



NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

FAMILY POVERTY - 'HOLIDAY HUNGER' LEADS TO FOODBANK SHORTAGES

As the long Summer holidays approach and people go on holiday, contributions to foodbanks tend to dip. However, this is going on whilst, at the same time there is a year on year increase in the demands being made on foodbanks.

Towards the end of June, the Leeds evening Post ran a story with information from the Leeds Food Aid Network (FAN), though the story could be repeated across other areas in Yorkshire. The two main foodbanks (Leeds North and West and Leeds South and East) are down to about two weeks supply of food.

The main reasons cited by FAN for this situation are an increase in food prices, delays in benefits and benefits sanctions and an increase in the number of people in insecure work. These were all factors that were mentioned at our family poverty workshop in February of this year.

The other big discussion point at our February workshop was to do with the rollout of Universal Credit. At the time this was expected in Leeds and Bradford in June but since then it has been put back to October. However, based on the experience in other parts of the country, many FAN members are concerned that this will lead to increased demand for support from foodbanks as there are many stories of payment delays and other complications with the introduction of Universal Credit.

FAN are not the only ones concerned about it either. The Feeding Bradford network has run workshops focusing on this and the Leeds Church Institute have organised an event for 01 August the details of which are given below. At this event they are also launching a Directory with details of referral agencies and where people can go for more information..

Universal Credit in Leeds

Wednesday 1st August, 10am-4pm
Directory launch at 12noon



Meet and talk with relevant service providers including solicitors with Legal Aid contracts, Citizens Advice Bureau staff, and Welfare and Housing Benefits workers and practitioners.

LCI is also launching a free Universal Credit Directory for Leeds with details of contacts and referral agencies who can advise on and help with problems arising from Universal Credit.

www.LCILeeds.org

At Leeds Church Institute
(opposite the Corn Exchange, above 'Out of This World')
20 New Market Street, Leeds, LS1 6DG
To book email events@Leedschurchinstitute.org or phone 0113 391 7928



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Feeding Bradford recently published the results of a survey they undertook in the Spring among food provision service users and organisations in



the wider Bradford area. Comments from service users included *"recurring themes of a lack of money, and the inflexibility, unsuitability or impenetrability of benefit arrangements - with the move to universal credit a*

particular issue for several. Having to spend 35 hours per week looking for work to qualify for UC was impossible for some, particularly those without full-time computer access."

Of the 27 projects who responded to the question about the ability of their service to continue to meet demand, only 3 felt secure. Many talked about a rise in demand (even in 'affluent' areas), an increase in destitution and homelessness and more complex needs being harder to address.



Church Action on Poverty have just started a campaign in relation to Universal Credit. They report that

in areas where Universal Credit has been rolled out, foodbanks and other food aid providers report a surge in the numbers of people pushed into greater debt, destitution and hunger as a

result of delays, errors, a lack of flexibility and adequate support.

Church Action on Poverty have also just released a social impact report about their involvement with a scheme called 'Your Local Pantry'. They have been running this scheme in the Greater Manchester area for the last couple of years with partners. The idea is a simple one. A 'pantry' is set up in a local area and people are invited to



become members. Membership costs somewhere between £2.50 and £3.50 per week and for this amount members can choose up to at least ten items from what is available (with the average shopping

basket often worth in excess of £15). The membership fees are ploughed back directly into the pantry and used to finance fresh produce which is available for members at no extra charge. The food is provided by Fareshare a charity that distributes 'food waste' from industry surpluses.

It is an interesting idea that some parishes might want to investigate for their own local area. You can read more about this scheme and download the full report if you are interested by going to the relevant page of the Church Action on Poverty website: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/pantry>

Church Action on Poverty are the organisation who are developing the materials for our set of parish meeting guides to explore family poverty in some depth. We still need two more parishes to volunteer to take part in the pilot programme of meetings between October and December 2018. Please email the office if you think that it might be something that would work in your church community or Churches Together group.





