



PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

No 25 - January 2024

The Justice and Peace Group meets to *pray*, educate ourselves, and to raise awareness that we may all act on Catholic Social Teaching. You are welcome to join us. We meet at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in PNL Centre Redhill. Details from pnljandp@gmail.com

Our Parish Charity with Practical Action

Support and fund-raising for Practical Action came together for the **Magical Musical Marathon** in October when over **£500** was raised. The aim was to fill St Joseph's Church with music for 12 hours and give people a chance to show their appreciation by donating to the charity.

The various musicians included instrumental soloists and duos of different ages, organ players, sea shanty and folk singers, wind and flute group members and music group members of our PNL churches.

What huge generosity they all showed in the preparation and delivery of their amazing performances.

A reminder of the work of Practical Action was projected during the day.

Big Changes Start Small

Practical Action combines three approaches to help people solve some of the world's toughest problems. They work as:



Problem-solvers - working hand in hand with individuals, communities and local organisations to tackle the causes of poverty.

Knowledge sharers - getting fresh answers and practical resources into the hands of the people who need them most.

Expert advisers - providing professionals and policy makers with development advice

This combination of different ways of working enables turning small solutions into big change for millions of people.

Full information about the project that we are supporting in Faridpur, Bangladesh can be found in the [July 2023 Justice and Peace newsletter](#) on the PNL website. However, that is only a part of their work; they have projects over all the world. **Flood Resilience** is one particularly important programme which they operate in Bolivia, Peru, Senegal, Zimbabwe and other countries. Practical Action works with communities to make resilience a way of life by advising people how to adapt and plan for predictable floods. They share their knowledge and experience with communities, practitioners and decision-makers. Information about other projects can be found on their website www.practicalaction.org



“It takes a certain flair of real insight to make things simple again.”

E.F. Schumacher

It could be said that the founder of Practical Action was a local man. He spent his later years living in Caterham. However, Fritz Schumacher was born in Bonn in 1911 and came to Britain as a Rhodes scholar in 1930.



Practical Action was founded by radical economist and philosopher E.F. ‘Fritz’ Schumacher, who challenged the conventional aid thinking of the day. He believed in solutions suited to context, equipping people with the skills and knowledge to change their situation, economic systems that work for all, and living within the planet’s means.

In 1966, Schumacher and others founded the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) - later renamed Practical Action - to put his philosophy into practice.

Schumacher’s ground-breaking book, ***Small is Beautiful*** was published in 1973 and generated worldwide interest.

Rather than speaking for communities, Schumacher wanted to work with them to better understand their needs, rather than prescribing a ‘bigger is better’ or ‘one size fits all’ approach to international aid, this approach was revolutionary at the time and still guides Practical Action.

E.F. Schumacher’s philosophy focussed on small, simple and sustainable development and economics – or ‘economics as if people mattered’ – feeling that contemporary economic systems were unsustainable. Instead, economic systems should benefit all, rather than a select few.

Another key belief of Schumacher’s was our duty

PRACTICAL ACTION

Technology challenging poverty



to live within the planet’s means. We should operate within the planet’s finite resources. Climate change is the result of what he called “infinite growth of material consumption.”

His ideas remain relevant as ever and his small is beautiful approach can help communities facing hardship change their world for the better today too.

Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

GDWG

The small charity Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group, GDWG, supports people affected by immigration detention. There are two detention centres at right next to the runway at Gatwick Airport with space for 600+ people. Some members of the Parish visit the centres on a regular basis to give support and friendship to those held.

When people are detained under immigration powers, they are held for administrative purposes in prison-like detention centres, with **NO TIME LIMIT**. Detention is inefficient, expensive and harmful: it damages the lives and mental health of people detained, and harms families and communities.

Since people are frequently brought to the centres at Gatwick with very few possessions there is always a need for good quality clothing for young men; trousers, T-shirts, pullovers and jeans. New underwear and socks are always welcome.

If you have a donation and would like it collected please email John Barrett on pnljandp@gmail.com

There is no demand for suits or formal clothing.

Details of the work of GDWG and many other ways to support them can be found on their website. gdwg.org.uk

RENEWED HOPE TRUST

There's a lot going on at Renewed Hope and their work is needed more than ever.

The 'Drop-In' is now the support hub they always wanted it to be with many partner agencies connecting with people who come to the Shrewsbury Road Chapel. The homeless outreach service ESOS hold triage sessions here, SES Water come to check people are getting the discounts they are entitled to, the NHS have held health clinics and there is more planned.



