



THANK YOU TO BRONAGH DALY

By Chukwuemeka Nwachukwu

In August our local CAFOD worker, Bronagh Daly, left her role after 7 wonderful years of services to take up a new position as the Faith and Creativity Lead at Leeds Church Institute (LCI) – a faith-based organization for lifelong learning that works through events, publications, and social media.

In her role as Community Participation



Coordinator for CAFOD Leeds, Bronagh worked with many people around the Diocese of Leeds and

beyond. Here are just a few messages of thanks that people had for Bronagh:

Sheila Gregory:

Every CAFOD office should have a Bronagh! She was always there to enthuse me; answer any questions I might have and just support me as a CAFOD volunteer. She was great with children too!

Helen Humphreys:

Always a pleasure to say nice things about Bronagh. Bronagh is someone who truly lives out her deep faith through her work. Her enthusiasm and commitment are to be commended and I have learned such a lot from her kind and calm way of engaging with all of us. She will be missed so much.

Madeline Woods & CAFOD Gappers:

Bronagh provided brilliant support for the two CAFOD gappers who found themselves in her care. Both Sophie(Aulton) and I were based at Leeds Trinity University on our year in the programme, and as well as organising school and parish visits, Bronagh would

gladly come into the university to support any sessions or events which we ran.

We both fondly remember shared lunches on our days in the CAFOD office, and Bronagh's friendly willingness to show us around and introduce us to everyone! Bronagh, we are both so grateful for your hard work and are sure you'll do incredible things in your new role. Thank you!

Paddy Spiller:

When I think of Bronagh I think of someone who is positive, affirming and encouraging. She is always grateful for anything that we do.

Chukwuemeka Nwachukwu:

Having joined CAFOD I expressed my interest to volunteer in schools. Bronagh was there to provide support. She is a great manager with good organisational skills. Having supervised me in one of the school visits, I gained confidence and support to go on and put my faith into action through that visit. Her encouragement was helpful, and she looked out for everyone. I wish I worked much longer with her.

Rowan Morton-Gledhill:

As well as joining in diocesan events like the first ever St Wilfrid's Way Pilgrimage, Bronagh often used to stop by my office in Hinsley Hall and we would set the world to rights ... or at least, I would talk about setting it to rights; as we know, Bronagh actually backed up the talk with years of action! I will miss her cheerfulness and 'can do' attitude – and know that wherever she's moved on to, she'll keep on lifting the spirits of all around her and making a real impact on people's lives!

Bronagh will be fondly missed at CAFOD and we wish her all the best in her new role at LCI.



LEEDS & BRADFORD HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE EVENTS, AUGUST 2022

By Tim Devereux

Chair, Movement for the Abolition of War

www.abolishwar.net

This year, as many before, there were events in Bradford and Keighley to commemorate the dropping of atomic bomb on Hiroshima, 6th August, 1945, and in Leeds three days later remembering the Nagasaki bombing, 9th August, 1945. From outrage at the bombing of Guernica in the Spanish Civil War in 1937 – less than 2000 civilian casualties, in just eight years, the world witnessed these two terrible bombings, which killed between 129,000 and 226,000 people, most of whom were civilians.

Susan Clarkson read Fr Daniel Berrigan's poem 'Some' at the Bradford Hiroshima Commemoration Service outside City Hall (<https://danielberrigan.org/poems/>). While the Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Martin Love, read out the message to the world from the Mayor of Hiroshima.



At the Keighley commemoration, too, the Mayor, Councillor Luke Maunsell delivered the same message, which can be read here: <https://www.tellerreport.com/life/2022-08->

[06-hiroshima-peace-memorial-ceremony-%5Bfull-peace-declaration%5D.Byz- Hrip5.html](#)

(Apologies for the garish adverts on the site!)



Keighley, 6th August 2022

In Leeds, the commemoration began with a two-minute silence, at 11.02, the time the bomb was dropped. Councillor Jane Dowson gave a reading of the Nagasaki Peace Declaration, (<https://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/nagasaki-peace-declaration/>) as the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Cllr. Robert W. Gettings, was unable to attend due to illness.

