

'CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME'

*How one parish - **ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS, SHIPLEY / BAILDON** -used a CAFOD Campaign to further empower its community to act for climate justice and the protection of God's creation*

By David Jackson

In June our parish CAFOD contact person suggested at a meeting of the Pastoral Council that we take up the campaign 'Care for our Common Home'. A Group was set up to plan. It was asked to ensure that the voices of young people be heard. One meeting and a flurry of emails later, together with visits to Schools to encourage them to get involved - and a week of events began to emerge. We launched on the first Sunday of September, the Season of Creation, with an enthusiastic speaker from CAFOD and an attractive programme flyer, designed by a Sixth Form student and distributed to all. Quotes from Laudato Si came through September; leaflets were distributed locally to ecumenical partners and to deanery parishes; parishioners were encouraged to sign up for events in the week ending with the feast of St Francis, October 4th; 70 folk signed the CAFOD petition to the Prime Minister; a pledge board for suggestions for change of lifestyle filled with post-its.



The Youth Creation Mass on September 29th found a packed church. Our schools and all the parish youth groups rose to the occasion. – an art-work banner produced by Youth for Christ adorned the sanctuary; children sang their own songs of creation as they processed in; young people read readings and bidding prayers. Mass closed with an a cappella group of sixth formers singing of the need to love all creation and seek climate justice. This was composed by a gifted parent who also choreographed the whole mass. The atmosphere was of a joyful eucharist and communion of thanksgiving and hope for change. It led into the week's varied events:

Tuesday: a guided tour round our local conservation area; in the evening thirty parishioners celebrated Creation with poetry, wine and nibbles;



A dozen brave parishioners were conducted round our Northcliffe conservation area by Brian Gresswell. Cold, wet and very enjoyable

on **Wednesday** Fr Gerry Hanlon of the parish told his stories, entertaining but sobering, of his over 50 years experiences in Peru, many of them spent observing the growing destruction of the forests by commercial interests (logging, cattle and oil); **Thursday**, Paul Rogers, formerly of the Bradford University School of Peace Studies kept an audience of over 40 absorbed in his description of



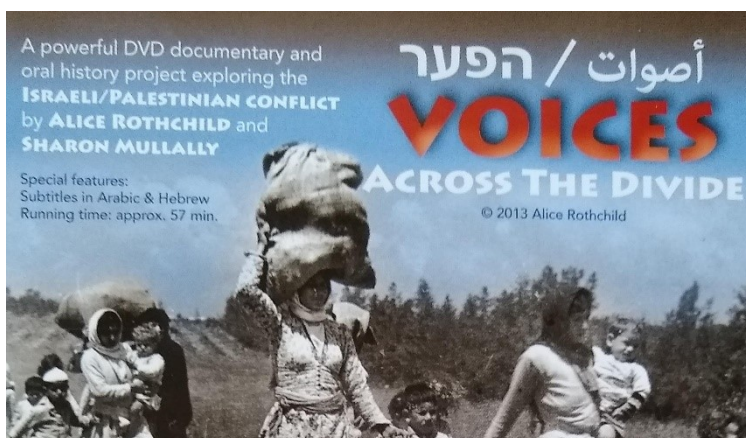
Fr Gerry Hanlon gave an entertaining if sobering account of the impact of climate change on the Amazon rain forest observed in his over 50 years spent as part of the Diocesan Mission to Peru in Iquitos.

why politicians and world governments have been so slow to address the threats of climate change; our week concluded with a final creation mass to celebrate the feast of St Francis and an excellent Italian meal.

What was achieved? The voices of the young (literally!) have begun to be heard; young people working with 'wise elders' together. The process empowers our community to heed Jesus's command to 'seek first the Kingdom of God' by linking that search directly to the call for climate justice. The idea is slowly dawning that they are not different. Folk took small steps to walk together as companions.