The demand for Renewed Hope has never been higher. About 50 people come to the Drop-regularly in each month. More and more, the guests are struggling with mental illness, addiction, financial difficulties. RHT are currently putting resources into expanding Drop-In services further. They are planning a 'rough sleeper' morning service from 9am-11am and they offered a Christmas Day meal again in 2023.

In February 2022 a supported house for four previously homeless men was opened and they are given tailored support to prepare them for independent living. Renewed Hope's long-term ambition remains to open a larger property for homeless men with higher needs – a gap in local provision identified by many agencies. This requires funding, expertise, not to mention a property in the right location.

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council are presently finding there just aren't enough beds to meet the needs of homeless people presenting to them and has asked RHT to look into the possibility of opening an emergency winter night shelter. Look out for developments here www.renewedhope.org.uk



There are lots of opportunities to get involved. Get in touch with RHT if you can help during the day on weekdays and

Saturday lunchtimes. Helpers are needed to support the guys in the supported house with cleaning and gardening. Please spread the word and if you would like find out more about fundraising, volunteering or anything else, please get in touch on 01737 886997 or email info@renewedhope.org.uk

CAFOD 2024 - The Big Lent Walk

Walk 200km over the 40 days of Lent to help fight global poverty.

Challenge yourself and walk when and where you choose, alone or with friends – or your dog. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty



In Liberia, James the fisherman now has the equipment he needs to fish safely and sustainably - to find good fishing spots and return home safely.

Walking you can help other fishermen like James . #Search CAFOD website for '[The Big Lent Walk](#)'

COP28 & POPE FRANCIS



It is difficult not to feel a certain scepticism about the final pronouncements of COP 28 which took place in Dubai in December. The president of the conference, Sultan Al-Jaber, runs an oil company which has recently embarked on a major expansion of production. However, he states that a phase-out of fossil fuel is "inevitable" and he prolonged proceedings until a consensus about goals was reached.

Much more powerful and hopefully, more positive and practical, are the Pope's statements at COP28 on the impacts that climate change is having on the world and what global leaders need to do to tackle the issue. It was a shame that Pope Francis was not well enough to attend in person, but a strong message was conveyed by Cardinal Pietre Parolin.

At its heart was the pontiff's conviction that climate change signals the need for major political change and COP28 must be the turning point. The ecological transition to save the world could be done by embracing renewable energy, "the elimination of fossil fuels, and education in lifestyles that are less dependent".

The Pope's statement criticised efforts to shift the blame for the ecological and climate crises to the poor and high birth rates. He also singled out the biggest carbon emitting countries which are "responsible for a deeply troubling ecological debt".

It would only be fair, he said, that these countries wipe out the financial debts of poor nations because of their excessive use of fossil fuels.

Commenting on the Pope's statement Neil Thorns from **Cafod** wrote: *"These discussions must be a time for leaders to heed his call: not for a partial change, but a new way of making progress together, and for choosing a culture of life over a culture of death."*

Caring for our Common Home A Food Challenge

As well as fossil fuels, tripling the use of renewables, increasing energy efficiency and 'loss and damage' funding, COP 28 discussions also focussed on the global food system.

CAFOD has been advocating change over recent years with its "Fix the Food System" campaign.

Did you know....

- world-wide, more food is grown to feed animals than to feed humans
- In 2019 over half the UK imported soya beans ended up in chicken feed
- The food system accounts for more the 1/3 of global emissions
- 70% food waste comes from our homes
- The 5 most wasted fruit and veg in the UK are potatoes, apples, bananas, carrots and onions

Should we think about the food choices we make?

Maybe we should try and increase our meat free days or try an alternative to cow's milk eg oat drinks (maybe start off using it on cereals) check where our food is coming from – buy local - or even grow some of our own?

Maybe before we shop, we should try to think and plan – make a list – and stick to it. And whilst we do, look at the packaging on those fruits and vegges – and choose loose to save food and plastic waste - and money!



CAFOD Family Fast Day 23 February

We will be asking the parish to support the Lent appeal by having a simple meal on Friday 23 February and donating to the **parish's Family Fast Day collection on Sunday 25th.**

CAFOD in 2023



2023 has not been without its challenges: from conflicts new and ongoing, to droughts and floods, and a cost-of-living crisis felt both here in the UK and the world over. Since PNL parishioners have been very generous in contributing to CAFOD's fundraising appeals, we thought it might be useful to see how the prayers, money and time from volunteers has been spent.

Here are some moments from 2023.

The Turkey / Syria earthquake killed over 50,000 people and left millions without homes. CAFOD joined the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to launch a major appeal, and as a result local partners were able to provide emergency shelter, food, warm blankets and winter kits.

