

## GETTING A CAFOD LIVE SIMPLY AWARD IS THE START OF SOMETHING – NOT THE END

By Trish Sandbach



People gather for prayers around the smallholding in the grounds of St Benedict's

We have been a Live Simply parish for over two years and the award is something that continues to inspire action in our parish. Most of the activities we undertook in order to achieve the award have continued because they were part of the sustainable structure we developed, albeit in a different form. The one-off events may have changed but support for CAFOD, the work of the Refugee Group - which is Garforth based - not just St Benedict's, the Allotment Team, the outreach of the UCM and the Lourdes' group continues.

We have formed an umbrella group, encompassing the groups within the parish who are concerned with social justice and the environment. An advantage of this development is that communication between groups is better and we can support each other

by sharing ideas and activities for raising awareness of issues and campaigns.

In Lent we held Ecumenical services in each other's churches on the theme of togetherness. We focused our liturgy on The Stations of the Forest, a powerful reminder of the destruction of rainforests, their dwellers, flora and fauna. We invited participants to make pledges for change. We met and shared lunch each Wednesday and shared the reflection, prayers and activities from the previous evening's service. We also had ideas for actions towards sustainability in the bulletin each week. Bulletin notes also brought special days such as Environment Day, Earth Day to people's attention.

The Fair-Trade stall at the back of church provides the opportunity to support producers and farmers from developing countries.



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The allotment continues to flourish thanks to a team of very dedicated men, especially at this time of the year when everything is burgeoning. Various beans, rhubarb, onions, beetroot, flowers are available at the back of the church after the weekend masses and also taken up to Neighbourhood Elders Team and to the SVP centre; all organically grown and the donations are used for keeping it all going. During the summer months the allotment flowers are used in church thus saving air miles, pollution and money!

We continue to be active in raising awareness about the plight of asylum seekers and refugees in our area. June 20th saw a group of walkers setting off on a Walk of Solidarity from Garforth to the Home Office on Kirkstall Road, Leeds with stops at St Theresa's, Cross Gates and St Vincent's Centre, with plans developing for the autumn. We also had a speaker from the Medaille Trust on trafficking which is much closer to home than many of us realised.

The UCM invited a speaker from Mary's Meals resulting in a collection and support for the backpack appeal. They continue to support other charities over the year. The SVP box collects tins and dried food as well as clothing. Bacon butties after Sunday Mass continue to be popular among parishioners, both raising funds for the Lourdes group and for CAFOD as well as being a social opportunity to build community. The highlight of a CAFOD coffee morning on

Celebrating Creation was a liturgy on that theme which was held in the allotment under a blue sky and surrounded by flourishing greenery, naming also the need for change in our lifestyles. The celebration continued with home-made Fair-Trade cakes. We were very pleased to welcome Bronagh Daly, CAFOD Community Participation Coordinator for the Leeds Diocese to this event.

At the Summer School Fair, in addition to the usual games and bouncy castles, we had a Fair-Trade stall with foodstuffs & ecologically-friendly products such as recycled foil, unbleached baking parchment and sandwich bags. We handed out leaflets with tips for "caring for our common home". The Live Simply school link person had taken great care to ensure that no plastic or polystyrene plates, cups or cutlery were used. Instead, bamboo and cardboard were used in the catering areas. Huge thanks are due! St Benedict's was privileged to host the Faith and Light Mass as we have done for a number of years, as ever we were blessed by their presence and had a very joyful liturgy.

In the autumn we will review and plan, conscious of the urgency of climate change and our responsibility to change our lifestyles. We will focus on Creation Time from September to October as an opportunity to celebrate God's Creation and show our gratitude by finding more ways of changing and developing the virtue of "Enough-ness".

***There will be more Live Simply updates from other parishes in next month's newsletter***

### **WORLD DAY OF THE POOR** By John Battle, Chair of the Commission

Pope Francis who has established the Church's World Day of Prayer for the Poor three years ago has announced the theme for this year's day to be held on 17th November. In his message announcing the theme he stressed the vital importance of the both "embracing and assisting the poor, the oppressed and out cast" who he in

his typically vivid language has called the "left over people". His emphasis is on being with and what he described in his reference to the Church hospital as the need for "proximity", getting close to and remaining near the poor. Moreover, the focus of the theme is a verse from Psalm 9:19 "The hope of the poor shall not perish forever".