Talking must lead to further action. Parishioners are making suggestions. A small campaign group aims to take these forward into proposals. One World Week in October and then Advent gives us opportunities to invite parishioners to view the Bishops' two films: 'Global Healing' and 'Global Caring'. The Year of Scripture will provide opportunities to read the Scriptures with new eyes as the source of 'seeking first the kingdom'. We do not know whether our parish will move to reduce its climate footprint, or create a vegetable area, or cut single use plastic, or find ways to reduce its use of fossil fuels in its plans for new heating and lighting? But it might!

FILM SCREENING: VOICES ACROSS THE DIVIDE



Friday 22nd November 5:30pm
Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds

The Commission has joined forces with The Leeds Pax Christi Group to show this powerful documentary, which will form part of the 2019 Leeds Palestinian Film festival.

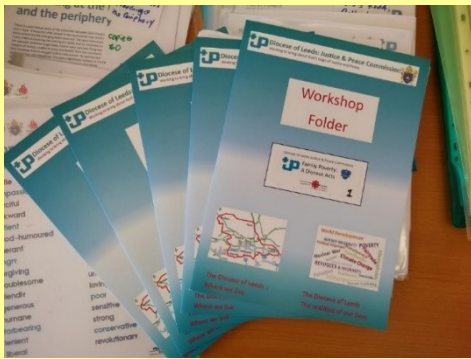
*The event is free to attend (collection taken) but **please book a place by using our Eventbrite page for this event.***

The film lasts for about an hour and there will be time for questions and discussion afterwards. Stalls and (hopefully) some Palestinian snacks will be available both before and after the screening and discussion. To book a ticket:

Use this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/film-showing-voices-across-the-divide-tickets-73955263183>

FAMILY POVERTY WORKSHOPS – COULD YOU ‘CHAMPION’ THEM IN YOUR PARISH?

We would be delighted to have more parishes undertake our series of 5 workshops exploring different aspects of Family Poverty. 5 parishes have completed the workshops and others have started up



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) if you would like further information.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE FAMILY POVERTY WORKSHOPS IN SHIPLEY/BAILDON

By Roman Hazulczuk, St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish

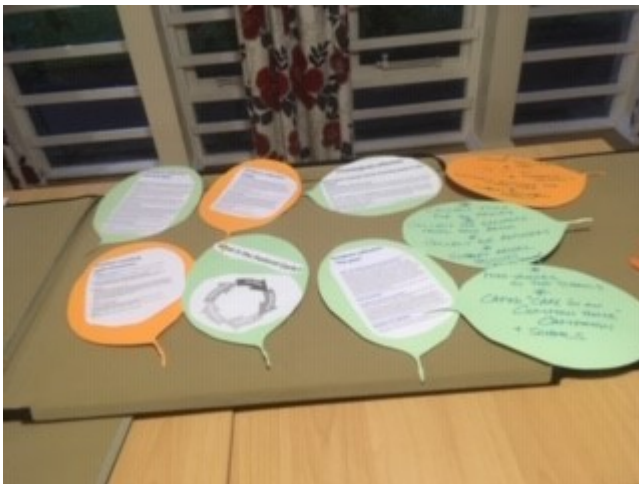
In July 2019, a group met at St. Walburga’s Parish Hall in Shipley. They had decided to take part in a 5-week workshop programme on the causes and possible solutions to poverty in our respective parish communities and beyond. There were 16 participants and three more who could only attend one session. The workshops had been advertised in the Heaton and Bingley / Cottingley Churches and being able to learn about our different experiences, to share them and to grow as a group / community action group was stimulating and encouraging.

In all such workshop sessions there are three significant phases which we need to address as a matter of urgency and these are; 1. Thinking about the problem of family poverty, 2. Deciding what we can do about it and 3. Acting or doing something about it. Therefore, we must think, decide, act/do. All three phases are inextricably

linked together. Without any agreed actions, the workshop series become just a well-meaning talking shop and that simply won’t do. Actions always speak louder than words. At the moment we are still at the thinking stage but for this series of workshops to lead to a successful conclusion, we need to move to the deciding and doing stages from Autumn 2019 onwards. To do this we need to build a broad base of faith and non-faith-based support. A challenging task!

