



## **“THE TIME FOR ACTION IS NOW” Environment Bishop at the Justice & Peace Conference 23-25 July 2021**



“The time for action is now” is the message the lead bishop on the environment for England and Wales gave at the annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network. Bishop John Arnold of Salford said, “This meeting, a few months before COP26 in Glasgow, allows the voice of the church to come together, unite and look at ways we can take the call for action back to our parishes and communities to create a different legacy for the next generation.”

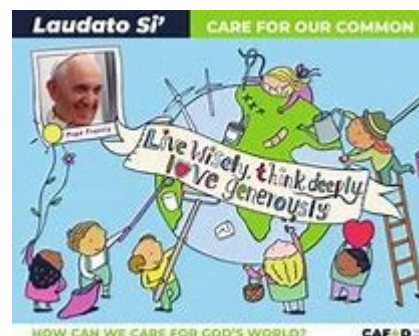


He felt, “this conference comes at a unique and vital moment for we are seeing weekly more and more evidence of the irreversible damage that climate change is having on our common home.” This refers to, “clear evidence around the world” of “severe and long-term droughts, floods, rising sea-levels and extreme record-breaking temperatures that our actions and our way of life are

inflicting on our world.” The chair of CAFOD noted that, “these events have affected millions of people, most often in the poorest countries of the world and people who have done least to damage our environment.”

Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, chaired the conference. ‘2021: Moment of Truth - Action for Life on Earth’ was the theme.

Keynote speaker Lorna Gold, acting Chair of the Board of the Global Catholic Climate Movement and author of ‘Climate Generation: Awakening to Our Children’s Future’, also stressed the urgency of the challenges faced in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss against a backdrop of Covid. “The pandemic and the ecological crises are increasingly intertwined” she says, and “besides a personal conversion, what is needed now is community conversion – and this can be embodied in concrete plans on how our communities will change.” She added that, “after a year and a half of confinement, I hope that participants will leave energised and inspired, with lots of practical ideas on how to create bold *Laudato Si’* plans for their communities.”



Other speakers included Lord Deben (Independent UK Committee on Climate Change), Andy Atkins, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and Mark Rotherham. NJPN Chair Paul Southgate, from Hexham and Newcastle Diocese, said, “Our Conference asks what must be done to build a viable future as we battle climate change, the biodiversity crisis



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and the pandemic? He hoped, “participants will feel inspired, empowered and equipped to meet the challenge and create the deep change required by ecological conversion in themselves, their communities and the world.” Underlining the inspiration from Pope Francis he says: “The future has a name”, says Pope Francis, “and its name is HOPE”.

The liturgy led by Colette Joyce, Justice and Peace Fieldworker in Westminster Diocese, in collaboration with liturgical composer and pastoral musician Marty Haugen online

included a special chant ‘For Our Common Home’ written for the occasion.

So, on the sixth anniversaries of both the Paris Agreement on Climate and Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’*, the conference will stimulate moves towards “ecological conversion”. The conference aimed to launch a decade of transformative action - in lives and communities. Since 2005, NJPN has regularly taken an environmental theme for the national conference and its Environment Working Group, formed that year, has been involved in planning the 2021 conference



The photo shows people from the Leeds Diocese at the conference and Marc Besford, YCW National president who looked after the young people the Commission sponsored to attend. Hopefully, we will hear more from them on our social media and in subsequent newsletters. Also in the photo are Teresa & Tim Deverux (Tim led a workshop about conflict & Climate change) from St Joseph’s in Pudsey and Paul Kelly and Maggie McSherry from St Mary & St Michael parish in Settle.

### **LIVING LAUDATO SI’:**

#### **Your Parish and Your Planet:**

Zoom Retreats, 3rd-6th September or 15th-18th October 2021

*Boarbank Hall, Cumbria, and The Ecological Conversion Group*

**WHY?** Faith is the place to start.

**WHAT?** Understanding is the place to start.

**HOW?** Sharing experience is the place to start.

**WHEN?** Now is the place to start.

**WHERE?** Your parish is the place to start.

**WHO?** Are YOU the place to start?

**What will happen?** A long weekend of talks and discussions on zoom, and practical activities, on living the message of *Laudato Si’* in and through your parish.

**Who is it for?** Any interested parishioner (including clergy!) is most welcome to join us.





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The weekend is aimed especially at people with parish responsibilities or who are part of or want to start a relevant parish group.

**Times** Sessions will be on Friday evening, Saturday morning, late afternoon and evening, Sunday late afternoon and evening night and Monday evening (leaving people free during the day on Monday).

**Speakers** include:

**Cardinal Vincent Nicolls and Bishop Paul Swarbrick**, who will begin and end the September weekend with prayer and reflection. *Members of the Dioceses of Westminster and Lancaster are especially encouraged to attend this weekend.*

**Bishop Alan Williams and Bishop Mark O'Toole**, who will begin and end the October weekend with prayer and reflection. *Members of the Dioceses of Brentwood and Plymouth are especially encouraged to attend this weekend.*



**Trish Sandbach**, who worked in Oxfam Education for many years and led St

Benedict's, Garforth, in the Leeds diocese, to achieving the *LiveSimply* award. She is also an assessor for the *LiveSimply* award (see <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Livesimply-award>).

