



# Justice and Peace

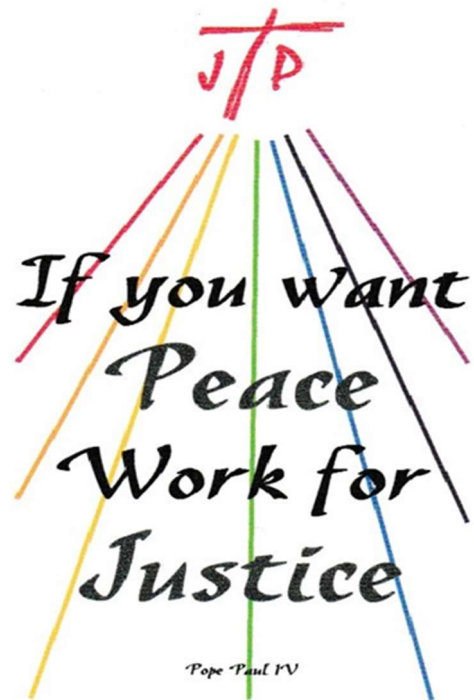
WINTER 2021 -22

Editor: COP26 is over and we must all have our thoughts and feelings about it. Many of us gave considerable time to the build up in our parishes, with our MPs, on the streets locally and for some much further afield. But whatever we think about the outcome, we all know that the concerns about our overheating world are still there. Many people and groups have already offered their thoughts and so I decided not to add mine. Anne O' Connor's November NW NJPN bulletin is helpful and there have been many perspectives in Independent Catholic News (see page 11)

Instead this time encouraged by meetings with Ben Gilchrist Caritas Shrewsbury (see page 4) I decided to think a bit about asylum seekers and refugees. This was before the recent capsizing of a dinghy and drowning of 27 people in the English Channel brought these issues to the top of the headline board. I am pleased that the two articles I received are good news of people who are settling well and finding a place in our communities.

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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

[www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk)

<https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

[www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](http://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk)



## ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL J & P COMMISSION ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

**SUNDAY JANUARY 16<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 2pm -3:30pm on Zoom.**

Speaker is Dr Lorna Gold. The Lecture is free however you need to register for the Zoom link at <https://jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk>

Photo of Lorna at NJPN Conference at Swanwick in July 2021. You can still listen to recordings of the conference on <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/conference-2021-recordings/>

### LANCASTER DIOCESE FAITH AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

*report from Sue Gubic, Fieldworker:*

Sister Margaret of Boarbank Hall has produced a wonderful document called 'Fantasy Schooling: imagining Laudato Si in practice,' whereby schools submit a document outlining their dream 'Laudato Si' school of the future. Although we are in the very early stages of developing this project it is hoped that at some stage in the future we can work with schools to produce their own aspirational 'Fantasy School' whereby ideas can eventually be achieved in practice.

The Ecological Conversion Platform Journey to 2030 (parish guide to Laudato Si) has now been sent to all parishes within the Diocese. It is a fabulous resource and a great way to get started!

Churches Together in Lancashire are launching the Ecumenical Working Party (EWP) for Social Justice/Responsibility. Over the next few weeks the process of rethinking how this forum can best support and share practice, learning and opportunities for local church engagement in this area of work will be undertaken. More on this to follow!

The Anti Slavery event in Preston raised awareness about modern day slavery (#See ITShare It) and encouraged us to look out for signs of possible victims of slavery. If you suspect it may be happening or want more information about modern slavery, please contact Lancashire Victim Services by calling 0300 323 0085 or by visiting [www.lancashirevictimservices.org](http://www.lancashirevictimservices.org)



Catholic schools in Blackpool took part in the Eyes of the World campaign by bringing artwork and reflections they had been doing in schools relating to the current climate crisis. Declan and Shawn, our Diocese's Step Into the Gap volunteers, opened the event with a talk. Pupils from St Mary's Catholic Academy were also interviewed and their statements can be viewed on the link <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/43146>

Declan and Shawn spent a long weekend in Glasgow during COP 26 campaigning with CAFOD as part of their youth delegation. They participated in a 24 hour prayer vigil at St Aloysius Church, the large march that Greta led, and spent some time in the "green zone" seeing some marvelous demonstrations of new technologies and ideas for reducing emissions. They are very keen to share their experiences and reflections with schools and parishes within the Diocese.

The Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance networking group highlighted the need for a 'cash first' approach to food and security by promoting a Worrying About Money? Leaflet. There is also information relating to refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with no recourse to public funds. See the Independent Food Aid Network <https://www.facebook.com/ifanuk/photos/1496442684026944> for free copies.

### ADVENT 2021

**NJPN** This year's material produced by Anne O'Connor is inspired by the Sunday readings for each week with prayers and reflections taken from a wide range of sources. <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/advent/advent-reflections-for-2021/>

**PAX CHRISTI** The website offers interesting reflections on the Psalms and liturgy materials which you could use in your parish. Christmas card and gifts are already available on its shop page <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

**CAFOD** The online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family. <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray>

Peace Sunday, 16 January, 2022

PEACE SUNDAY

16 JANUARY 2022



**“Education, work, and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting**

**peace”** is the theme for 2022 Peace Sunday. The Pax Christi team are producing homily notes, bidding prayers, posters, ideas for children’s liturgy.... And all these will shortly be available on our website. Last year, with many churches closed, less parishes were able to share Pope Francis’ peace message inviting people to act and pray for peace - and Pax Christi’s income fell. We hope this year will allow more volunteers to ensure the day is marked in their parish - and some good donations to enable us to continue the essential work. If your J&P group would like a speaker - online, or possibly in person, do get in touch.



**COP26** Pax Christi’s Education Worker, Aisling Griffin was in Glasgow for COP26 to highlight the message that the earth and its people need A Climate for Peace not Conflict. Along with other peace organisations, Pax Christi called attention to little publicised links between war and climate change:

- War contributes to climate change through the extractive industries, the arms trade, the use of fuels and explosives and through devastating infrastructure.

- Climate Change can lead to soil degradation, conflict over resources, mass migration, social instability and war.
- About 6% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from military-related activity - however these are not included in emission reduction targets.

We want strict greenhouse gas emissions limits are set; all military emissions are included; and greenhouse gas emissions from a country’s overseas military base be fully reported and charged to that country, not the country where the base is located.

ALL of us can:

- Pray that we will all be more aware of our use of the earth’s resources and act for the good of all people, everywhere.
- Watch and share the video, ‘Extinguish War and Save the Earth’ – available on YouTube
- Write to our MP asking them to lobby the UK Government to disclose military related emissions and include them in reduction targets.
- Create peace gardens in our local community. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/7dcpss7w>

Pax Christi 020 8203 4884

[www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) [www.twitter.com/paxchristiEW](https://www.twitter.com/paxchristiEW) [www.facebook.com/PaxChristiEW](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiEW)

### YEMEN - THE FORGOTTEN WAR

A report published on November 24th by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that 377,000 people will have died in the war in Yemen by the end of 2021, from both direct and indirect causes. Sixty percent of these would be from hunger, preventable disease, and other indirect causes, while 70% of the deaths are of children under five.



Katie Fallon of Campaign Against Arms Trade said: "This horrifying report is a reminder that while the war in Yemen may have fallen off the news agenda, its devastating impact on the people of Yemen is as bad as ever. Promises by President Biden to end support for the Saudi coalition's role in the war have not been fulfilled, despite a welcome halt to a few arms sales. Meanwhile, the UK government continues to supply arms to Saudi Arabia without restraint.

The UK, the US and other leading powers must immediately halt the arms sales that are prolonging and exacerbating the war, press hard for an end to the Saudi blockade that is one of the main contributors to the humanitarian catastrophe, and engage in sustained and meaningful diplomatic efforts to bring the war to an end. The UK must also reverse its cruel cuts to humanitarian aid to Yemen, which have only increased the war's appalling toll."

CAAT has been nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize alongside Mwatana for Human Rights, a grassroots organisation working in Yemen. CAAT's nomination aims to draw attention to work to stop the UK government's sales of arms to Saudi Arabia, particularly our ongoing court case to challenge the UK government's decision to resume arms sales to the Saudi regime for use in the war in Yemen.

On several occasions Pope Francis has condemned the arms trade. In his discourse to the US Congress in September 2015, he said: "Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade."

