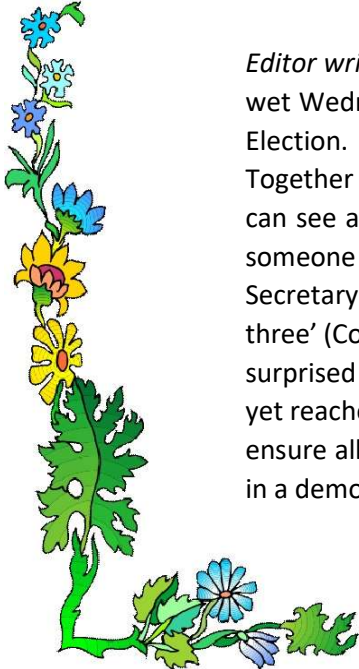




# JUSTICE AND PEACE

## Summer 2024



*Editor writes:* Surprise! Surprise! An election ! Arriving home from a few days holiday on a wet Wednesday evening we turned on the news to see a very wet PM announcing a General Election. So everyone has sprung into action and we in Marple are no exception. Our Churches Together usually organises an Election Forum where all candidates can give their views and we can see and hear them in person. So a church has been organised and possible dates fixed, someone to chair the event has been arranged (one of the local Anglican ministers) and as Secretary it is my job to contact the candidates to invite them. In the past we have had the 'big three' (Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat ) with more recently Green as well. So I was surprised when I found the list of registered candidates to be seven already and we have not yet reached the closing date of June 7<sup>th</sup>. So the event itself will need some careful planning to ensure all are equally given an opportunity to be heard. But I remind myself it is good we are in a democratic country where this sort of event is possible but also consider .....

*I have long since come to believe that people never mean half of what they say, and that it is best to disregard their talk and judge only their actions.*

Dorothy Day

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Archdiocese of Liverpool J & P Commission

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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the Dioceses of Lancaster and Liverpool



## NJPN 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



on July 19<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup> at the Hayes Centre, Swanwick

The theme for the weekend is ‘Just Politics’ and the aim is to explore the need for truth and integrity in public life. As people of faith, how are we called to work towards honest dialogue and respectful listening in political and social engagement and seek good governance in all seats of power; local, national, and global? What is our gut response when we hear, via our news channels, that the forthcoming election will be full of ‘dirty tricks and muckraking’? How should we respond to such a depressing and alarming prediction? Is this the level of public discourse that we must accept?

**Sir John Battle** will chair the conference, bringing his vast knowledge and experience of Catholic Social Teaching in action both in the political sphere and community engagement.

During the weekend we will hear from Keynote speakers, take part in workshops, find resources and information in the ‘Just Fair’ and listen to the voices of young adults as they share their hopes and concerns for the future of our world.

**Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford**, will explore some of the dynamics of public discourse, the implications for individuals and society, some possible solutions and opportunities for Christians and the Church to play a positive role.

**Molly Scott Cato, Former Green MEP and currently Finance and Economy Spokesperson for the Green Party** will speak about how untruth is undermining democracy.

**Steve Whiting, former manager of the Quaker Turning the Tide Programme**, will start to pull together what we have learned from speakers and workshops and help us identify common themes.

**Colette Joyce of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission** will facilitate the session with young people speaking about their concerns, what action they can take and what they look for from others.

The final part of the conference will be facilitated by **Fr Chris Hughes and Sara Bryson** who will share and describe how they have used community organising in campaigns in Tyne and Wear Citizens. They will focus on how participants accept the challenges raised during the weekend and how we move forward in our action for peace and social justice. For more details of the Conference and booking form to download see <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>



## SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, 4 July 2024 10:00am - 3:30pm  
St Margaret Clitherow Centre Liverpool L17 1AA

This partnership event between Housing Justice, Together Liverpool, and Liverpool Archdiocese brings together policy makers, workers and volunteers involved in social action, to interlink themes, make partnerships, and advocate for change. The keynote speakers will focus on Homes, Housing and Land, with workshops.

Speakers and workshop leaders include:

**Beki Winter, Housing Justice:** The housing crisis and role of faith communities

**Rev'd Shannon Ledbetter, Co-Founder of Housing People Building Communities:** From derelict churches to affordable housing in the Archdiocese of Liverpool

**Kevin Hyland, Co-Founder of Santa Marta Group:** How we can tackle the devastating impact of human trafficking on victims and our local communities.

Workshop themes will include: Asylum, Refugees and trafficking: What is the current situation – practically and politically.

Housing Crisis: Where faith meets housing – what is the contribution of the faith

More details and sign up page <https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/1yerqfks>

### Sue Grubic invites you to save the date! Saturday, 12th October 2024.

Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission will be holding a ‘Bringing Communities Alive’ event at the Lancaster Cathedral Social Centre, Balmoral Road Lancaster, LA4 3BT .

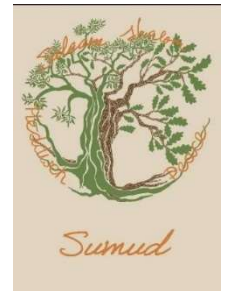
Speakers will include: Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Sir John Battle and Clare Dixon from CAFOD.

I know this seems a long time away but please put this date in your diaries. More details including a time table of events (approx 10.30am – 3pm) to follow in the Autumn edition of Mouthpeace but do feel free to contact me if you would like to register your interest to come. [ldfjsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfjsue@gmail.com) or by text on 07791444417)

**at Friends House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BT . Doors open at 10.30 for 11 am start**

We would love as many as possible to join us in Liverpool in person but for those unable to make the journey we are also livestreaming the event over zoom. There is still time to register to attend. If you can join us in Liverpool please email [info@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:info@paxchristi.org.uk) . To register to join online click here [tinyurl.com/ceuvzyv7](https://tinyurl.com/ceuvzyv7)

Our AGMs are open to all our members and supporters and to anyone interested in seeing what Pax Christi is all about. They are a great opportunity to meet others, swap stories and for us to encourage and inspire each other in our peacemaking. Our theme for the day will be 'Steadfast Peacemaking'. We will be taking the Palestinian concept of 'Sumud' (which encapsulates steadfastness, resilience and perseverance) and seeing how we can apply it to our peace work both as Pax Christi and as individuals. In the afternoon, in particular, there will be the opportunity to discuss the challenges we face in a turbulent and fast changing world and to contribute our own thoughts and ideas on how we think Pax Christi can best develop to meet those challenges and support members and groups.