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REMINDER: LIVERPOOL 8th SEP – EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS PARALLEL PROGRAMME

In the last newsletter we featured some of the events taking place as part of the parallel programme of the Eucharistic Congress, Adoremus, on Saturday 8th September.

The full programme of events is large. You can take a look yourself by following this link

<http://adoremus.uilcc.org/index.php/parallel-programme/>

Not only are these events free to attend many of them are also billed as being 'family friendly'.

Those with an interest in social justice might be interested in any of the following:

Eucharist in the World with CAFOD

Sacred Heart Church L7 8TN

Saturday Workshops 12:00, 14:00 & 16:00

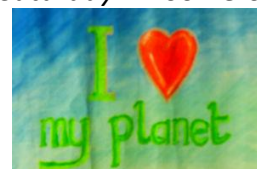


A workshop and exhibition showing how the meaning of the Eucharist is brought to life by the many communities and Church partners CAFOD works alongside across the world. Pictures, films, stories and bread will be shared!

Environment: 'On the altar of the World'

St Philip Neri Church L8 7NL

Saturday 12:00-18:00



Come and explore a sacramental theology of creation with the Northern Dioceses Environment Network, Together for the Common Good and CAFOD. Talks, discussion, hospitality and family-friendly activities.

Broken TV Series

St Francis Xavier Church, L3 8DR

Friday & Saturday 11:00-15:30pm

Exposition, Mass and refreshments are followed by a screening of some of this series with behind the scenes commentary by director Jimmy McGovern. There will also be a discussion with him about the issues raised by this series and about living Eucharist in daily life

Reconciliation & the Eucharist with Pax Christi

St Philip Neri Church L8 7NL

Saturday 12:00-18:00



Beginning and ending with meditation on the Icon of Reconciliation and using prayers and stories they will explore a vision of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. The event will include an intergenerational panel of women discussing peacemaking in families, in our country and globally.

Diakonia: Food for the Hungry: practical responses to physical hunger

St Vincent de Paul Church, L1 5EE

Saturday 12:00 – 18:00



A city centre event coordinated by the Liverpool order of deacons, looking at the issues of hunger and food poverty today with input from Church Action on Poverty and Micah (two cathedrals foodbank). Activities will range from panel discussions to opportunities for quiet prayer.





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JUST SPIRITUALITY: J&P AUTUMN DAY OF REFLECTION

The idea is to get away for the better part of a day to take stock and reflect on how we live out our Christian vocation in today's world. Not always easy! – But the people who have attended our previous days have found them to be helpful and worth the effort.



Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission

Working to bring about God's reign of Justice and Peace



Just Spirituality

Autumn Day of Reflection



Saturday 20 October 2018
10:00 (Mass) until 3pm
Good Shepherd Parish Centre,
Mytholmroyd

Take time out to join us to reflect more deeply on action for Social Justice in this Day of Reflection led by Fr Michael Doody, Vocations Director for the Leeds Diocese.

This event is free to attend **but** please book places by Emailing
jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Our venue is right next door to Mytholmroyd station. If you can offer a lift or need a lift then please tell us when booking and (nothing guaranteed) we will try and sort out an arrangement.

The day starts at 10:00 with the normal Saturday mass for the Good Shepherd church community. Everyone is asked to bring some food that can be shared at lunchtime. Teas & coffees will be provided. There will be two talks by Fr Doody with time for private reflection and some time for discussion as well.





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LIVE SIMPLY UPDATE

Our Lady of Kirkstall Parish, Leeds

This parish is now well into carrying out the plan developed and presented to the Parish Council in the middle of last year.

Michael Emly writes:

Since January, steady progress has been maintained in implementing our Action Plan. Our planning group continues to meet at approximately 2 monthly intervals and members remain enthusiastic. Their contribution to the project has been amazing.

Living Simply

Every month we produce a "Live Simply" bulletin on a specific theme. For example, the April edition provided a "crib sheet" of key themes in Laudato Si' in order to make the encyclical's contents more familiar to our parishioners. Each bulletin also suggests 3 small practical actions that people could do – these seem to have been very well received and acted upon.

