

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

### HELLO: NEW PAX CHRISTI DIRECTOR VISITS LEEDS DIOCESE

Theresa Alessandro, the new Director of Pax Christi UK, visited the Leeds Diocese on 10 June. Pax Christi UK is the UK part of an international Catholic peace movement.

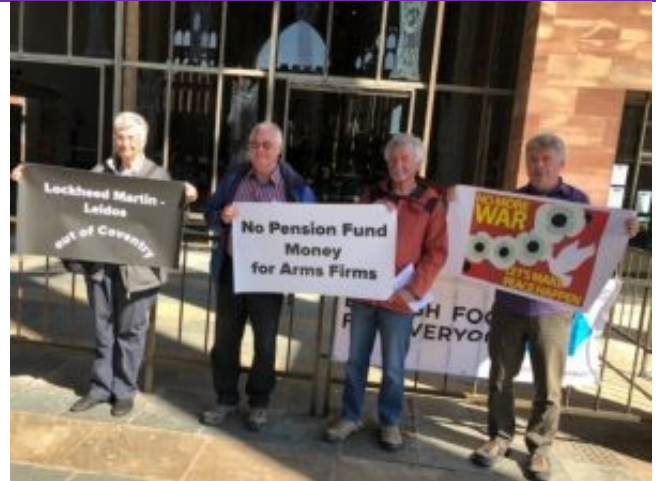


Theresa had agreed to time her visit so that it coincided with the quarterly meeting of the full J&P Commission. John Battle, Chair of the Commission had sent out a more general invite to our supporter base and about

25 people turned out at Hinsley Hall to listen to Theresa and join in the conversation about peace and nonviolence.

Bishop Marcus was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior engagement but came along beforehand to introduce himself to Theresa.

Theresa opened her talk with a reminder about what Pax Christi is and what it does. It is a membership organisation made up of people who are concerned about peace built on justice, reconciliation and nonviolence. In the UK it produces resources and opportunities for witness, deepening our understanding and praying about issues like arms, nuclear weapons and Israel/Palestine (amongst a number of peace-related issues). It encompasses a broad range of approaches to peacemaking- ranging from some regular events (Ministry of Defence protests on Ash Wednesday), using the Liturgical seasons (the Annual Advent Pax Christi service), providing speaker resources to all sorts of events, as well as work related to ethical investments (for example, to get pension funds to disinvest from companies associated with the production of cluster bombs).



[Pax Christi members in Coventry lobby for changes to their pension fund investments](#)

Pax Christi has a full time education worker who goes into schools by invitation and creates resources around peace issues – including lesson plans relating to parts of the national Curriculum. It is a key member of several ecumenical UK peace organisations.

It is also a member organisation of Pax Christi International (PCI). The international arm is an active member of ICAN (The international Campaign to Abolition Nuclear Weapons) which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017. It operates in over 50 countries and has representation at both the United Nations and the EU.

A key strand of the International work in the last couple of years has been to develop Catholic thought about nonviolence – instead of thinking about what a 'Just War' looks like what would a 'Just Peace' approach be like? This was kicked off with a Vatican-led conference in 2016. Since then the International arm of Pax Christi has led working groups on this composed of people from across the world – many of them living in countries where there are serious ongoing violent conflicts. You can explore some of their work on a



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

dedicated website

<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/>

Theresa explored how nonviolence is the thread that pulls together all the activity of Pax Christi UK. It is so much more than 'not violence'. The nonviolence of Jesus is an active, creative struggle against injustice – to love our enemies, to believe that they can be transformed, to rob the oppressor of their power to humiliate – and not to humiliate them back.

This latter point was brought into sharp focus for Theresa because of the service at Westminster Abbey on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to "celebrate 50 years of peace because of the possession of a nuclear deterrent"! Pax Christi was well-represented at a demonstration and vigil held outside the abbey to counter the assumption underlying this service. The Catholic Church is unequivocal in its condemnation of the possession of nuclear weapons – let alone their use. As people filed out of the abbey at the end of the service it was clear that many of the participants were members of the armed services. A few people starting shouting at them - things like 'Shame on you'.

Theresa reflected that she felt uncomfortable with this element of the protest. Will shouting at people change their mindsets? – or do we need to engage with them in a more constructive manner? *One of Theresa's three sons is in the Royal Marines. She knows that his motivations stem from good motives although she struggles with this.* The same will be true of many in the military. To get to a situation where nonviolence is the normal response to conflict issues, we have to move a long way from where we are today. Total non-engagement (perhaps there are situations where it might be the appropriate response not to engage?) will not move all of us from our current entrenched positions.