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Pope Francis writes " If the disciples of the Lord Jesus wish to be genuine evangelisers they must sow tangible seeds of hope". The sowing of "tangible seeds of hope" is far from a naive exhortation to a superficial optimism. It is an invitation to engage long term with the real hopes of the poor themselves. This positive engagement draws us into the " good news" stories of the poor themselves. Pope Francis closes his message by calling on all Christians and people of goodwill " to cooperate effectively so that no one will feel deprived of closeness

("proximity") and solidarity. As demonstrated at the recent NJPN (National Justice and Peace Network) conference organised with Church Action on Poverty the best starting point is to engage with their " good news" stories and accounts of those experiencing poverty and exclusion from the outset. Let them lead us into the " Good News" of evangelisation keeping in mind the warning of St Vincent de Paul that " the poor suffer less from a lack of generosity than from a lack of organisation".

### FAMILY POVERTY WORKSHOPS

We would be delighted to have more parishes undertake our series of 5 workshops exploring different aspects of Family Poverty. 4 parishes have completed the workshops and another 4 have committed to starting up the workshops in the Autumn.

Very good course. I was unwilling to be so challenged at first but now am glad of it (I think !!)

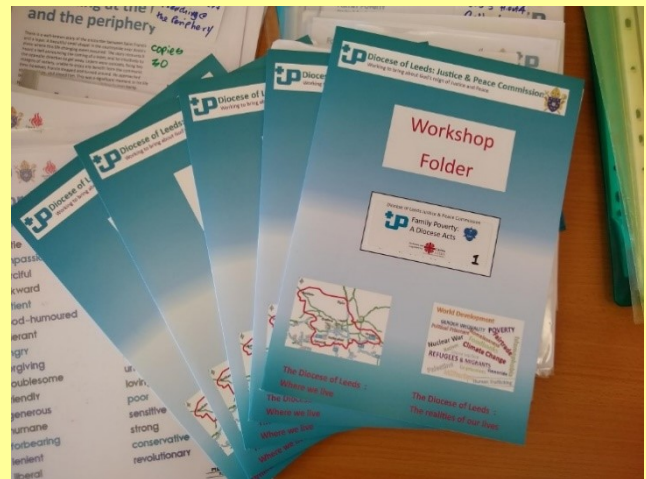
I would recommend to everyone they should attend these workshops as I found it very helpful and informative

There have been a number of very positive comments about the quality of the materials and the range of activities that are included.

For it to work, the workshops need to be facilitated by someone used to working with

small groups. The Commission will help you find someone if you do not have anyone in the parish who could undertake this task. What we really need in parish settings is someone to 'champion' the workshops – to advertise them and ask people if they will come along. The commitment is to attend 5 workshops that will last between 1 ½ to 2 hours each. A typical workshop session will be a mix of Gospel Reflection, looking at case studies, perhaps viewing a short video, discussion about key questions and sometimes a PowerPoint presentation.

Simply email the office ( [jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk) ) if you would like further information.





## **WOMEN IN BLACK** By Carol Burns

In Leeds, a group of women (of faith and none) have gathered together to protest against the Occupation of Palestine.

The first “Women in Black” Vigil was held on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August from 1:30 – 2:30pm at Dortmund Square. Following vigils will be held on the first Tuesday of the month from now on at the same time and place. All women are welcome.

One member of the group is Ann Tracey (who is a Pax Christi member and parishioner of Blessed John Henry Newman Parish) said, ‘When we see the blatant injustice of what is happening to Palestinians, we simply must speak out.’