We will be hearing from our President Archbishop Malcolm McMahon as he steps down from his role and we will finish the day with a peace liturgy. Our hope is that we will leave re-envisioned, inspired and reminded that we are not alone but surrounded by others who are committed to pursuing nonviolence and just peace alongside us.

For all the details of directions, lunch, the programme and of those who have been nominated to join our Executive Committee. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/agm/>

### MERSEYSIDE PAX CHRISTI

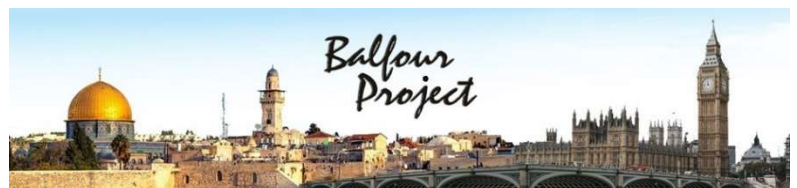


**Thursday 13th June** Merseyside Pax Christi Meeting 2.00pm at St Michael's Parish Centre, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH contact Jan Harper 07591082195 email [janharper20211@outlook.com](mailto:janharper20211@outlook.com)

**Saturday 29th June** Merseyside Pax Christi Retreat at The Irenaeus Project, Great Georges Rd, Liverpool L22 1RD. contact Jan Harper above

### BALFOUR PROJECT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**'PEACE WITH JUSTICE – HOW TO GET THERE'**  
on Thursday 6 June in Bush House London  
and Online 2-6.30 pm



**The participants in our Parliamentary Panel chaired by Sir Vincent Fean\*, Balfour Project Trustee:**

**Wayne David, MP** (Shadow FCDO Minister for MENA region; Labour) **Lord Purvis of Tweed** (Foreign Affairs Spokesman, House of Lords, LibDem) **Brendan O'Hara, MP** (Shadow Foreign Affairs Spokesman, SNP) **Kit Malthouse MP** (Conservative)

Plus, there will be contributions from Adam Sutcliffe, Senior Lecturer in European History, Department of History, King's College London. General admission including reception after the conference: £15 Online access: FREE

Students/Jobseekers: £8 Friends of the Balfour Project: £8

<https://biletto.co.uk/e/peace-with-justice-how-to-get-there-tickets-975920?>

### \*Balfour project: What price a two state solution?

A talk on April 16th by Sir Vincent Fean, a retired member of the British Diplomatic Service (DS) 1975-2014. His last post was as Consul-General, Jerusalem (2010-14). Before Jerusalem, he was Ambassador to Libya, and previously High Commissioner to Malta. Vincent advocates equal rights for Israelis and Palestinians, and British Government recognition of the state of Palestine alongside Israel on pre-June 1967 lines. He is a Trustee of the Balfour Project

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxWSoh\\_3gXI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxWSoh_3gXI)



**'RIPPLES OF HOPE' a CAFOD gathering on 8 June 2024. 11am – 4 pm**

**at The Dormer Conference Centre, St Peter Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 3B Dormer Place, Leamington Spa CV32 5AA or join us online.**

Whether you are joining us in person in Leamington Spa or online on Zoom, look forward to a day filled with hope, friendship and the joy of jubilee. On the agenda: Inspirational Catholic speaker David Wells, the latest news from CAFOD Director Christine Allen, sharing ideas, hopes and solidarity with other CAFOD volunteers, joyful prayer and singing.

Register <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/ripples-of-hope>

## PREPARING FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

### A Year of Encounter



CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, provides practical support to people and communities in need around the world. But as part of its mission CAFOD also encourages Catholics in England and Wales to respond to the call of the Church to promote the common good. We are all invited to play our part in creating the social conditions necessary to build a world that reflects the Kingdom of God.

Last month, with the general election being on the horizon, CAFOD and the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) joined together to launch A Year of Encounter. This initiative invites parishes to reach out to local candidates to find out more about their views on the issues that we, as people of faith, care about. And this is a great opportunity to share with them our concerns about those issues too. Now that the General Election has been called for 4th July, there is even greater urgency to start putting our parish plans into action.

As Christians we have a long tradition of being actively involved in the big issues of our time. From Catherine of Siena to Oscar Romero, the lives of many saints show us that the greater their devotion to the Lord, the deeper their commitment to addressing the social problems of their time.

The Church also tells us that “...All citizens ought to be aware of their right and duty to promote the common good by casting their votes...” But in order to arrive at the polling station as well informed as possible, it’s important to know our prospective MP’s views on the things that matter to us.

This is not about political affiliations, but rather about strengthening community participation as a local faith group and practicing the culture of encounter that Pope Francis talks about. *“With our faith we must create a ‘culture of encounter,’ a culture of friendship, a culture in which we find brothers and sisters, in which we can also speak with those who think differently.”* With over five million Catholics in the UK, the next general election is an opportunity to bring attention to the big issues of our time.

#### Using your voice and your vote from an informed perspective.

Last month, CAFOD and SVP collaborated to equip individuals and parishes with training to help in preparation for speaking to their candidates on the issues that matter. We have prepared resources to help to inform you and suggest questions to ask your candidate on a number of topical issues like those mentioned below.

Here at home in the UK we have the cost-of-living crisis that is seeing ever growing numbers of people struggling to make ends meet and provide food for their families turning to local foodbanks. The rising statistics of children living in poverty and the increasing costs of energy that puts added strain on already overstretched budgets, are just some of the issues.

Then there are the desperate situations caused by armed conflicts raging in countries around the world, the effects of the climate crisis on people’s lives and livelihoods, global hunger, migration and asylum, the debt crisis faced by many countries, business and human rights, building resilient communities and tackling regional inequalities.