The challenge of addressing poverty is a huge one. Pope Francis has written and acted upon many encyclicals on the subject and the Bible provides us with many examples of how poverty can be alleviated and tackled. As Christians we have a duty to do this in our lives and we have a mission to counter this. We cannot stand by in silence without acting and must be prepared to get our hands dirty to try and cope with the challenge.

The 17 tenets of Catholic Social Teaching (CST) have a huge role to play here. It is disappointing that CST is not emphasised as strongly in Catholic Education as it should be and that people are not as inspired to do good works as much as they ought to. This needs to change both in catholic education and in life in general. Catholic social teaching could be directly linked to the features of a good sustainable area and this could provide a way forward.



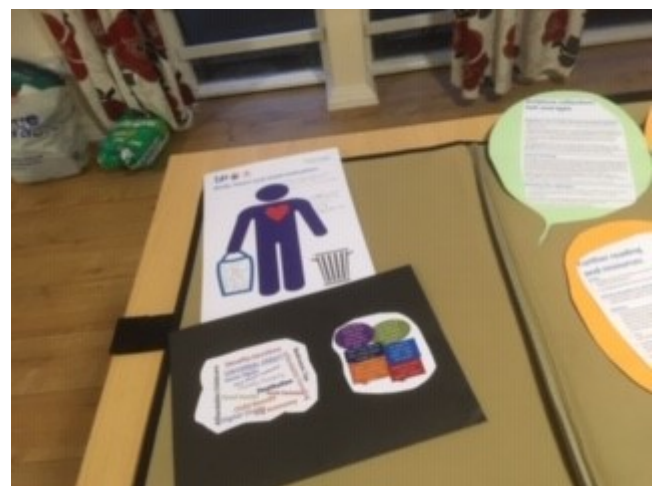
workshop activity

We do a lot now in our parish and it is not always well publicised either locally or regionally. These activities include:

- Supporting the Bradford North Food Bank- with donations and collections
- Support the Pio Friars with donations
- Bingley Methodist Church provides lunches for poor people
- Saint Vincent De Paul Society – SVP – Providing practical support and visiting people in need
- INN Church initiative for homeless people – providing certain homeless guests with assistance and sustenance for a defined period of time
- Union of Catholic Mothers – Providing help especially for young children and Babies

- Mini- Vinnies- Groups of catholic Primary school children who help older and poor people in their communities by doing school events like lunches for them.
- TWIG (An NHS involvement group)

But where do we go from here? We are in the process of setting up a follow-up workshop to help us decide. During the course of the workshops we came up with all sorts of suggestions. These included: Reaching out to other faith groups, asking them for help, advice and assistance in our anti-poverty strategy. The challenge is too big for us to tackle on our own. We also thought about reaching out to political, civil and business groupings in the same way. We also thought of developing opportunities for people to do voluntary work on the poverty agenda to improve their work chances and/or embellish their UCAS forms for university; perhaps offer opportunities for young people to develop counselling, mental health, advocacy and debt management skills. There was no shortage of ideas – the challenge is to settle on something and then to get on with it.



Workshop activity materials

SPRING 2020 DAY OF REFLECTION: LITTLE VOICES BIG DIFFERENCE – 4th APRIL 2020



LITTLE VOICES: BIG DIFFERENCE

Jesus, Justice and Joy

04 April 2020 10:15am – 4:30pm

**Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth
LS18 5HD**

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

John Bell is a Resource Worker with The Iona Community, who lectures, preaches and conducts seminars across the denominations and across the world. He has a style of storytelling that is engaging for people of all ages – often the first thing he does in a workshop is to get everyone to sing something in 3 parts! He is a hymn writer, author, occasional broadcaster (Thought for the Day on Radio 4) and former student activist but retains a primary passion for congregational song. Many of John Bell's hymns and stories relate the Gospels to issues of social justice – and that is why we have invited him to come and lead us in our reflections on this day.