Basically, Theresa was reflecting on the waves of populism that are seemingly so pervasive at the present time. There is little room for nuance, it seems, in our civil society debates.

With further examples like this, Theresa created a lively discussion amongst those present and the Commission looks forward to reflecting on what she had to say and trying to discern what more we could do as a Commission.

### FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PAX CHRISTI

Pax Christi UK has a comprehensive website where you can become a member, download some resources and shop for others – as well as finding out about the activities of Pax Christi and its members across the country.

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

Coming up in August will be the anniversaries of the dropping of the Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Aug 06 and Aug 09). *Is this something that could be mentioned in liturgies in your church??*



**GOODBYE: MADELINE, CAFOD STEP INTO THE GAP VOLUNTEER, FINISHES THIS WEEK**



**Madeline (left) with Bronagh in the CAFOD Volunteer Centre**

Madeline started as a CAFOD 'Step into the Gap' volunteer at Leeds Trinity University last September. This programme is for people aged 18-30 who want to take a year out in the service of others. CAFOD works with various placement organisers such as universities, retreat centres and diocesan youth teams.

Madeline first heard about the programme from her mother, who is a CAFOD volunteer herself: "She recommended that I look at the CAFOD website, which I did. I found myself deeply moved by not only the work that CAFOD are doing but the way it is portrayed – the positive imagery and language used to describe those being helped by CAFOD and partners really struck a chord with me. I believe that this dignity and respect held for everyone really sets CAFOD apart from other charities."

Madeline was part of the Leeds Trinity Chaplaincy team and as well as undertaking standard chaplaincy tasks also promoted CAFOD campaigns, prayer and fundraising actions throughout the year. For instance, on All Saints Day (a big day at LTU) she organised a stall to engage with students about the environment and living more simply. One of her strategies was to have a 'guess the vegetable' competition! Madeline comments "I needed a way to get people interested and this seemed more intriguing than just trying to give them a leaflet. On the table I had Papaya, Celeriac, Pomegranate, Persimmon/Sharon Fruit (Purple) Carrot, Onion, Grapefruit, Ginger, Pumpkin, Passion Fruit, Radish, Turnip/Swede, Aubergine/Eggplant, Pomelo and pepper. So, there were a few items that people would



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

recognise – but quite a few that had people puzzled. It was a good way of then being able to ask them to talk about what they thought we could do to make the world more ‘green’.”

As part of the CAFOD input to Step into the Gap, each volunteer on the programme gets the opportunity to go and visit some of the CAFOD partners in a particular country. As anyone who has been on an exposure visit will testify, these trips can be very life-changing; hearing the stories of people from the global south is one thing – but hearing it in person takes it to an altogether different level. Madeline’s trip was to Uganda and the CAFOD partners there.



Madeline with other Step into the Gap volunteers in Uganda

Reflecting on her experiences over the year, Madeline wrote recently “What a year it’s been! From school visits to vegetable quizzes, prayer breakfasts in Leeds to sitting around a fire in Moroto, Uganda, not many can claim that their last year has been so varied!

I have had so many opportunities this year that I never would have had otherwise. My trip to Uganda is the obvious big one, and the things I saw, experienced and learned on that trip will undoubtedly stay with me for the rest of my life. I have been on BBC Radio Leeds 3 times, something which this time last year would have been unimaginable. I have stood in front of a room of 180 Year 7s and spoken about CAFOD without so much

as a quiver in my voice, which again, a year ago, would have had me a nervous wreck. I’ve met so many incredible people through CAFOD and through my placement at Leeds Trinity University, and am certain that I have made friends for life. My office at my placement is right next to a beautiful Chapel, too, meaning that whenever I fancy, I can pop in and take some time to sit in the quiet. My faith has developed so much from this, from having conversations with the Chaplaincy team and experiencing retreat opportunities like Youth 2000, and I am going to be leaving this role a more well-rounded and confident person.



Madeline at a Climate Change event on Our Lady of Kirkstall parish, Leeds

When asked about the number of different things she has done she got back with the following details:

“Spoken to over 1,200 people about CAFOD  
Raised almost £1,000 for CAFOD  
Spoken to 7 different schools about the work of CAFOD and my experiences in Uganda  
Visited Uganda, including meeting with the Justice and Peace group in Kampala, the capital  
Run events with the parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall  
Had an amazing year!”