Add your name to a letter to Prime Minister, Boris Johnson and Secretary of State for International Trade, Liz Truss. Take a stand against the war in the Yemen and increase the pressure on UK government to end arms sales prolonging this deadly conflict. <https://caat.org.uk/open-letter-end-uk-arms-sales-for-use-in-the-war-on-yemen/>

*From Independent Catholic News November 25th*

## JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETS CARITAS IN SHREWSBURY DIOCESE.

*Marian Thompson writes:*

'Have you met Ben Gilchrist, the Caritas Shrewsbury worker?' This question came from members of the NJPN executive while I was at the conference at Swanwick in July. This encouraged me to contact Ben and a zoom meeting was arranged in September between Ben and several people in the Diocese who are keenly supporting J & P work although we no longer have a Commission.

We learned that Ben only started working for Caritas Shrewsbury last year during lockdown so it is taking him time to get to know people. His background in the charity sector is very varied including advocacy work with various groups (not Catholic). He is not a Catholic himself, has an ecumenical background and lives in Old Trafford just outside the Diocese.

He told us Caritas Shrewsbury is a small charity with 13 workers – not all full time. 50% of their funding comes from the Diocese and the remainder from individual and group donations. They work:

1. on the Wirral in support work with children, young people and families. This leads them to lobbying around child and family support and cuts in Universal Credit.
2. In St Aidan's centre in Wythenshawe where they do community work especially with people with special needs and disabilities. They have links with Greater Manchester Council and Caritas Salford.
3. Refugee work within the Diocese – both emergency work and encouraging parishes who are involved with welcoming families under the Home office sponsorship scheme. This can involve lobbying for refugee rights.

Several issues were raised that do not come under Ben's remit such as the possibility of the Diocese disinvesting from fossil fuels. Also our links with CAFOD were discussed. It was agreed it might be helpful to have another meeting which took place in October.

Since these meetings I have been giving some thought to the connection between J & P and Caritas. I get the impression that in many Dioceses they work closely together. For instance in Nottingham Diocese which neighbours my parish the J & P Commission and Caritas together put on a very informative zoom event as a follow up to COP 26. In Shrewsbury Diocese, possibly because of our history, we seem to have developed an either/or mentality. We are either for J & P or for Caritas. But talking to Ben has made me realise that Caritas Shrewsbury is only able to do a limited amount of work and many J & P topics that various of us are involved with are not covered. These would include Peace and Nonviolence and campaigning against the arms trade, campaigning on climate change and environmental issues which have been very much to the fore in the lead up to COP 26, St Oscar Romero and present work in El Salvador, work for justice in Israel/Palestine. I am sure you can think of some more. But as Ben pointed out there are some issues on which we can usefully work and campaign together.. refugees and poverty in UK come to mind.

I offered to publicise any Caritas information that Ben could send and where appropriate include this in Mouthpeace. On receiving information from Ben about the Nationality and Borders Bill (see below) this encouraged me to think about refugees and asylum seekers in general and I was pleased to receive two positive articles on this theme.

I keep remembering a young Methodist minister several (many ?) years ago who took on the role of Chair of our Churches Together in Marple at a time when differences between the churches were coming to the fore and blocking our work. In his address as he accepted the chair he offered an invitation and a challenge to us. 'I am prepared to pray and work with anyone who will pray and work with me'. No strings attached. This offered a way forward that we all needed. It seems that this is very relevant today as we face so many difficult problems in the world that no-one person or group of people should even think they can work on in isolation. We all need each other whatever our past history or background.



**THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL** is at the time of writing (November 23) at the report stage in the House of Commons and has still to go to the House of Lords. Many groups are expressing concern about this bill. SVP and JRS have produced a toolkit to help our understanding and to encourage us to engage with our MPs. The short version can be seen below – for a longer version see <https://www.svp.org.uk/nationality-and-borders-bill-campaign-toolkit>

**THE NATIONALITY AND BORDERS BILL** would overhaul the UK's asylum system to make it as difficult as possible to get asylum in the UK. If this bill becomes law, thousands of people forced to flee their homes will not be able to find haven in the UK. The Bill would deny many refugees the chance to seek sanctuary here, criminalise many who try, and isolate refugees in harmful out-of-town institutions.

