

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

### THE TIME IS NOW: LOBBYING FOR CLIMATE ACTION By Madeline Woods

On 26 June individuals and groups from all over the country met in London to lobby parliament about Climate Change and future climate action. This included a number of people from the Leeds Diocese, gathering to meet their MPs. When asked why they had chosen to attend, a variety of reasons were given. Some of these were practical – simply wishing to have their voices heard by a government seemingly focused entirely on Brexit – and others were more personal – Michael Emly of Leeds North West (Our Lady of Kirkstall parish) said that he was attending “for the sake of our grandchildren”, and Jack Oakshatt said his motivation was “so my kids can grow up in a stable world full of wildlife and beauty”.

Studies have shown that peaceful protests can be incredibly effective. It reportedly only takes 3.5% of the population actively participating in a protest to ensure serious political change – with an estimated 12,000 people just at this event alone, this target is closer than ever in relation to Climate Change. Over 300 MPs came out to speak to their constituents. These included Alex Sobel MP of Leeds North West, Alec Shelbrooke MP of Elmet and Rothwell, Naz Shah of Bradford West and Fabian Hamilton of Leeds North East.

Alex Sobel MP is passionate about Climate Action, stating that “The UK needs to be a global leader on Climate Action,” and that the current net zero target of 2050 is too late. One specific example he gave of this was the diesel and petrol ban – the governmental aim is currently to have all new cars being effectively zero emission by 2040. Mr Sobel suggested that rather than 20, this ban should be more like 6 years away.

Mr Sobel was open to suggestions and discussion with his constituents, including discussing the lack of a major public transport system in Leeds. He confirmed that a Park and Ride system will happen around Leeds Bradford Airport in the future.

While Mr Sobel was open to discussing the issues and potential solutions in his constituency, he also stated that “it’s not about Leeds North West, it’s not about Yorkshire, it’s not about the UK. It’s about the world.”

Alex has shown his passion for the climate before, attending an event organised by the parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall at which families discussed the next steps they could take as individuals and those we must take as a country. The banner, pictured below, was created at this event. It features thumbs ups with names of those attending the event and those passionate about climate action in the local area, and suggestions from those at the event of what our future could look like.



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Alec Shelbrooke MP met with 6 people from his constituency, pictured below. These included representatives of CAFOD and J&P living in St Benedict's parish in Garforth, Greenpeace and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Mr Shelbrooke stated that he supports a strong Environment Act, though is not sure a 2045 target for zero carbon emissions is achievable. Having worked as a mechanical engineer, he suggested that there are many technological



Alec Shelbrooke with constituents – including Joe & Carol Burns from Garforth

solutions to help us towards our net zero target.

The Environment Act was a strong factor in encouraging people to attend the lobby. Emma Temple, who is part of the Student Christian Movement at the University of Leeds, said that this was her reason for attending – “to hold MPs accountable and ensure that there will be a strong Environment Bill when leaving the EU.”

As well as individual campaigners, the event was attended by faith leaders, school groups and volunteers for many charities. The school groups had an additional area with activities, such as making signs with Christian Aid and dressing as Zero Heroes with CAFOD.

At 2pm at the event, campaigners' alarms rang, a signal of the reason for the event – The Time is Now.

The event was a definite step in the right direction, as well as being a fantastic day with an amazing atmosphere.

### In Pictures: The Time is Now



Alex Sobel ( Leeds NW - Left)  
Rachel Reeves (Leeds West -right)

Yorkshire & Humber constituents gather



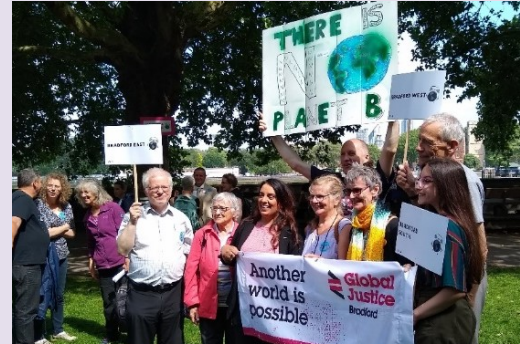


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### Continued... In Pictures: The Time is Now



Fabian Hamilton (Leeds NE) with Vince Borg, Deidre Duffy & others



Veteran CAFOD & J&P supporters Mollie and David Somerville with Naz Shah (Bradford W)

### LEEDS CITIZENS TOGETHER ASSEMBLY JULY 2019 By John Battle

Five years under the guidance of Tom Chigbo and Becky Howcroft, our paid organisers, Leeds Citizens is growing in strength and depth as a way forward developing a new, deeper and more hopeful politics of real change in our turbulent times. The recent city-wide assembly held at the Roscoe Church in Chapeltown was well attended and included six new groups signing up as members. The Citizens movement, now expanding into towns and cities all over the UK, is registered as an independent campaigning charity working to bring groups together to train new leadership and to tackle social and economic injustice by actions bringing about real change. The method is to bring groups together to develop skills of attentive listening through 'face to face' (one to one) conversations to share stories of experiences and to develop and agree on common agendas as action for change. Organised listening campaigns led to an initial focus on the need for more support for young and old with mental health challenges, the need to press employers for a real living wage and for good work opportunities for young people in the city. Already as a result of training and working together and applying appropriate pressure we have secured more resources to pay mental health specialists in pilot clinics in Leeds.