We want this day to be a real inter-generational one - where people of all generations come together share the Joy of the Gospel messages of Justice and Peace for all. We are promoting it in high schools through the lay chaplain network – but would welcome other initiatives to encourage younger generations to come along.

As is usual, this day will be free to attend but there will be a collection taken at some point.

We are expecting this day to be very popular - so booking via the Eventbrite page for this event is essential: you will need your tickets on the day.

Here is the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/little-voices-big-difference-tickets-73797984759>

or (if you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter!) go to www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for Little Voices: Big Difference

DRONES AND MODERN WARFARE

*An abridged report of the Sabeel in Yorkshire meeting held at Mill Hill chapel in central Leeds in September where **Chris Cole, Director of Drone Wars UK** and also **vice-chair of Pax Christi UK**, provided much food for thought.*



RAF Reaper drone.

Crown Copyright

Although this talk focussed on the use of drones, Chris stressed the importance of looking at alternative thinking; to challenge the idea that 'military security' is our salvation. It is taken as a given – an article of faith – that our security can only be achieved through the strength of armed forces, to impose death and destruction on others. This needs to be challenged.

Just over two decades ago drones were primarily used for target practice by the Air Force and Navy. Now they have become central to the way we wage war.

Chris explained that, in essence, drones are aircraft that are remotely-controlled by a crew of three on the ground – the pilot, the sensor operator and the mission intelligence controller.

Secrecy is an issue: we are not officially allowed to know where the UK fleet of Reaper armed drones are. Drone Wars UK has taken the MOD to a Freedom of Information tribunal over this and, while they will happily

give details of the siting of manned military aircraft, UK drone locations are secret. Unofficially it is known that they are based at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. The US has for some time maintained hundreds of armed drones in the Middle East, Africa and Afghanistan. Recently, the US has started to base drones in Europe, initially in Poland. Until recently he had believed that only three countries – the US, UK and Israel – had armed military drones, but now other countries, notably the UAE, Turkey, China and Iran had this capability. He estimated that 20 to 30 countries would regularly be operating armed drones in the next three to five years.

Chris said however, that modern drone warfare was conceived out of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Remote operation, targeted killings, constant surveillance of the population, date from the late 1990's operation in the occupied territories. The term 'targeted killing' was invented by the Israeli military, being preferred to 'assassination'. It was initially condemned (but later adopted) by the US.

Chris then went on to describe the impact of the development of drones on modern warfare.

1. Making it easier for politicians to opt for war

The public don't like to see their young men and women sent to fight in distant conflicts with unclear aims, and particularly seeing them getting killed. Drones, by taking away that political cost, make it easier for politicians to opt for use of military force, particularly when the populist press is baying for blood.

2. Drones: Video game warfare

The idea that the operation of armed drones could lead to a 'PlayStation mentality' in their operation was first suggested by Philip Alston, UN Special Rapporteur on Extra-Judicial Killing. Chris said that, while 'the jury is out' on PlayStation mentality, at the very least there needs to be much greater transparency in the day-to-day use of armed drones.

3. Enabling the expansion of targeted killing

The most controversial use of armed drones is in 'targeted killing', by the US, UK and particularly, Israel. The 'technology enables the policy', referring to David Cameron's authorisation of the killing of two British members of ISIS. The technology was eroding important legal principles established over the last century and more, intended to set limits on the use of military force. Last year the then UK defence secretary Gavin Williamson and his colleague Rory Stewart argued, contrary to International Law, that all British members of terror groups should be hunted down and killed.

In Chris's view this is totally unlawful and immoral, but was indicative of where drone warfare is taking the world.