Then, Councillor David Blackburn, Chair of Leeds Peace Link, and of NFLA (Nuclear-Free Local Authorities) read the Hiroshima Declaration followed by poetry and prose contributions from members of the assembly. Sam Legg, Yorkshire CND worker, gave a short speech. Finally, musicians and singers performed various songs, including 'Can you hear the H bombs Thunder?' - written in the 1950s, alas still relevant today – and the beautiful 'Finlandia'.

Each year I am moved by this ceremony, but each year is an admission that the world is still under the threat of nuclear annihilation. Russia's attack on Ukraine has been an unpleasant reminder of the dangers of nuclear brinkmanship. The Bulletin of Atomic



Scientist's Doomsday Clock

(<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/01/20/world/doomsday-clock-2022-climate-scn/index.html>) stands at 100 seconds to midnight – closer than ever before!

Pope Francis says, *"The Holy See has no doubts that a world free from nuclear weapons is both necessary and possible,"* and denounced schemes that give a false sense of security based on possession of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

As I write this, the Tenth Review Conference for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is taking place. I was a young man, just finishing University when the Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force in 1970. It is a landmark international treaty whose objectives include preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. Its effect on proliferation has been positive – there were five nuclear weapon states in 1970, and there are nine now. The number of nuclear weapons has fallen from a peak of 61,662 in 1985 to 13,400 in 2020 – still plenty to make certain of 'overkill'!

Under Article 6 of the NPT, all Parties undertake to pursue good-faith negotiations on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race, to nuclear disarmament, and to general and complete disarmament. I am a patient person, but 52 years is far too long to NOT reach the promised disarmament agreement!



Leeds 9th August 2022

There is another treaty that is much younger and I think more hopeful - the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) which came into force on 22 January 2021. Nuclear weapons have always been immoral. Now they are also illegal in all respects under international law, with one proviso – a country must sign up to the treaty before its requirements take effect. None of the top 5 nuclear powers have signed. Strange, I remember pro-nuclear types castigating CND for 'one-sided disarmament'. But along comes a great multilateral treaty, and that's no good either! The UK, impoverished by Covid 19, Brexit, and now a cost-of-living crisis, needs to scrap Trident, save £200 Billion and sign the TPNW. Humanity faces two existential threats – the Climate Crisis and Nuclear Weapons – we need to act on both right now!

THE NEED FOR PRIORITIES

By John Battle, Commission Chair

There is nothing like the overworked use of the language of catastrophe and apocalypse to induce a desperate sense that nothing can be done except pray for a quick end. The recent dominance of 'fear politics' – ranging from Brexit, Covid, conflict in Ukraine, and now a 'cost-of-living crisis' – has worked to



NEWSLETTER September 2022

render a deep sense of general political powerlessness and a belief that any real transformation is well beyond any democratic reach.

It was St Augustine who stressed that *"hope has two beautiful daughters [named] anger and' courage..."* a family of virtues that empower us to work for change. Together, a family of virtues that empower us to work for change. The prophetic tradition of 'righteous anger' insisted on the need to name the sin (including its deep causes) and to courageously 'speak truth to power'.



Our work as the Justice and Peace Commission, which includes the whole Church, involves refusing to be overwhelmed by the challenges and to set focussed practical priorities.

Faced with a change of government (though not a new elected parliament) it is not yet clear what policies will emerge but there is a mounting in-tray of challenges to be faced. Our priorities are rooted in Catholic social teaching insisting on the dignity of every person, solidarity to ensure no one is left out and a good sense of making decisions *with* people as much as possible (subsidiarity). A keynote of Catholic social teaching is **participation** at all levels of society. For us locally, the Diocesan Commission is part of the Church's strategy of '**reaching out**' to work with others – such as those in the

growing Citizens movement, those already working with the homeless and refugees. As a further 3 million are predicted to fall into poverty over the coming winter as the 'cost-of-living crisis' bites more deeply, working with food banks, the SVP, and anti-poverty and debt campaigns will be vital.