Now, together, it has been agreed to intensify the focus on pressing for more support in reality for those with mental health challenges. A strong and widely representative "Mental Health Working Group" has been set up and is meeting regularly. All members of the institution are being encouraged to carry out local "listening campaigns" to build up an evidence base and foster new leadership to speak up. The number of members is now sufficiently city wide to move to more intensive local "cluster action" focussing on our neighbourhood needs. Citizens does not rely on grant-giving and grant stopping funds! Members pay a levy appropriate to their means to ensure Citizens is totally independent on its own resources and sustainable for the long haul. It is open to all faith communities and none, to schools, educational and community bodies. Already a few of our parishes are members in their own right. Our Catholic Diocese of Leeds is a founder member. Catholic Care has joined. The plan is to develop Citizens in Kirklees and Bradford in the coming year.

Perhaps your parish could think about joining?  
Contact Leeds Citizens at:  
[www.citizensuk.org/leeds](http://www.citizensuk.org/leeds)

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### POEMS OF HOPE – By Lucy Irven

Last year, Refugee Week celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and to raise awareness amongst the younger members of our community, the Refugee Support Group asked the schools in the Diocese to write Poems of Hope on the theme of refugees as part of a competition. The children and young people, of all ages, were asked to prepare short poems that expressed something about the lives of refugees, whether in our own country or elsewhere in the world, and that would offer a message of hope. Suggestions for resources that teachers could use in class, such as those available on the CAFOD website, were also provided.

We received over 100 entries from eight schools across the Diocese, including some eye-catching artwork and a wide range of thoughtful and powerful, written work. The styles ranged from acrostic poems based on the word Refugee or Peace to free-flowing text full of imagery and emotion. Some relayed reassuring messages of hope while others focused more on the difficulties that child refugees encounter on their journey. From the youngest, at age 5, to the oldest, in Year 12, the children and young people wrote with imagination, compassion and with strikingly clear messages of support for refugees. Many were beautifully presented with pictures and artistic designs.



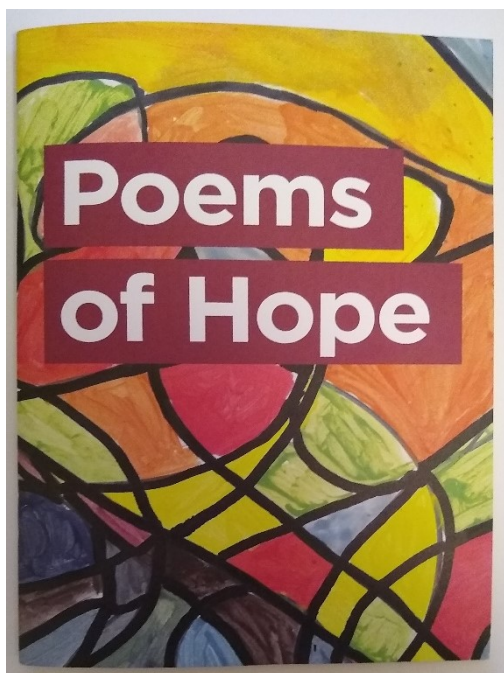
This submission received 4<sup>th</sup> prize



Lucy's Presentation to the children

One idea had always been to compile a booklet of the winning entries which could then be used to help raise awareness in the schools, and especially to promote Schools of Sanctuary. With this in mind, the Refugee Support Group decided to make the publication of this booklet, with a launch event in one of the schools, our focus for Refugee Week 2019. With the help of funds donated privately, Lucy Irven worked with a professional design team to prepare the material for printing and 500 colour booklets were produced.

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The booklet cover

St Joseph's Primary School in Wetherby agreed to host our launch event for the book during a special Refugee Week assembly. This was especially appropriate as last year's Yr 6 students had provided the colourful art work which has been used to make the book so attractive. Teachers and children from St Robert's Primary School, Harrogate and St Joseph's Primary School, Tadcaster, were also able to attend as well as visitors from Harrogate District of Sanctuary, a few parents, and members of the Diocesan Refugee Support Group, John Battle, Joe Cortis, Brian Hamill, Janet Kent and Lucy Irven. After refreshments we were warmly welcomed by Louise Milivojevic, Head Teacher at St Joseph's, Wetherby. Fr Barrie Holmes read a Prayer for Refugees and John Battle spoke about the Refugee Support Group and the idea behind Poems of Hope.

