

Feb 2018

Family Poverty was the theme for a day workshop held at the Kala Sangam Centre in Bradford. With the help of many expert resources and a few video clips we were able to explore the lived experience of those on benefits and received a wake up call about the impact that the rollout of Universal Credit will have on so many families in the Yorkshire area



Jan 18

Knowing that only a limited group of people can give up a Saturday to come to a workshop about Family Poverty, the Commission worked up a project proposal to do the same exploration of family poverty but in a small group context that could be used in parishes or Churches Together groups. Thanks to the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, we now have the funding for this project and it is underway



Sep 17

We organised a Day of Reflection at the Wood Hall Carmelite Monastery. This was led by the sisters there who explored how enclosed nuns can support action for Social Justice. It was so popular we had to ask to run another day which took place in April 2018

Throughout the year the Commission has continued to support **St Monica's Housing** in its provision of temporary accommodation for failed asylum seekers through the active involvement of Commission members in its ongoing management.

UK Poverty

Refugees

Prayer & Reflection

Climate Change

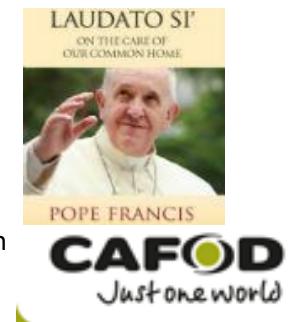
The Commission has been an active member of the **Diocesan Refugee Support group** which now has a part-time worker in the capable person of Lucy Irven. We worked closely with her to promote and advertise action on refugees and asylum seekers and publicise the work done by so many parishes to help refugees and asylum seekers.



Outreach

Peace and nonviolence

Jun – Sep 17 With the help of a Leeds University MSc student we undertook a survey of a sample of Diocesan properties to see what scope there is for reducing the carbon footprint of the Leeds Diocese.



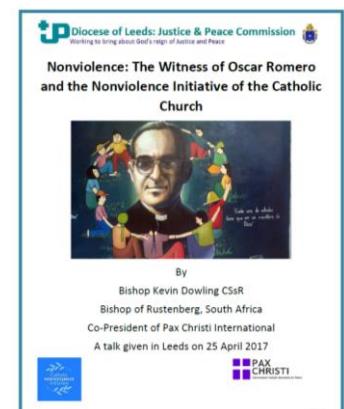
Jun 17 With Financial support from CAFOD we put on a workshop to highlight and explore the opportunities for parish renewal through the CAFOD-administered Live Simply Award scheme.



SS Peter & Paul Wakefield

This parish started up a J&P parish group and members of the Commission went along to listen to the social justice concerns that they had and to share our experiences from elsewhere in the Diocese.

Apr 17 –the Nonviolence of Oscar Romero
We were privileged to hear a presentation from **Bishop Kevin Dowling** of Rustenburg in S Africa. We heard him speak from his personal experiences of witnessing in situations that could have turned violent. His talk can be downloaded from our website



St Joseph Barnoldswick

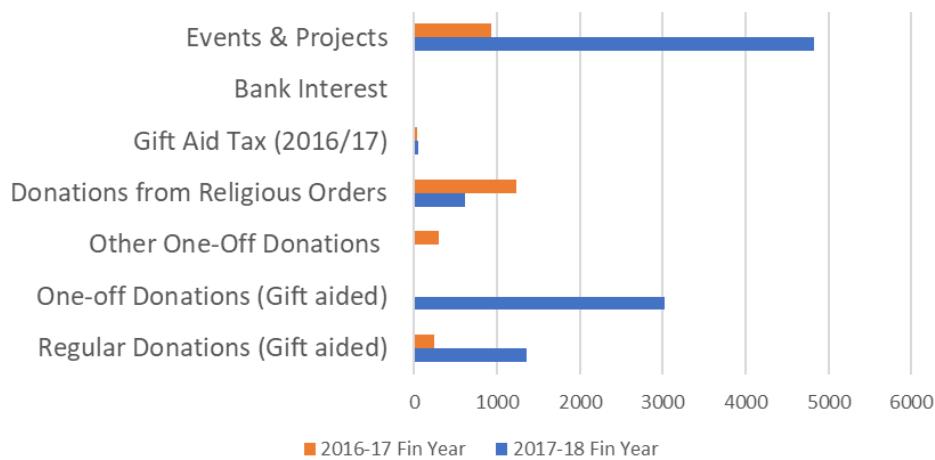
At their request a speaker was provided for all the masses one weekend in September 2017 and subsequent to that a small J&P group has formed in the parish.