See our local SVP websites for details on how to help out, or what support is available:

Leeds:

<https://www.svp.org.uk/stvincentsleeds>

Bradford:

<https://www.svp.org.uk/st-vincents-bradford>

Increasing poverty at home and internationally must be challenged by supporting actions, but also, by spelling out the causes of poverty and of the deepening inequalities in our communities. That means a priority for '**educational action**' on the causes of poverty. It also means increasing support for CAFOD, a means of addressing international poverty and underdevelopment in a global economy. That includes pressing the new government to improve the international aid budget.

Nor can we neglect conflicts as the media train moves on from one to another. Wars cause death and displacement on a massive scale and we need to press for peaceful interventions. Supporting refugees and rights for asylum seekers is as imperative as ever. Part of the conflict agenda links to the need to continue working to promote racial justice. Yemen and Palestine must be kept in mind. Lastly, but by no means least, the climate



emergency is a complex matter that actually ties many of the issues of poverty, conflict displacement, and future economic developments together. *Laudato Si* still provides a guide to be shared.

Visit the CAFOD website to see their latest campaigns and how you can help through volunteering, fundraising, or donating:
<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns>

In brief, the UK poverty focus needs intensifying, and more member support, we need to promote CAFOD's efforts, working for racial justice and supporting refugees. All of which need the back up of continuing reflection and discernment.

Perhaps this is a UK 'kairos moment' of the need for radical root change. In which case, the Leeds Diocesan Commission's plan to rebuild with young people as our base, through the SPARK Social Justice project, will help reset the future.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND MARKETS BILL

Global Justice Now has launched a new campaign against the Financial Services and Markets Bill which will deregulate finance and commodities such as food and fuel.



You can learn more about the bill, and Global Justice Now's campaign against it from their campaign briefing here:

https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/GJN_FinancialServicesMarketsBillBriefing_Sept2022.pdf

HAS THE CHURCH BECOME A 'NOT FOR PROPHETS' ORGANISATION?

Saturday 15 October 10am – 4pm

St Roberts Parish Room, 3 Robert St. Harrogate HG1 1HP

Are the messages of the Old Testament prophets still relevant today? Who are the prophets in today's world?

David McLoughlin will lead us in exploring these themes.

Free to attend – but booking essential – see our website or use this link:

www.bit.ly/reflectiondayharrogate



ST JOHN FISHER & ST THOMAS MORE CHURCH, BURLEY IN WHARFEDALE

CAFOD LIVESIMPLY AWARD

By Keith Pitcher

In June 2022 the Parish Family of SS John Fisher and Thomas More, Burley-in-Wharfedale was the delighted recipient of CAFOD's LiveSimply award. This is given to Parish Families and schools who have worked together, prayed about, and put in place actions to **live simply, live sustainably with creation** and **live in solidarity with the poor**. In our Parish Family this is called our 'Tree of Life' project.



The idea began after the Leeds Justice & Peace group held their AGM in our parish hall in March 2019 and, following Canon Michael Mahady's homily about Pope Francis' messages in *Laudato Si*, many of us felt challenged to accept and strengthen, with prayer and commitment, our responsibility for the care of creation. Pope Francis asks for God to grant us the courage to do this without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late.

In Autumn 2019 as a Parish Family and as part of weekend Masses congregations we collected nearly 400 ideas of how we could respond to Pope Francis' call. We know we are facing climate and ecological crises and we felt it essential to put into practice measures that could start to tackle these issues. The ideas were written on paper leaf labels and hung from branches of a home-

made tree – our 'Tree of Life'. The suggestions were put into 3 categories:

1. Working with Nature,
2. Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Renew, and
3. Petition and Education.

We have permanently established the Tree of Life in the church porch for our Parish Family to suggest new ideas for the future – ways in which to live simply, care for creation and help others. Some 40 parishioners including many children have led and contributed to turning these into reality. We found this approach works best, forming groups to

A new page on our parish website <https://www.ssfishermore.co.uk/tree-of-life/> gives details of what we have done, a summary is below.

discuss and take forward initiatives.