Many SVP members and CAFOD supporters have been involved in volunteering or campaigning for many years on issues such as poverty, food and climate. In 2021 parishes were closed and the country was in the thick of Covid 19. Yet parishioners across the country organised themselves to have meetings with their MPs and to discuss vital issues which were affecting the world during the pandemic. The greater the number of parishes contacting local candidates, the stronger our Catholic voice will be locally!

For resources or more information on how your parish can get involved, visit the CAFOD website link, <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/campaign-with-us/a-year-of-encounter-call-for-action-with-your-parish-at-the-general-election> Patrick Gardner CAFOD Lancaster [lancaster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:lancaster@cafod.org.uk) or call 07920 565 454

#### **The Quaker Truth and Integrity Group (QTIG) suggests we look again at the Nolan Principles**

reminding our candidates that we expect this of them. These are the Seven Principles of Public Life outlining the ethical standards that those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. They were first set out by Lord Nolan in 1995 in the first report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life and they are included in a range of codes of conduct across public life.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-7-principles-of-public-life>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1QX1AcgRURs>

Accountability  
Honesty  
Integrity  
Objectivity  
Selflessness  
Openness  
Leadership

**The Columbans Summer 24 magazine ‘Vocation for Justice’ focuses on preparing for the election** with help preparing for election hustings and useful questions for the candidates

<https://columbans.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/FINALNewsletter-May-2024-David.pdf>

**Green Christian and Operation Noah have jointly produced a GENERAL ELECTION PACK**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rm9h9snEbuCGA7Jwyx0YXQww7la1ucq5/view>





## **CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS: A Catholic approach to arms control and disarmament published by the Department of International Affairs of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**

The publication affirms that:

'As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9) In the modern world, an integral aspect of this mission involves working to limit the proliferation of weapons and advancing the cause of global disarmament' and that 'these challenges are relevant to the mission of the Catholic Church in England and Wales today'.

Pax Christi UK writes : We welcome the publication and are grateful for its clarity on a number of issues which are key to our work and campaigns. The Bishops are calling, for example, for the UK Government to fulfill its obligations under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to promote an end to the UK's role in the global arms trade. They urge the Government to take meaningful steps towards General and Complete Disarmament and, in particular, to support a new UN Special Session on Disarmament. This is something we are currently involved in calling for with Scrap Weapons

The Bishops ask us, with them, to support the diversion of military spending towards spending on peace and integral human development which will be one of the key calls we will be making in the upcoming General Election.

They promote the principles of 'Mensuram Bonam' in relation to investment in the arms industry which will be a support in all campaigns arguing for divestment by Catholic investors from any companies involved in the arms trade or the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons.

In their concluding reflection, the Bishops remind us that Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. We believe, of course, that it is along this path that we can find the fresh hope, energy and tools we need to eventually put an end to war. This truly is the 'radically counter-cultural approach' the Bishops refer to in their conclusion and we invite everyone to join us who wants to explore that approach further and work for its realisation.

You can read the full document on the CBCEW website here: [www.cbcew.org.uk/called-to-be-peacemakers-document-on-arms-control-and-disarmament-released/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/called-to-be-peacemakers-document-on-arms-control-and-disarmament-released/)



### **MAKING MONEY WORK FOR GOD'S CREATION**

We all know that money has power. And that power can either be harnessed for good or used to fuel harm. We might think carefully about how we manage our own money – perhaps through giving to charitable causes, buying fair-trade, or using an ethical

bank – but how often do we review the impact that our churches' and faith institutions' money is having?

And if and when we do, how do we even start going about making this money work for the benefit of God's creation?

Thankfully, these questions were tackled head on at our conference late last year – held in Central London in partnership with our friends at FaithInvest – called, **Church Investments in Climate Solutions: Financing a Liveable Future.**

The entire event was filmed and has now been turned into a series of five, free-to-access films that aim to guide you along your journey towards investing for positive environmental impact.

<https://brightnow.org.uk/news/financing-a-livable-future-video-series/>

There is also an accompanying guide to the videos that is now available to download.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1347tS8vKf73yx\\_ryqKOELR8RH7Luh\\_Qe/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1347tS8vKf73yx_ryqKOELR8RH7Luh_Qe/view)

We hope these films will not only be used by those who manage Church finances but also by campaigners who want to see their Churches and faith institutions finance a liveable future.



Two Webinars:

**'Why Green Investment: A Look at the Science and Theology?'**  
**on Thursday 6 June from 2-3pm**

Speakers will include Dr Martin Hodson – a plant scientist, environmental biologist and visiting researcher at Oxford Brookes University – and Revd Margot Hodson, a vicar in Oxford Diocese and co-author of several books, including, A Christian Guide to Environmental Issues (written with Martin Hodson).

**'The Green Investment Declaration: How to join the movement for change'** on **Thursday 20 June from 1-2pm.**

This declaration aims to support Churches and other faith institutions to increase their investment in climate solutions, and also to encourage others to do the same by communicating this publicly. Operation Noah and friends at JustMoney Movement will lead an interactive session exploring this initiative, and how to take your next steps into impact investing.

Register for either or both webinars :

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyjqs-kbAFpZY5xtZPwx3zCaRQ-4--3-NAITiv\\_CHMSPDZAA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfyjqs-kbAFpZY5xtZPwx3zCaRQ-4--3-NAITiv_CHMSPDZAA/viewform)



**"How can Christians welcome refugees? Stories from Beirut and Bristol"**  
**Monday 17 June, 6-7.15pm**

Embrace the Middle East invites you to a FREE WEBINAR

As you know, the Middle East has been shaped by conflict and the resulting displacement of large numbers of people. Many of Embrace's partners are involved in welcoming and supporting refugees – often in far more challenging social and economic conditions than in the UK.

The issue of how we treat refugees has been in the UK media a lot recently. At Embrace, we think we can all play a part in building a kinder, safer and fairer world for refugees – whether we live in the Middle East or the Midlands. We'll be joined by Catherine Mourtada from Embrace's partner Tahaddi in Lebanon and Dan Green, co-founder and director of Bristol-based charity, Bridges for Communities. We'll be asking Dan and Catherine about the joys and challenges they face in their work, and the role their faith plays. We'll also learn about some of the bigger-picture issues facing people who have been forced to flee their homes. There'll be an opportunity for you to put your own questions to the speakers.