4. Drones: The myth of precise and surgical warfare

Drones enable, so we are told, 'precision' air strikes that 'take out' the bad guys but leave

the innocent untouched; meaning we can achieve control over the chaos of war using new technology. Chris pointed out however that 'precision' in military doctrine does not mean 'accurate'; there is no such thing as an accurate airstrike.

Airwars, which tracks reports of civilian casualties in the Syrian war, has detailed between 7,000 and 11,000 civilian casualties resulting from all coalition bombing, in around 30,000 air strikes. The US accepts it has killed over 1000 civilians in Syria.



Chris Cole being introduced by Ann Tracey (A member of Sabeel in Yorkshire and of Newman parish)

While early Christians were urging people to love their enemies and engage in non-violent peace-making, contemporary Roman military commander Flavius Vegetius Renatus wrote: "If you want peace, prepare for war". Chris concluded by saying that time and again today, people of faith adhered to the Roman 'might is right' ideology. We should be tackling the root causes of injustice around the world – and this would address the real drivers of insecurity. Chris said that instead of pouring resources into more lethal ways of killing each other, we need to be addressing global inequality by devoting resources to achieving sustainable development goals. We should be employing our brightest and best to developing renewable energy resources and tackling climate change – a security threat to millions world-wide.

Drone Wars UK carries out research and campaigns about the use of Drones by the UK military. For more information see

<https://dronewars.net/>

IS IT TIME TO DITCH THE KINGDOM OF GOD? By Joe Burns

I've never really been in favour of the monarchy and would much rather see a President of the UK. Being a logical sort of person, it means that I've had a bit of a problem with 'The Kingdom of God' for quite a while, as well. Slightly (but only slightly) tongue in cheek I have suggested to several people that the book I want to see written about Jesus is the one entitled 'Jesus for Republicans'.

It turns out it has already been written (well, a short essay form of it) about ten years ago by Fr Diarmuid O'Murchu, a priest of the Sacred Heart Missionary Order.



Fr O'Murchu was the speaker at the recent national ACTA (A Call to Action) conference in Manchester. His brief was to give three shortish lectures about a vision for the church of the future. He was brilliant! – He had an engaging style of presentation (even for the after-lunch snooze spot) but what he had to say really made me sit up and think.

He pointed out that the word used for Kingdom in the Greek version of the Gospel is 'Basileia' but we had to remember that Jesus spoke in Aramaic

and the word that he most likely would have used is '*malkuta*'. On top of this, in order to understand properly what Jesus was getting at, we have to understand the cultural context in which Jesus lived and in which he used language; According to Fr O'Murchu, we have lost a lot in translation!. He posits that although the literal Aramaic translation of *malkuta* is 'right to rule' he also contends that the feminine form of the word that would have been used signals that it is really 'the power of vision and leadership that empowers others towards a more empowering future'. So, Fr O'Murchu's suggestion to replace 'The Kingdom of God' is 'The Companionship of Empowerment'.



The Companionship of Empowerment makes clearer the vision of 'Kingdom' that is related in the Gospel parables: it is people in the here and now working together in community, seeking justice and truly behaving in a moral way: *"Whereas Kingdom denotes royal power and domination, privilege, exclusion and hierarchical control, the feminine versions used by Jesus denote something much more egalitarian, liberating and empowering, a quality of leadership that enables and empowers others to take the next step(s)."* (See his essay on his website <http://www.diarmuid13.com/>)

Now, that is a radical vision which attracts me much more than the more traditional interpretations of 'Kingdom'. His website is well worth perusing!

CREATION AND EUCHARIST – Our Day of Reflection at Mytholmroyd

Our latest day of reflection, held on 19th October at the Good Shepherd parish centre in Mytholmroyd, was an extended celebration of the mass exploring the connections between the mass and care of God's creation.

The day was structured around the different parts of the mass. After some initial refreshments, we started our day with an extended penitential rite exploring and reflecting on the ways in which all of us, both individually and at a community level, have failed to adequately care for God's creation. The usual Liturgy of the Word followed with insightful reflections provided by Mgr Donal Lucey who accompanied us on this day.

