

NEWSLETTER January 2016

‘A poor Church, for the Poor?’Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth on Saturday March 5th 11am to 5:30pm

Keynote speakers include

Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, director of the Lascazas institute and
Fr. Michael Czerny SJ of the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace

Follow the link on the home page of our website

<http://www.leedsjp.org.uk>

(If you are thinking of going then don't leave it too late- places are limited and over 50 people have already booked)

PARIS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

David & Mollie Somerville, from St. Cuthbert's and First Martyrs Parish, Bradford both went to Paris.

Here David gives a short account of his impressions.



We used to be the World Development Movement

It was an exciting weekend with a lot of support from people around us in and on the way to Paris - and before we went! Mollie spoke at all the parish weekend masses so that fellow-parishioners would know in advance what we were doing. Our Parish Justice and Peace group had decided to give this issue priority for the next year or so. The whole weekend was well organised with Friends of the Earth and ATTAC very much to the fore, but we had enrolled through **Global Justice Now** (formerly the World Development Movement) and our tickets on Eurostar and accommodation in Paris were bought by UK **Friends of the Earth**.

Due to the security situation in Paris all outdoor demonstrations had to be organised at the last minute and the police asked to tolerate them, even though they were forbidden under the state of emergency. On Saturday morning we were between the Arc de Triomphe and the Porte Maillot (where the UEFA Draw was taking place) with at least 4 red lines down the middle of the Avenue de la Grande Armee.

We then moved on to the Champs de Mars behind the Eiffel Tower where after a bag search we were permitted to form a gathering and afterwards listen to music and speakers who reported on the final agreement of the 195 countries represented at the COP 21 in Paris.

The devil will be in the detail of the implementation of the summit agreement but at least 195 governments recognize that climate change at 1,5 degrees has to be minimised and that they and us are responsible for the concrete measures to be taken.

We were able to hear **Naomi Klein** give a speech. Her book **"This Changes Everything"** is well worth reading, but start with the conclusions first!

We are now trying to get Bradford Councillors who are responsible for West Yorkshire Pension Fund Management to divest from fossil fuels i.e. coal, oil and gas, and put money in renewables. **Perhaps other Justice and Peace members could follow that up?** DS

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Tim Devereux

St. Joseph's parish, Pudsey

**Chair of the Movement
for the Abolition of War (MAW)**

Who?

Early on Saturday morning, 12th December, a group of 17 gradually assembled at St Pancras International Station, en route to Gare du Nord; we were diverse – some from CND, some from Movement for the Abolition of War, Catholics, Quakers, Buddhists and 'none of the above'.



Bruce Kent (of CND & Pax Christi) was the instigator – he wanted to take the MAW banner to Paris on the day the Climate Change talks ended. Not just any banner – the 'War Causes Climate Change; Climate Change Causes War' banner, so quite an apposite message, but more on that later. Our train left just before 8, and reached Paris two hours & one time zone later at a little after 11. As a first-time Eurostar traveller, I was impressed with the comfy carriage – we were on one of the new trains - and the sheer speed. And all without the eco-sin of flying!!

What?

Originally the plan had been to join the big demonstration at the end of the talks, but since the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13th November, most large street gatherings were banned. We knew that an authorised event would take place at the Eiffel Tower from 2pm. We also knew climate change activists were planning another action, earlier, at the Arc de Triomphe. We had decided to visit first the site of one of the attacks, the Bataclan Theatre, in Boulevard Voltaire, so left the station and walked south;

a cavalcade of 30 police cars roared by, sirens screaming. Off to meet the activists at the Arc de Triomphe? The monument in the middle of the Place de la Republic was festooned with peace banners, Tricolores and surrounded by candles and memorials. We continued on our way and were soon outside the theatre where so many had been killed. Railings opposite displayed memorials and flowers; a notice on a tree thanked all those 'who had helped to save and find my son' - ('Merci infiniment a ceux qui ont aide a sauver et retrouver mon fils - Bruno, Abid, Raid, Pompiers, Medecines'). It was impossible to be unmoved.

At this point the group split, and I joined five others to travel to the Eiffel Tower by Metro. Between us, we had 2 carnets of 10 tickets, which was plenty. When we emerged from Champ de Mars station, we were delighted to see a Japanese Centre opposite – two of the party were Buddhists from Japan. As a somewhat dishevelled traveller, I felt a little out of place in such elegant surroundings, but I enjoyed the tea! We set off to walk the 600 metres remaining. If you have been at a peace demonstration with Buddhists monks and nuns,



you'll know they beat small drums and chant as they go – rather more attention-grabbing than the usual demo slogans. All around was an amiable crowd, relaxed and upbeat. We stopped underneath the Tower, and unfurled the banner.