**Eight things you should know about this bill:**

1. **How worthy of protection someone is will depend on how they were able to travel to the UK. This will deny sanctuary to the vast majority of refugees.** The Bill divides refugees into "Group 1" and "Group 2" depending on how they got to the UK. People who travel via another country, do not have documents or did not claim asylum immediately would be put in "Group 2". This group would find it hard to settle in the UK, living under threat of expulsion rather than getting a chance to rebuild their lives; have less chance to reunite with family, and be left at risk of destitution and poverty. Most refugees have no choice in how they travel. When you're fleeing for your life, you just have to go. There are also good reasons people can take a while to claim asylum. Most refugees will be penalised under this system, and be denied the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Claiming asylum is a human right.
2. **It will expand the use of detention-like accommodation centres.** The Bill proposes to create large-scale accommodation centres. It would mean accommodating people seeking asylum in out-of-town institutions, rather than in the community where they can get the practical support and help they need. The asylum camp at Napier barracks is being used to trial asylum centres. Earlier this year, the High Court ruled that Napier was unlawful, partly because the accommodation was so bad. JRS UK supports people at Napier. It is prison-like and isolated. Residents' mental health spirals rapidly while they are there. Most suffer from chronic sleep deprivation and anxiety. One man placed there said "I did not feel like a person when I was there. I felt I had lost who I was, like my personality had gone."
3. **It will permit the use of offshore processing for protection claims.** The Bill would allow asylum seekers to be removed from the UK and held elsewhere while their asylum claim is processed. Other countries have tried and failed to do this. Australia for example transferred thousands of asylum seekers to Papua New Guinea where people were detained in prison-like conditions, and banned them from receiving any visitors.
4. **It will tear families apart.** This Bill would further reduce family reunion rights. These restrictions will predominantly impact women and children, who currently account for 90% of those who receive family reunion visas. Refugees are often forced to leave family behind. Refugee family reunion however allows refugees to reunite with certain family members here in the UK. It is a vital lifeline, bringing people to safety, allowing refugees to rebuild their lives, and reuniting them with, in some cases, the only family they have left.
5. **It makes asylum determination much harsher – even though it's already harsh.** The process by which the government decides if someone needs international protection would be much harsher. For example, the Bill introduces the criterion of "Good Faith" by which to judge asylum claimants. It is very hard to qualify as acting in Good Faith. Did you forget the exact date on which something relevant happened several years ago? Did you struggle to talk about trauma the first time you spoke to a government official? Either of these could mean you're not acting in Good Faith.
6. **It does not commit to resettlement.** Refugee resettlement is the transfer of refugees from one country to which they have fled to another State. The Refugee Resettlement Scheme is one of the very few schemes provided by the UK Government to help people living in dangerous refugee camps abroad (for example Syrians living in refugee camps in Lebanon) to be able to come and live in the UK and rebuild their life here. The Bill could be an opportunity to expand resettlement. Instead, it contains no commitment to continuing it. (see article below )
7. **It does not create any safe routes to seek asylum.** There is no formal mechanism for travelling to the UK to seek asylum – for example, no such thing as an asylum visa. The Bill does nothing to create one. The government says refugees should use "safe and legal" routes rather than informal ones. But this bill doesn't create any safe ways for people to seek asylum in the UK, rather, it makes dangerous routes worse, and punishes people for travelling in the only way available to them.
8. **It will make people seeking sanctuary more vulnerable to trafficking and modern slavery.** Because the Bill unfairly punishes refugees who arrive without documents, victims of trafficking will be scared of going to the police. Traffickers routinely tell their victims that if they go to the police, they will be arrested and detained. The government says it wants to combat trafficking but this Bill plays into traffickers' hands.

**Briefing on the SVP/JRS UK Toolkit on the Nationality and Borders Bill on Zoom on Wednesday 1 December 2021**

**from 12:00 - 1.00pm. Please register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kce6rqjwiEtedhmJ700kFGVQ6TKwCMInJ>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



## LANCASTER AND MORECOMBE CITY OF SANCTUARY: CELEBRATING SIX YEARS SUPPORTING ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

*by Mary Sharples from L&M CoS and HZ from Kurdistan, Iran:*

“I am one human in this world who calls themselves an asylum seeker. This word is very sad for all the people who have come here. Maybe this makes us seem less than other human beings. However, I have not felt this since I arrived in Lancaster. Perhaps the question arises why it is different here. Let me tell you...”

### **From a Small Acorn...**

The first group of eight asylum seekers arrived in Lancaster in November 2015. These new friendships grew into a committee, which, just three years later, was awarded charity status and had become City of Sanctuary Lancaster and Morecambe: a collective of partner organisations offering a network of support to asylum seekers and refugees, with strong roots running the length and breadth of the local community.