**John Paul de Quay**, a founder member of the Ecological Conversion Group and *The Journey to 2030* (see <https://journeyto2030.org/>).

**Sr Margaret Atkins**, an Augustinian Canoness at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria, a teacher of philosophy and theology, with a lifelong interest in the natural world, and author of *Catholics and Our Common Home: Caring for the Planet in a Time of Crisis* (CTS).

Panel discussions with experts, for sharing advice on practical projects.

**Cost - voluntary donations gratefully accepted**, but there will be no fee for the weekend.

**To apply**, simply email Sr Margaret Atkins on [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk).







## **CAMPAIGNING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **Meeting with the RT Hon Alec Shelbrooke MP on the Challenges of the Climate Crisis.**

*By Trish Sandbach, Vice Chair J&P Leeds*

At first a few of us felt daunted by the thought of meeting with our MP. Having looked at the Parliament in Your Parish on CAFOD's website and being blessed with someone on our team who was experienced our anxiety levels fell.

Over the years we have established a reasonably good relationship with Alec Shelbrooke in that he has visited Garforth and signed CAFOD petitions on development campaigns and been the recipient of emails on many issues. We contacted his office and his secretary, after some negotiation, set up a zoom meeting to discuss Climate Change issues and COP26 which, as you know, our Government is hosting in November this year in Glasgow. We are only too aware that time is short and we are in a climate crisis.

We sent him a copy of the CAFOD leaflet suggested questions to ask your MP to give him some idea of what we might be looking at and taking further.

Our next step was to decide who would be involved. Originally we thought we might invite a lot of people for support us but after discussion among ourselves, and negotiations with his secretary, we decided a small group would be better as he had already met some of this group. The Zoom was for 55 minutes because he had another meeting following ours.

Before meeting with him the small group of 5 people met in a flower-filled garden, in the sunshine outside, suitably distanced and discussed what questions we would each raise. It was for me my first real- life social

encounter for quite some time and I found it very energizing! While I appreciate the

person in my Bubble it was great to be with a few more friends!

Having made those decisions, we took responsibility for making sure we would be informed, not duplicating anything, and had facts and figures to hand if we needed them, as well as additional information that would help to probe further or make links between the issues.. We agreed who would chair the meeting, take notes and on the order of the questions.

He spoke very briefly to begin with and we introduced ourselves. The questions were focused but had the possibility of broadening out depending on his responses. The opening question related to Information from the latest report from the Climate Change Committee. He said he had read what the media said about it but not had time to read it himself. He said he would. He was also straight-forward in his response to the question why the promised \$US 100b. to Developing Countries for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change by the wealthiest countries at the Paris COP had not been delivered –it had been promised again by the G7 in June- so what had changed this time to make it happen? His reply was unexpected!

He said he did not know how to answer the question but he would try and formulate a Parliamentary question about it and let us know. We discussed the need to move away from fossil fuel and agreed on some of the unethical production processes of fuel from biomass. He was first to raise the evils of child practices associated with the mining of rare earth elements in DRC used in batteries



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for electric cars however we did not agree on the Cumbrian coal mine re-opening!

His thinking was the UK should a leading position in the world when it came to environmental issues. We will hold him to that!

We touched on a number of issues such as plastic waste and its overseas disposal i.e. dumping and burning which is horribly unsafe. Farming issues were raised and he learned from one of our team about farmers sequestering carbon in grass and clover lays which he knew nothing about but said he would look into the possibility of encouraging farmers to adopt the practice. We briefly touched on cancellation of debts and cuts in Aid but time went quickly.

It was a positive meeting in that we felt we have been listened to and he had taken in our concerns. He was complimentary as to our mutually respectful conversation, our level of knowledge of the issues and had enjoyed meeting with us. In our follow-up we were specific about the questions we wanted answered. We had a debriefing meeting to discuss how it had gone and what to do next,. How we felt about it and how to ensure that Alec Shelbrooke would follow up on the issues we raised.

We will contact him again around the time of COP 26 to see how things are developing with the actions that he agreed to forward and arrange another meeting after COP26.

### CAFOD Campaigns

CAFOD's latest campaign is urging people to email the Chancellor of the Exchequer

#### Email Rishi Sunak

With just a few months to go to COP26, add your name to our call for the Chancellor to step up to the challenge and prevent communities who've done least to cause the climate crisis from paying the biggest cost.

Please click here for help to email

[Urge Rishi Sunak to show climate leadership ahead of COP26 | CAFOD](#)



### Prayer for our world

Creator God, who made our beautiful world,  
appointed us as its guardians  
and gifted us with everything we need,  
forgive us  
for the times we cause it harm;  
for the times our way of life  
affects our neighbours.

Inspire us  
to care for the environment;  
to help rebuild lives and communities;  
to share in the griefs and anxieties,  
joys and hopes of all your people,  
so that all your creation may flourish.  
Amen.