Living Sustainably

A lot of effort has been put into the "Gardening Project":

- We have successfully liaised with Urban Buzz, submitted a plan of work to them, and have in consequence already received both bulbs and wildflower seed, free of charge.
- The March edition of our Live Simply Parish Bulletin focussed on the project and shared our plans for each site. A request for volunteers attracted a good response and we have been working together regularly on a monthly basis in order to tidy up the grounds of each of our 3 churches in turn.
- The Uniformed Organisations have also been active and the troughs they planted with bulbs to enhance the entrance to Holy Name Church at Easter have now been replanted with summer flowers.

An audit has also been conducted about the use of disposable crockery and cutlery and this is being followed up in more detail.

Living in solidarity

The parish has continued to support a number of charities including the Sylvia Wright Trust, the Peter Trust and CAFOD as well as the collection of foodstuffs for the SVP and a local foodbank. Lenten Alms this year were dedicated to the Medaille Trust; in May a speaker visited the parish and told us about the work of the Trust at every Sunday Mass. Clothes and other items were collected to send to Malawi with Fr. Emmanuel. Our parish initiative of providing a homework club for refugee children has attracted volunteers and is running weekly in school term-time.

Celebrating Live Simply

To celebrate all that has been achieved, a special colour bulletin was produced for the first weekend in July, providing a retrospective in pictures of the past year.

Good Shepherd Church Community, Mytholmroyd

The community at Good Shepherd Church are just getting going. They met on 2nd July and Janet Almond outlines their plans as follows: -

Six of us attended our planning meeting and together we completed the template provided by CAFOD with an Action Plan based upon discussions at previous meetings, summarised as follows:

To Live Simply: the organ and flower festival, inspired by the Beatitudes, has provided a spiritual and reflective beginning to our Live Simply journey. It involved nearly 50% of the regular Sunday congregation and participants tested unknown skills out with their comfort



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zones. Visitors came from near and far, from many faiths and none.

To Live Sustainably with Creation: our main action will be to reduce waste, as a community and as individuals, raising awareness in users of the Parish Centre and in parishioners. Progress will be measured by questionnaire and by the children reporting on personal and family activities by way of stickers that with time it is hoped will fill a heart shaped poster.



To Live in Solidarity with the Poor: we will involve the parish community, young and not so young, in ongoing support of local charities and initiatives for the homeless, poor and hungry and of global causes including the CAFOD virtual village and the Hope Community Village. Our journey will include a Liturgical celebration, involving as many of the community, our parish and our neighbours in the Deanery and Hebden Royd as possible.

There will in addition be ongoing initiatives, under all three of the main headings, including supporting and raising awareness of Fairtrade and regular bulletin suggestions and recommendations drawn from the many suggested by parishioners.

THE LIVE SIMPLY AWARD

In case you have missed our previous articles.....

The Live Simply Award scheme, administered by CAFOD, is awarded to parishes who can demonstrate that they have embarked on a continuing journey to

- **Live more Simply**
- **Live more sustainably with the Earth**
- **Live in solidarity with the poor**

CAFOD provide a support network and various other resources to help parishes who wish to undertake this programme. The reports from Our Lady of Kirkstall and Good Shepherd provide good examples of the sorts of things that parishes can do. At the present time St Benedict's parish in Garforth remains the only parish in the Leeds Diocese to have obtained this award.

Why do it?

It provides a fantastic vehicle for a deep renewal of parish life. The experiences of parishes to date is that it draws all sorts of people into it – many people who have never had any involvement with church previously, apart from going to mass: bringing them together as Church and working together to examine what it means to live out our Gospel values in everyday life.

It impacts on every aspect of parish life – not only are there practical things that will appeal to a wide range of people, the programme also calls on the prayer life of church communities to regularly reflect on the three core 'pillars' mentioned above.

Email the office if you would like to explore Live Simply in more detail. We would be happy to help in any way that we can.