### **DISAPPEARING PALESTINE**



**5 million Palestinians are classified as refugees by the UN**

Daily human rights abuses include:

- Daily ID checks and military checkpoints wherever you go
- 201 homes demolished so far this year, families left homeless
- Arrests a daily reality - over 7,000 Palestinian political prisoners, nearly 500 of them held without trial



The first WiB demonstration in Dortmund Square Leeds

- Every year 700 Palestinian children arrested
- 1 million Israelis living in ‘settlements’ in illegally occupied Palestine in newly built towns with all modern facilities – while 2 million Palestinians live in Gaza in an “open prison”
- Peaceful protests in Gaza met with bullets - 266 shot dead in the last year, 50 were children, 3 medics and 2 journalists -and 3,000 children hospitalised
- Palestinian lives are cheap: in the last 10 years 222 Israelis killed by Palestinians, 5,436 Palestinians killed by Israelis
- Children aged under 18 subject to military law (nowhere else in the world).

### **Why are Women in Black doing this?**

- Israelis and Palestinians are two peoples claiming the same land
- The founding of the state of Israel as a Jewish homeland in 1948 was a catastrophe for Palestinians, ¾ million were expelled from their homes and villages
- During the 1967 ‘Arab-Israeli war’ Israel occupied more Palestinian land, which continues today - defying the Geneva Convention



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- Palestine has been illegally occupied by Israel for over 50 years

### Women in Black Internationally

Women in Black is a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence. As women experiencing these things in different ways in different regions of the world, we support each other's movements. An important focus is challenging the militarist policies of our own governments. We are not an organisation, but a means of communicating and a formula for action.

### FIND OUT MORE

Nationally and locally there are many ways to get involved. Here are a few websites to check out:

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

Friends of Sabeel  
<http://www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/>

Palestine Solidarity Campaign  
[www.leedspsc.org.uk](http://www.leedspsc.org.uk)

Medical Aid for Palestinians [www.map-uk.org](http://www.map-uk.org)

Leeds Palestinian Film Festival  
[www.leedspff.org.uk](http://www.leedspff.org.uk)

Women in Black vigils originated in Jerusalem, Israel in January 1988 in response to the beginning of the first Palestinian Intifada. The message "Stop the Occupation" appeared on the image of a hand signalling "stop". At the peak of the anti-occupation movement there were 30 vigils throughout the country. Today there are still four regular vigils that have been demonstrating since 1988, as well as many throughout the world.

### WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

15 – 22 September

The World Council of Churches invites member churches, faith-based communities, and civil society organisations around the world to join together for a week of prayer for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel.

The theme in 2019 is ***"Humanity and Equality in God's Creation"***.

See their website for more details

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/world-week-of-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

### YORKSHIRE FRIENDS OF SABEEL KAIROS

#### Drone warfare from Gaza to Raqqa

18 September 6pm for 6:30 @ Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds

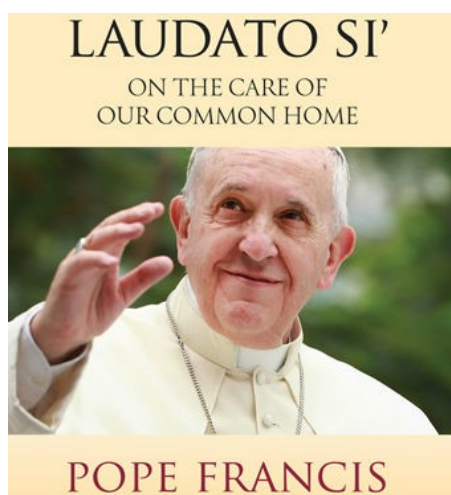
Come and hear **Chris Coles**, Director of Drone Wars UK and vice-chair of Pax Christi UK, talk about this dangerous development in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Free event – **ALL WELCOME**



## DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT POLICY IN PREPARATION

For about 12 months now the Commission has had a small project steering group working on the development of an Environment Policy that could be adopted by the Diocese. Since the publication of *Laudato Si'* in 2015 there have been 4 dioceses that have adopted such policies and some other dioceses also have them in preparation.