All were invited to go and take some time for private reflection after this.

When we got back together as a group it was to sit at a long table that had been set out in a style reminiscent of depictions of the Last Supper. However, before sitting at it, everyone helped to put everything on the table that we needed as a community to celebrate our Eucharistic meal.

When Communion was completed, we took our lunch break – making very apparent the link between the meal element of the Eucharist and physical nourishment through sharing a meal communally. After lunch there was a further period of private reflection as part of our Communion Thanksgiving - with the opportunity to take a walk in the green areas and corridors immediately accessible from the parish centre.



When we re-gathered we took part in a further reflection exercise prior to a final blessing and hymn. This involved everyone being given a piece of clay and being asked to make a tealight holder from it. Clay is a motif used in the Gospels and we reflected on this as we each made our tealight holder. Everyone was then invited to light a tealight, put it in their holder and to place this on a map of the world in places where we know that environmental degradation is worst – to represent our commitment to go away from this celebration renewed in our motivation to do more about caring for God's creation and to recognise that it is the world's

poorest communities that are being most badly affected by our lack of care.

Everyone was very appreciative of being able to join in this celebration. One attendee from Huddersfield commented: *"It was good to make the Mass last all day: time to slow down and let each part of the liturgy speak to me. This was a good context for thinking about the climate emergency, and the guidance of Laudato Si, especially with the focus given by the special Eucharistic Prayer that was used. This reinforced the message that this is our generation's responsibility, and that fine words and sentiments are no use if they do not lead us (and especially me) into making and spreading change in our comforts and habits of consumption."*



PAID WORK OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE J&P COMMISSION



For people who work on a self-employed basis, we have some opportunities for undertaking paid work for the Commission.

If this isn't you then perhaps you might know someone who might be interested – please pass the information on

We need one or two people to :-

- Service the meetings of the Commission & Executive- producing agendas, meeting papers, attending the meetings and writing up key points and action
- Edit our E-newsletter – sourcing & editing articles as well as writing some of them
- Keep our website updated with news, events and the latest information
- Posting regularly on the Commission's Facebook page
- Maintaining our website to appropriate security and software standards
- Managing our smaller projects – such as Days of reflection. This involves writing up Project Steering Group meetings, developing promotional materials, taking responsibility for marketing events, organising venues, managing attendees and taking an active part in helping all events to run smoothly

For more details please email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk and we will send you some more detailed Terms of Reference for the activities we need doing. The closing date for submissions to undertake this work is 18 December 2019

WAKEFIELD REFUGEE RESPONSE MEETING 22 OCTOBER by Lucy Irven

Once more the Diocesan Refugee Support group invited parishioners and organisations to share news and ideas of our support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. This time we were warmly welcomed by Fr Simon Bradbury and Parishioners of Ss Peter and Paul Parish in Wakefield to their very smart Parish facilities. About 50 people gathered for a series of presentations, guided skillfully by John Battle, Chairman of the Leeds Justice and Peace Commission and member of the Refugee Support Group.

Carol Hill, Director of Catholic Care, gave a brief introduction to the Government's Community Refugee Sponsorship scheme and then showed us a very moving presentation of images and music. The shocking images of war torn life in Syria and the treacherous journeys

made across Europe were in stark contrast to those of the welcome and comfort experienced by the families that have been welcomed by Community Sponsorship scheme.

Brian Hamill gave us an introduction to Wakefield District City of Sanctuary (WDCS) of which he was a founding member some years ago. A particular concern of WDCS is those who are accommodated at Urban House, one of the five Government Initial Accommodation Centres in the UK, where asylum seekers will stay for about 3 weeks before being placed in more permanent accommodation while their claim is being considered. About 100 of those Asylum Seekers will then be dispersed to the Wakefield area in a year whilst others go to Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale or Huddersfield.

