



## BIKE FOR PEACE 28<sup>TH</sup> AUG TO 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPT

*By Tim Devereux, Chair, Movement for the Abolition of War*

I joined blind peace campaigner Tore Naerland, along with Åse Simonsen, Tordis Landvik for a five-day, 222 mile Bike for Peace ride which finished in Bradford on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Tore Naerland, President of Bike for Peace, is almost totally blind but is a keen cyclist and has organised similar tours all over the world. I rode on a tandem with Tore, while Norwegian cyclists Åse and Tordis rode solo bikes. Other British cyclists joined us on the various stages of our journey, including Leeds Labour MP and Shadow Minister for Peace and Disarmament Fabian Hamilton on the first leg.



L to R Fabian Hamilton, Tore Naerland, Tim Devereux, Christine Bell, 28 Aug

Bike for Peace is a non-governmental organization in Norway that works for a world without nuclear weapons, for peace and disarmament, to improve the lives of disabled people and for measures to combat climate change (<http://www.bikeforpeace.no/>).

We rode through Yorkshire and Lancashire, starting with a send-off from the Friends' Quaker Meeting House in Leeds and meeting Mayors en-route in Skipton, Carnforth, Preston, Rochdale and Bradford. We mainly

kept to small roads and paths, but in places, the trip certainly showed the need for better bike infrastructure! When we reached Bradford, after five days riding, the Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin Love, welcomed us with a Civic Reception at City Hall.

Over the years I have ridden a number of times for peace – with Yorkshire Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to the US Spy Base at Menwith Hill, with Westminster Justice and Peace to mark the climate conference, and last year, a solo Peace Pilgrimage for Pax Christi, visiting RAF Fylingdales, part of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. The climate friendly bicycle makes a great vehicle for peace protesting – it's part of the solution to one of the two over-riding issues of our times, which I believe are the climate crisis and nuclear weapons.



Group and supporters in Bradford, 1 Sept

The toughest bit? Climbing the monster hill just outside Settle – 203 metres at 4 mph. The best bit? Meeting people along the way - we discovered that a tandem with a big CND peace flag on the back is a great way to start conversations! Amazingly, nobody we spoke to thought nukes were a good idea. We here in the UK have so many better things to spend money on than nuclear weapons, now illegal in many countries thanks to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Why not write to your MP to ask why the UK has not signed up to it yet?



## AN INTRODUCTION TO LCI

*By Bronagh Daly, Faith and Creativity Lead*

Since its founding in 1857 by the Vicar of Leeds, Dr Walter Hook, the mission of Leeds Church Institute has been to promote religion and education in Leeds.

In fulfilment of this, LCI is committed to an understanding of 'religion' as ecumenical Christian mission and 'education' as learning for the benefit of all.

Leeds is a big, busy, diverse city which has been described as 'two speed' because certain postcodes and communities within them are at a significant disadvantage. The realities of inequality in city life are of central concern to the mission of churches and because of this, LCI contributes to the ecumenical mission of the city that includes people and perspectives from across Leeds and especially those who are currently at the margins of city life.

Looking back on my first month with LCI, I have been impressed by the level of



engagement with the work of the artists we work alongside. Both members of the public and the worshipping communities, who have hosted the exhibitions, have been impacted by the work and have been

moved to consider each topic in turn at a more profound level thanks to the links between creativity and faith.

Today I have just finished working on a week-long installation at Christ Church, Armley with Hungarian artist, Leon Varga, who created an interactive sculptural piece called 'The Way Up Is Down'. The see-saw inspired piece was made from discarded church

chairs, rusted steel frames and reclaimed grandfather clocks. The artwork addressed themes of loss, grief and time constraints of COVID and is being featured in a short film I am producing that over the next seven months will follow artists as they engage with faith leaders and the wider community.