A few metres away, the 'Red Line' was arriving from the earlier Arc de Triomphe protest. The giant red banner symbolised 'the red lines' that climate activists don't want negotiators to cross in trying to reach an international accord to fight global warming.

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The banner attracted a lot of attention – many photos and supportive conversations; a friend captured the atmosphere: *“a very precious sense of connectedness”*.

Then it was time to retrace our steps, and make sure we reached the Gare du Nord in good time for the trip home. As we reached the coast near Calais, we could see the lights of the police vans, looking out for migrants. Unlike them, we sped on to England, arriving on time at 8.30 pm. An hour earlier, it was announced that 'Governments have adopted a global climate pact that for the first time asks all countries to limit their greenhouse gas emissions.'

Governments have largely accepted link between human actions and climate change, and that action needs to be taken*.

The two way link between war and climate change is not so well known, but ought to be! Until I was gathering material for a talk in 2014, I had not realised that climate change is a factor in the Syrian conflict. But as a report in the Independent stated,

“Climate change was a key driver of the Syrian uprising, according to research which warns that global warming is likely to unleash more wars in the coming decades, with Eastern Mediterranean countries such as Jordan and Lebanon particularly at risk....

Global warming intensified the region’s worst-ever drought, pushing the country into civil war by destroying agriculture and forcing an exodus to cities already straining from poverty, an influx of refugees from war-torn Iraq next door and poor government”

Scientists for Global Responsibility were warning of this back in 2007:

“Climate change could increase the risk of conflict, especially in developing countries:

Water shortages will increase with rising temperatures (and with population increases) – number of people living in ‘water-stressed’ areas expected to rise from 1.7 billion in 2000 to 5 billion in 2025

Sea-level rise and increased storminess will increase risk of flood damage, especially to heavily populated coastal areas – tens of millions more people are likely to be affected by 2080’s

Disruption to agriculture is likely

Together these factors could lead to a large increase in numbers of ‘environmental refugees’”

References:-

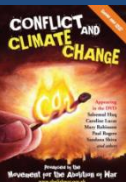
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/climate-change-key-in-syrian-conflict-and-it-will-trigger-more-war-in-future-10081163.htm>

and

<http://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/guns-and-global-warming-war-peace-and-environment>

and

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/>



The Conflict and Climate Change DVD that Tim mentions in his write up is available on loan from the Justice & Peace office. Just drop and email to jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk with your contact details and the details of when you want to borrow it. We will then get in touch and arrange it with you.

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OPEN COMMISSION MEETING IN BRADFORD

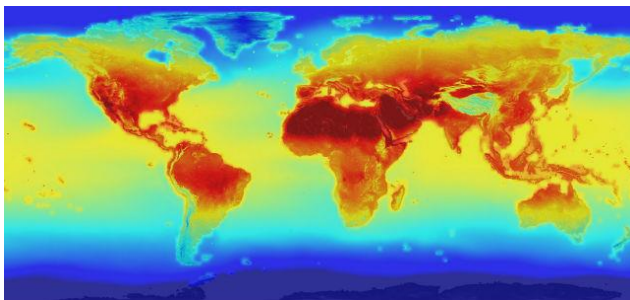
Do you live in or around Bradford?

The Commission will be holding an open meeting at the parish hall of St.Cuthbert's and First Martyrs Parish on Wilmer Road Bradford at 7:30pm on

Wednesday 24 February

Come along and hear about what the Commission has been up to and join in the conversation about what social justice actions are going on in Bradford and help shape the future priorities of the Commission. **ALL WELCOME** – though an email telling us you are coming would be helpful.

PARIS: GAME CHANGER or FUDGE by John Battle



Was the recent Paris Climate change agreement signed up to by 196 countries a real breakthrough?

Following the disappointing failure of the 2009 Copenhagen talks expectations of an internationally agreed position were low. This time the agreement to basically limit the increase in global warming to 1.5C above pre industrial levels has been hailed as a “game changer”.

But was it ?

