



PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

JUSTICE & PEACE NEWSLETTER

No 21 - January 2022

The Justice and Peace Group meets to *pray*, educate ourselves, and to raise awareness in the Parish so that we may all act on Catholic Social Teaching. You are welcome to join us. We meet online for now at 8pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month details from 01737 216128



MEDAILLE TRUST

REFUGE AND FREEDOM FROM MODERN SLAVERY

Thank you to everyone who has shown interest in and supported the work of the Medaille Trust over the two years that it has been our parish charity. We hope there can be a final fund-raising event in early summer. Look out for information in the Parish Newsletter.

Medaille Trust have opened a new safe house in the past twelve months and the Moving On Project is under way. It is important, therefore, to retain our interest and awareness of their work. Don't forget, we can send used stamps, ink cartridges and old jewellery as well as give financial support.

The Medaille Trust reports:

Tattoos are being used by traffickers and exploiters to brand their victims

Some of the people we work with are living with unwanted tattoos; modern branding. Sometimes this is the name of the exploiter physically placed onto the body of the victim. These unwanted tattoos serve as a prominent physical reminder of the trauma they have lived through. For our clients, taking back control of their lives includes taking back control of their bodies. Medaille Trust is working with the tattoo community to help transform examples of branding into expressions of freedom and hope.

Under the leadership of our Director of Police and Justice Partnerships, Stephen Hay, and with the support of talented tattooists who are giving their time for free, we are supporting our first clients to redesign their tattoos and reclaim their bodies.

These are just a few of the signs that tattooists are encouraged to look out for:

- ◆ Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses
- ◆ Referring to males they are with as "boyfriend", "uncle" or "daddy," which is often street slang for pimp
- ◆ Tattoo requests on back of the neck, inside forearm, lower back particularly male names or unusual symbols (not generic tattoos like feathers, hearts etc)
- ◆ Not being allowed to go anywhere alone, or speak for themselves.

Please see the panel on the next page .



It has been a busy year for Renewed Hope Trust. There have been 357 daily Drop-in sessions where 196 guests have been supported, including 54 homeless people and 10 refugees. This amounts to 3,692 visits! New activities have been introduced, such as the Drop-in Choir, hairdresser visits and therapy dog visits.

HOPE HOUSE

The Government and local councils have confirmed that Night Shelters are an unsafe option for accommodating the homeless. RHT is delighted, therefore, to have secured a property in Redhill where 4 homeless men will be housed. They will help residents to get ready for permanent accommodation and work with them on their individual challenges, such as mental illness, addiction or unemployment. This has been made possible by a new partnership with a national charity called Green Pastures, which buys houses and supports churches and Christian charities to run them as supported accommodation for the homeless. Hope House should be open in January.

Evening meals

During the winter months RHT are serving evening meals on at least four nights a week at various churches in the area. These are venues where the Night Shelter used to be held – St Matthews, St Lukes etc. If you would like to join any of the teams of volunteers, whether it to help preparing a meal or general assistance you can find details on their website.

... Medaille Trust

This is the story of Mike (not his real name) who was helped by the Medaille Trust

Mike came from Asia to the UK to go to university. He became trapped here when his studies finished; his visa ran out and his family withheld all support, after discovering he was gay.

A man approached Mike, offering him a job with good pay, good hours, accommodation and food. This was a lie. Mike was forced to work in a shop seven days a week, living in squalid conditions and was regularly beaten and threatened.

After three years, Mike found the courage to flee. He sought help and called the police. However, because his visa had run out, he was sent to a detention centre. Fortunately he was able to call the Salvation Army, who, after the Home Office agreed that he was a victim of modern slavery, arranged for Mike to go to a Medaille Trust safe house.

RAISING THE ALARM

Call the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000121700 if you are concerned that someone is being exploited.

In an emergency always dial 999.

If you are sleeping rough or know someone who is, and needs help, please call:

Streetlink: 0300 500 0914

East Surrey Outreach Service (eSOS): 07436 273 614

www.renewedhope.org.uk



Caring for our common home is not a new idea. In Genesis 1:28 God gives dominion of the earth to humanity – both power and responsibility to protect and nourish His creation, to live in harmony with it. Human exploitation means that damage to God’s creation is visible.

