**Notes of a meeting of the Justice & Peace Group**

**held in PNL Meeting room**

**on Wednesday 11 June 2025**

 **Present**: Mary Barrett (MB), John Barrett(MJB); Geraldine Sharpe (GS); Vivienne O’Byrne (VOB), Cecilia Cameron (CC); Alan Berridge (AB); Rachel Soland (RS); Mike Leggett (ML); Janet Franklin (JF)

Online: Mary Hickman (MH)

**Apologies:**  John Manfield; Jane Manfield

The meeting was chaired by Mary Barrett

The meeting opened with a CAFOD prayer

**Matters arising from the May meeting**

JM has written to CAFOD to request 2 further Live Simply Award plaques.

Practical Action: £356.97 was raised at the plant sale. £2,664.48 was raised over the two years of the campaign. Thanks to all who supported this work.

JM has written to St Catherine’s Hospice. The new campaign will be launched in the autumn.

**CAFOD:** The Debt Justice petition and campaign.

It was agreed that the end of Mass talk and petition signing session would take place on the weekend of 2/3 August. Group members will help with the talks and the signing after Masses. **MB will inform Father Tony and put notice in the Newsletter**

Mass lobby of Parliament 9 July: VOB and GS hope to attend this event

**Laudato Si**: Bishop Bosco’s recent sermon has emphasised Pope Leo’s endorsement of Pope Francis’ commitment to our common home. The green area at St Joseph’s is doing well. Marion and Paul Harris have sown a wild flower bed at Holy Family. The food waste from the Sunday lunches needs monitoring.

**Campaign to End Modern Day Slavery**

The Diocesan group meeting was postponed due to sickness. MB attended a meeting of the Southwark Diocesan group. There will be a diocesan ecumenical event on 18 October – venue to be confirmed.

**Updates: SVP:** Mass for the Sick on 17 July at 2.30 p.m. followed by afternoon tea; SVP district has a pilot scheme to provide bags for certain prisoners on release from Coldingley Prison. They will contain basic items eg toiletries. This scheme could be extended to High Down Women’s Prison

**UCM:** The recent talk ‘Cyber Aware’ was well presented. Attendance was good and it could be repeated. The annual UCM Pilgrimage to Walsingham will take place soon. Joan Hodge has received a papal award for her outstanding services to the UCM. The parish will mark this event some time in the future.

**CND:** Please see ML’s report at the end of these notes

**GDWG and Refugee Tales:** A successful meeting was held to commemorate 30 years since GDWG started visiting the immigration removal centres at Gatwick Airport. The clothing store is depleted, casual clothing for men always welcome.

Refugee Tales will start its annual walk on Wednesday 9 July following a day meeting MPs in Parliament.

**J & P Newsletter:** JB confirmed that all copy should be sent by 21 June before the newsletters are distributed on the weekend of 5/6 July. Contributions welcomed, on top of articles promised at the last meeting. RS will write about her experience in Uganda.

**AOB:**

Father Tony has passed on a request from St Joseph’s school for a member of the parish to talk to Year 2 children about parish charitable work. JM will go into the school if an appropriate time can be arranged.

**Next meeting:** There will be no meeting in July, it was agreed that there will be a J & P meeting on Wednesday 13 August.

**CND Report**

CND local: <https://www.facebook.com/reigatepeacegroup>
Sat 14/06/25 11-12.30   local CND (only one in Surrey and just surviving) will have a stall under the Harlequin (where library and theatre used to be) in Redhill centre.

Mon 16/06/25 8-8.45pm  Progress House, 164 Garlands Road, Redhill RH16NZ
CND Vice Chair, Carol Turner will give a resume of what CND stands for today, what the current issues and goals are and how to achieve Nuclear Disarmament in the UK and eventually the World. Also what part the audience can do to help CND achieve nuclear disarmament.