### **... has grown a beautiful oak tree with its many branches outstretched...**

“When I arrived in Lancaster, I met a few people who were very kind and, night and day, it was not a problem for them to help us. They didn’t ask “are you an asylum seeker or a refugee?” They had a purpose only to help other humans. A lot of people think that help may be just financial but, no, it isn’t. When you have an environment like a family where you feel less alone, when they consider themselves equal to us as humans, nothing else, it gives us hope.”

Six years after meeting those first new arrivals, City of Sanctuary Lancaster and Morecambe has grown into a vibrant organisation made up of many more partners and able to develop new creative projects always led by the needs, skills and interests of our community. This is only possible thanks to strong and supportive relationships with our fantastic partner organisations. With Global Link, we collaborate to coordinate and deliver our successful ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) programme, which this year has supported over 60 students to access English lessons, a lunch drop-in where chefs from our community treat us to dishes from across the globe, and recently a protest as part of a national week of action against the Government's inhumane Nationality and Borders Bill. Our partners East Meets West and Band of Brothers facilitate women and men from many different countries and cultures share support, chat, food, games and friendship. RAIS offers advocacy, information and support, and our bikes project and sewing circle offer practical help and opportunities to learn new skills.

### **... and whose top reaches still further towards the sun.**

“I read in the bible that loving others and neighbours is one of the most important things you can do, but it feels great when you feel it yourself from others.”

Driven by the need to re-establish connections after the lifting of lockdown measures, we have expanded even further in 2021, adding music lessons, a community volunteering project which develops links between our community and local charities and arts and culture organisations, and children’s ESOL through play. And we look forward with anticipation to the further growth that 2022 will bring, and ready ourselves to stand in solidarity against its challenges.

## **UK REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME – WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

*Vreni and John Worth are members of the team of volunteers who helped resettle the Syrian family in the parish of St Christopher and Our Lady, Romiley, Stockport. They write:*

We now know for certain that refugee resettlement in the UK will continue beyond March 2021. The scheme will have a more global reach, allowing the UK to respond to humanitarian crises around the world. The UK has pledged to resettle 20 000 refugees over the next four years.

The main difference compared to the previous scheme is that refugees resettled as part of the Community Sponsorship Scheme (CSS) will now be in addition to any pledges made by local authorities, which means that a Community Sponsorship Group can directly impact the number of refugees welcomed in the UK.

The Mouthpeace reported in Winter 2018 how a parish prepared to welcome a refugee family of five under the CSS and wrote about their first few months in the NW in the summer edition 2019. (you can read these on <https://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/mouthpeace/mouthpeace-back-issues/>) Two years on, here is an update on their progress.

One of the biggest delights is how well their English has come on. The children s peak with a lovely local accent now and have settled well into their school life. The adults have worked hard to develop their language skills, taking it as their number one task to learn English in order to integrate into life in the UK.

The pandemic, especially during lockdowns, has been a difficult time for them, as contact with the community, college and school became reduced and therefore progress slowed down. However, the team was glad that a year into their resettlement the family was more capable of managing their daily lives. They made the most of technology, and via Zoom the children continued to get some learning, the adults had some input from college, but also continued to get weekly zoom sessions from the CSG's education team. Other team members organised Zoom quizzes for the family, partly prepared by the family, so the team could stay in touch with them. Direct contact was only offered during a medical emergency which required a visit.

The husband was eagerly learning the theory of the Highway Code with input from a team member and YouTube. He has now passed that test and is awaiting a date for his driving test for which there is a long waiting list. Unfortunately, all voluntary work came to a halt as well. This had been preparing him for his desired job to work as a gardener one day.

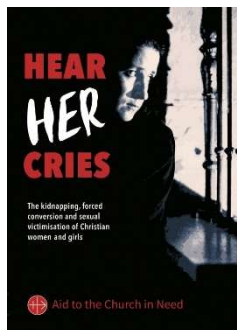
Generally, the family are now managing well and are very grateful for all the help they received from the team.