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REFUGEE ACTION: SHARE THE JOURNEY AND REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Various walks have now taken place in support of the international **Share the Journey** campaign, managed in the UK by CAFOD.

Last month we highlighted the plans for one walk – from Garforth to the Home Office centre on Kirkstall Road in Leeds.



Walkers from Garforth, refreshed at the Newman Centre in Crossgates, with numbers added to from that parish.

Most of them completed the 11 miles to the Home Office.

On the 10th of June 2018 Paddy Spiller and Maria Beckwith from Our Lady and St Joseph, Aire Valley, joined with members from their parish and took part in the Share the Journey Walk.

The walk started from the Bingley Fire Station, then via 3 Rise Locks and along the canal bank to Roberts Park, Saltaire. They shared a picnic together around the bandstand.



Year 8 pupils at Holy Family School also took part in a walk.



Sara Lambert, Lay Chaplain at the school in Carlton, said "We went to Goathland and Whitby and we walked 12 miles together. There was 25 of us so in total we walked 300 miles! The pupils loved taking part."

One year 8 student said "I don't know how refugees do what they do as I found the walk itself hard for me!"

On 8 July, over fifteen supporters of CAFOD at St Stephen's in Skipton contributed 128 miles to the challenge as they completed a walk down a sunny canal side to Silsden, where they met with another group of walkers coming from Keighley.





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Sheila Gregory, one of the walkers, said: "All of us felt the need to walk in solidarity with refugees fleeing war, persecution and poverty around the world.

"In a poignant moment, we stopped at the memorial to the Polish airmen and stood in silence to remember all who have died far from their homes.

"We also carried with us a Lampedusa Cross, made by a carpenter on the Island of Lampedusa from the wood of a wrecked boat which had carried refugees."

These gestures of solidarity with refugees around the world are testament to the compassion and desire to 'do something' by many people across the Leeds Diocese.



Share the Journey 
#sharejourney

Update on the Community Sponsorship Scheme for Refugees

On Thursday 28th June, Carol Hill (Director of Catholic Care) attended the National Community Sponsorship Co-ordination Group meeting. She reports: *"The news is very encouraging indeed as the swell of enthusiasm for Community Sponsorship increases AND the Catholic Church is the dominant player. There are now 38 Catholic Groups who have formally begun the process to become a Community Sponsor."*

Carol commented that *"Community Sponsorship is a unique opportunity for communities to welcome and re-settle refugee families, putting local parish communities at the heart of a family's journey to a new life, helping them to rebuild their lives."*

If you and/or your parish is interested in becoming a Community Sponsor, please contact the following members of the Diocesan Refugee Support Group.

Carol Hill at carol.hill@catholic-care.org.uk or

Lucy Irven at Lirven@catholic-care.org.uk

KINDERTRANSPORT 80 th ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN



Eighty years ago, British communities took in 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe. Today a new group of refugee children in Europe and beyond are in desperate need of safe routes to protection. This is the starting point for this 80th Anniversary campaign which is being spearheaded by Safe Passage, an organization working to help unaccompanied child refugees and vulnerable adults find safe, legal routes to sanctuary. They have reunited unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from France, Greece, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, Syria and Sudan with their

relatives. For those arriving in the UK, they also support their transition to a new life.

The campaign is about getting more local authorities to pledge to take child refugees. If you want to get involved or find out more then detailed information is available from the Safe passage website

<http://safepassage.org.uk/>



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CARITAS LEEDS ONE YEAR ON: REFLECTION DAY

Caritas in the Leeds Diocese was launched one year ago in September and their plan included getting together one year on to review what the needs are in our local areas, what local parishes are already doing and what needs remain unmet. This event has now been organised and the details are:



CARITAS LEEDS DAY OF REFLECTION

Saturday 6th October 2018

Notre Dame 6th Form College

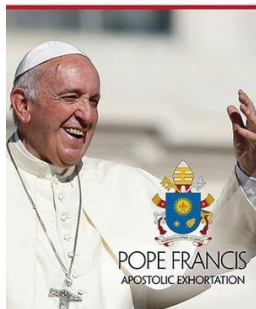
St Mark's Avenue, Leeds LS2 9BL

10:00 – 15:00

Please bring a packed lunch

Refreshments and registration will both be available from 09:30.