The Project group (Maggie McSherry & Paul Kelly from St Mary & St Michael parish in Settle, John McLaughlin from St Augustine's parish in Leeds, Trish Sandbach from St Benedict's parish in Garforth, John Moran, Diocesan Financial Controller and a member of SS Peter & Paul parish in Wakefield and, more latterly, Keith Pitcher from SS John Fisher & Thomas More in Burley in Wharfedale) took inspiration from dioceses that had already drafted or adopted a policy and they were strongly influenced by the practical approach adopted in the Anglican Diocese of Leeds. Whilst *Laudato Si'* was the inspiration for starting this project, the group were keen to develop something that could be used practically within the diocese rather than being too 'fluffy' in its language and aspiration.

Why have such a policy? Well, as the introductory paragraph to the policy states, *"This policy is the cornerstone of our intent, as a body of people committed to 'hearing the cry of the poor and the*

*cry of the earth' and working for climate justice at this critical time."*

It has gone through various iterations since we started out on this journey. We have reached a point now where it is split into two very distinct parts

1. A one-page policy that lays out what we think our commitment as a Diocese should be.
2. Eight pages that give flesh to the policy statements by giving concrete examples of actions that could be taken at individual, parish and diocesan level. Whilst our faith requires us to take more action to care for 'Our Common Home', we must also recognise that each personal and parish situation is different.

The most recent draft has been reviewed by the Bishop and, in a letter back to the Commission Chair (John Battle) he says "I have studied the draft carefully and I believe it forms the basis for a very clear and aspirational environmental policy for me as the diocesan Bishop and for the Board of Directors of the Leeds Diocesan Trust to consider for adoption within the Diocese of Leeds".

So, with some minor changes this is now in the process of being submitted for formal approval and adoption by the diocese.



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### LOCAL BOY MAKES GOOD IN SOUTHWARK!

John Wilson was installed as the new Archbishop of Southwark on 25 July 2019.

Born in Sheffield, Bishop Wilson attended the University of Leeds before being ordained into the priesthood for the Diocese of Leeds in 1995 – working in St Joseph’s in Ponterfract and St Joseph’s in Bradford. In 1999 he went to lecture at Ushaw College and went on to become Vice Rector. In 2005 he became episcopal vicar for evangelisation in the Diocese. After the departure of Bishop Roche for Rome he was elected the Diocese’s ‘Administrato’r, between 2012 and 2014. In 2015 he was made an auxiliary bishop for Westminster diocese.

In the homily during his installation, Archbishop John reflected on his new role and drew on St Oscar Romero for inspiration: ‘A bishop can communicate the things of God and interpret human history and human problems only in terms of the depth of faith...He is simply a man of God in the service of all his brothers and sisters...’ He



*continued: ‘A bishop is not a technician, an administrator, or a boss. A bishop is essentially a pastor, a father, a brother and a friend. He journeys with other people, sows hope along their path, shares their sorrow and joy, urges them to seek peace, [...] justice and love, and teaches them to be brothers and sisters...’*

We wish him every blessing in his new role.

### LAUNCH OF LEEDS BIG CLIMATE CONVERSATION By Michael Emly

On 17<sup>th</sup> July, I attended a lengthy session on climate change called the Leeds Big Climate Conversation. Leeds City Council has declared a climate emergency and this session was the launch of a 3 month consultation across the city about what action people felt should be taken so the Council can draw up a detailed plan. See <https://news.leeds.gov.uk/big-leeds-climate-conversation-begins/>

Many of the big players in Leeds were there, the auditorium was crowded (about 200 people) and the evening began with a number of speakers as follows:

- **Keeley Donovan** from Look North had recorded a video speaking about the

effects of climate change in this area: more extreme weather here like the rain that caused the recent Lincolnshire floods and an impact on food production e.g. ruined potato crops (from either flood or drought or both).