Madeline has said that she would like to stay in the Yorkshire area and will shortly be moving to Skipton. At the moment she is looking for opportunities that would enable her to keep alive her interest in global development (or something connected to linguistics – which was her first degree) but she is open to offers!

## **CAFOD: Live Simply Award at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wetherby**

By Louise Milivojevic (Head Teacher)

Last month we featured a brief update about St Joseph's Primary School in Wetherby gaining the Live Simply Award from CAFOD. Below is a more detailed story from the Head Teacher, Louise Milivojevic. Not only is St Joseph's the first school in the Diocese to gain the Live Simply Award it is *one of only 6 schools in the entire country* to have obtained this award. Well done to all the staff and pupils! – there are some great ideas that could easily be replicated elsewhere.



**Mini-vinnies & Planet Protectors with the head teacher doing litter picking and showing off their award plaque**

Over the past year, the community of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Wetherby have worked together to live more simply! Along the way, we have explored sustainable ways to be less wasteful, to promote respect for God's world and to live in solidarity with those who are less fortunate than we are. It has been fantastic to see the whole community getting on board with

our Live Simply culture at school and we are very proud of what we have achieved.

It was wonderful to share our journey of living more simply, and we are extremely proud to have been presented with the CAFOD, Live Simply Award – and to be the first school in the diocese to do so.



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

We began our journey by making a whole school banner using only reused and recycled materials to remind us of our Live Simply mission across school and this approach to respect, reduce, repair, reuse and recycle is now well embedded in all that we do across school. At St Joseph's, Wetherby, we have many different groups of children: Planet Protectors, Mini Vinnies and a Mini Religious Development Team who work tirelessly to support and deliver different initiatives for our Live Simply mission across school and beyond.



Mini vinnies and Planet Protectors re-using waste water and showing off their re-usable plastic bottles

As part of our mission to live more sustainably, we have been committed to using significantly less energy and reducing waste by being proactive and turning off switches, lights and computer monitors when not in use. We reuse our water where we can and we have exciting plans to significantly reduce the use of plastic in school and beyond. All of these initiatives have been launched by our Planet Protectors, but have been embraced by all. We now choose to back some of our learning walls in used newspaper – it's kinder to the environment and looks great too! The children have been committed to sharing these messages outside of school and are

keen to really make a difference in school and at home. Simple changes like turning the tap off when brushing their teeth, or suggesting that they use a bowl of water to wash pots rather than the dishwasher, and we encourage our families to walk, scoot and cycle wherever they can.

We are committed to living in solidarity with the poor and this year our Mini Vinnies have collected and sent over six different collections far and wide. We hold regular collections for the local food banks and have sent Christmas hampers to families in need across Leeds. We have sent back packs filled with essential items to the charity Mary's Meals to provide those in Africa and Asia with basic essentials. We have also donated bags full of warm coats and winter clothes for orphans across Europe as part of the Syria and Iraq 'Keep a Child Warm Appeal'.



Figure 1 Prayers of hope for all the refugees to whom warm clothes were sent

Our children love to share what they have with those in need and are committed to living in



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

solidarity with the poor. We keep these people in our daily prayers and offerings.

Our pupils have learnt a lot this year about the people they have been helping, and during refugee week, some of the children's work was displayed in St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. Over the year, our Mini Vinnies and our year 2 pupils have enjoyed spending time in our local community at the friendship club and a local residential home, sharing games and stories and

spending time with them, keeping them company. The children collected used books to take to the residents to reuse. This experience has brought a smile to us all.

Our Live Simply journey so far has been simply fantastic. We continue to strive to make a difference in our community and beyond. We are very much looking forward to continuing on our Live Simply Journey and have some exciting plans ahead.

### **JEAN VANIER REMEMBERED** by Marjorie Parker

Jean Vanier died peacefully on 7th May. At his requiem Mass, Marie-Helene, his long time friend and co-founder of Faith and Light reminded us that "to die is not a lamp going out but a new light lighting up, Jean has given us a new light" What is the light that Jean has left behind for our world? Two of the greatest lights he lit up are no doubt L'Arche Communities and Faith and Light Communities but the full impact of his life and work is much more far reaching.

