



Season of Creation and Cop 26

By Helen Hayden J&P Leeds

Welcome to the Justice and Peace Leeds Newsletter September 2021

As we are in the Season of Creation and in the run up to COP 26 in November, this issue is devoted to Climate Justice.

David and Mollie Sommerville explain the rationale behind their Climate Emergency Walk to Bradford on Friday 17th September. Details of how to join are in the article, I'm including their email here too

mollieanddavid@phonecoop.coop

The National Justice & Peace Network Conference in July focussed on Climate Justice. J&P Leeds sponsored five young people to attend and we hear from two of the young people in this issue on their experience at the conference.

Unfortunately, one young person could not attend as they were told to self-isolate, we were very lucky that attendance at the conference was not more adversely affected by Covid19 restrictions.

There are a number of events coming up to help prepare for COP 26 and enable the voice of people of faith is heard. There are also opportunities for reflection, details for signing up are included. We are still using online digital platforms for our liturgies, but we will be looking at opportunities to come together in person in the coming months when safe to do so and we can lift some of the 'Zoom Gloom'

There are also two online events to discuss poverty in October with Paul Vallely and the second with the Archbishop of York. They promise to be very interesting as well as prescient.

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 4th October 2021@7:30pm

Register via Eventbrite to receive a link:

[Conflict and Climate Change Tickets, Mon 4 Oct 2021 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)



Action for Life on Earth, NJPN 2021

Conference

By Sara, St Margaret Clitherow parish

My intentions in attending the Justice and Peace Climate Change Conference were to educate myself more on the global crisis and try to understand how churches were taking action. Fortunately, I had an eye-opening experience on how both the government and society are dealing with this crisis and how I can also help. During this conference, I met some incredible people who all had different stories to tell about how they were tackling Climate change. These ranged from raising money by walking vast distances to writing letters to local councils and the government. The Just Fair Market was also informative and motivating by including stalls trying to help solve other grave social injustices, such as nuclear weapons and torture.

The most memorable event for me was the workshop I attended, 'Pilgrims of Cloud and Fire: pastoral care for climate distress', led by Paul Bodenham who is a trustee of Green Christian and co-ordinator of its Borrowed Time project



[Borrowed Time – pastoral care in a climate and ecological crisis – Green Christian](#)

I was glad that I was able to attend this specific talk as scientists confirmed a few days before the conference that the Amazon

Rainforest is now emitting more carbon dioxide than it can absorb, and startling facts like this always take away my hope for the future. During this workshop, I was in a safe place where I was able to listen to other's thoughts on Climate change and how it has emotionally impacted them, and I was able to take time to express my views and struggles. This was a great chance for me to see the bigger picture as I believe too many of us rightly want to take immediate action and solve the crisis, but don't take a step back to examine the impact of it on our mental health. This workshop helped me realise that it is important for us to grieve for the world now, we need to accept future losses as they are inevitable, and if we can do that, there is a change we can still help minimise future environmental damage.

Although I met a few young people like myself, I think it is important to encourage a lot more to attend future conferences like this one, whether that be through social media or for churches to inform them of these conferences and give them hope that there is a way for them to still help the world. This could also be done by including special events during the conference aimed towards younger people.

To conclude, this Climate change conference was an illuminating experience which reinforced the fact that to save the planet, the future demands sacrifice from all of us. This effort to help our future generations may require herculean strength from us, but we must not give up.



Action for Life on Earth, NJPN 2021

Conference

By Matty Maslen

From the 23rd to 25th July, the National Justice and Peace Network met for their annual conference at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick.



The topic for 2021 was climate change, calling the network together to discuss 'Action for Life on Earth'. The Diocese of Leeds was fortunate enough to have 10 representatives at this, the 43rd Annual Conference, many of whom have been attending for a number of years.

As the weekend marked 100 days until COP26, discussions were fuelled with the urgency and passion the current climate crisis demands of us. For three days almost 200 people gathered to discuss the work that needs to be done, not just as part of the Justice and Peace Network, but in a united effort with the wider community of our brothers and sisters in faith.

In this spirit of cooperation, contributions came from representatives of many other charities and organisations. Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, chaired the conference and stands from organisations such as the Student Christian Movement, Christian CND, ACTA and Pax Christi, filled the main hall for the duration of the weekend.

Set against the backdrop of Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti, the conference was centred on Pope Francis' inspiring Papal Encyclicals which call on us to care for our common home. As Fratelli Tutti reads, "Let us dream,

then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all."

Alongside those attendees from Leeds who have become well-known faces at the National Justice and Peace Conference, were four young people, Sara, David, Chukwuemeka and Matthew, who were sponsored to attend as part of the Leeds Justice and Peace group's new youth project: SPARK Social Justice.