In the last academic year (2022-2023), Catholic schools in England and Wales raised an amazing £610,000 for CAFOD. Vivienne O'Byrne from our parish is now going into schools for assemblies and classroom talks.

The World Food Crisis

Droughts and flooding in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan have destroyed farmland, killed livestock and forced millions from their homes.

CAFOD has helped communities with urgent supplies of food, water, and seeds resilient against climate change.

Coastal regions that are home to millions of people have already been irreversibly damaged by climate change, including from rising sea levels and salination of water and land.

Following floods in Pakistan, CAFOD supported mobile health clinics that travelled hundreds of miles to treat people in need of medical help. Generous donations to the Harvest Appeal will

allow CAFOD to reach even more people affected by the climate crisis in 2024.

Many parishioners signed the letter to the World Bank, calling for a fair access to seeds for farmers. The letter was signed by 18 Catholic Bishops and over 70,000 Catholics from 750 parishes across England and Wales and in October it was delivered to the meeting of the World Bank.

At COP28 held in UAE, for the first time international governments pledged to phase down fossil fuels and establish a loss and damage fund to help vulnerable communities adapt to the impacts of climate change. In 2024 CAFOD will continue to advocate for a cleaner, more just world.

The Holy Land

2023 will no doubt be remembered for the terrible death and destruction over the last few months in Gaza and Israel, and what can appear to be the end of hopes for peace in the region.

But as we join calls for an urgent and permanent ceasefire, we pray that CAFOD's local partners will soon be able to restart their programmes - from delivering life-saving medical outreach services for vulnerable communities in Gaza, to working tirelessly for peace and a political solution to the crisis.



The terrible situation in Gaza is tearing lives apart. Your donation today will help with the practical support to help where possible.

Donate at cafod.org.uk

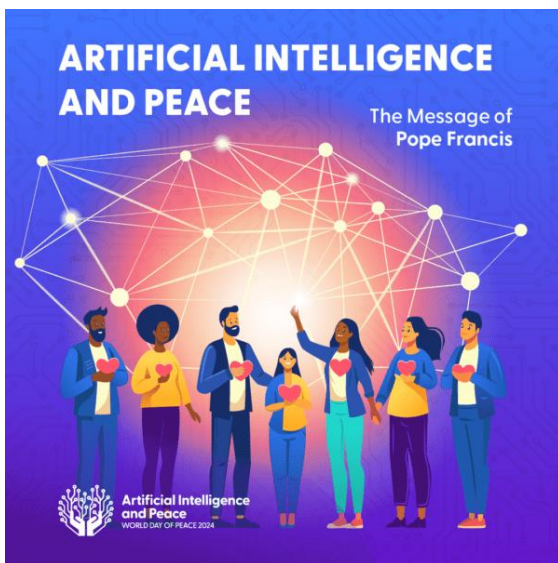
Peace Sunday 2024 Sunday 14th January

Pax Christi

In his message on the Peace Sunday theme of 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace', Pope Francis says his prayer is that:

“at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today’s world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family,”

As we mark Peace Sunday, we join with



Pope Francis in urging world leaders to put in place policies that ensure the development of all Artificial Intelligence will “ultimately serve the cause of human fraternity and peace.”

In his message for the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis also warned that research on emerging technologies and the weaponisation of artificial intelligence is a cause for **‘grave ethical concern’** and that:

‘The ability to conduct military operations through remote control systems has lessened the perception of the devastation caused by those weapons systems and the burden of responsibility for their use, resulting in an even more cold and detached approach to the immense tragedy of war’

paxchristi.org.uk

CND

Reigate & Redhill CND is looking to develop contact with others who share our passion for peace, for the environment, for the future of our planet and for all those who will have to live with the consequences of our short-sightedness and inaction. Because, as we enter a new year, we are facing multiple threats to the survival of our planet:

- global warming surging ahead while governments back-pedal on the most modest of measures to hold it back
- wars unleashing more and more pollution and greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere
- the weaponising of nuclear power plants for political or military purposes
- and the real danger of nuclear weapons being fired, with all that would mean for life on earth.

We may come at all of this from different angles, but we are surely one in our deep concern at the threats our world is facing. We need each other – because we are stronger together. If you would like to engage with us, you can find us at reigateandredhill-cnd@hotmail.co.uk – or speak to PNL parish member Mike Leggett (mikeinredhill@gmail.com).

This newsletter and many previous issues are available on the Parish website thenativityofthelord.org.uk/news/newsletters/justice-peace