Actions to live sustainably with creation

The Covid-19 Pandemic delayed initial progress, but the Working with Nature group's outside activities started as soon as we were able to meet. These include:

- flower beds at the front of the church were dug out and a raised bed was built to plant insect friendly flowers & shrubs.
- our parish children built bird and bat boxes to put up in their gardens and in the parish grounds. An aerial photograph has been taken and displayed to map out the location of each bird or bat box in the grounds for all to look out for activity within them.



NEWSLETTER September 2022

- a bug house was designed and built using recycled fence panels, a disused milk crate, a pallet and surrounded by plants to create a garden effect.
- a hedgehog hotel, composter and herb bed were built and placed in the church back garden. The composter composts grass cuttings, shrub clippings, raw fruit & veg waste and church flowers. The material will be used as a mulch for the church flower beds.
- a water butt was installed and attached to the drainpipe at the side of the church hall. This provides rainwater to water plants in the garden.
- our parish children took sunflower seedlings to grow in their gardens.
- St Francis' feast day celebration included children learning and working in the parish grounds as part of their liturgy programme.

Actions to live simply

This group's main focus is on reducing waste & energy usage and installing renewables.

Examples of projects include:

- the church hall's single glazed windows are being replaced with double glazing.
- old inefficient gas heaters in Sacristy, Lady Chapel and hall have been replaced with electric heaters, thermostats and time control panels.
- lighting in the church, hall and presbytery is being replaced with LEDs.
- a renewable energy programme has been introduced, with a parishioner providing details on how to plan installations for homes. 6 parishioner families have installed solar panels and one has replaced their gas boiler with a heat pump.

- we are re-examining electricity & gas usage and costs of the church, hall and presbytery to provide proposals for installing solar panels and heat pumps.
- we have made collection points for items that are currently not recycled by local councils. These include blister packs, batteries, contact lens packaging, pens and pencils. We work with our village to share information about where difficult to recycle products can be collected.

Actions to live in solidarity with the poor

We have provided practical and fundraising support for poorer members of our local communities and well as national and international charities. Examples include:

- BURLEY-TERELI FRIENDSHIP TRUST – we connect with people of Tereli in Mali, West Africa for fundraising, friendship, and prayer. The charity raises funds for vital healthcare, educational and environmental projects. 3 of our parishioners are Tereli trustees and several members are active fund-raisers e.g. half marathon runners.
- CAFOD fundraising. Parishioners have run in the Great North Run, Leeds half marathon and Ilkley half marathon to support CAFOD's Connect 2 work and also local charities. We have set up a book exchange in the church foyer. Two parishioners did a sponsored Walk for Water during Lent 2021.



NEWSLETTER September 2022

- PAFRAS - we have organised collections of clothes, toiletries and non-perishable food. During Covid and times of church closure we not only re-modelled but have grown. We now have a central village collection point to which all village church and non-church goers contribute non-perishable foodstuffs, hygiene products, laundry products and other basic commodities. These are taken each month by parishioners to PAFRAS in Leeds.
- St. Anne's Shelter – we collect warm clothing for this charity to give to homeless people.
- Catholic Care Christmas presents for children – each year we take gift labels with the age of a child and attach it to a small gift for the child. We had donations to go towards buying stocking filler gifts for the children's home whom Catholic Care visit and support.
- Mary's Meals –one of our parishioners took part in the Great North Run and raised over £1,000 for Mary's Meals from parish and online donations. £205 was also raised in a cake bake sale (the cakes were amazing!). Backpacks for children in Malawi and Liberia were collected and filled with teaspoons, hand towels, shoes, toothpaste and brushes and sent to the children in these countries. The total number of backpacks sent so far is over 850.
- FAIRTRADE – we are a FAIRTRADE parish and fundraise for this also via our Menston and Burley link. We have a monthly FAIRTRADE stall after Masses and use FAIRTRADE tea and

coffee and washing up liquid in our hall kitchen.



In autumn 2021 the Season of Creation was celebrated by our parish family. The 4 weeks focused on prayer and activities in response to Pope Francis' appeal to us all on BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day [see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-59075041>] in the lead up to the COP26 environmental discussions. The different focus areas for each week were: our gardens; saving carbon/energy at home; things we buy & how the purchases affect our planet. The final week finished on the feast day of St Francis and was linked to a personal choice based on sharing all the ideas as a parish family.