Over the course of the weekend, key-note speakers took the stand to address the climate crisis and the responses they wished to see from their own fields of expertise. The speakers – Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, Mark Rotheram and Lorna Gold – were joined by Bishop John Arnold, Andy Aitkins and Christine Allen for a panel discussion.

The range of both professional and personal experiences the speakers and panellists brought to the table highlighted once again the value of including as wide a range of people and perspectives as possible in the response to the climate crisis. As Fr Eamonn said, "there's no way that we're going to solve the problems of our planet unless we first throw the spotlight on ourselves and try and recreate and regenerate an authentic idea of humanity" and though a united front is needed, it must be an encompassing and inclusive unity.

This spectrum of perspectives on how we should respond to the climate crisis was also evident in the range of workshops on offer. One of these was run by Leeds Diocese's own Tim Devereaux, who led a well-attended discussion on 'Conflict and Climate'. Other



workshops covered issues such as 'pastoral care for climate distress', 'nonviolent direct action and environmental protest', 'church divestment from fossil fuels' and 'a just transition to a green economy'.

The 2021 National Justice and Peace Conference was an inspiring weekend. At times, the struggle to protect our planet from this manmade climate crisis can seem overwhelming. But, as Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si*, "May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope.". As COP26 grows ever closer, the time to act is now. Let this hope be at the heart of our actions.

[Click here](#) for videos of speeches from the conference

[Click here](#) to see the COP26 website

Fratelli Tutti Explained by CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Fratelli-Tutti-explained>



This Q&A includes an encyclical definition and a look at what Pope Francis' new encyclical means for the world we hope to see.

Praised Be

A prayer inspired by the papal encyclical 'Laudato Si'



Living God,
have mercy on us,
for the times we forget
that we belong to each other.
You call us to be still,
to hear the whisper of our Sister Wind,
to feel the radiance of our Brother Sun,
and to be nourished by our Mother Earth.
Renew us in your healing love.
Inspire us to water the earth,
and nurture one another,
so all may flourish.
Together, as one family, may we always sing
your praise.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Climate Emergency Walk to Bradford: an Invitation

17th September 2021 Friday afternoon

By Mollie and David Somerville

In December 2015, we went with a small number of people to Paris to encourage the nations meeting there to take climate change seriously. Even the Pope had written about its importance for humanity!

Now, 6 years later has any progress been made? In our churches or anywhere outside? Once we get past the hype and the chatter, very little behaviour has changed either personal social or political.

Jesus said: 'By their fruits you will know them'. Many individuals recycle, but don't ask themselves if they needed the things in the first place. Many organisations have started to use renewable energy, such as our RC Diocese, but still invest in fossil fuels. Many governments such as the UK have wonderful targets for stopping global warming, but no concrete plans to implement them as fast as possible and in an effective manner.

Local Authorities such as the Council in Bradford have passed motions acknowledging the climate emergency, but with no urgent active measures afterwards. No – it is not all doom and gloom, but we are in danger of living in our own fantasy that nothing fundamental has to change. Our church and ourselves – we can be part of changing that. For our world to change we only require a really active tiny minority of committed people to point the way forward – which is where Justice and Peace comes in! We are called to be prophets for our own time. Nothing less will do!

David Somerville

People walking together sends a powerful message calling for action. Pilgrimage, Camino, Haj and long marches have marked the need for determination and change, no less today when injustice, widespread poverty and planetary collapse can and must be overcome.

We ask all individuals, schools and school children, and all community organisations to add to this commitment of love and concern for nature, the planet and humanity.

We intend that this year will see an end to investment in fossil fuels by local pension funds, the greatest encouragement and support to switch from carbon-intensive transport and jobs to healthy, productive and caring work, and international agreements that not only proclaim the need to avert global warming but agree the emergency measures that will get us there. We believe we need net zero carbon emissions in Bradford by 2030.

We are organising a route from Baildon to Shipley to Bradford on the afternoon of Friday 17th September and welcoming festivities in Centenary Square. Some will walk from their own areas to meet up in Centenary Square.

To support the Climate Emergency Walk to Bradford and get involved in making it happen, contact David Somerville on 07581836275/ 01274493191 or email mollieanddavid@phonecoop.coop

Co-ordination by Shipley and Baildon Friends of the Earth and Bradford Global Justice Now and United People's Movement and Free2B-me, Bradford One Spirit.

Timings: Baildon at 1.30 and Shipley at 3.15. We welcome everyone to join us at any point of the walk. Activities in Centenary Square



from 5.00pm, such as dance, music, circle the town hall and Speakers' Corner.