The hardest part for them is hearing about their extended family back in Syria and Lebanon. Her elderly parents caught covid and access to medical care is very difficult. Fortunately, they recovered. His parents had to leave the Lebanon where they were refugees as life there became too hard with little food, electricity and medical help. They returned to their half-destroyed property in Syria. The family in the UK struggles at times to stay in touch with them as internet connections with Syria are very poor. It pains them to hear how much they suffer there, and feel powerless to help.

The Parish feels very privileged to see how much difference they have made to the life of this family. They are now in the process of applying to resettle a second family in their area.

Archbishop Justin Welby's response in 2019 was to call on faith leaders and communities to make the most of the opportunity to resettle refugees in addition to the numbers the government has pledged. This call to action is just as valid today, as the number of displaced persons continues to grow.

***Prayer for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers,***  
*God, no one is a stranger to you*  
*and no one is ever far from your loving care.*  
*In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,*  
*Those separated from their loved ones, those who are lost*  
*and those who have been exiled from their homes.*  
*Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,*  
*and help us to show your kindness to strangers and those in need. (Source: Nouwen Network)*



**HEAR HER CRIES** Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)'s latest report launched on Red Wednesday November 24th focuses on the kidnapping, forced conversion and sexual victimisation of Christian women and girls. It investigates the global problem of women being targeted for sexual violence because of their religious beliefs and then forced to convert, often under pain of death.

As a result of targeted violence, around the world, millions of Christians are now displaced or refugees. Countless numbers have been driven from the homes, lost their livelihoods and even their liberty and their lives because of their faith.

Obtain a copy of the report from <https://acnuk.org/hear-her-cries-report/>

You are also invited to sign the petition to be handed to Fiona Bruce, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief calling on the UK Government and the United Nations to take more effective steps to address the double jeopardy faced by women and girls from religious minorities in certain countries suffering sexual violence and persecution. <https://acnuk.org/petition-2021/>

**CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2022**  
**Give, Act and Pray as part of the movement to unlock UK poverty**



*Liam Purcell writes:* When people come together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power, we can make huge changes. In ourselves. In our communities. In the world.

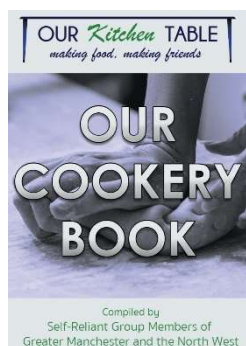
Building a powerful movement to unlock poverty has never been more important. More and more people are being swept into poverty, robbing them of their dignity, agency or power over their lives.

The pandemic has brought into focus pre-existing inequalities in society. For all the talk of 'building back better', it has led to dramatic increases in poverty, food insecurity and debt.

To prevent more people being swept deeper into poverty, it's vital that the people affected have a say. Now more than ever, churches and communities need to come together to reclaim dignity, agency and power.

Join with other churches across the UK in giving, action and prayer. Celebrate the transformational possibilities of people coming together to reclaim their dignity, agency and power.

Use the free worship resources to reflect and pray for change, and raise funds to enable more people to speak truth to power. Register <https://churchpoverty.e-activist.com/page/89334/subscribe/1>



Church Action on Poverty is delighted to sell copies of Our Cookery Book, an inspirational cookbook compiled by members of the Self-Reliant Groups (SRGs) we support in the North West.

SRG members share favourite recipes, together with stories about what cooking and sharing the food has meant to them in their lives.

All proceeds support Self-Reliant Groups to continue their work. The book is available to purchase here. <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/ourcookerybook/>

**STOP LOAN SHARKS**  
Intervention . Support . Education

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT)\*\* launched its annual Christmas campaign on 29th November to highlight the dangers of using loan sharks and signpost people to support.

Research carried out by the IMLT has found that Christmas is the second highest reason that people borrow money from loan sharks. This year, there are likely more families impacted financially and emotionally and unfortunately, illegal lenders will look to take advantage of those in difficult situations. We want to stop this exploitation of vulnerable people.

Christmas is meant to be the most wonderful time of year – but for many families trapped in spiralling debt and misery by loan sharks that simply isn't the case, but with your support we can make this year better for them.

The campaign #AllIWantForChristmas will run across Stop Loan Sharks' social media channels until December 5. It aims to encourage families to avoid using loan sharks over the festive period and report the crime if they have been affected. It also focuses on informing people about the help available if they are struggling with debt and safer ways to borrow money.