115 “Small island” countries such as the Seychelles, Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands, fearing going under rising sea levels, campaigned for “1.5 to stay alive”, half a degree below the previously agreed goal of 2C which climate change scientist say is the threshold of safety. Before the conference 187 countries had pledged to reduce their own national carbon emissions between 2050 and 2070 and though not legally binding, these pledges are built into the final agreement. Moreover there is a commitment to ramp up these pledges every five years. What is promised is to bring down global emissions from peak levels as soon as possible with the aim of reaching “net zero emissions” between 2050 and 2100. The UN Climate science panel recommended 2070 to avoid dangerous warming.

The final deal also includes a mechanism to compensate the financial losses vulnerable countries face from the impacts of climate change and developing countries will get extra funds for ‘adaptation’ to climate change and transition to clean energy.

The President of the World Bank hailed the Paris Agreement as a ‘game changer’ which would redefine what economic development means for the future, solidifying a link between tackling climate change and poverty. Lord Stern, a leading climate economist, claimed it would provide a strong ‘sense of direction for investing in a low carbon economy’. President Obama said the deal would create “more jobs and economic growth driven by low carbon investment”. But will this agreement to set limits on greenhouse gas emissions in order to reduce future global warming in line with the best scientific advice work? Will it lead to a cleaner greener and sustainable economy?

The basic problem is that the pledges on national emission reduction targets built into the agreed deal do not result in reaching the 2C target. They actually amount to 2.7C of warming, though there is the five yearly review of the goals to work on. Tough practical issues such as continuing use of fossil fuels, carbon taxes, national energy policies, and financial penalties remain. More fundamentally, though the agreement is a leap forward from what

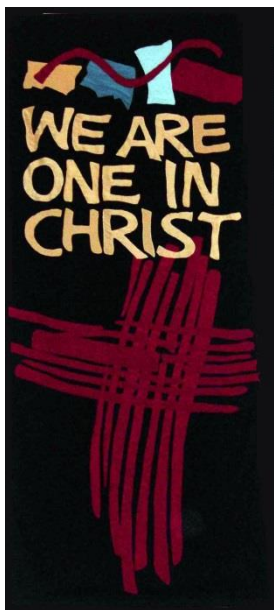
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has gone before, the issue of ‘economic growth’ (even ‘green growth’) implied a continuing unsustainable exploitation of finite resources. Notably ambitious targets for forestry conservation were significantly weakened with caveats and quietly dropped. At present some three trillion trees on the planet take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Every year the world’s forests and peat bogs absorb some 1.6 gigatonnes of our 10 gigatonnes of manmade emissions. Yet cutting down trees and draining swamps and bogs continues. We could do more to restore nature’s great sponges now - and closer to home in such as our Pennine beat bogs.

In the meantime as Lord Stern has suggested we should immediately focus on the ‘ecology of cities’. By the middle of the century there will be 3 billion more people living in cities. Tackling pollution, congestion and energy and waste in the next two decades will be crucial. As Pope Francis insists in “Laudato Si” we all now need to personally address the need for ‘ecological conversion’.

WORKING ECUMENICALLY ON JUSTICE ISSUES by Joe Burns

Next week is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It’s a good time to pause and question whether we are tackling social justice issues from an ecumenical perspective. The trouble is that it is much easier to just get on and do ‘stuff’ in your own parish community. Inviting lots of other people involves much more effort and planning (and, as if that wasn’t enough, you then have to be sociable towards anyone who comes along!)— and you will probably only end up with a few more people at your event. You end up thinking ‘was it worth it for all the extra effort’?



The simple answer is yes. But don’t expect too much from a one off event. Many social justice issues require ongoing action over an extended time period. By working with other Christian communities and with other faiths on a regular basis, we are much more likely to have opportunities to learn about the things that we have in common. We demonstrate genuine unity through the actions that we are taking together. The current refugee crisis is a case in point. People

of all faiths and no faiths have come together in our region to offer assistance to asylum seekers. Christians of all flavours are doing all kinds of things from offering accommodation, having clothes collections to offering refugee families a weekend away in the Yorkshire Dales

(as reported in December’s newsletter in relation to Craven Refugee Support Network). But the key point is that there is a degree of coordination. This has often been missing in years gone by. So both faith and secular groups are offering a patchwork of assistance that is coordinated so that there is more confidence that it is addressing the real needs of this group of people in need. The coordination means that we are all mixing together and that the particular ‘label’ we have of ‘Catholic’ or ‘Methodist’ or ‘Baptist’ or ‘Non-believer’ does not really make any difference to what gets done. Action with other Christians on social justice issues is something that can, and does, happen all year round – not just during Christian Unity week. It provides real opportunities for building relationships with people from other faith communities.