Jean was born in 1928, of Canadian parents. At 13 enrolled in Naval College and subsequently had a short but successful career in the Canadian Navy. However, the Holocaust, the dropping of the atom bombs and the beginning of the Cold War made a great impact on him and he left the Navy in 1950 with no clear plan in mind but certain that "God would guide him"

The next years were a time of searching, including studying and teaching philosophy. In 1964 after spending time in visiting various institutions in France for men with severe learning difficulties, deeply moved by the conditions they lived in but impressed by their simple request "Will you be my friend", he bought a small, tumbledown cottage in Trosly-Breuil and invited two men with mental difficulties to make their home with him. It was a simple life. Together, they shopped,



cooked, shared meals, prayed and had lots of fun. Phillippe and Raphael became "his teachers of tenderness".

From the beginning Jean had one basic philosophy: that he was not doing things for them but with them. He was learning from their special gifts. The joy he experienced was greater than anything he could have imagined as he discovered that people with learning disabilities,



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

might be unable to develop their rational intelligence but they have a heart that longs for encounter, not intense scholarly discussions but sharing, joking and laughing. Their spirituality is often deeply rooted as they move to God through the heart rather than the head.

Jean never intended to start a movement but like the mustard seed, from this first L'Arche, other communities began to grow in France, Canada, India and many parts of the world. There are now L'Arche communities throughout the world including 10 in the UK. Although their structures are constantly under review the basic ethos remains the same. In the words of Pope Francis, they are places "of celebration and forgiveness, compassion and joy, demonstrating that everyone, no matter his or her disability is loved by God and called to participate in a world of brotherhood, justice and peace". We don't have L'Arche in our diocese, but the House of Light in Chapel Allerton in Leeds was founded on Jean's philosophy and anyone who encounters this special community can see the light of Jean shining close to us.

From the early days L'Arche communities crossed the boundaries of Faiths. This was and is a challenge but not a problem. When Jean was asked how he, a deeply committed Catholic coped with living with Jews, Hindus, Muslims and people from different Christian denominations, his answer was "Jesus is our friend and our model. He loves everyone, no matter their culture, their religion, their abilities or inabilities. Isn't there a danger, at times, that the Catholic Church hides Jesus through its insistence on rules, at the expense of a real encounter with him".

In the late sixties as L'Arche communities were becoming established Jean faced another unexpected challenge. He and his friend Marie Helene met Camille and Gerard, parents of Thaddee and Loic, two boys with profound

disabilities. They had been refused places on a diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes because they were "handicapped not sick". The family arranged their own pilgrimage but were made very unwelcome in the hotel and at the Services. Jean and Marie-Helen decided to organise an International Lourdes pilgrimage for groups of 30 people, 10 people with learning disabilities, 10 family members and 10 helpers. After three years planning, they met in Lourdes in Holy Week 1971. Initially the authorities and people in Lourdes were frightened, shops, bars and cafes closed, barriers erected - but by Easter Sunday all had changed. There was an explosion of joy and love that changed Lourdes for ever. More importantly it changed the families who rejoiced in the acceptance and involvement of their children, many of whom were adults. On the return home the groups wanted to continue meeting and Faith and Light communities were born. It was the answer to the needs of many families and here in Yorkshire new groups sprang up very quickly.

These are not residential communities but meet regularly, at least each month, establishing bonds of friendship and love. The meetings are simple, sharing food, worshipping together and celebrating our gifts and talents. Together, we discover our strengths and weaknesses, and the importance of coming to God with our hearts as well as our heads. We now have six active communities in our diocese. There are new challenges, but our basic ethos has not changed. Jean has led us to discover for ourselves that the first need of people who are poor, in pain, marginalised or suffering is for people to walk with them, to help them discover and celebrate their gifts, to find confidence and dignity. In walking with people with disabilities we discover our own inner spirituality.

Jean's message is both profound and simple, learnt through living in community with those the





## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

world often neglects and casts out. In essence it is a message for us all. We are not called to do extraordinary things but ordinary things with great love. This is true in the communities of our families, our workplaces, our schools, our parishes, wherever we share our lives with others.

Jean was a man of celebration and forgiveness, unity and faith, a peace maker and friend.

Any encounter with him made a deep impact. After meeting him, George, one of our friends from the House of Light said "I've been talking to Jesus" The greatest light Jean leaves with us is the knowledge that "to love someone is to reveal to them their capacity for life, the God-given light that shines in each person" and by revealing it them we discover our own value and dignity.



north.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING FAITH & LIGHT?

Faith & Light is very active in the Leeds Diocese.

In the Leeds area there are groups that meet regularly at Holy Rosary church in Chapeltown, St Theresa's church in Crossgates (this is an ecumenical group) and at Holy Name Church in Cookridge.

There are also groups who meet regularly in Bradford, Keighley and Dewsbury.

