ecumenically and looking to build up our trustee group. In particular we need to find a new treasurer to replace Fr. Jonny who is moving to the South soon. We would also be interested in someone who has good communication and technical skills (web, social media etc.) and would like to offer their support. Our third need is for anyone interested in looking at funding applications so we can continue to find the finances needed to support ex offenders to remain living in our communities. We would very much appreciate any offer of skills, time and interest to support us. For more information ring or text Phil O'Malley (Trustee) 07905 088201 or Bernadette Askins (Trustee) 07443 863738.

**Phil O'Malley**

# Hexham Debates

Justice, Peace &  
Democracy

*There are 3 events left in this year's Hexham Debates. All these events will take place at the St. Mary's Centre (St Mary's RC Church, NE46 2EB) at 11am on Saturdays. Admission is free. There is a retiring collection and tea and coffee is served after the debate.*

**Saturday 8 June 2019**

## **Selling the War Machine: Britain and the Arms Trade.**

Britain has long been one of the main arms exporting countries, with the Gulf States, especially Saudi Arabia, among our most important customers. The arms export policies of successive governments raise many issues, not just about the ethics of the trade itself but also about how it fits in to the whole military industrial complex and its political influence.

**Paul Rogers** is Emeritus Professor at the University of Bradford's Department of Peace Studies and the Oxford Research Group's Global Security Consultant. He has worked in international security, arms control and political violence for over 30 years. He writes monthly Briefings for the ORG website analysing the international security situation, and reports for ORG on international security and the 'War on Terror'. He also writes regularly for [openDemocracy](#) 'War on Terror'. He also writes regularly for [openDemocracy](#)

**Saturday 15 June - Film and Director's Q & A**

**WAR SCHOOL** is about the battle for the hearts and minds of the people of Britain, particularly its children. Set against the backdrop of Remembrance Day, it reveals the strategies used by the British Government to promote support for the military.

The film features accounts of the experiences of ex-servicemen who are the veterans of Britain's unbroken century of wars. Their testimonies challenge the myth of our nation's benign role in world affairs.

**WAR SCHOOL** asks: 'Is perpetual war what we really want for future generations?' The film's Director Mic Dixon will take questions after the showing.

**Saturday 22 June 2019**

## **Human rights in China: Discourse, diplomacy and defensive nationalism.**

China is renowned for its violations of human rights, but how does China react to foreign criticism of its human rights record? Is it fair to judge China by Western standards or is the West guilty of hypocrisy and cultural imperialism?

**Robert Weatherley**

Affiliated Lecturer in Chinese Politics and Modern History at the University of Cambridge. He is also a Lawyer with the UK firm Mills & Reeve LLP and heads the firm's China Desk. Robert is currently writing his sixth (and final!) book on China and has published on a range of subjects including Chinese human rights and democracy, the legitimating of Chinese communist rule and the role of history in contemporary Chinese politics. Robert was an undergraduate and post-graduate at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne



# Blackfriars Summer Ball

Newbridge Street, Newcastle Ne1 2tq

Join us for an evening of entertainment from  
the wonderful Lee Paul and Sophie G

On Saturday 27th July 2019

7pm - Midnight



Tickets Cost £20 p/p

For more information or to book your tickets  
please call 0191 2616027 (option 1)  
email - [emmab@svp.org.uk](mailto:emmab@svp.org.uk)

Buffet - Raffle - Bottle Tombola

Dress Code - Dress to Impress or Just be you

All the proceeds raised will be helping to support SVP Blackfriars support  
centre and Vinnie's cafe - Reg Charity 1053992

# **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](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com) for more details.**

## **Dates for your diary ( From NJPN)**

### **June**

**17-23<sup>rd</sup> Refugee week**

**26<sup>th</sup> Climate Coalition Lobby The time is Now. London.**

**cafod.org.uk /campaign/climate/climate-lobby**

### **July**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sea Sunday: apostleshipofthesea.org.uk**

**26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> National Justice and Peace Conference, Swanwick , Derbyshire**

### **August**

**6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations**

**020 8203 4884 paxchristi.org.uk/resources/prayer-and-seasonal**

**6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> International fast for Nuclear Disarmament networkforpeace.org.uk/calendar:  
reforest@gn.apc.org**

**23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> Greenbelt Christian Festival Boughton Hall, Northants. greenbelt.org.uk**

### **September**

**1<sup>st</sup> World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**

**14<sup>th</sup> NJPN Open Networking day, York**

**15<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel: oikoumene.org**

**21<sup>st</sup> World Peace day: peaceoneday.org ; 020 7456 0038**

**Next newsletter: September 2019**

**Please send any articles for the September newsletter  
to [lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)  
by August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.**

