

**Family Poverty : A Diocese Acts**

**Find out More & Do More**

**A series of 5 workshops about Family Poverty**

- Over half of families living in poverty have at least one person in work
- In a class of 30 the odds are that 9 children will be living in poverty
- Didn't Jesus say the poor would always be with us?
- It's down to Government policy – what can we do?
- One month's notice – could you find somewhere else to live in that time?
- Could you really survive on Benefit Street?



**Project: Family Poverty Workshops: Mar 18- Dec 20**

With funding from the Society of the Holy Child Jesus the Commission has been working on a set of workshops about Family Poverty suitable for use in parishes. In the first 12 months of this project we have worked with Church Action on Poverty to deliver the materials. We trialled them in two parishes, tweaked the materials and during the course of 2019 we hope that workshops will take place in a dozen or so parishes, with support from the Commission.

**Twice yearly Reflection Days Autumn & Spring**

2 Days of Reflection per year are quickly becoming our norm – a way of providing people with the chance to reflect more deeply on the roots of what motivates them to take action for social justice. In October 2018 we were hosted by the Good Shepherd Church community in Mytholmroyd. In March 2019 we held our day at SS John Fisher & Thomas More in Burley in Wharfedale where we spent a day reflecting on the Care of our Common Home. We were pleased to get a full write up in the Catholic Universe.

Diocese of Leeds: Justice & Peace Commission  
*Just Spirituality*  
**Autumn Day of Reflection**  
Saturday 20 October 2018  
10:00 (Mass) until 3pm  
Good Shepherd Parish Centre, Mytholmroyd  
*Still Time to book a place*  
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](mailto: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 I will sort 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.



**Day of Reflection: Caring for the Earth – our Common Home**

Saturday 30 March 2019  
SS John Fisher & Thomas More  
Bradford Road, Burley in Wharfedale LS29 7PX  
10:00am – 4:00pm



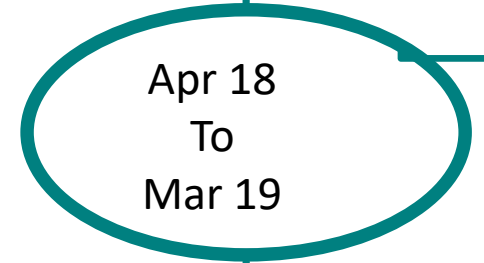
A day of prayer, some short inputs, discussion and time for personal reflection about our place in God's creation and our responsibilities towards looking after it. The day will start with the normal community mass at 10:00 and finish by 4pm at the latest.  
This day is free to attend but please book a place by emailing [jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)  
Everyone coming is asked to bring some food to share at lunchtime.

**UK Poverty**

**Prayer & Reflection**

**Outreach**

**Climate Change**



**Peace and nonviolence**



Our focus this year has not been on large events but on trying to reach out to more individuals, parishes and also to reach out to schools. We have done this through

- Encouraging parishes to take up the Family Poverty workshops
- Holding our Days of Reflection in parishes where the Commission has not been previously
- Holding a Climate Change event at St Mary's High School in Menston
- By inviting people to help the Commission by being on the Steering Group for an individual project

**Project: Spark Social Justice**  
We have recently obtained a grant and started a project to engage on social justice issues with people aged 16-30. We are working with Aoibheann Kelly who will be developing and delivering workshops through to the end of 2020. These with young people will focus on how issues of Social Justice relate to their faith. Our hope is that they will provide the spur that enables them to put their faith into action to help create a better world.

**SPARK SOCIAL JUSTICE**  
**BE A CHANGE-MAKER!**  
**Are you aged between 16-30yrs?**  
**Would you like to make a positive difference to the world we all call Home?**

**PAX CHRISTI**  
**Remembrance is not Enough**  
Sat 10 November 2018  
at 2:30pm  
Mill Hill Chapel  
City Square, Leeds

A special service on the centenary of the end of World War I. Military personnel are just one group for whom war has devastating consequences. Everyone has their lives turned upside down. This is the starting point for this service which also explores 'Peace' not as a state but as a process that needs to be constantly renewed if we are to 'make peace happen'.  
Guest speaker is Rev Andrew Shanks, Theologian

**Project: Diocesan Environment Policy**  
A Project Working Group has developed an Environmental Policy for the Diocese. It is currently in the process of being reviewed at Diocesan level.

**Inter-Generational Conversation on Climate Change**  
We held this at St Mary's High School Menston and it generated a lot of interesting discussion and contribution from the student audience as well as our panel.

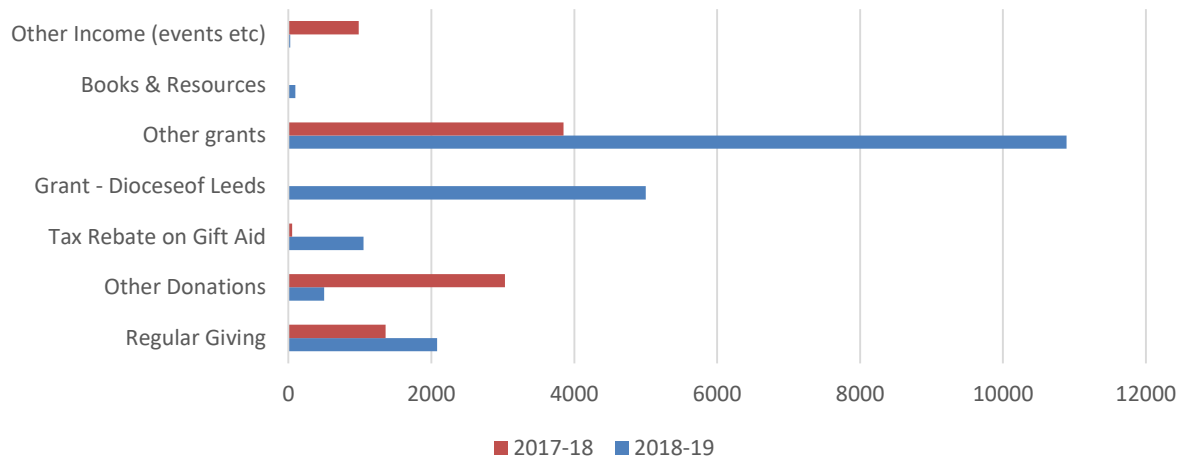
**Supporting CAFOD Climate Change campaigning**  
Throughout last year we have supported CAFOD in their campaigning on Climate Change and encouraged J&P supporters to take part. We have also promoted CAFOD's Live Simply award at various points in the year.