Mgr Donal Lucey of the Leeds Diocese is chaplain to Faith & Light UK

**To find out more you can contact Marjorie Parker directly on 07470 359057**

## SABEEL YORKSHIRE REPORT – RESISTING THE NAQBA

*Originally two separate organisations that merged in 2017, Sabeel-Kairos is a Christian based UK charity committed to supporting peace and justice in the Holy Land. It is a network of individuals, organisations, churches and communities of all backgrounds across the UK, who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in partnership with, and by promoting and advocating on, the messages of Kairos Palestine and the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Centre in Jerusalem. We often feature the meetings of Sabeel in Yorkshire in our events page.*

*Their last meeting in May included a talk & Q&A session with a Palestinian student studying at the University of Leeds. We reproduce here part of the report on this.*

Ahmad thanked members for the opportunity to address the meeting and said he came from

a family living in the northern part of the West Bank Territory of Palestine, between Nablus and Jenin. His family were originally from the town of al-Faluja, which was in the area to the north-east of the Gaza strip, in what was now Israel. The town was known for the siege of the Egyptian army and was the last town to be de-populated in the *Nakba*, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1949.

A truce was signed between Egypt and Israel, under the terms of which it was agreed that the residents must remain. After the truce was signed, Israel ignored the requirement to allow the residents to remain, forcing all of them out of their homes.

While he was living in Palestine, Ahmed was not in the family's original place and was therefore a refugee. He was not allowed to travel to Gaza, for example, and had met people from Gaza for

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

the first time when he came to England. His was now the third generation living in the north since they were expelled from their town in 1949. In the refugee camp the family knew all their neighbours from the original neighbourhood of al-Faluja and from their stories he knew a lot about the town. He said that going back to al-Faluja was a priority, and was against the re-settlement of refugees, even within Palestine. The Israelis were counting on young Palestinians to forget their origins, but Ahmad said they would never forget.

**Q. "Are many of the family still living in refugee camps?"**

A. "Like many Palestinian families, members are living all over the world. Some are in Gaza, some in Jordan, others in Canada and the USA; I even have an uncle in China. A huge number of Palestinian refugees live in South America, with over half a million in Chile alone."

**Q. "How is life generally in your area?"**

A. "When the Israelis came into the West Bank in 1967 there were attacks on the population, but today most people in the West Bank have never seen suffering of the kind that those in Gaza and places like Hebron and East Jerusalem experience."

**Q. "How is life for refugees living in Jordan?"**

A. "Those in Jordan are the most fortunate of Palestinian refugees. Jordan is a newly established country set up by France and Britain, giving the name Jordan to the land. The Hashemite Kingdom saw that the Palestinians came with skills that could be good for building the new nation. Palestinians number some five to six millions of the nine million total population of Jordan. The majority hold full Jordanian citizenship and have property rights. Things are much worse for refugees living in Lebanon. They are denied citizenship, face employment restrictions and cannot own property. Most live in refugee camps."



Palestinians in Syria are in between – they have some rights and can work though they don't have citizenship."

**Q. "What is the reason for the bad conditions for refugees in Lebanon?"**

A. "I am not sure why this is so. Lebanon has not granted property or citizenship rights. Palestinians might have been involved in civil disturbances that made them unpopular." (Audience member) "It might be because in 1948, when large numbers were forced out from Galilee, most fled to Lebanon which was then overwhelmed, not knowing what to do with them. Since then, they and their descendants have been stateless in refugee camps."

**Q. "How are things for those in Syria?"**

A. "They are not allowed citizenship but are permitted to work. When Palestine was divided from Syria in 1919, many from the population moved to Palestine, so today some Palestinians are from families that once were in Syria."

**Q. "What kinds of travel documents do Palestinians have?"**

A. "There are three principal kinds of ID. Palestinians living inside Israel have Israeli ID but some are refugees inside Israel. Those in the West Bank have Palestinian Authority travel documents, with different ID cards for those staying in Jerusalem. There is a fourth kind of ID,



## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

for Syrians living the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since 1967. All towns but one have been de-populated but the residents there refuse to hold Israeli citizenship."

**Q. "How easy is it to travel abroad for those holding Palestinian travel documents?"**

A. It is horrible to travel to foreign countries. We have to obtain a visa from the Israeli authorities in Tel Aviv, which is very difficult and time-consuming. The UK has now started to process visa applications in Jordan, which is a great improvement. It is still really hard to get to study in England.