To join <https://embraceme.org/events/webinar-how-can-christians-welcome-refugees?>



Join us in Liverpool for a day of networking, talks and workshops. Our Climate Justice Gathering will be a welcoming space for individuals and groups in the Liverpool City Region to engage with the Climate Crisis. We are still working on the programme but this may give you an idea what the day will be about:

♥ Hear and interact with Local Campaigns

around Climate Change and the Environmental Crisis

- ♥ Explore the importance of International Solidarity and Solidarity with Migrants
- ♥ How do we engage with the General Elections and the Climate Crisis.
- ♥ Workshops on building our networks and tool to work together better and engage with the wider civil society: faith groups, trade unions, community groups
- ♥ A Climate Café to reflect on our feelings around the Climate Crisis and recognise the important of preserving our Mental Health.
- ♥ Explore the issues of Air and Water Pollution
- ♥ Plan the next steps for our Liverpool City Region Climate Justice Coalition

There will be food and refreshments. Doors will open at 9am and the event start at 9.30pm. Sessions will end around 4.30pm. We are aiming to make this event as welcoming for people from all cultures and backgrounds and aim to make it accessible for Disabled People. There is an access ramp to the side door of the building, and level access within the building, we will be working on more accessibility information but in the mean time, if you have any question feel free to contact the venue or ourselves.

Register <https://actionnetwork.org/events/climate-justice-gathering-liverpool-city-region>



**TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION**  
 SEASON OF CREATION 2024

*The firstfruits of hope*  
 (Rom 8:19-25)

**NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE!!**

**Celebrating The Season of Creation 2024 "To hope and act with Creation"**

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It is a time of ecumenical celebration when we reflect on God's generosity in giving us our beautiful world and we are inspired to protect it. Modern media have given us an unrivalled opportunity to see the huge diversity of landscapes, flora and fauna on the planet but, equally, they have shown us the devastation that has occurred when we have taken it for granted.

The theme for The Season of Creation this year is "To hope and act with Creation". It is inspired by Romans 8:19-25. This biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth. Saint Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our Sister and our Mother in his Canticle. Today, we no longer see the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. "Creation is groaning" (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and our unsustainable actions that harm her. Along with our sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions causing a climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering.

We have celebrated Creation in my own parish for the last four years. It has always been joyful and inspiring and brings home to parishioners the simple idea that we protect what we value and we value what we experience. If we never celebrate the natural world, what hope do we have of protecting it? We need to prepare NOW if we are to celebrate the season properly and not to suddenly realise that we have been overtaken by the summer holidays! Let us think about how we might celebrate both in our own churches and with the other Christians in our neighbourhood.

In our own churches, we can have a Creation weekend when our Masses have the theme of caring for Our Common Home. When thinking of decoration, the fruits of the harvest have their place, but it is much more than a simple harvest celebration. Let's not forget the mosses and the ferns. Let us display pictures of fish, and invertebrates such as bugs, beetles, bees, butterflies and spiders - all part of God's wonderful web of life. A friend said "We have a Christmas Crib, an Easter Garden, so why not have a Bug Hotel to celebrate Creation?"

The Season provides a great opportunity to grow our community by engaging with our parishioners, schools and perhaps with those who use our parish facilities. We might have a picnic, a soup lunch or other simple meal; an art or photographic exhibition celebrating all that is wonderful in our local area. Maybe a family fun night celebrating the individual actions that we already take. Such an evening might include a meat-free meal, an environmental quiz and some folk songs with sing-along choruses to remind us a way of life that was more at one with nature.

It should not be a one-off celebration, but a turning point in our relationship with our planet and all the species, including ourselves, who depend on it. We could invite individuals or groups to make pledges, for instance, an individual or a family might pledge to reduce the amount of meat they eat, walk to church or take a bus instead of the car.

The parish or school might register for the CAFOD Live Simply award, hold a tree planting or commit to having only reusable utensils at parish events. These are just some ideas. Our parishes are rich in talent. May we use the Season of Creation to release our own creativity.

For more information, search Season of creation 2024. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Stephen Garsed (Our Lady and St Edward parish, Preston)

Environmental Justice Lead, Diocese of Lancaster

## **A CHURCH WITH PEOPLE AT THE MARGINS**

In Autumn 2022, when issues of the Cost of Living Crisis were prominent, a group of our members challenged the North Western Synod of the United Reformed Church to prioritise working with people who are poverty experienced or marginalised.

This Spring our Synod Meeting adopted our strategy "A Church with People at the Margins" which sets out how together as a Synod and in our individual churches we seek to work with people who are poverty experienced or marginalised by society. You can read or download the Strategy from our website.

<https://nwsynod.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/A-Church-with-People-at-the-Margins-March-2024.pdf>

Our strategy is rooted in Biblical stories:

- \* the creation of all people in the image of God,
- \* the call of the prophets to justice and peace,
- \* the Gospel examples of Jesus meeting the needs of the sick and hungry and walking with those marginalised from society.

It is based on the key principles of listening and responding to those who are poverty experienced or marginalised. We would like to enable all people to live in community with Dignity, Agency, and Power. In this we draw on the work of Church Action on Poverty who supported us in developing this strategy. In the strategy we challenge our member churches to work with their local communities and particularly people within those communities who experience disadvantage. The choice of the word WITH is important to our thinking and emphasises our intention to value the views of all people as equals. We must not assume that we know best and can do things to or for people in our communities.

This is underpinned by a set of principles we are encouraging all of our churches to observe. Principles about listening, partnership, generosity, and in service through both in compassion by walking with people in need but also in seeking justice. As a Synod in adopting this strategy we have committed to support and equip all churches to be able to offer their mission and ministry consistent with these principles. Covering an area from Greater Manchester to the Scottish Border, we have also committed to prioritise our resources to support our churches who serve in the areas of the most significant deprivation. There are just over 100 churches in our Synod and over a third of them, according to data produced by the Church Urban Fund, are located in the 10% most deprived areas of England.

The adoption of the strategy is the beginning of a journey for us and one we want to learn from and work with others who share our commitment to improve the lives of people in our communities who are marginalised or economically disadvantaged.