WCDS offers a range of drop-ins and other support services in venues around the town for which they are always looking for volunteers.

Linda Fielding, also a founder member of WDCS, then told us about the work of the Asylum Seeker Support Fund (ASSF) and Clothing Store, both based in Wakefield. Many of the Asylum Seekers who arrive at Urban House have only the clothes they were wearing on arrival and so the Clothing store offers emergency packs for recent arrivals. They can then provide more substantial packages of support clothing as well as additional household or large items such as a pushchair or winter coat. The ASSF gives them £10 to £20 a week along with food parcels of both fresh and non-perishable foods. Linda said they are always looking for volunteers to help with the Clothing store and Food bank as well as regular funding to maintain their support funds.

The Parish SVP groups in Wakefield are very generous with their support of Wakefield District of Sanctuary. Mike Woulfe of St Peter and St Paul explained how they help with transport to Leeds for meetings or to access the Night shelter. Whilst the SVP works to provide food, clothing and household goods as needed across the city, Mike pointed out that they believe their support is also needed for the emotional and social aspects of life. The personal encounter is a very important aspect of making a difference for refugees and asylum seekers. He said a lot is being done but that there is always more to do and whilst working hard it is always important to remember that we must walk humbly in everything we do.

John Battle closed the presentations saying how important it is to have hope. He quoted the words of Pope Francis, from the back of the Poems of Hope booklet, 'A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment and the education of children...We can and must all nourish this hope!!'



John Battle closes the formal presentations

After the formal presentations, refreshments were available and people could chat informally with the many groups present about the volunteering opportunities available.



people browse the many organisations represented with volunteering opportunities

Anyone interested in finding out more about the situation in Wakefield or supporting refugees and asylum seekers is welcome to contact the Diocesan Refugee Support Group Facilitator, Lucy Irvén on lirven@catholic-care.org.uk / 07739 975 020.







REFLECTION

"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

Mother Theresa of Calcutta



EVENTS

 Sun 17 Nov	THIRD WORLD DAY OF THE POOR <i>Global – are you including something in your liturgies about this day?</i> The theme is 'the Hope of the Poor will not vanish forever'. Will this day be marked in your parish community?
 Mon 18 Nov	LATIN AMERICAN LUNCH AND TALK <i>CAFOD Volunteer Centre, St Monica's Hinsley Hall Leeds LS6 2BX 12:00 – 14:00</i> All are welcome to come along to this lunch with a talk from Nikki Evans, CAFOD's Bolivia desk person. A great opportunity to find out about CAFOD's work in Latin America as well as hearing Nikki's opinion about all the recent protests in the region.
 Wed 20 Nov	RISE UP WITH HOPE – Yorkshire Sabeel Meeting <i>Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square Leeds LS1 5EB 6pm – 8pm</i> Inspiring stories and calls to action from Sabeel's KUMI NOW initiative (kuminow.com). Find out what we can do to act with hope! FREE – donations welcome Refreshments and opportunity to buy Fairtrade items from Palestine from 6 and the meeting will commence at 6:30pm.
 Fri 22 Nov	FILM SCREENING: VOICES ACROSS THE DIVIDE <i>Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds 6pm – 8pm</i> A film showing as part of the Leeds Palestinian Film Festival. See page 11 for details. Free to attend but booking via Eventbrite is essential.
 Thu 12 Dec	J&P QUARTERLY COMMISSION MEETING starts at 7pm <i>Anyone is welcome to come along to a Commission meeting. Drop us an email and we will send you the details</i>
 Sat 04 Apr 2020	LITTLE VOICES: BIG DIFFERENCE – JESUS JUSTICE AND JOY <i>Leeds Trinity University, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth 10:15 – 16:30</i> A day with the well-known broadcaster and liturgist John Bell , of the Iona Community. A real inter-generational day to explore issues of social justice through stories and singing. Free to attend but please book a ticket through our Eventbrite page for this event – you can find the link on our website.

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