We held a barbecue in July 2022 to celebrate our LiveSimply award, and also to celebrate our children receiving sacraments, Fr Michael's golden jubilee and to welcome all who have joined our Parish Family over the last few years. Looking forward, our future work will build on existing activities to start new initiatives, including feedback received from Trish and Paul as CAFOD's LiveSimply assessors. Essential parts of this will include:

- use new Care of Creation themes and materials in our liturgies





NEWSLETTER September 2022

- save carbon/energy in our parish buildings and homes
- write to and petition our leaders to make sustainable lifestyles and support for the poor high priorities. We will ask them, as Pope Francis says, to do this without waiting for someone else to begin, or until it is too late.

(Photos: Our Tree of Life cake and Celebrations on the day)

Feedback received from Trish Sandbach and Paul Kelly as CAFOD LiveSimply assessors

“We were greatly impressed with the depth, breadth and range of actions undertaken, which have involved substantial numbers of the parish across the age spectrum.

There is a strong sense of commitment.

The creativity of the different elements, especially those involving the children were a blessing and a delight.

We commended particularly The Tree of Life concept as an excellent and visible way to create ‘pegs’ on which to hang individual and collective action. The idea to re-invigorate pledges as the parish emerges from the restrictions of the pandemic means there will be a plan and actions into the future.

The depth and breadth of the actions so far have involved substantial numbers of the parish across the age spectrum.

With reference to future plans, we would encourage further spiritual formation for adult parishioners that is independent of the excellent work taking place via children’s liturgy and sacramental preparation, and

increased opportunities for reflective adult liturgy, especially linked with the Season of Creation but also other opportunities that arise from the liturgical. Developing the habit of praying for an aspect of Creation at Sunday Mass e.g. in the Bidding Prayers would be beneficial.

We shared conversations about Living Simply entailing a reduction by us in the use of the world’s resources which enables a more just distribution of resources.

We suggested that making the connections more explicit and coherent between some of the issues e.g. exploring encyclicals such as Laudato Si linking the cry of the Earth, cry of the poor, which will build a strong foundation of spirituality that is deeper than activism on its own. There is a wealth of Catholic Social Teaching, which underpins actions for social and climate justice, to be discovered. Understanding the theology of WHY it is important to work for climate change as Catholics/Christians is part of this formation.

We also mentioned the need to move on to political activity as governments i.e. the journey from charity to justice. Structural change needs the corporate world to be involved in action for change as well as us.

We have every confidence that the future plans will be caring, compassionate and thought- through with actions to care for our common home as we know that their hearts are in it as well as heads and hands.”



08 OCTOBER 2022 – MAJOR LAUNCH EVENT FOR SPARK SOCIAL JUSTICE



SPARK works with young adults aged 18-30 throughout the Diocese of Leeds to connect social activism with faith. The project's first big event will be on 08 October between 10am and 4pm at Wheeler Hall, attached to St Anne's Cathedral.



Follow us at:



[@SPARKSocialJus1](https://twitter.com/SPARKSocialJus1)



[@SPARKsocialjustice](https://www.facebook.com/SPARKsocialjustice)



[@sparksocialjustice](https://www.instagram.com/sparksocialjustice)

Our Project Lead – Katherine Hogg – describes the day as follows:

There will be workshops from Pax Christi on protest art, Citizens Organising on active listening and we will hear from Michelle Scally Clarke, a Leeds-based poet.

You will also have the chance to meet and talk with others about the issues you care about and hear about paid opportunities with SPARK going forwards which include leadership training useful for the workplace as well as in social activism.

You'll hear from prominent Catholics who have been involved with social justice for a long time and be inspired that no issue is too big to tackle and that your voice can change the world.'

PLEASE HELP US TO FIND THE NEXT GENERATION OF J&P SUPPORTERS

Over 30 yourself? Who could you invite to come along to this free day? We know that many people 30 or under are passionate about climate change, poverty, racism and other issues.