Mike Hart Transformation Director: United Reformed Church North Western Synod



***"Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence. We have no such right". (Pope Francis)***

#### **SYCAMORE GAP AND LIVING SIMPLY**

Many of us were outraged at the felling of the "iconic" tree at Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall in an act of vandalism. It was just one sycamore, but we cared because it was a beautiful tree in a glorious position in our own locality. (photo by David Head)

Far away, in the Amazon, millions of trees and the wonderful plants and animals that depend on them are destroyed each year, not as acts of vandalism, but as acts of greed. The indigenous peoples, "the guardians of the rainforest", are driven from their land and their leaders subjected to intimidation and sometimes murdered. Injustice is rampant. The main perpetrators are the meat and extractive industries, particularly gold mining. The meat industry clears the forest for cattle ranching or to grow soybeans for animal feed. Gold mining creates huge amounts of spoil and pollutes rivers with toxic mercury waste. On the other side of the world, in Borneo, the rainforest and its Orang-utan habitat is being destroyed for palm oil plantations.

Pope Francis takes us to task for this destruction: *"Each year sees the disappearance of thousands of plant and animal species which we will never know, which our children will never see because they have been lost forever. The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity. Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence. We have no such right". (Laudato Si' #33)*

The sad thing is that the destruction is unnecessary. It occurs to satisfy the lifestyles of the well-off - and that includes ourselves. The very profitable burger industry has an insatiable demand for cheap beef, whilst the pork and poultry industries import huge amounts of soybean from the Amazon for feed. According to the gold industry's own statistics, nearly 90% of the gold mined today will end up as bullion in bank vaults or as jewellery - icons of wealth and status. The Golden Calf is alive and well.

Is this what life is about - the frantic race to eat more, own more? Surely, true living is about peace, contentment and wholesome relationships. It is about living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with Jesus' particular friends, the poor. It is about gratitude, not "attitude". As Pope Francis puts it: *"Christian spirituality proposes an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption"* (Laudato Si' # 222).

In November 2022, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales published four "Resolutions on Environmental Matters". The first re-iterates observing the Friday abstinence from meat, recognising the environmental impact of meat production; doing so as an act of solidarity with those who face hunger and poverty every day; and dedicating to God the pressing need for us all to live more simply. The third states: The Bishops' Conference commends the LiveSimply award as a response to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si *"to work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us"*. Recognising that some schools and parishes may already have similar projects ongoing, the bishops encourage all remaining schools and parishes to consider signing up to this award as a sign of their solidarity with the poor and their desire to live in harmony with God's creation.

*"Because of us, thousands of species will no longer give glory to God by their very existence. We have no such right". (Pope Francis)*

Wow! What a challenge!.....But as a member of a parish which has the award, I can say that getting started was not too daunting as we were doing much of what was required anyway, but it provided a fresh focus for doing more. There is plenty of help and guidance available from people who have been through the process. A good start might be to put it on the agenda for the next parish Pastoral Council meeting. You can find out more at:

<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>.

St Francis of Assisi said "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if you have to". Living simply provides an eloquent statement of gospel values in our distracted world. Meanwhile, let us contemplate and celebrate God's wonderful gift of creation, especially in our own diocese, and seek to protect what is good and beautiful in our world, including sycamores!

Stephen Garsed Environmental Justice Lead, Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission. Campaign Volunteer Co-ordinator, CAFOD Lancaster [lancaster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:lancaster@cafod.org.uk)

#### **The LiveSimply Award**

The LiveSimply award is a scheme for Catholic communities (parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies) to show how they have been answering the call for us to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers around the world by living: simply; sustainably and in solidarity with people living in poverty.

The award celebrates what you have already done and inspires you to do more. It helps your community live, not just more simply, but also more fully <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/livesimply-award>





**Northern Dioceses' Environment Group brings together people from across the North of England who are concerned about the environment.**

It comprises people mostly connected with the Catholic faith who are concerned about the ecological crisis (and the closely linked socio-economic crises) and act in a variety of ways to help respond to it. Some are employed in this capacity for their diocese; many are volunteers within local, secular, and charitable organisations or their own parishes. All are activists and campaigners. We meet quarterly to support each other, exchange ideas, be inspired to new action, etc. Since the Covid Pandemic most meetings are virtual but annually we meet in-person to explore a theme and share time together.

**FAITH IN FOOD EVENT**

The Northern Dioceses Environment Group (NDEG) met in-person on Saturday 18th May at St. Wilfred's Parish Centre, Preston. "Faith in Food – From the table of the Lord to the table of the world" was an opportunity for us to gather together, share and develop our understanding of the importance of food and its local, global and faith significance in today's world. The meeting welcomed three key speakers, Francis Stewart (Cafod Theology Team), Anna Clayton (Food Futures – North Lancashire's Sustainable Food Network) and a lived experience perspective on food poverty from Alison Fisher (Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission). A Question and Response plenary was followed by a news and events sharing session. The day was rounded off by a community sing-along. It really was a wonderful and informative day.

Included in the meeting were three additional supporting projects: a Fair Trade stall; a seed swap table and crafts from Cambodia made by craftspeople who were casualties of war. Email: [cambodiacraft@gmail.com](mailto:cambodiacraft@gmail.com)  
 Thank you to everyone who has participated in our gatherings and St Wilfrid's RC church for allowing us to host the event.  
 Mark Wiggin (Chair – NDEG)



left to right: Alison Fisher, Francis Stewart, Anna Clayton and Mark Wiggin who is currently the chair of the Northern Dioceses Environment Group.