## **IS YOUR PARISH DOING ANYTHING FOR THE SEASON OF CREATION?**

Now is the time to start thinking about what your parish could do to celebrate the Season of Creation: Sep 1<sup>st</sup> through to Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Climate Crisis is a shared concern and one which needs to be reflected in our prayers, liturgies and parish community actions. We need to reflect on our role as co-creators: how sustainably, as individuals and as communities, are we living within our Common Home?

There are so many ways in which your parish could mark this Church Season. Here are a few ideas:

### **Prayers of the Faithful.**

At a simple level you could ensure that parish masses include at least one Prayer of the Faithful that reflects the concerns and focus of this season.

For initial ideas download these suggestions from the Season of Creation website

<https://seasonofcreation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SofCPrayersoftheFaithful.pdf>

### **Creation Mass and action**

Spend a bit more preparation time and organise Creation Celebration Mass.

CAFOD provide some detailed guidance for devising a Creation Mass. Download their comprehensive guide:

[https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/48375/582074/version/1/OCH\\_guide\\_for\\_downloading.pdf](https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/48375/582074/version/1/OCH_guide_for_downloading.pdf)

### **Organise a Prayer Novena**

If you follow some of the other links in this article you will find lots of prayers that could be used as the basis for a novena about Climate Change.

The 'God who Speaks to us' team have put together such a Novena for Pentecost. Take a look and see if you could use it as a basis and adapt it for use in the Season of Creation.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/environment-novena/>

### **Parliament in your Parish**

Use CAFOD's resources to organise a virtual meeting with your MP to express your parish community's concerns about Climate Change. It's much easier than you might think! (see the write up of the meeting with Alec

CAFOD, as usual, make it as easy as possible by providing some very detailed guidance and ideas – adapt them for your own circumstances

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Campaign-with-us/Parliament-in-your-parish>

Shelbrooke on page 4).

It may be a relatively new Season within the Church's year – but that makes it all the more important that we should mark this across the diocese in some way. We wouldn't dream of letting the Christmas or Easter season go by unremarked – it should be the same when it comes to reflecting, praying and taking action about our Common Home.

Failing all else – sign up to one of the two online liturgies that the Commission is organising during this season.



## **Clear Running Water?**

An hour of reflection and prayer to recognise God's presence in the beauty of Creation and a call to harness the energy of the Holy Spirit to live more sustainably within our Common Home and to encourage others to do the same.



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 @ 7:30pm**

**With an introduction from Bishop Marcus**

**Register via Eventbrite to receive a link:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/leedsjpccreation1>**

## **Conflict and the Climate Crisis**



An hour to take time out to reflect on how everything in our world is interconnected.

How Climate Change is already giving rise to conflicts as globally we experience more extreme weather on a regular basis.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021@7:30pm**

**Register via Eventbrite to receive a link:**

**<https://tinyurl.com/leedsjpccreation2>**



## EVENTS

 <b>7<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021</b> <b>10am-3.15pm</b>	<b>BRADFORD FAITH TRAIL</b> <p>Ever wondered what's in a church, masjid, Hindu temple or gurdwara? The Bradford Faith Trail offers a unique opportunity to discover a little bit about Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Christian (Roman Catholic and Church of England) faith buildings, about the faiths within and how they link into Bradford's local community culture and faith heritage.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/visit/faith-trail/">https://www.bradfordcathedral.org/visit/faith-trail/</a></p>
 <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> <b>7.30pm-8.30pm</b>	<b>CLEAR RUNNING WATER?</b> <i><b>Watering the deserts of our hearts to heal the earth – work of the Holy Spirit</b></i> Zoom online Liturgy <p>An hour of reflection and prayer to recognise God's presence in the beauty of Creation and a call to harness the energy of the Holy Spirit to live more sustainably within our Common Home and to encourage others to do the same. Please click here</p> <p><a href="https://tinyurl.com/leedsjpccreation1">https://tinyurl.com/leedsjpccreation1</a></p>
 <b>8<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> <b>@ 7.30pm</b>	<b>LEEDS DIOCESAN J&amp;P COMMISSION MEETING</b> <p>This is our regular quarterly Commission meeting. Anyone in the Diocese of Leeds is welcome to attend. If you are interested then simply email <a href="mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk">jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk</a> and we will send you the agenda and any papers near to the time of the meeting. We welcome people who are just curious about what we do as a Commission and people who have something specific that they would like the Commission to discuss.</p>
 <b>18 Sep</b> <b>-</b> <b>26 Sep</b>	<b>GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK</b> <p>This week of events is being organised by the Climate Coalition and they have created a special website to promote it.</p> <div data-bbox="284 1552 890 1765"><p><b>GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK</b> 18 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2021 A NATIONAL WEEK OF EVENTS CELEBRATING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE</p><p><small>By organising a series of events across the country and online together for the Great Big Green Week, it will be the biggest ever for climate action across the UK and Europe.</small></p></div> <p>View this as part of the build up to the November COP26 conference in Glasgow.</p> <p>Could you host an event in your local area?? <a href="https://greatbiggreenweek.com/">https://greatbiggreenweek.com/</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 details of these and other events which may be of interest.**