REJOICE AND BE GLAD
GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE



After some opening prayers led by Bishop Marcus, there will be an introduction to Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation ***Gaudete et Exsultate*** (On the call to Holiness in the Modern World) followed by small group discussions about the implications.

There will also be the opportunity to explore

some topics in more detail in small group work - including families and young people, homelessness, ex-offenders and prisoners, disabled people, older people and asylum seekers and refugees.

After lunch the Diocesan Youth Service will present a showcase of the Faith in Action programme which has recently been introduced in this Diocese for young people.

With some more opportunity for small group discussions around Faith in Action followed by the official launch of some diocesan initiatives, there will be some closing prayers and the event is expected to finish ahead of 3pm, with time for talking to one another at the end.

To book a place (attendance is free but anyone coming is asked to register so Caritas have an idea of numbers) please either email joseph.cortis@dioceseofleeds.org.uk or register via Eventbrite using this link <https://tinyurl.com/yayzwsxq>

Everyone coming is asked to bring a packed lunch with them.

WORLD WAR I CENTENARY: REMEMBRANCE IS NOT ENOUGH

By Tim Devereux, Leeds Pax Christi & Chair of the Movement for the Abolition of War

Do you remember four years ago, the stunning installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Sea of Red' thousands of poppies flooding down the walls of the Tower of London and into the moat? When I visited, I was very moved by the hushed crowd, and the poignant profusion of blood-red poppies - one for each of the 888,246 British and Colonial soldiers slain. I found it hard to take in the sheer number of the dead (– and millions more of Britain's allies and enemies who also died).

Never forget.



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I began to think about a personal way of commemorating these soldiers; I imagined each of them, lying down – average height in those days 5 feet 6 inches; stretching out, head to toe, for 925¼ miles. I decided I'd cycle that distance, almost the length of the UK, not all in one epic ride, but doing around ten miles each day. So, from 1st May until 26th July 2015, that's what I did.



There is nothing practical we can do for the fallen of the Great War - the 'War to end all Wars'! However, some soldiers returning from Britain's more recent wars desperately need help, so one of the causes I raised money for was Combat Stress, the Veteran's Mental Health charity. Originally called the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Society, it helped those suffering from shell shock after WW1, so that seemed appropriate. *Never again.*

The charter of the UN declared in 1945: "We the peoples of the united nations determined ...to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind..." The three anti-war causes I helped were: the Christian Peace Education Fund, the Movement for the Abolition of War, and Yorkshire CND.

Yet any news bulletin shows that the scourge of war is all too present in today's world: UK bombs have been falling on Syria since 2014; British aircraft sold to Saudi Arabia are helping to kill thousands of Yemenis; according to the then Defence Secretary, 'Britain is under threat from North Korean Nuclear Missiles'; and President Trump has walked away from the Iran Nuclear Deal, prompting Iran to prepare to restart uranium enrichment. It is very tempting to switch off the news and turn on another boxed set! But I urge you to 'Protest and Survive' – let your MP know your views – come to the Leeds Pax Christi Remembrance event (details below), and this November, wear your White Peace Poppy with pride!



Centenary of the end of World War I: Remembrance is Not Enough

Saturday 10 November 2018 at 2:30 pm

Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB

A special service of more than just Remembrance on the eve of the centenary of the 'War to end all wars'. The guest speaker at this service will be the Anglican theologian Andrew Shanks.

The Justice & Peace Commission are working with the Leeds Pax Christi Group to put on this event and prepare a special liturgy booklet that will be shared across parishes in the Leeds Diocese. This should be available around the end of September.