The campaign will use "Dear Santa" stories to highlight the detrimental impact illegal money lending has on families and how this crime can cause serious physical, emotional and psychological damage to children during important stages of their lives. <https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/contact-us/>

\*\* The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) was set up in 2004. Initially created as a pilot scheme in Birmingham to investigate loan sharks it had such an impact on illegal money lending it received further government funding. Today the England IMLT investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders while supporting those who have borrowed money from a loan shark. Illegal Money Lending Teams in Scotland and Wales ensure the entire UK is working to stop loan sharks.

Each team is comprised of specialist investigators and Liaise Officers who have previously worked for the police, trading standards, and debt advice services. Together the investigators and Liaise Officers work to prosecute illegal money lenders while supporting people who owe money to a loan shark



The England IMLT work as Stop Loan Sharks within local communities, within education, and with partner agencies including the police. Since 2004, the England IMLT have supported over 30,000 people and written off over £87 million worth of illegal debt.

It is estimated that there are 310,000 people in debt to illegal money lenders in the UK. The Illegal Money Lending Teams within the UK work to raise awareness of what illegal money is while investigating and prosecuting loan sharks.

#### Illegal Money Lending Teams And The Financial Conduct Authority

The Illegal Money Lending Teams in England, Scotland and Wales work alongside the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to investigate those operating within the consumer credit market without the appropriate authorisation.

In 2016 the Government legislated to introduce an industry levy to fund the activity of the teams and to take action against illegal lending. The service is governed and overseen by the FCA and HM Treasury.

#### How We Work With Education And Partner Agencies

The England IMLT work closely with education providers and partner agencies such as the police, housing associations, and debt advice services. Investigating and prosecuting loan sharks is an important part of the England IMLT's work and is combined with awareness raising of the problems and issues that illegal money lending causes.

The Stop Loan Sharks team have developed a range of free education resources, free partner tools, and will also deliver free in-house training for partner agencies and the police. Explore our website for more information on these resources or email Catherine.wohlers@birmingham.gov.uk or call 07500 809339 to find out how we can help you.



#### CAFOD NEWS

**World Gifts** are CAFOD's charity gift range of unusual, ethical presents that will delight your friends and family. Buy them at <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/World-Gifts>

#### CAFOD 2021 Human Rights Day Friday 10 December 6.30-8.30pm Register now for this online event

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/CAFOD-2021-Human-Rights-Day>

In return for their work, Human Rights Defenders face criminalisation, harassment and violence. Come along to our online Human Rights Day 2021 to learn about and celebrate the work of human rights defenders who are coming under attack and facing growing threats for protecting our common home. You will hear their inspiring life stories and struggles first-hand and find out what concrete actions we can take from here in the UK to stand in solidarity with them.



Photo credits: CAFOD

#### Laudato Si' Action Platform

The Laudato Si' Action Platform has been launched by Pope Francis to inspire and encourage the global Catholic Church to reflect on their part in the care of God's creation and love of neighbour, over a 7 year journey. The Laudato Si' Action Platform website has lots more information <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

*livesimply* has been officially recognised as a wonderful way for parishes to be part of a Laudato Si' journey.

**In 2022 CAFOD will be celebrating their 60th anniversary. There will be an event in each diocese on Saturday 5th February, which will include celebrating together and activities both online and in person. Save the date and keep an eye out for more information nearer the time.**

IT'S OUR  
**38TH**  
FUN RUN!

# CHRISTMAS FUN-RUN

CONTACTLESS AVAILABLE  
CASH ACCEPTED

£5 CHILD £10 ADULT £20 FAMILY

With family and friends at **The Mystery,  
Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE**

We rely heavily on your support to make this event a success. Please gather sponsorship to raise much needed funds, visit [www.justgiving.com/campaign/cafodchristmasfunrun](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cafodchristmasfunrun) to set up your own online sponsor page or contact [liverpoolcafod.org.uk](http://liverpoolcafod.org.uk) for a sponsor form. Can't make it on the day? Don't miss out, **join in virtually** wherever you are!

**MONDAY 27TH DECEMBER**  
PLEASE REGISTER FROM 10AM FOR AN 11AM RUN!

**RUN OR WALK  
3K OR 5K**



**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development



## THE CLIMATE COALITION THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING

Boris Johnson spoke some strong words about climate change at COP26 – but will the UK government follow through? When it comes to climate action, the proof is in the pudding.