Register to take part in the event here:

www.bit.ly/animatewithspark

Help us to find them and inspire them to change the world because of Catholic social teaching – the 'Church's best kept secret'!



FR PAUL FOLLOW-UP

By Matthew Maslen

Last month we included a piece Fr Paul Hypher's retirement mass, celebrating his 60 years of ministry.

Fr Paul decided that the celebration should be used as an opportunity to raise money for CAFOD's World Food Crisis Appeal. The money raised aids local volunteers and experts in Kenya, Ethiopia and South Sudan in helping people through the worst of the food.

The mass raised over £2000 for CAFOD's appeal.



When we asked Fr Paul why he chose this appeal to raise money for, he said:

"I have been committed to justice and peace issues since my ordination just before Vatican II. I knew Julian Filkowski from the 1960's and worked with him in the early 1970's on In Service Training programmes for the clergy of the Diocese of East Anglia. We also had

programmes in the parishes where I served – e.g. Stowmarket 1970-1977.

'Catholic Social Teaching is not an optional extra but at the moral centre of Catholic Doctrine, without it Catholic Doctrine loses its integrity and moral force'."

Alongside many of the donations on the Celebration Funds page were messages of thanks for Fr Paul. Many people spoke of generosity and kindness he has shown during his service over the years and congratulated him on his Diamond Jubilee.

If you would like to learn more about CAFOD's World Food Crisis Appeal, visit their website here:

https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/World-food-crisis?gclid=CjwKCAjw6raYBhB7EiwABge5KnBk7CErz6vVGM7oA7zT_a0sPrQ4VPwTGa1GUJ7bcfhk10pYyviiSRoCQ2YQAvD_BwE

ABORTION – A POSTSCRIPT TO OUR JULY ARTICLE








By Joe Burns, Commission member

Last month we included an article about the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision in the USA. Along with the rest of the Catholic Church, the Commission regards abortion as a moral wrong. As the Commission person responsible for oversight of the newsletter I didn't think that needed re-stating – but at least one person misunderstood the article so my apologies to those who did not get a correct impression of the Commission's view.

The main thrust of the article was to encourage dialogue about the issue. Not dialogue over whether abortion is right or wrong – but dialogue about the strategies that might actually lead to a reduction in the number of abortions in this country. I hope that clarifies the position.



EVENTS

 Thu 15 Sep	Faith, Hope and Love in Action – World Week of Prayer for Israel/Palestine 2022 The World Council of Churches (WCC) invites people and churches all over the world to pray, advocate, and stand in solidarity with people in the Holy Land under the strapline Faith, Hope and Love in Action: Towards Justice in Israel Palestine. https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel
 Sat 8 Oct 	Animate with SPARK <i>Wheeler Hall: 10am-4pm</i> This is an open invitation to younger Catholics in the Leeds Diocese (aged 18-30ish) who are passionate about issues of social justice. Come and join us to find out about creative ways of participating in social activism and the opportunities across the Diocese to get involved in this project. The event is free to attend and include lunch. Booking essential. Use the QR code or see the Events page of our website.
 Sat 15 Oct 	Has the Church become a 'Not for Prophets' organisation? @ St Roberts Centre <i>St Roberts Centre, Robert Street, Harrogate 10am-4pm</i> FREE EVENT (voluntary collection on the day) David McLoughlin leads a day of reflection: What does prophecy mean in the twenty first century? Who are our contemporary prophets – and what are they telling us? Booking is essential. Use the QR code or find it on the Events page of our website.
 Sat 26 Nov	Peace & Craft Fair <i>Victoria Hall: 10am-4pm</i> Yorkshire CND's Annual Peace and craft fair – plenty of ideas for Christmas, as well as supporting efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons.... and a good excuse to also go to Salt's Mill or eat in one of the many places in the village.
 Fri 09 Dec	Film Screening: Boycott <i>Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral 6pm – 8:30</i> This is the final film of the 2022 Leeds Palestinian Film festival. After the screening there will be the opportunity for discussion with Ben Jamal, Chair of national PSC and who also spoke after the London premiere of the film. <i>Booking recommended – booking will open in October.</i>
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.	