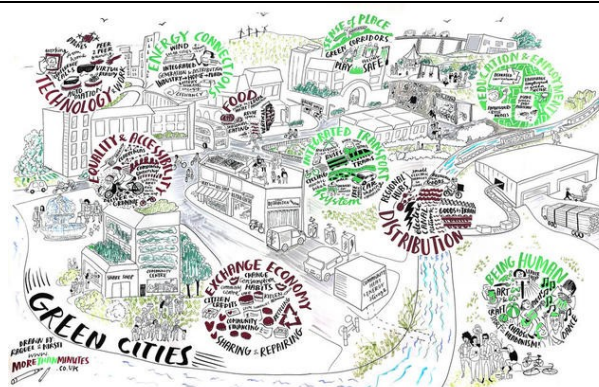
- **Andy Challinor**, Professor of Food Sustainability at the University of Leeds, then spoke about the impact worldwide on crop yields, which will decline significantly by 2030. The effects will worsen throughout the century and by the end of the century will impact on food security in the UK. He cited the



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shortage of broccoli and salad in Spring 2018 as an example (*ed: though some people may think a shortage of broccoli is a good thing!*). He said we need to feel this in our hearts, not just know the science.

- **Lisa Mulherin** is the Council's lead councillor on climate change, transport and sustainability (hope I've got that right!). She said that the Council are planning to take action. Public transport needs to be improved – but the Council is hampered in some of the things it would like to do by not having the legal powers. She encourages everybody to have their say through the online questionnaire which is at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/climateconversation>
- **Andy Gouldson** is chair of the Leeds Climate Commission which has been advising the Council. He spoke about the carbon roadmap. Some progress has already been made and the trend will achieve a 56% reduction in CO2 by 2030 but we need to achieve at least 80% by that date. How to close that gap? Half can be done within the framework of existing technology and economics. Some more is technically viable but difficult to achieve. The remainder is only viable with innovation. The Council needs feedback on what and how to deliver this reduction: the slogan must be: "by us, with us, not to us".
- **Richard Flint** is CEO of Yorkshire Water and said this is an energy intensive industry but they plan to achieve net zero CO2 by 2030. A large anaerobic digestion plant is opening at Knostrop, they are planting 1 million trees and restoring peatland to act as a carbon sink.



- **Tim Jones** from Our Future Leeds. Spoke about this grassroots organisation and setting up a climate hub.
- **Rizwan Nawaz** from Madina Town Movement explained how the organisation is trying to engage with the Muslim community about climate change with an approach based on Quranic principles.

We then split into 3 themed workshops and I attended the one on food. As time was tight much of this was a presentation outlining how 16-25% of CO2 emissions arise from food.

- Cereals have a lot of emissions and a lot of waste
- Meat generates a lot of emissions but less waste
- Vegetables also have a lot of emissions and a lot of waste.

Britain is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> internationally in the amount of CO2 generated by food waste – and 69% of this is generated at home, at an average cost of £540 per year (not sure if that is per family or per individual). So we can save money AND save the planet!



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- We need to:
  - Consume less meat and dairy
  - Consume more locally sourced food
  - Throw less away.
- There is something called the Blue Dot Diet which has been drawn up by nutritionists as an aid to cutting CO2.

We then moved back into a plenary session with questions (pre-submitted) put to a panel of “experts” that included all the above speakers plus some others. Key messages are:

- The Council and national government need to implement change – but after conversations with communities affected so they take people with them
- Invest in quality of life, not in things/consumerism
- Leeds needs more powers devolved so it can implement e.g. standards for house building
- We need to reach out and talk with people who are currently not on board. Faith communities are well placed to host events for their neighbourhood, but also conversations in places of work. Need to make people aware of air pollution, crop residues etc. which are also pushing our society towards the right actions. And use the pester power of children!
- There are models abroad e.g. Australia of restructuring economies in the right direction
- China is moving rapidly towards solar power and reforestation. And the UK has a duty to move quickly as we are the no.1 generators of CO2 if you take historic emissions into account as well.

This is an opportunity to reshape our city in a positive way that benefits us all.

The event highlighted the need for more information e.g. the Carbon literacy project work on supporting everyone at work or at home to understand the impact different activities have on our carbon footprint <https://carbonliteracy.com/>

The Leeds Bradford Airport expansion felt like the elephant in the room: nobody mentioned it although there was lots of support for the representative from Extinction Rebellion.

The meeting was closed by Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council, who said that the Council has adopted sustainable development goals and declared a climate emergency but needs also to address issues of social justice.



The 3 pillars of sustainable development are:

- Inclusive development
- Healthy living
- Tackling climate change.