Faith for the Climate

There are a number of organisations and charities who are helping to prepare people for the upcoming COP26. Faith for the Climate is a multi-faith organisation bringing together a range of diverse religions and people from across the globe to ensure the voices of people of faith are heard.

Faith for the Climate exists to encourage, inspire and equip faith communities in their work on climate change. Climate change is the biggest and most urgent challenge facing humanity. People of faith see our planet as a gift, and believe we have a sacred responsibility to care for and protect the Earth's climate for future generations.

Many of our faiths and belief systems also share a "Golden Rule": treat others as you wish to be treated. Faith communities have a unique and precious role to play – in our thought, speech, worship and action, alongside and in partnership with secular environmental organisations – enabling people of faith to live out their calling by acting to protect the climate.

Faith

A webinar organised by the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

INSPIRED FAITH ACTION TOWARDS COP26

BRIEFING ON LOCAL AND GLOBAL PREPARATIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL COP26

Monday 27 September | 17:00-18:30 PM CEST | [Simultaneous Interpretation in Spanish](#)

[Inspired Faith Action Towards COP26 - How Do Faith Communities Make COP a Success?](#)
The Interfaith Liaison Committee is holding briefings on local and global preparations for a successful COP26.

On Monday, 27th September the **Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC)** to the **UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)**, in partnership with **Make COP Count** will hold a webinar to:

- inspire local action until the start of COP26 and
- share information on the content and needed outcomes of COP26

Speakers will include our Chair, Canon Giles Goddard, and Director, Dr Shanon Shah.

The webinar will be held at **two different times** to accommodate different time zones.

Register

For session 1 at 9am BST/10am CEST, register [here](#)

For session 2 at 4pm BST/5pm CEST, register [here](#)



Then on Sunday 17th October and Monday 18th October, two weeks before Cop26 and the global climate negotiations, people of diverse religions will rise to send a message: destroying the planet is against our religions. To find out more and to join people across the globe in temples, mosques and churches; praying, singing to call for climate justice and care for the vulnerable please see the website [Faiths 4 Climate Justice - GreenFaith](#)



Racism and the Church

One of the most striking and significant changes in the last 50 years in our church communities is the growth and multiplication of churches comprised mainly of members from the Caribbean, Africa, Asia or Latin America. Not all have felt welcome; overt and institutional racism has been evident in some places.

The Justice & Peace Commission are sponsoring a limited number of people to participate in an online 8 week course (over 9 weeks) exploring racism in the context of Christian communities in the UK. It starts at the end of September and runs to the end of November on a Thursday evening. Email jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for more details and to be considered for sponsorship to attend.

CHARITY Vs JUSTICE WEBINARS

We have organised two webinars in October

Wed 6th October @ 7:30pm

Charity, Justice & Philanthropy – with Paul Vallely



Join the critically acclaimed author of *Pope Francis – Untying the Knots*, to start to explore where charity and philanthropy are not enough and where, as Christians, we must embark on action to change national policy.

How Integral is Justice & Mercy to the Work of the Church? – Wed 20 Oct @7pm






We are delighted to have our second webinar led by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York



For both webinars please click to register on Eventbrite through the J&P Leeds website [Diocese of Leeds: Justice and Peace Commission \(leedsjp.org.uk\)](http://Diocese of Leeds: Justice and Peace Commission (leedsjp.org.uk))



EVENTS

 Friday 17th September From 1pm	<p><u>Climate Emergency Walk to Bradford</u></p> <p>Baildon at 1.30 and Shipley at 3.15. We welcome everyone to join us at any point of the walk. Activities in Centenary Square from 5.00pm</p> <p>To support the Climate Emergency Walk to Bradford and get involved in making it happen, contact David Somerville on 07581836275/ 01274493191 or email mollieanddavid@phonecoop.coop</p>
 23rd Sept @7pm	<p>A faith Based Challenge to COP26 with Fr Sean McDonagh</p> <p>This event by the Scottish Laity Network</p> <p>Fr Sean, a Columban priest has written many articles and books, deepening understanding of what is happening to our 'common home' and the need for radical action. He also contributed to the research for 'Laudato Si' A Faith Based Challenge to COP26 with Fr Seán McDonagh – Diocese of Leeds: Justice and Peace Commission (leedsjp.org.uk)</p>
 Monday 4th October @7:30pm	<p><u>Conflict and the Climate Crisis</u></p> <p>An hour to take time out to reflect on how everything in our world is interconnected.</p> <p>How Climate Change is already giving rise to conflicts as globally we experience more extreme weather on a regular basis.</p> <p>Register via Eventbrite to receive Conflict and Climate Change Tickets, Mon 4 Oct 2021 at 19:30 Eventbrite</p>
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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.