Wed 06/08/25 mid-day local CND will be in the centre of Redhill to remember the 80th anniversary of the first time a nuclear weapon was used to kill in Hiroshima. More details nearer time in parish newsletter.

StW:
<https://www.stopwar.org.uk/events/national-march-for-palestine/> Israel’s attacks on Gaza and the West Bank are intensifying. Their starvation policy continues. The UK government has at last accepted that Israel’s actions are unconscionable. Now they must act – words are not enough. Join the next national march for Palestine Saturday 21 June - 12 noon - Russell Sq, WC1B to Whitehall

CND:
<https://cnduk.org/alternative-defence-review-calls-to-invest-in-welfare-not-warfare/>
calls for a radical break with successive UK governments’ failed security and defence policies, which distort Britain’s national priorities, fuel global instability, undermine international law, harm the environment and divert investment from public services and social infrastructure towards subsidies for the global arms industry.

<https://cnduk.org/ADR/> offers a credible, democratic alternative to militarism: a sustainable economy grounded in social justice, global solidarity, and the urgent need to build peace—not war—for the 21st century. <https://cnduk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ADR-digital.pdf>

UN:
<https://dppa.un.org/en/a-new-agenda-for-peace> [includes Russia - see end] => <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf> [July 2023: p4. Military expenditures globally set a new record in 2022, reaching $2.24 trillion. p5. From 2015 to 2021, an estimated 3.1 million people lost their lives as a result of intentional homicides, a shocking figure which dwarfs that of the estimated 0.7 million people who died in armed conflicts during that period. p6. climate change, violations of UN Charter,  need for cooperation. The vision offered in A New Agenda for Peace is grounded in three principles – trust, solidarity, and universality ]

<https://www.unfoldzero.org/conflict-resolution-the-international-court-of-justice-and-nuclear-weapons/>
UNFOLD ZERO is a platform for United Nations (UN) focused initiatives and actions for the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world. It aims to unfold the path to zero nuclear weapons through effective steps and measures facilitated by the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, UN Secretary-General and other UN bodies. ... urges governments to reduce the risks of nuclear war and advance global nuclear disarmament by replacing nuclear deterrence with common security. In particular, they called upon governments to enhance the role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to resolve international conflicts and help provide security through law not war. <https://www.unfoldzero.org/law-not-war/>

Kingston:
<http://kpc.gn.apc.org/KPN2025/kpn_May_2025.pdf>
p1. Return of Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) this September, 9th – 12th at the Excel Centre in London’s Docklands.
p2. Uniting for Peace Spring Conference. [the late Pope Francis said in 2019: ‘The Possession of Nuclear weapons is immoral.’]
p3. Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Movement for the Abolition of War. p4. Palestine and Lakenheath blockade
p6. Christian CND [80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, short webinars on first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4EKignTfSbe1Bhl1LkY_Fg>

Gaza/West Bank:
UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand sanction far-right Israeli ministers for inciting violence against Palestinians in West Bank. Israel calls this unacceptable while US condemns UK for this.      <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_and_the_Gaza_war>
<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2025-06-04/debates/D2A51C58-0316-495D-96F7-5C91B83D3511/IsraelAndTheOccupiedPalestinianTerritories>
Mr Falconer:   ... We have taken steps, and we will continue to take steps. We have led the international community in the most recent of those steps. I am, and we are, under no illusion about the severity of the situation that we face.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/08/opinion/world-war-2-europe-peace.html>
This Op Ed outlines five lessons from World War II that must be taken into account in order to create an enduring peace in Ukraine, rather than a pause that gives rise to additional conflict, aggression and a potentially disastrous global conflict. These include:
\* ensuring that aggressors are not appeased which could lead to more aggression;
\* supporting national independence against the rise of ‘spheres of influence’;
\* building accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity;
\* correcting historical manipulation to ensure a political environment based on truth and not falsehoods; and
\* supporting freedom and democratic institutions to combat tyranny.