**SIGN UP FOR A PLOT CROP SHARE**

The Plot is seeking 20 more people to join its crop-share scheme this growing season. Not only will you get fresh and 100% locally grown organic veg each week delivered to a nearby community collection point or your doorstep from June to November; but your money goes towards supporting this local market garden that hosts a farmstart training programme, and in so doing is actively working to build a ring of agro ecological growers around the city once more, The crop share model is also interesting in that it builds a direct relationship between grower and buyer/ eater and shares the risk of the season with the grower. You can sign up for a crop share here

<https://foodfutures.org.uk/the-plot/>

If its not right for you or your household, please do encourage friends, colleagues or neighbours to try it out for a season. If you feel like sharing on social media, you can find posts to share here: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theplotnorthlancashire>  
<https://www.facebook.com/theplotnorthlancashire/posts/pfbid0QNm7FRtPcGwTQhxqZ8EAhFy3vrYZBbJRhQhyHNM1FuiYscV1GDdQeaG5ffVeeqBfl>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/theplotnorthlancs/>

[https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6s6M7PpOtd/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6s6M7PpOtd/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

PLUS ALL UPCOMING EVENTS: [https://foodfutures.org.uk/whats\\_on/](https://foodfutures.org.uk/whats_on/)



**The launch of Traidcraft breakfast blend tea!**

To celebrate World Fair Trade Day in May, Traidcraft launched a new version of the beloved Traidcraft favourite. This blend of 100% black tea is Fairtrade certified and is grown in the rich soil and high altitudes of the Great Rift Valley, Kenya - the perfect conditions to grow a refreshing and delicious tea. This tea is 100% supplied by smallholder co-operatives from Kenya. Unlike much tea grown on tea estates, it is hand picked to the highest quality and traceable. It provides a fair income for the farmers who grow it and a Fairtrade Premium for community projects that benefit farmers, tea workers and their families and also include sustainable energy initiatives which support the planet.

The packaging is made from 80% recycled materials and is 100% recyclable. Tea bags are biodegradable and compost friendly. Ingredients: 100% Black Tea Suitable for vegetarians and vegans. Store in cool dry place out of direct sunlight. Once opened, store in an airtight container. Order <https://trueoriginfoods.co.uk/products/traidcraft-breakfast-blend-tea?>  
 To view FAQ's, please visit <https://www.traidcraft.org/tea>

Transform Trade and True Origin have worked closely together to source, package and market the tea to ensure they can support producers through tea sales and and foster open dialogues between everyone involved in the supply chain.

Traidcraft is the Trading brand of Transform Trade, a UK-based trade justice charity supporting producers across the world to get a fairdeal from trade. True Origin are a social enterprise based in Scotland which sell a wide range of ethical products- proving everyday that trade can be achieved fairly. True Origin generously donates 5% of the price of each pack to support Transform Trade's work with producer groups fighting for a fair deal from trade. This tea generates income for Transform Trade supporting their work with producers and workers to create a just and sustainable trading system in which everybody benefits. Here at True Origin we are pleased to distribute this tea along with our range of delightful fair trade foods from African producer partners.

**BOARBANK HALL, Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH**

Sr Margaret Atkins from Boarbank Hall, warmly invites you to a number of events:

**28th June-1st July. Catholic Social Teaching Residential weekend** Theme: Revisiting the Basics.

A long weekend to revisit the basic ideas and some key texts of Catholic Social Teaching. Would suit especially anyone involved in work in Justice & Peace, Care for Creation, or with young people. All welcome.



**27th July - 3rd August 2024. Thinking Faith Summer residential week** Theme: What Catholics Really Believe

Time out for working Catholics

**5th-12th October Living Laudato Si' Residential week** A week to explore how to live out Laudato Si' fully in our personal lives and within the Church. All welcome.



**BIG GREEN WEEK JUNE 8 – 16**

The Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest ever celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Every year, people come together to unleash a wave of support for action to protect the planet. Tens of thousands of

people in every corner of the country celebrate the heartfelt, brave, everyday actions being taken to stand up for nature and fight climate change. For 2024, we'll be celebrating swaps – from clothes or book swaps, to skill swaps in allotments or upcycling workshops, to knowledge swaps on discussion panels or wildlife reserves. Events are hosted by teachers, bus drivers, sport clubs, artists, community groups, places of worship, libraries, builders – anyone who cares about climate change.

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/about/>

<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/find-an-event/?>

From 8 June to 16 June, Fairtrade supporters nationwide are coming together to urge shoppers to swap to Fairtrade, so more farmers can earn enough to take on the climate crisis.



**Our Protecting Forests with Farmers petition**, is calling on UK politicians to support farmers like Jaime, who are swapping to sustainable farming methods to protect forests. "*We have implemented agro-forestry systems which bring shade and mitigate some of the effects of climate change, as well as reforesting certain areas, avoiding the degradation of the soil and minimize our carbon footprint*" says Jaime Alberto García Flórez, who grows cocoa and Fairtrade coffee on his farm in Colombia.



Jaime is a coffee farmer from the Red Ecolsierra coffee Fairtrade co-operative in Colombia, he experiences some of the worst effects of climate change on his farm. The changes Jaime and his fellow farmers have made have led to positive results. Biodiversity has improved, soil has become healthier and more trees are now protected. By supporting Jaime and others like him, we can pave the way for a fairer and more sustainable future for agriculture.

By signing our petition to the UK government, you can urge Ministers who are right now preparing new laws on deforestation to make those laws fair, and to invest in the skills and knowledge of farmers like Jaime. You will be joining more than 10,000 people who have already signed to shape policies that could protect our environment.

The Climate Crisis isn't fair! Climate change disproportionately affects the same farmers in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific who also disadvantaged by our rigged global trade system. That's why we need Government action on Climate Justice and Trade Justice, and why we launched our Protect Forests with Farmers petition. But fortunately, we don't have to wait for Government action to stand with farmers taking on the climate crisis.

Swapping to Fairtrade products means farmers like Jaime can earn a fairer income, meaning they are able to do more to tackle climate change and its effects on their community.