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REFLECTION:

Making Peace by Denise Levertov

(American poet who wrote during the Vietnam War)

A voice from the dark called out,
"The poets must give us
imagination of peace, to oust the intense, familiar
imagination of disaster. Peace, not only
the absence of war."

But peace, like a poem,
is not there ahead of itself,
can't be imagined before it is made,
can't be known except
in the words of its making,
grammar of justice,
syntax of mutual aid.
A feeling towards it,
dimly sensing a rhythm, is all we have
until we begin to utter its metaphors,
learning them as we speak.
A line of peace might appear
if we restructured the sentence our lives are
making,
revoked its reaffirmation of profit and power,
questioned our needs, allowed
long pauses. . . .



A cadence of peace might balance its weight
on that different fulcrum; peace, a presence,
an energy field more intense than war,
might pulse then,
stanza by stanza into the world,
each act of living
one of its words, each word
a vibration of light—facets
of the forming crystal.

EVENTS



Wed 01 Aug

UNIVERSAL CREDIT IN LEEDS

Leeds Church Institute (LCI), 20 New Market St, Leeds LS1 6DG

This Leeds Church Institute event is to discuss Universal Credit and benefits that are affected by the new provision.

They will be launching a universal credit pack with details of referral agencies who can advise and help clients in Leeds. More details and booking for this free event here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/universal-credit-in-leeds-tickets-46804816466>












DIOCESE OF LEEDS: JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION

Web www.leedsjp.org.uk <mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk>



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 Sat 11 Aug	CAFOD VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION <i>CAFOD Volunteer Centre, Hinsley Hall, Leeds LS6 2BX 10:00 – 14:00</i> Anyone interested in becoming a CAFOD volunteer is invited to come along You will meet other volunteers and find out more about the work of CAFOD. Even if you have been involved in your local CAFOD group, and would like to get more involved, we would love to see you. Please email leeds@cafod.org.uk to tell them you will be coming along.
 Sat 01 Sep	WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION <i>Global</i> Inaugurated by Pope Francis in 2015 he said ‘ day of prayer gives individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God’s help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God’s forgiveness for sins committed against the world in which we live. See http://seasonofcreation.org/ for resources and ideas on what to do in your parish.
 Tue 11 Sep	J&P COMMISSION MEETING 7pm – 9pm Anyone from the Leeds Diocese is welcome to come along to one of our Commission meetings. If you would like to attend simply email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and we will send you the details.
 Sat 15 Sep	CAFOD VOLUNTEER TRAINING SESSION A repeat of the 11 August Session at <i>St Mary’s Selby</i> Please email leeds@cafod.org.uk to tell them you will be coming along or for more info.
 Sat 06 Oct	CARITAS LEEDS ONE YEAR ON: DAY OF REFLECTION <i>Notre Dame 6th Form College, St Mark’s Avenue, Leeds LS2 9BL 10:00-15:00</i> All who are involved in social action in parishes are invited to come along to this day to reflect on what social action is taking place in our parishes and where our efforts should be directed.
 Sat 20 Oct	J&P COMMISSION DAY OF REFLECTION <i>Good Shepherd Parish Centre, Royal Fold, New Road, Mytholmroyd, HX7 5EA 10:00- 15:00</i> Our Autumn Day of reflection will be led by Fr Michael Doody, Director of Vocations for the Leeds Diocese. This event is free to attend but please book a place by emailing jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
 Sat 10 Nov	WORLD WAR I CENTENARY: REMEMBRANCE IS NOT ENOUGH <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB</i> A special service of more than just remembrance at which the guest speaker will be the Anglican theologian Andrew Shanks. ALL welcome.
 Sat 10 Nov	LEEDS CAFOD RETREAT: Countering Consumerism-lessons from <i>Gaudete et Exsultate</i> This one day retreat organised by CAFOD is free for anyone in the Leeds Diocese to attend. Booking is essential – see their Eventbrite page https://tinyurl.com/y7595vec
 Find us on Facebook	Follow us on Facebook to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.

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.

See our website for full details of these and other events that may be of interest