Climate change is probably the biggest threat not just to our children’s lives but also to world peace. The most vulnerable suffer above all. The recent COP26 meeting in Glasgow showed the ongoing challenge of the resistance to the profound changes in human attitudes and activity needed to sustain genuinely human life on earth.

In 2015 Pope Francis wrote a letter to us all “Laudato Si” (LS) which means “Praise be”, about these very difficulties and our call to action. It is an excellent read and freely available on the Vatican website. We are called to live simply in solidarity with the poor and, in love, to share our God-given resources.

This year the movement which arose in response to his letter renamed itself from Global Catholic Climate Change to the Laudato Si Movement – each time we say it, we are saying a prayer. In November a new digital platform was launched – the Laudato Si Action Platform. Please take a look at this unique collaboration between the Vatican, an international coalition of Catholic organisations, and “all men and women of good will” (LS 3).

<https://laudatosiactionplatform.org>

Our Diocese of Arundel and Brighton divested of fossil fuels investments some years ago and also distributed the “Journey to 2030” publication before the pandemic. (“Journey to 2030” is run by the Ecological Conversion Group which works alongside the Bishops Conference).



There has also been a long established CAFOD “Live Simply” award system for individuals, parishes and schools to use to address climate justice.

So here are some practical actions to help our common home now - to embrace love of God and His creation and our neighbour.....

- *Eat less meat – try meat-free Monday as well as Friday, eat seasonal foods and waste less food*
- *Walk and/or cycle more, drive electric – and fly less*
- *Recycle, repair, re-use, wear clothes that last*
- *Switch to green energy, turn the heating down – add a layer of clothing instead, insulate your home, install solar panels*
- *Switch to banks/building societies which actively support the environment and don't invest in fossil fuels*
- *Vote for green policies*
- *And above all....Pray for climate justice and peace.*

Walk against Hunger

Challenge yourself to walk 200k this Lent and help stamp out hunger, one step at a time.

You can walk, roll, skip or stroll your way to 200k. You can boldly go it alone and take it on 5k a day for 40 days, or you can smash the target all at once as a team.

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to conquer 200k, and help give hunger its marching orders.

Last Lent you helped Mary Barrett raise nearly £2,000 in her Walk for Water, so why not have a go yourself or support Mary as she walks 200k this March. Contact the parish office for details and look in the Lenten parish newsletters.

Sign up with Cafod here:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/register>



Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Our new Lent challenge is here!



Please don't forget the yellow buckets. Our regular donations to the Foodbank are important.



PLEASE no perishable food, out-of-date food, alcohol or medicines. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Priority List

These are the items which are low this week:

- ◆ Meat—including hot dogs, ham etc
- ◆ Tinned spaghetti
- ◆ Rice
- ◆ Mash
- ◆ Milk

Getting Low

These items are now getting low:

- ◆ Marmite
- ◆ Peanut Butter
- ◆ Chocolate spread
- ◆ Sugar
- ◆ Toilet rolls

It is possible to donate money as well see

www.redhillfoodbank.org.uk

The Church's radical reform. - What is a Synod?

Christopher Lamb the Rome Correspondent of **The Tablet** is running an interesting series of podcasts which can be found on many podcast sites. The list here is from the **Centre for Catholic Studies**, Durham University (via Soundcloud) and **The Tablet**.

Pope Francis has launched the most ambitious Catholic renewal project for 60 years with a listening exercise that aims to give every member of the 1.3 billion Church a stake in its future.

What is a Synod?

Through a "synodal" process, the Pope is asking Catholics to help re-imagine the future of the Church, and grapple with questions such as the role of women, evangelisation, priesthood, serving the marginalised and global governance. It has the potential to reshape the Church forever.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-594051740/what-is-a-synod>

Women Lead the Way!

In this episode, Christopher Lamb discusses what shape these roles could take, the position of women in early Christianity and why a "synodal" Church is a more inclusive one.

<https://soundcloud.com/user-594051740/the-churchs-radical-reform-women-lead-the-way>

The synodal process is something 'totally new'.