The week before that, I supported Quaker House, Roundhay to host a photographic exhibition called 'Seeing Asylum' drawing our attention to the experiences of women held in detention centres here in the UK. The Quaker friends welcomed over 50 people to short talks from PAFRAS Director Karen Pearse and Leeds Beckett Senior Criminology Lecturer, Maria de Angelis who lead on the research which inspired the exhibition.

Over the next few months, I will be meeting with artists, poets, musicians and a wide range of collaborators who will be actively supporting dialogue across the city on social justice and human rights issues.

I will be planning and organising a wide range of pop up and formal creative events to engage Leeds residents in dialogue around key social justice issues including poverty, asylum, mental health, climate change and housing.

One project I am really excited about is 'Journey to the Manger' where I will be inviting people from the city to tell me how the Nativity story is relevant to our lives in 2022 which will form the basis of a city centre exhibit during Advent 2023.

If you would like to take part in the 'Journey to the Manger' project please email Bronagh at: [creativity@leedschurchinstitute.org](mailto:creativity@leedschurchinstitute.org) for more details.



## IS IT TIME FOR A ONE-STATE SOLUTION IN ISRAEL PALESTINE?

*By Joe Burns, Commission member*

Jeff Halper, a Jewish academic living in Jerusalem, is the chair of ICAHD (Israeli Committee against House Demolitions). As part of a speaking tour in England he spoke at the St George's Conference Centre in Leeds in early September. Over 50 people turned out for a talk by this very engaging speaker. What he had to say was not without controversy – not least because it turns upside down the conventional wisdom of the last 30 years about Israel Palestine!

His basic position can be described as follows:

The “Palestinian-Israeli conflict” has often been presented as one of the most intractable in modern world history. But Jeff Halper's first point is that this is not a conflict. There are not two sides fighting over some issue that can be resolved through technical negotiations and compromise. Rather, Zionism was – and is – a settler-colonial project.

Jewish settlers arrived in Palestine from Europe with the intention of taking over the country and making it their own. Like all settler movements they came equipped with a narrative of why the country actually belonged to them, and they pursued their claim to entitlement unilaterally. The indigenous Palestinian population (which included Sephardi, Mizrahi and ultra-Orthodox Jews) had no voice in the process; they were not a “side,” but simply a population to be disposed of.

Palestinians are now confined to disconnected and impoverished enclaves scattered over 15 percent of their country. The unequal treatment of Jews and Arabs enshrined within Israeli legislation lead Jeff to label Israel as an ‘apartheid state’.

Settler-colonialism and apartheid, however, cannot be resolved through negotiations and compromise. A people cannot negotiate their fundamental human, national, political and civil rights. The only way out of a colonial situation is through a process of decolonization.

What does that entail? It entails a fundamental readjustment to the current reality. It entails the return of Palestinian refugees and their reintegration into society. It entails the dismantling of all structures of domination and control, be they political, economic or ideological and cultural.

It requires acknowledging that the colonized population has the right to an equal say in the construction of the post-colonial polity. It necessitates the formation of a new political system and civil society that guarantees equal rights to all its citizens as well as to the national, ethnic and religious groups that comprise it.

It further demands an equitable redistribution of resources, especially land, the prime target of settler-colonialism, along with an acknowledgment by the colonizers of the suffering they have brought, and consequent reparations.

It is such fundamental change that is needed to generate a new, shared political community. And that, in turn, is the only possible way settler-colonialism can be transcended.



NEWSLETTER October 2022

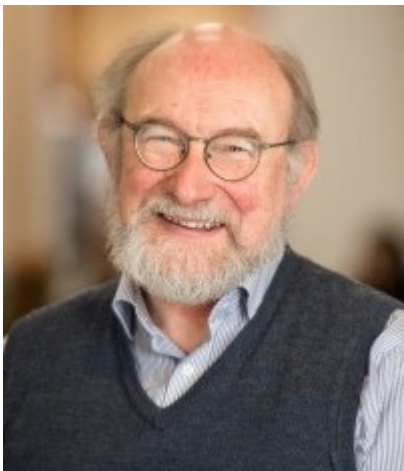
At the end of his presentation many people wanted to ask questions – as you probably do if you have got this far. Jeff would be the first to admit that the idea is still relatively new and needs more working out. Nevertheless, he built a very persuasive argument for taking this approach and if you are curious as to how this might be more than ‘pie in the sky’ thinking then I would recommend you to

read his book about it: *“Decolonizing Israel, Liberating Palestine”* (2021) where he sets out in detail the case for viewing the situation in this way and a political vision of the practical measures that could actually bring it about.