These last reminded me of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor! (aka the CAFOD Live Simply Award principles)

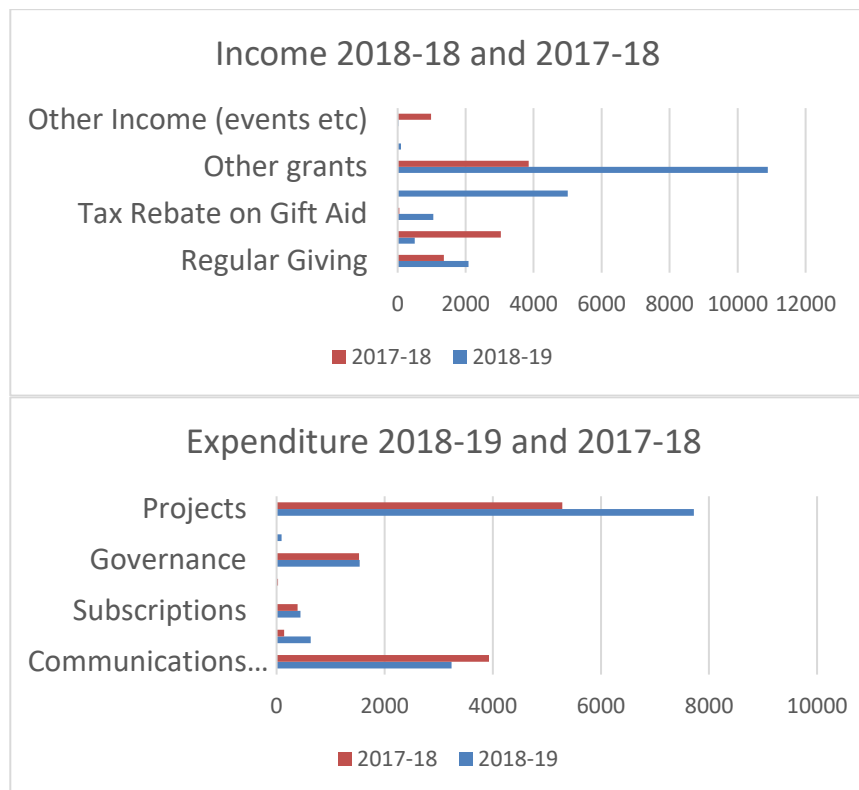
It was an exhilarating experience to be in a room with so many others who are committed to seeing change occur.



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### FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL 2018 TO MARCH 2019

The charts below show the main sources of income and expenditure for the financial year that ended in March this year. Both our income and our expenditure is increasing.



In the last year we spent nearly £8,000 working on various projects – from our Days of Reflection, through to the Family Poverty workshop programme and the development of a draft for a Diocesan Environment Policy, as well as a project in relation to the centenary of the end of World War I. Communications was the second biggest item of spend – and this covers our monthly newsletter, Facebook updates and website updates. Governance costs are simply those associated with the Commission meetings and adequately reporting what we do in minutes and making sure that we keep adequate financial records and produce regular financial reports.

In total, we received £5,000 towards our work from the Diocese in the last financial year, and they have committed to providing the same level of support this year. We receive, including the tax rebate, about £3,000 from regular contributors to the Commission's work. As always, we are extremely grateful for these contributions. They come from a relatively small number of individuals. The other main income is grants towards the costs of specific projects that we do. In February 2019 we received a grant of £10,590 until Dec 2019 (with the same amount to follow in 2020) for the Spark Social Justice Project.



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### COULD YOU HELP THE COMMISSION FINANCIALLY?

Our regular contributors play an invaluable role not just for the money they give but because it demonstrates to potential funders of projects that there is a groundswell of support for what we do and this puts us in a stronger position when applying for external funding.

Please consider setting up a Standing Order with your bank to pay a regular amount towards the work of the Commission. We would be grateful for any support you could give whether a monthly amount or an annual amount.