During the last 12 months I have been struck by the number of Christians from other faith communities that have come to Justice & Peace Commission events. The publication of ‘Laudato Si’ has resulted in a number of requests to the Commission. Members of the Commission have given talks and provided input to Methodist, Anglican and ecumenical events about Climate Change. Just in the next couple of months the Commission is involved in providing input to Churches Together in Garforth, Churches Together in Horsforth and Headingley Methodists.

Clive Barrett, in Unity Post (Published this week) poses the question ‘Is “Citizens” the New Ecumenism?’ With Leeds Citizens now firmly established and Bradford Citizens in formation it is a legitimate question. Talking about the Leeds movement he says “Baptists, Catholics and the New Testament Church of God were all our our



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prominent, and Anglicans, Methodists, URC. More than compassion, this was the Churches, in partnership with others, organising for social change." As one person at

Open Meeting in Skipton in November put it: "there is an imperative to act together as we can have a much bigger impact."

CLIVE BARRETT : CHAIR OF WEST YORKSHIRE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL WRITES

For over 60 years it has been an aspiration of the movement for the unity of Christians that they would act together "in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately". Now, historically, there have been "differences of conviction" in areas of Faith and Order. But there has been a huge overlap of common concern in areas of Life and Works, that is to say, issues of peace and justice. There are two principal reasons, therefore, why Christian people should walk shoulder to shoulder in the pursuit of social justice. The first is this ecumenical imperative, an awareness that being fully Christian means walking alongside other Christian people (whatever their tradition), as Pope Francis says, "Unity is achieved in walking together". The second is, simply, that action together is so much more effective.

There is strength in numbers, obviously, and visible unity strengthens any cause. Beyond that, I am a great believer that the way in which we go about things determines what we achieve; so peace can only be achieved peaceably, for instance. If we are long for justice, equality, cohesion in society, we will be more effective if we are also equal partners with others, inclusive people of reconciliation.

All of which is why some of the best initiatives against poverty and prejudice and for justice and generosity occur when Churches work together. West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council has built up a tradition of Ash Wednesday witness on a matter of common concern by leaders of different Churches. Asylum, debt, the far right, food banks have all been the focus of the prayers and action for personal and national repentance and change. Last year several hundred people joined a procession along Briggate in Leeds affirming the multicultural diversity of our cities.

This year, the focus returns once again to the plight of people seeking sanctuary in these islands. Where there is rejection, let us sow welcome. Where there is criminalisation, let us sow hospitality. Where there is destitution, let us sow generosity. (see box)

SPEAKING UP FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES

Wednesday 10 February, 1pm, New North Road Baptist Church, Huddersfield HD1 5JU

Join senior West Yorkshire church leaders coming together for a public act of witness. It will include prayers and a public statement affirming the work of Christian individuals and agencies on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees.

ALL WELCOME



WEST YORKSHIRE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

www.wyec.co.uk

CAFOD SUPPORTER EVENT JANUARY 30 10:00 – 12:00

All are welcome to come along and hear CAFOD's Matthew Hamilton talk about their work in Uganda on water security

**St.Mary & St.Monica, Bradford Old Road, BINGLEY
BD16 1SA**



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SILENT VOICES EXHIBITION RETURNS TO THE LEEDS DIOCESE

This exhibition of photographs depicts life in the West Bank village of Bil'in. It is famous for its weekly Friday protests against the building of the Separation Barrier and Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. They have been steadfast in their determination to pursue Non-Violent Direct Actions in support of their aims. This has often been at much personal cost to the people involved. This is very movingly evoked in the film "5 Broken Cameras".







Shown last September at Leeds Cathedral, we have now arranged for it to be shown across the diocese in a number of churches during March and April

Mar 06 – Mar 13	St.Mary & St.Michael parish, Settle
Mar 20 – Mar 27	Holy Rosary Church, Chapeltown, Leeds
Apr 03 – Apr 10	St.Mary & St.Monica parish, Cottingley (Bingley)
Apr 17 – Apr 24	St.Mary's Church, Horsforth, Leeds








We could extend our loan of the exhibition into May. If you are interested in hosting it in your parish then please email the office and someone will get in touch.