Lucy Irven said a few words about preparing the Poems of Hope booklet and told the children about Pope Francis' message of hope, quoted

inside the back cover of the booklet. "We can and must all nourish this hope!!" Children from all three schools stood up to read poems from the book, including two who read their own, and others presented more recent work prepared for this year's refugee week. The afternoon was a great success and enjoyed by everyone who had come together to celebrate refugee week in this way. Lucy Irven will be visiting another three of the contributing schools before the end of term to say thank you to the staff and children and to give copies of the book to those who wrote the winning poems.

The Schools that contributed to Poems of Hope are: Notre Dame 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, Holy Family Secondary School, Carlton and five Primary Schools: St Philip's, Middleton, Leeds; St Joseph's, Tadcaster; St Stephen's, Skipton; St Robert's, Harrogate and St Joseph's, Wetherby.

Refugees are running away  
from an fair people  
Every one should be loved  
Families leave their countries  
upset because they might  
be lonely because they have  
No money  
Going to school is weird in this country  
Eating new foods is funny  
Escape from work

Esmee

Esmee Vince-Morgan age 6  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

The winning entry



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### CELEBRATING YOUNG PEOPLE AWARDS 2019

The official list for the Celebrating Young People Awards 2019 was announced in London's West End on the 3 July. Nominations were gathered from schools, parishes and organisations across England and Wales. The awards – now in their fourth year – are powered by the Million Minutes Organisation and honour the achievements of those young people who make our communities and our world a better place. Their achievements are a witness to all of us of the dedication that young people have to make a difference.

From the Leeds Diocese, Tom Allan, Samuel Wilson and Eliza Street were among those recognised and celebrated on the 3 July.

#### Tom's Story:

Tom Allan is a 17-year-old who attends St Mary's High School Menston and he received the Barbra Ward Award for Caring for Creation. Since Year 7 Tom has stood out from the crowd and made his



Tom Allan at the Celebrating Young People Awards 2019

belief and passion about the environment known to all. He has been an advocate and student voice of his school's 'Global Warriors' group, which works across the year groups, building whole-school awareness of the need for action by giving regular assemblies and through the Student Voice.

Tom was the driving force behind the school's successful bid to become a Fairtrade school and is a great advocate of CAFOD and all of the charity's work. He has promoted reduced energy days in school and at the moment is involved in steering the move to remove all plastics from our canteen. His environmental efforts across the school captured the attention of the Diocese of Leeds Justice and Peace Commission, and he is the first person of his age to be invited to join them in planning their activities and in managing one of their projects. His chaplain said, *"Tom gives selflessly of his time and energy. He lives out Gospel values and teachings and weaves into all of his work the Word of God. His impact and influence on other young people is to be celebrated and we are blessed to have him among us in our school community and Diocese."*

You can read about all of the inspiring Award Recipients and those recognised as 'Highly commended' on the award [website: millionminutes.org/awards](http://millionminutes.org/awards).

At the Awards evening a new initiative called 'Million Minutes of Change' was launched. Million Minutes will deliver a message to the young people of England and Wales, letting them know how valuable and important they are to the Church. Together, they are being invited to create a million minutes of social action to help change the world. More information is available on the website linked to above.

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## REFLECTION: Ways of seeing those around us

When we encounter someone very different from ourselves then we first spot how they are unlike me. He is Irish and not like me, English. She is a woman, and not like me, a man. He is a young, prickly conservative, and not like me, who am an ancient, delightful and open-minded liberal. But really to hear what they say, I must delight in the difference, and see it as another place in which to stand and look up. I can tiptoe onto their ground, imagine myself at home in their home, and discover the open roof above and the infinity that it discloses. Jesus the Jew gathers his disciples in a particular land at a particular time, and sat with them around a particular table to share his body and blood and to open the way to the boundless spaces of the Kingdom.



*Timothy Radcliffe, OP, What is the point of being a Christian?, London: Burns & Oates, 2005, p.186*



## LITTLE VOICES: BIG DIFFERENCE

*Jesus, Justice & Joy*

A Day with **John Bell** of the Iona Community

Scottish hymn-writer, Broadcaster and former student activist whose main concern is the renewal of worship at the grass roots level

**Saturday 04 April 2020**

10:15 – 4:30

Venue: to be confirmed – Save the Date

Booking will open in the Autumn



A day of listening, talking, singing, asking questions and exploring answers



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### 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>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 –</b> <b>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.</p> <p>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</b> <b>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>
 <b>Sat 21 Sept</b>	<p><b>NORTH FAIRTRADE SUPPORTER CONFERENCE</b>  <i>Teeside University</i>  This event will include; workshops, news and updates from the Fairtrade Foundation – planning for Fairtrade Fortnight 2020 and their upcoming 25th anniversary celebration this year, Fair Trade experts sharing insights on Fairtrade and the wider movement and inspiration and ideas from fellow Fairtrade campaigners in your region.</p> <p>All are welcome but registration for this free event is essential.  Register at: <a href="https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/42211/data/1">https://action.fairtrade.org.uk/page/42211/data/1</a></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**