With your help, we can get many more people signing our petition and swapping to Fairtrade. And that could make Great Big Green Week 2024 the biggest and greenest yet! SIGN THE PETITION <https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/145890/petition/1?>

## BIG GREEN EVENTS IN OUR AREA

**Friday 7th June THE SUSTAINABILITY FESTIVAL 2024** Manchester Metropolitan University Business School, Lyceum Pl, Manchester, UK Are you passionate about nature, social and climate justice – then come along to the 3rd annual festival on action for sustainability. This brings together people who are passionate about socio-ecological justice and climate action. Family friendly Food / refreshment available Free event Ticketed event Disabled toilet Toilets on site Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/the-sustainability-festival-2024/>

**Saturday 8th and Saturday 15th June HOME GROWN** National Trust - Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, UK. The Garden Team at Acorn Bank will be sharing ideas for easy ways to grow fruit and veg in small spaces, in mini 10 minute talks between 10.30am and 4pm. Learn how to grow salad on your windowsill, a pot-ful of spuds, strawberry pallets, how to keep supermarket herbs going. Family friendly Food / refreshment available Free event Outdoor event Baby changing facilities Disabled toilet Toilets on site  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/home-grown/>

**Saturday 8th June POP-UP PATCHERS** Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BG Have simple clothes repairs done for free or, even better, be shown how to do them yourself. Free event. Toilets on site Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/pop-up-patchers/>

**Saturday 8th June ACCRINGTON ECOFEST 2024** in Accrington Town Centre Broadway, Accrington, UK For the 3rd year in a row, the Prospects Foundation will be hosting 'Accrington EcoFest' Everyone from the borough of Hyndburn & beyond is invited to come take part in an eco-celebration! Family friendly Free event Outdoor event Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/accrington-ecofest-2024/>

**Sunday 9th June SIX INCHES OF SOIL FILM SHOWING** Kirkgate Arts, Kirkgate, Cockermouth, UK Our current food system is both a miracle and a disaster. Cockermouth CAN is presenting Six Inches of Soil, an independent British feature film, which follows the inspiring story of British farmers standing up against the industrial food system and transforming the way they produce food. Family friendly Food / refreshment available Ticketed event Toilets on site Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/six-inches-of-soil-film-showing/>

**Monday 10th June ARNSIDE'S BIG GREEN PLANT SWAP** Arnside Educational Institute, Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, UK. Anyone can come to the event and swap plants, indoor or outdoor, seedlings or cut flowers, for free. The event takes place in our Educational Institute, at the same time as the Community Cafe. Everyone is welcome from Arnside or from elsewhere. Family friendly Free event Outdoor event Disabled toilet Toilets on site Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/arnsides-big-green-plant-swap/>

**Tuesday 11th June VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY AT LYTH HILL NATURE RESERVE** Lythbank, Shrewsbury SY3 0BT, Join our rangers at Lyth Hill Nature Reserve for a day of practical activities to help maintain the site. Depending on what needs doing, activities can include planting, shrub clearance, path and gate maintenance and wild flower management. Meet at the car park off Lyth Hill Road, SY3 0BT at 10 am. No facilities on site- please bring your own refreshments.  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/volunteer-work-party-at-lyth-hill-nature-reserve/>

**Wednesday 12th June GREEN WAYS** Bramhall War Memorial, Bramhall Lane South, Bramhall, Stockport, UK A circular three and a half mile walk along old paths and new byways linking green spaces in Bramhall. Wear sturdy footwear. Family friendly Free event Outdoor event  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/green-ways/>

**Wednesday 12th June TREES & RIVERS** Bentham Town Hall & Tourist Information, Station Road, Bentham, Lancaster, 7 – 9 pm The River Wenning Group will be holding a talk about a tree planting event carried out in January 2024. Come and hear about a project in our community. Jemma Wilson from Lune Rivers Trust and Jonathan Stubbs, from Bentham, will tell us about recent tree planting by Ellergill Beck. Free event Toilets on site Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/trees-rivers/>

**Wednesday 12th June LET'S TALK ENVIRONMENT** Christ Church, Sullart Street, Cockermouth, CA13 0DX Cockermouth Rotary Club host an annual conference and this year our theme is 'Let's Talk Environment'. The theme will be around 'Let's swap ideas, information, good practice, seeds and passion for our environment'. Family friendly Food / refreshment available Free event Disabled toilet Hearing aid loop Toilets on site Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access Ticketed event Book here  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/lets-talk-environment/>

**Saturday 15th June WOODS WALK for adults and children.** Carrwood Road, Bramhall, Stockport, UK A walk around Carr Wood, observing and listening to what's in the woods with local nature expert. Wear sturdy footwear. Family friendly Free event Outdoor event Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/woods-walk/>

**Saturday 15th June CARR WOOD TASK DAY** Family friendly Free event Outdoor event Disabled Access  
<https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/carr-wood-task-day/Carrwood Road, Bramhall, Stockport, UK>



**Saturday 15th June PEEL PARK MOTH MORNING (MOTH CELEBRATION!)** Peel Park & The Coppice, Accrington, UK 9am-12pm, The Prospects Foundation will be hosting a Moth Morning. As part of the site's monthly moth surveys, we will be opening a moth trap left overnight in the nearby Pleck Meadow. Family friendly Food / refreshment available Free Outdoor event Wheelchair accessible Disabled Access <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/peel-park-moth-morning-moth-celebration/>

**Saturday 15th June LORTON BIG GREEN FAIR** This will take place in 3 locations, as follows: Big Green Fair itself – Yew Tree Hall, High Lorton, Cockermouth, UKYTH Swap Shop in the Barn in Lorton School playgrounds Display of Wildlife surveys and other projects – St Cuthbert's Church Lorton Family friendly Food / refreshment available Free event Outdoor event Baby changing facilities Toilets on site Disabled Access <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/events/lorton-big-green-fair/>

**Saturday 8th – Sunday 16th June CHESTER GREEN WEEK**

Venues across the city will be lit up by night and Chester Cathedral will host the winning entries from the Green Expo Photographic Competition, open to all ages and abilities, deadline 31st May. <https://greatbiggreenweek.com/green-week-events/chester-green-week/>



**CAFOD Update: Sudan Crisis**

Sudan is in a crisis. Over half the country's 25 million population urgently needs humanitarian aid. Nearly 18 million people are struggling with acute hunger. UN figures have referred to the crisis as "one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent memory, with potential to trigger the world's largest hunger emergency." Church leaders who are working alongside those most affected have expressed their concern at the unfolding humanitarian crisis. CAFOD's local Church partner, Caritas Sudan, has described the situation as a forgotten crisis that the international community urgently needs to address.