Oct 17 – Nonviolence Works!
Through Pax Christi UK again, and with Leeds Beckett University, we provided the local management for an evening about the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative. The speakers were Pat Gaffney (General Secretary, Pax Christi UK), Marie Dennis (Co-chair of Pax Christi International) and Maria Stephan (a leading academic in research on the effectiveness of nonviolence).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2017-18

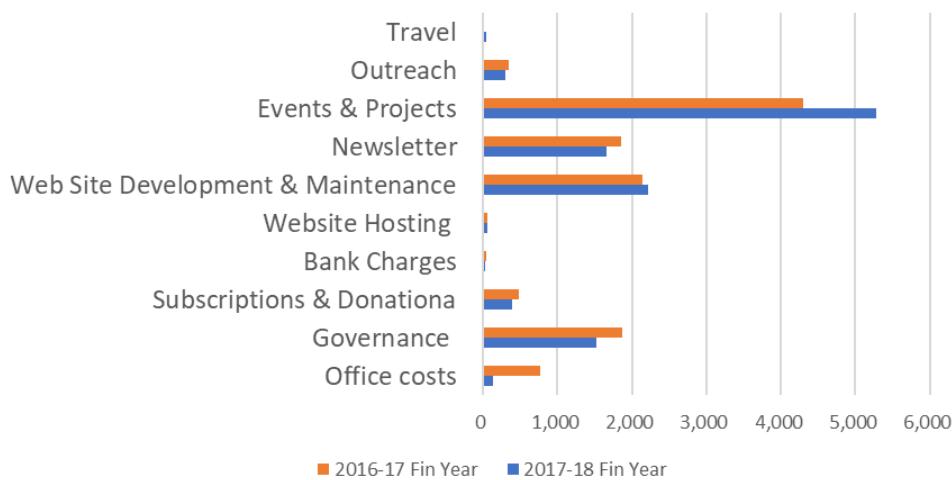
Income 2017-18 and 2016-17



We were able to obtain £4,600 of grants towards the costs of events from external agencies, a significant improvement on the previous year. Through our promotions, regular donations have increased from £240 in 2016-17 to over £1400 in the last financial year.

TOTAL INCOME: 2016-17 £2,744 2017-18 £9,896

Expenditure 2017-18 and 2016-17



Overall expenditure did not change materially. We spent a little more on events and projects and have reduced the costs of running the Commission a little. Communication costs – the regular newsletter and regularly updated website continue to be our biggest items of ongoing costs – and rightly so as communication is a key part of what we do.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2016-17 £11,892 2017-18 £11,639

We are grateful to those supporters who have taken out standing orders and would encourage others to also help us in this way – a good base of supporters who provide financial help puts us in a better position when applying for grants for specific projects.

Keep in Touch

sign up for regular updates on our website and follow us on Facebook

Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission
Working to bring about God's reign of Justice and Peace

Contact us to **FIND OUT MORE** and to **DO MORE**

62 Headingley Lane Web : www.leedsjp.org.uk
Leeds email : jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
LS6 2BX

Promoting awareness, discussion and action throughout the Leeds diocese about the 'Just' Gospel response to the key issues of today

ANNUAL REVIEW: Apr 2017 MAR 2018



Deepening our work in a troubled and challenging world

By John Battle, Chair

The Second Vatican Council decree “Ad Gentes: On the Missionary activity of the Church”, states that *“the Church, urged on by the Spirit of Christ, must walk the road Christ himself walked, a way of poverty and obedience, of service and self-sacrifice even to death, a death from which he emerged victorious by his resurrection”*. Commenting on this text the theologian Richard R Gaillardetz in his work “Ecclesiology for a Global Church” suggests that it offers a new vision of holiness of the Church: *“It is not the holiness of the austere mystic but that holiness reflected in the courageous work for justice and that peace which is so much more than the absence of conflict. It is a holiness that emanates from a people committed to making space for the shalom of God in human history. It is the holiness that shines forth from any and all human initiatives that are responding to God’s graced invitation to put their lives at the service of God’s reign”*.

Recent times have seen the rise of populist politics with their negative undertow of hostility to migrants and a turning inward. Communications have become grossly distorted with claims of “fake news” displacing the search for truth and at the same time the number of people forced to leave their homes worldwide as a result of conflict, war or environmental catastrophe has risen to an all time high of 65 million. Resistance to refugees and asylum seekers is rising internationally. Closer to home poverty, homelessness and the treatment of offenders are difficult issues to address in these “Brexit” dominated times.

Our volunteer-led Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, backed by the organisational and internet communication services of Joe Burns, has continued to keep issues of justice and peace on the agenda of our parishes. We publish a regular informative newsletter on line. We run a Facebook page. We link in collaboration to other organisations such as CAFOD, Pax Christi and Church Action on Poverty and more locally we support St Monicas’s Housing project the Citizens organisations and The West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy. We have organized workshops not least on the theme of poverty in the UK and have supported both the Diocesan Refugee Support Group and the newly established Diocesan CARITAS. We have followed up work on “Laudato Si” both to encourage ‘Living more simply’ and to keep up the pressure for a ‘sustainable’ Diocesan Church. Nor is there an artificial division between “prayer” and “action for justice” as we seek through retreat days to develop “Just Spirituality”.

Our thanks for sustaining the Commission are due to a few committed and dedicated members (are there is room for more) not least those who contribute the funding through gifts and generous grants to enable us to carry out our priorities for campaigning and organizing into our Diocese and parishes. We urge all to keep in touch not least through signing up to the newsletter on line and helping deepen our work in a troubled and challenging world.