Just as an example, it costs the Commission about £2,000 per year to regularly produce this newsletter. If just 100 people pledged £20 annually then that would be a tremendous help to our work. If you do not feel able to make a regular contribution we also accept one-off donations! Standing Order forms can be downloaded from our website (Donate page)

Our Banking details for a one off payment are:-

**Name of the Account:** Trustees of the Diocese of Leeds Justice & Peace Commission

**Bank:** HSBC Bank, 33 Park Row, Leeds LS1 1LD

**Sort Code:** 40-27-15

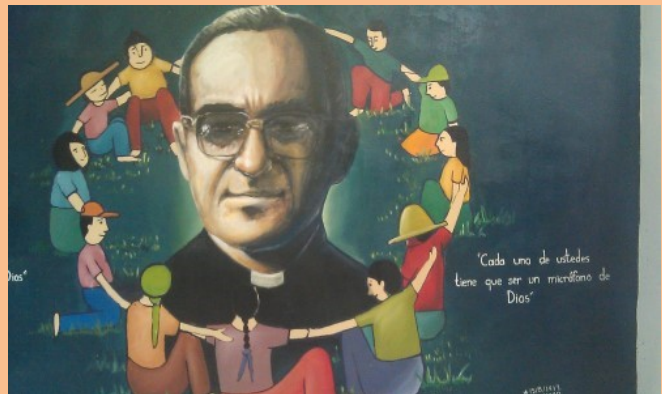
**Acc No:** 01109952

### REFLECTION: THE VIOLENCE OF LOVE

"The church must suffer for speaking the truth, for pointing out sin, for uprooting sin. No one wants to have a sore spot touched, and therefore a society with so many sores twitches when someone has the courage to touch it and say:

"You have to treat that. You have to get rid of that. Believe in Christ. Be converted."

*St Oscar Romero, "The Violence of Love"*



### EVENTS



Wed 18 Sep

#### DRONE WARFARE: FROM GAZA TO RAQQA







Mill Hill Chapel, City Square, Leeds 18:00-20:00

*See details on page 5*





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 <b>Sat 21 Sep</b>	<p><b>NORTH FAIRTRADE SUPPORTER CONFERENCE</b>  <i>Teeside University</i></p> <p>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. 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>
 <b>Tue 24 Sep</b>	<p><b>JUSTICE &amp; PEACE COMMISSION MEETING</b>  19:00 – 20:45</p> <p>This is the regular quarterly meeting of the full Justice &amp; Peace Commission. Anyone in the Leeds Diocese is welcome to come along to a Commission meeting. Please email the office if you are interested and want more details.</p>
 <b>Sun 29 Sep</b>	<p><b>105<sup>th</sup> WORLD DAY FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2019</b>  <i>Global</i></p> <p>An opportunity to take part in the this global show of solidarity with those who seek to get to a different country to their own. What will you be doing in your parish community?</p>
 <b>Fri 4 Oct</b>	<p><b>CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY</b>  <i>National</i></p> <p>This year, CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day falls on the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Given CAFOD's work on Climate Change it is fitting that the season of Creation should end on this day and that we should remember all those in the world who are most affected by Climate Change: the world's poorest communities. For more information and resources, visit: <a href="https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Harvest-Fast-Day">https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Harvest-Fast-Day</a></p>
 <b>Sat 12 Oct</b>	<p><b>ACTA NATIONAL CONFERENCE – IMAGINING THE CHURCH OF THE FUTURE</b>  <i>King's House, Manchester. 11:00 – 16:00</i></p> <p>This seventh ACTA (A Call to Action) conference has Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu as the keynote speaker taking part in both the morning and afternoon sessions. What do you imagine the Church of the future to be like? Should be an interesting day! The cost is £20 for the day. Booking via the ACTA website is essential.</p>
 <b>Sat 19 Oct</b>	<p><b>J &amp; P DAY OF REFLECTION: THE ALTAR OF THE WORLD</b>  <i>Good Shepherd parish centre, Royal Fold, Mytholmroyd HX7 5EA 11:00 – 16:30</i></p> <p>This special Day of Reflection will use the elements of the mass to explore more deeply our relationship with God's creation. The day will be led by members of the Commission with Fr Donal Lucey. This day is free to attend but places are limited and <b>must be booked</b> by emailing the office <a href="mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk">jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk</a></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**