In a statement, Caritas Sudan said: "The ongoing crisis, compounded by security and administrative challenges, is preventing humanitarian aid reaching everyone who needs it. The coming rainy season between June and October-November will only make the situation worse." Pope Francis has repeatedly appealed for a negotiated solution to the conflict, and during his address on Christmas Day he recalled the suffering of the people of Sudan and asked the international community not to forget them. CAFOD is urgently working to address this crisis. We've allocated over £250,000 towards Sudan, providing essential sanitation and hygiene services, as well as emergency cash payments, to refugees and displaced people.

**Things you can do**

We at CAFOD are calling on all our supporters to pray for the people of Sudan and peace for their country. Your support is also vital to continue the work of our local experts in Sudan and its surrounding countries, who are providing practical help to families affected by the conflict. A donation of £40 can provide emergency shelter for a refugee family. Together, we can hope for long-term peace in Sudan. Please see <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/sudan-crisis> for more information, prayers and to support our work.



*Caroline Ward writes:*

**Friends of the Holy Land** was established in 2009 and is an ecumenical, non-political charity. We work to support the lives and witness of Christians living in the Holy Land through prayer and practical projects, recognising that their presence in the land where Jesus once walked is an important witness to all Christians. Our mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

We fund a mixture of sustainable and immediate relief work and our beneficiaries come from all Christian communities in the Holy Land. A network of lay and clerical professionals, rooted within the Christian community in the Holy Land verify our projects and beneficiaries. They quickly identify cases where our support has the potential to make the Christian community stronger and more resilient. Our mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

We achieve support for our mission in the UK in four main ways:

- We raise awareness: of the challenges faced by Christians in the Holy Land
- Prayer: we encourage prayer on their behalf
- Fund Raising: we generate funds to provide practical help
- Pilgrimage: we encourage visits to the Holy Land to meet local Christians

Our work focuses on five key areas:

- |                       |                     |          |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| • Education           | • Employment        | • Health |
| • Housing improvement | • Emergency Support |          |

The war in Gaza has devastated the community. There were approx. 1000 Christians in Gaza at the start of October. Some have been lucky enough to leave but most are sheltering at the Holy Family Church (Latin parish) or St Porphyrios (Greek Orthodox).



Many have no homes to return to. The effects have been much wider reaching than just Gaza. The West Bank has been locked down. Borders have closed. Tourism has stopped. Estimates suggest over 200,000 people lost their jobs in the West Bank, about 24% of employment (International Labour Organization). But most of all there is fear. Fear of escalating violence, fear of being shot or attacked, fear of demonstrations and indiscriminate arrest and fear of an uncertain future.

The most important thing Friends of the Holy Land are doing during this time is being in contact with our team and continuing to fund our projects as well as looking to new projects. We cannot change the situation, but we can make it a bit more bearable by giving our support - practically, prayerfully and emotionally.

We speak to our team and Committee in the Holy Land several times a week. We let them know that they are being remembered in prayer by Christians all over the world, as well as the financial support being offered.

The people of the West Bank are proud of their heritage and where they live; they don't like making their tragic circumstances public. They do not want sympathy from us, they do want practical help.

Friends of the Holy Land has sent £120,000 of aid directly to the Christian communities in Gaza. We have increased emergency support in the West Bank. We are exploring more projects to support employment and healing of the most vulnerable, including psychosocial interventions for trauma support, scholarships for vocational training, water projects to replace rusty tanks and enable access to clean water and employment and empowerment opportunities for women and young people.

We want to help the Christian community to rebuild a sustainable future to remain in the Holy Land.

New Chairman to guide us through the challenging times ahead. Sadly, Jim Quinn has retired as both a Trustee and our Chairman in April. Jim had been a Trustee since 2013 and we are most grateful for his many years of guidance and dedicated service, helping Friends of the Holy Land grow to where it is today. We are very pleased to announce that the Rt Rev William Kenney has agreed to take over the role as our chairman, with immediate effect. An Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, +William is well known for his work internationally, especially the Middle East, being involved for many years with the Holy See's Holy Land Coordination.

For more information about Friends of the Holy Land, please visit our web site [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

#### DIARY

**25 May-1 June Boarbank Hall Living Laudato Si' Residential week** see page 9

#### JUNE

**1 National Pax Christi AGM** Friends Meeting House, 22, School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT. Details page 3

**5 World Environment Day** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>

**6 Peace with Justice – how to get there?** Balfour Project Annual Conference London and online page 3

**6 Why Green investment? A look at the Science and Theology** 2-3 pm Operation Noah Webinar page 5

**8 Ripples of Hope** CAFOD gathering Leamington Spa and online 11 am – 4 pm page 3

**8-16 Big Green Week** diary for local events pages 10-12

**13 Merseyside Pax Christi Meeting** 2.00pm see page 3

**17-23 Refugee Week**

**17 How Christians welcome refugees?** Embrace Middle East webinar 6-7.15 pm page 6

**20 The Green Investment Declaration** Operation Noah webinar Page 5

**29 Merseyside Pax Christi Retreat** at The Irenaeus Project, Great Georges Rd, Liverpool L22 1RD. see page 3

**29 Liverpool Climate Justice Event St Bride's Church, Percy Str L9 7LT 9.30am to 4.30pm.** page 6

**28 June-1 July. Boarbank Hall Catholic Social Teaching Residential weekend** see page 10

#### JULY

**4 Social Action Network Annual Conference** St Margaret Centre Liverpool 10-3.30pm see page 2

**4 General Election Day**

**19-21 'JUST POLITICS' NJPN Annual Conference at Swanwick** see page 2

**26 UN Day in Support for Victims of Torture** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/torture-victims-day>

**27th July - 3rd August 2024. BoarbankHall Thinking Faith Summer residential week** Page 10

#### AUGUST

**6 Hiroshima Day** <https://nationaltoday.com/hiroshima-day/>

**SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> – OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> THE SEASON OF CREATION** Start preparing now Page 6

**5-12 OCTOBER Living Laudato Si' Residential week** Boarbank Hall Page 10

**OCTOBER 12 Lancaster J & P Commission event** Page 2

**Copydate for Autumn Mouthpeace August 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:**

**National Justice and Peace Network** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

**Independent Catholic News** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

**NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-northwest/>