**Project: World War 1 Commemoration**  
Last year was the centenary of the end of World War I. We marked this occasion by undertaking some work with the Leeds Pax Christi group. We developed a liturgical resources book centred around World War I but which could be used on other occasions. This was distributed to all parishes and to all the high schools in the Diocese. We also helped with the Pax Christi group's special service of remembrance which took place on Nov 10 2018.

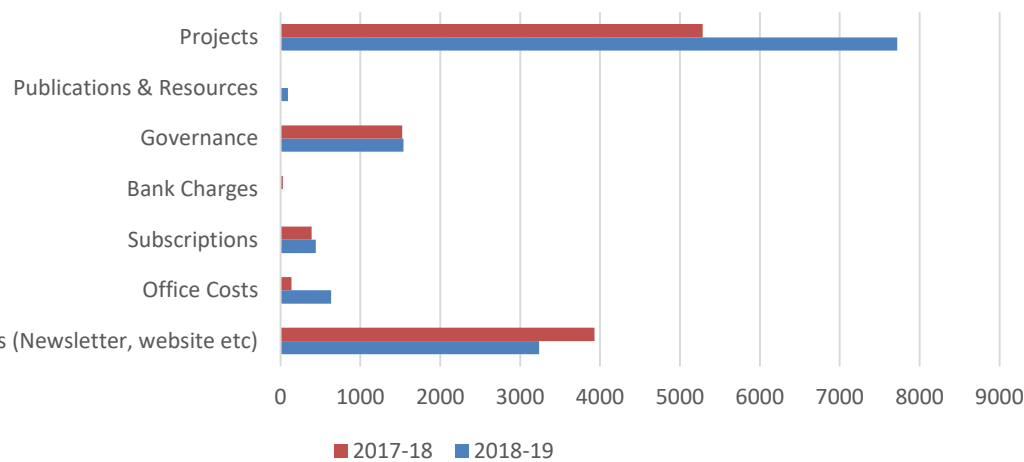
# FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2018-19

## ANNUAL REVIEW: Apr 2018 MAR 2019

Income 2018-18 and 2017-18



Expenditure 2018-19 and 2017-18



In the 'interesting times' in which we live the need to speak clearly the Gospel messages of peace and Social Justice seem to be needed more than ever. Our commission is to help the Church at all levels and particularly in our parish communities to 'read the signs of these fast moving complex times' in the light of the Gospel imperative to prioritise the poor, the refugee, the lonely and the imprisoned. Our parish poverty workshops programme is providing a focus and our regular prayerful 'reflection days' have deepened our approach to helping the Church develop an applied understanding of Catholic social teaching.

As the report of our activities in the middle two pages illustrates, we continue to focus our activities on a few key issues of Social Justice so we can have some impact within our limited resources, rather than dissipate our efforts on too many fronts.

Communication about Social Justice issues and the actions that people across the diocese are taking remain crucial to what we do. We get positive feedback about our monthly newsletter and the last year has seen interest from other parts of the country in reading it. We keep our website updated with events that might be of interest and we regularly post on our Facebook page. This sharing of information would be more powerful if more people from across the diocese shared with us what is going on in their own parish and their own views about issues of Social Justice.

Equally, the Good News of the Gospel is for people of all ages. Out of our reflections about this during the last 12 months we have obtained funding for a project aimed at people aged 16-30 – SPARK Social Justice, and this will feature more prominently next year

My sincere thanks to all those who support the Commission financially and those who generously give their time to help the work of the Commission. Money and volunteer time remain the two biggest limiting factors to what we do. We would be delighted to

It was a great community of like-minded people coming together to discuss issues that concern us all. We need to spread the word that people CAN make a difference starting with themselves as individuals, then in small communities, and eventually have more of an effect globally.

There were so many positive things for me about the experience and day that I am not sure where to start.

hear from anyone else who might be interested in helping our work – being a member of the Commission or helping to manage one of our projects, for instance..

We continue to strive to balance action for Social Justice with reflecting on the Gospel messages that impel us towards action.

Our hope is that more and more people in the Diocese of Leeds will join us in reflection and action to build God's kingdom of Peace & Justice.

**John Battle, Chair of the Commission**

Some of the comments from our Days of Reflection in the last year

In February we received a grant of £10,590 until Dec 2019 (with the same amount to follow in 2020) for the Spark Social Justice Project. The increase in regular giving in the previous financial year resulted in the gift aid tax rebate going up from £55 to £1050. Due to the improved financial position of the Diocese they were able to provide a grant of £5,000 towards our activities this last year and will do the same this year.

We are grateful to those supporters who have taken out standing orders and would encourage others to also help us in this way – our position has improved considerably but good financial support within the Diocese puts us on a better footing when applying to extend those contributions through applying for grants from Trusts and Charitable Foundations. We have a simple Standing Order Form and Gift Aid form that can be downloaded from our website. Please consider if you could support us in this way.

Steve Higgins, Hon Treasurer

### Keep in Touch

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