Join us in sending Boris Johnson a Christmas card in the post to help ensure promises made at COP26 are kept.

We're calling on the UK Government to use the remaining UK COP presidency in 2022 to:

- Ensure countries deliver stronger national plans to keep 1.5°C alive
- Secure more ambitious climate finance commitments
- Press for finance for climate-related loss & damage
- Lead on drawing the fossil fuel era to a close and a just transition to renewables.

### SEND A CARD TO BORIS JOHNSON

Make your voice heard by sending a Christmas card to the Prime Minister calling for greater climate ambition. Just follow these simple steps:

1. Choose/create your card. A shop-bought one works fine, or you may like to create a homemade card that represents your message.
2. Write your message. You can use the message from the giant Christmas card below as a starting point. For even more impact, personalise it and make it your own.

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/take-action>



**JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE ADVENT SERVICE 2021 Tuesday 7th December, 7pm at Farm Street Church.**

It will be livestreamed through the Farm Street Church website <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream>

JRS writes: - We are delighted to invite you and your loved ones to our annual Advent Service. After a long year and a half where we have been physically separated due to the pandemic, we are excited at the prospect of gathering for what is always one of the highlights of the year. The service will feature Advent carols, readings of scripture and poetry, as well as the return of our ever popular JRS drama group. More details are available through JRS



**BIG BREW IS BACK FOR 2022!**

Does 2022 seem a long way off?

In Fairtrade Fortnight (21st February - 6th March) we want you and your community to join forces in the movement to fight injustice in trade. At a Big Brew coffee morning you can gather your friends and family to chat, share, laugh and eat!

Incredible supporters like you make our work possible, and we need your help. Maybe you have run a Big Brew before and loved the experience, or maybe this is your first time hearing about it.

If you're curious about getting involved in 2022, all the fundraising resources you need are 100% FREE, so don't miss out:

Big Brew hosts are at the heart of spreading awareness of the issues of trade and climate justice and raising essential funds to help people change their lives for the better.

What better way to shake off the winter darkness and feel reinvigorated than to take action for a movement you feel passionate about, and share that enthusiasm with your community?

Everything you need from hosting tips and fundraising advice to fun activities and decorations are free to order right here: <https://action.traidcraft.org.uk/get-your-big-brew-2022-pack>



## SYMBOLS FOR PEACE

Embrace the Middle East's very own Senior Church Engagement Manager, the Revd Su McClellan, was recently ordained as a Curate of Coventry Cathedral. Stepping into the role, she became aware of the many powerful symbols of peace surrounding her, and the way in which these link to our wider faith and, in particular, its origins in the Holy Land. Su takes us through these symbols, and what we can learn from them.

Coventry Cathedral is a potent symbol of change. The new Cathedral, which celebrates its Diamond Jubilee next year, is the phoenix that rose from the ashes of that terrifying and destructive night of the 14th of November 1940, during the Coventry Blitz. The building is full of symbols, each carefully chosen and placed to point to something greater than themselves. <https://embraceme.org/blog/symbols-of-peace>

## DIARY

### DECEMBER

7 JRS Advent Service 7 pm live streamed page 10

10 Human Rights Day see CAFOD on line event 6.30 – 9.30 pm More details and registration page 9

27 Liverpool Fun Run for CAFOD page 10

### JANUARY

14 - 16 Christians Aware Annual Conference at The Hayes, Swanwick <http://www.christiansaware.co.uk/Calendar.html>

16 Peace Sunday see Pax Christi report page 3

16 Archdiocese of Liverpool J&P Commission Annual Memorial Lecture 2pm -3:30pm on Zoom. page 2

18 -23 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 'We Saw His Star in the East'. Materials have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>

### FEBRUARY

5 CAFOD 60th anniversary. There will be an event in each diocese which will include celebrating together and activities both online and in person.

21 – March 6 Fairtrade Fortnight see note on Big Brew page 10

27 Church Action on Poverty Sunday see page 8

### MARCH

4 World Day of Prayer prepared by women of England Wales and N Ireland 'I know what plans I have for you' <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/2022-wdp-free-resources-to-download/>

11 CAFOD Lent Fast Day



Thank you to the following helpful websites:

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

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

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

44th Annual Justice & Peace Conference  
22nd-24th July 2022  
The Hayes Derbyshire

'Hope! A verb with its sleeves rolled up'