An interview with Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga who talks about the synodal process, reform of the Roman Curia, Pope Francis and much more ...

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/blogs/6/1977/the-synodal-process-is-something-totally-new-says-maradiaga>

THE SYNOD PROCESS CAN ONLY BE AUTHENTIC IF IT IS ROOTED IN PRAYER

Below is the adapted prayer *Adsumus* as used at the beginning of every session of the Second Vatican Council

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.
With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down
the wrong path

nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.
All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

Peace, Climate and Cooperation – What Matters – *thoughts from Mike Leggett*

The global annual military spend is \$2000bn and this is twice what is needed for taking climate seriously and of this vast sum \$100 billion is the global annual spend on nuclear weapons.

In January 2022, the UK and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council emphasised ‘the importance of ... disarmament, and arms control agreements and commitments’. These are fine words but instead the UK and these other nuclear weapons states are increasing nuclear weapons and their risks, while some are also introducing new delivery systems. What right do they have to hold the whole world to ransom?

Since we are all human, we need to cooperate to improve our life on planet Earth.

The pandemic and man-made climate change are problems that can be dealt with whilst we have the collective will to resolve them and regard them as on-going, escalating and therefore newsworthy.

Why must we wait until a nuclear weapons accident, incident or escalation hits the news before we take action to reduce potential human slaughter?

A recent survey suggests that many 16-25 year-olds don’t want to have children due to climate anxiety. Half of them are deeply worried about climate change and this probably extends to younger teenagers and since most have parents and grandparents this suggests that at least half the electorate see climate change as a serious issue which could increase the chance of nuclear war.

Why don’t all political parties take climate change and nuclear weapons as a frequent and newsworthy priority for clear action?

What can we possibly DO?

We should be concerned, not worried and use this concern to strive 'to hunger and thirst' for peace and justice: be cheerful, not taking ourselves over seriously.

We should:

- ◆ campaign, sign petitions and lobby politicians to negotiate and to slash this huge military spending, reduce the total numbers of nuclear weapons worldwide.
- ◆ insist on a no-first-use policy and an increase of nuclear weapon free zones
- ◆ recognise that their possession is to be condemned and that their use is a crime of genocide.
- ◆ eventually get rid of them worldwide by signing the 2021 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons as many other states have already.

Finally, we should oppose the Government’s plan to increase the UK submarine nuclear weapons missiles.

Here are some websites to lead you to peace organisations and those challenging climate change & the coming crisis.

Explore!

National: <https://paxchristi.org.uk> <https://christiancnd.org.uk/> <https://cnduk.org>
<http://www.for.org.uk/> <https://friendsoftheearth.uk> <https://practicalaction.org>

Local: <http://kpc.gn.apc.org/> <https://www.climateactionrr.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/reigatepeacegroup>
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/climate-change>

Diocesan Anti-Modern Slavery Group

It is estimated that there are over 130,000 people involved in some sort of modern day slavery in this country including forced labour, domestic servitude, human trafficking for exploitation and crimes which enable trafficking. The Diocesan Steering Group on Modern Slavery hopes to create a network of people able to raise awareness of slavery within our parishes, enabling people across our community to spot the signs of slavery, remain vigilant and report any concerns.

Victims of modern slavery can be men, women and children of any age. There is an assumption that victims of modern slavery are often trafficked to the UK



from other countries, but residents of the UK are also among the victims that are exploited in the UK and other countries (according to Home Office statistics 23% of victims are UK citizens). The crime is often hidden from the authorities and the general public. Victims may struggle to leave their situation be-

cause of threats, punishment, violence, coercion and deception, and some may not believe that they are being exploited.

Within the next few months it is hoped that a member of the steering group will offer an information session to our parish to enable parishioners to identify possible victims of human exploitation living and working in our community. It is also vital that the victims are given the appropriate support to enable them to free themselves from their exploitation and to rebuild their lives with dignity. There are a number of charities that support victims, including Bakhita House, the Medaille Trust (our current parish charity) and the Salvation Army.

If you want to learn more the Unseen website is a great place to start. <https://www.unseenuk.org>

There is also a page on the Diocesan website:

www.abdiocese.org.uk/formation/combating-modern-slavery