EVENTS

  <p>Sun 17 Jan 16</p>	<p>PEACE SUNDAY <i>In all churches in England and Wales – what is happening in your parish?</i> Pax Christi, on behalf of the Church in England and Wales, prepares special materials for this Sunday. They will have been sent to your parish, but are all available for download from the Pax Christi website: http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-Sunday/ The Leeds Diocese is one of the worst contributors to the work of Pax Christi, which does some fantastic work and is a great example of a small catholic organisation that really punches above its weight: it deserves more support from Yorkshire.</p>
 <p>17-24 Jan 16</p>	<p>Christian Unity Week <i>In your church or area??</i> Social Justice concerns are a big area of agreement between different Christian denominations. Why not use the opportunity of Christian Unity week to promote a social justice concern in your area to other churches in your area – or to publicise something going on in another church in your parish?</p>
 <p>Wed 27-Thu 28 Jan</p>	<p>MILITARISM AND GLOBAL MILITARY SPENDING <i>Leeds Beckett University LS13HE, Room BPA101 10:00 – 5pm Admission Free</i> Bringing together peace studies students, thinkers and activists from the many aspects of militarism to have time to really map the links, relationships and opportunities for campaigning and research. <i>Open to all-booking via Eventbrite is essential</i> https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/militarism-and-global-military-spending-tickets-19776712680</p>



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 Wed 10 Feb	<p>ASH WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL FAITH WITNESS <i>New North Road Baptist Church, Huddersfield, HD1 5JU @ 1pm</i> Join senior West Yorkshire church leaders coming together for a public act of witness. It will include prayers and a public statement affirming the work of Christian individuals and agencies on behalf of asylum seekers and refugees. Please check our website for the most up to date details (or go to the West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council website http://www.wyec.co.uk/)</p>
 Wed 24 Feb 16	<p>J&P OPEN COMMISSION MEETING IN BRADFORD <i>St.Cuthbert's parish hall, Wilmer Road Bradford 7:30pm – 9:00pm</i> An opportunity for anyone in the Bradford area to come and meet members of the Commission ,hear first-hand what the Commission has been doing and to share with the Commission the social justice concerns of people in Bradford.</p>
 Sat 27 Feb	<p>STOP TRIDENT – DECISION TIME 2016 <i>12:00 Central London</i> CND is calling a national demonstration to protest against Britian’s nuclear weapons system: Trident. Join Pax Christi and other Christian peace groups to call for the Government to say NO to plans to spend over £100billion on upgrading weapons of mass destruction that do not keep us safe and which divert resources from essential spending.</p>
 Sat 27 Feb	<p>ZERO CARBON YORKSHIRE LAUNCH <i>Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds, 11:00 – 17:00</i> Organised by Schumacher North and partners, they are “calling on climate activists, and basically everyone! – to join us ..for a day of Open Space conversation to help us create a vision for a better, cleaner, greener Yorkshire that will be free of fossil fuels in the shortest possible time.” See their website: http://schumacher-north.co.uk/zcy-launch/</p>
 Sat 05 Mar	<p>A POOR CHURCH FOR THE POOR? <i>Leeds Trinity University 11:00 – 17:30</i> This day conference is free to attend and includes an exciting line up of keynote speakers: It has been organised by the Las Casas Institute. Although free, this is a ticketed event. See the Commission’s Events website page for the link to Eventbrite. Book now – this is a national event being held in Yorkshire and will quickly run out of spaces.</p>
 16 Mar	<p>ANNUAL ROMERO LECTURE –‘The Violence of Peacemaking ‘ <i>Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral 19:00 – 21:00</i> Fr. Francisco de Roux, the Jesuit Provincial in Colombia, will give this year’s lecture which will provide insights into the church’s role in the peace process between the Government and FARC guerrillas in Colombia.</p>
 Sat 21 May	<p>PAX CHRISTI AGM AND C ONFERENCE <i>Oxford Place Centre, Leeds, LS1 3AU 11:00 -16:00</i> Members (and potential members) are invited along to the whole day. Everyone is invited to join for the afternoon session (starting at 2pm) where the keynote speaker will be Rev.Clive Barrett talking about Conscientious Objectors from Yorkshire during the First World War.</p>

 Find us on Facebook	‘Like’ our page on Facebook and ‘follow’ us to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.
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Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.