A long line of documents is needed. Israelis on the other hand can come to the UK without visas. Palestinians really have to travel to Jordan in order to leave the country."

**Q. "What do you hope to do when you go back to Palestine?"**

A. "I will be in a university teaching the English language."

**Q. "We have heard that students from Gaza have to sign undertakings that they will not return for a year or longer. Did you experience anything like that?"**

A. "Not personally, no. However, if those from Gaza leave from the Egyptian side, the Israelis cannot prevent them from travelling. Those leaving from the West Bank do face some restrictions. When they go back they face very detailed questioning, such as: 'didn't you like Leeds?' 'Was England so horrible?' This is designed to make people frightened; to know that they are being watched."

Everyone is welcome to go along to Sabeel in Yorkshire meetings

**The next meeting is**

Wednesday 17th July 2019, 6.00 - 8.00pm,  
Mill Hill Chapel, City Square Leeds LS1 5EB

when Musheir al-Farra, chair of Sheffield PSC, will talk about his recent visit to Gaza.

## REFLECTION: THE ECONOMICS OF GOD

"...God's ridiculous economics are ridiculous by secular standards, yet they dethrone Mammon and demonstrate that they are far wiser than the best economic theories of the world.

The giving up of his own life, the pouring out of his life for others – for you and me so that we may know God – does not expend his life, yet brings an infinite amount of life to us. The laws of economics say that spending in one area gives revenue in another, and they all balance out. Jesus' economics are so much bigger than this. They do not balance. The spending of God's life gives an infinite quantity of life to the world."










*Justin Welby, Dethroning Mammon, London: Bloomsbury Continuum, 2016, p.25*





## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

### EVENTS

 <b>Tuesdays</b> <b>6pm – 8 pm</b>	<p><b>MENWITH HILL GATE PROTEST.</b>  <i>Menwith Hill HG3 2RQ</i>  Menwith Hill is crucial to the conflict in the Middle East - the base is on our door step. There has been a weekly demonstration at MH organised by CAAB (Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases) for 12 years (and more infrequently for much longer). In these particularly dark times, it's REALLY important that it continues and that each week there is someone there to focus the protest at people who work on the base. Why not join them for an evening? (there are plenty of country pubs to repair to afterwards!)</p> <p>The Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign (MHAC) - web site is now at: <a href="https://themhac.uk">https://themhac.uk</a></p>
 <b>Thu 20 Jun</b>	<p><b>POVERTY AND HEALTH</b>  <i>The Thornbury Centre, Leeds Road BD3 6JX 10:00 – 12:30 Refreshments from 09:30</i>  This conference has been organised jointly by Wellsprings Together Bradford and Welfare Reform Impact Bradford. Open to all faith communities and those wanting to tackle poverty in Bradford and Keighley. Please email <a href="mailto:richardpaley48@hotmail.com">richardpaley48@hotmail.com</a> For more information phone Gordon Dey on 02174 674565</p>
 <b>Wed 26 Jun</b>	<p><b>CLIMATE CATASTROPHE: MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT</b>  <i>Houses of Parliament, London 12:00 – 16:00</i>  You don't have to go to London to make your voice heard with your MP! - you can always send them an email. It is important that as many of us as possible contact them to express our concerns about the Climate Catastrophe.</p>
 <b>Wed 17 Jul</b>	<p><b>SABEEL YORKSHIRE MEETING – REPORT ON A VISIT TO GAZA</b>  <i>Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB 18:00 – 20:00</i>  Chair of Sheffield PSC, Musheir al Farra will report on his recent visit to Gaza. ALL WELCOME</p>
 <b>Fri 26 Jul – Sun 28 Jul</b>	<p><b>NJPN ANNUAL CONFERENCE: FORGOTTEN PEOPLE, FORGOTTEN PLACES</b>  <i>The Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick, Derbyshire</i>  A weekend of keynote speakers, workshops and a Justice 'Fair' to help us reflect on how to become a 'Church of the Poor'. The key partner for this year's conference is Church Action on Poverty and the conference chair is John Battle, chair of the Leeds J&amp;P Commission.  See <a href="https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/">https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</a></p>
 <b>Tue 06 Aug Fri 09 Aug</b>	<p><b>HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI DAY</b>  <i>Global</i>  Please try to ensure that prayers are included in the liturgies of your community around these dates to remember those who died and the task still with us of persuading governments to eliminate possession of nuclear weapons.</p>
 Find us on <b>Facebook</b>	<p>Follow us on Facebook to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.</p>

**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**