### HAS THE CHURCH BECOME A ‘NOT FOR PROPHETS’ ORGANISATION?

**Saturday 15 October 10 – 3:30 @ St Roberts Parish Room, Robert St. Harrogate**

There’s still time to sign up to our day of shared Reflection.



What do the Old Testament Prophets tell us about how we should be living out our lives as Christians in 21<sup>st</sup> century UK?

What does prophecy in our times look like?

Come along to as David McLoughlin leads us through an exploration of Prophecy old and new in what promises to be both an entertaining and challenging day. David has many years of experience leading such days and is a very engaging and thought-provoking speaker.

This event is free. If people are able, then please bring some food to share at lunchtime. Tea, coffee and water will be provided.

*Just go to the home page of our website and follow the link to register to attend.*

### SPARK SOCIAL JUSTICE SOCIAL MEDIA

SPARK's social media provides an online space for our growing community. We showcase updates on our work, details of events and opportunities to get involved, as well as national and global news updates on issues aligning with our priorities; peace and non-violence, climate change, UK poverty and racial injustice. We'd love for you to be a part of our online community by giving us a follow!

Follow us at:



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



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



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



## RACIAL JUSTICE & THE COMMISSION

*By John Duffy, Commission member*

At the start of 2021, the J&P Commission became aware, through articles in both the Catholic and national press, that a significant number of Black British Catholics experience racism in their parish communities: ranging from misunderstandings and stereotyping to distancing and discrimination.

We needed to engage with this issue.

Our aims were:

- to hear the experiences of black Catholics and
- give their voice a permanent place
- to make J&P genuinely inclusive
- to ensure that we do not pay lip service to anti racism
- to spread awareness and inclusivity through the diocese
- to learn from other diocesan experiences
- to influence diocesan policy
- to spread the word that everyone in our church should feel safe, seen, heard and **respected**.

We started conversations with involved Black Catholics in the diocese to agree and support an agenda and platform because we were told that you need your own space to talk to one another before you talk to the wider church.

The Racial Awareness group met online for 6 months of listening workshops, facilitated by Graham Brownlee of Leeds Citizens, and they met with the rest of the J&P Commission (by ZOOM) in early September. We were pleased to be together at last, to hear the

group's findings and to look to the future, with the Racial Justice group now being a permanent and effective part of the Justice and Peace Commission.

If we are failing to be an inclusive church, if people from minority groups feel side-lined, excluded or encounter prejudice, then, as one of our members said, the Body of Christ is not being expressed well.

The next step to support the group and build networks, is to have a conversation with CARJ (The Catholic Association for Racial Justice), who have given good support and guidance when this initiative was being planned. The Racial Justice Awareness Group will be continuing its work over the coming months to bring proposals for practical actions and initiatives to be taken in the diocese. These will be clarified in the near future.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The group would welcome more people of colour from across the Diocese to join them in their reflections.

If you are interested then please just email

[jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

and we will get in touch with the details of the next meeting.



## LEEDS CHARITIES OFFERING COST OF LIVING CRISIS SUPPORT

*By Matthew Maslen*

The responsibility for supporting people through the Cost of Living Crisis has, unsurprisingly, fallen to the third sector. British governments have failed to protect families and individuals from soaring energy costs so far this year, and measures put in place by the new government fall drastically short of what is needed.

Meanwhile, other countries have provided their citizens with safety nets. As far back as January, France announced a 4% cap in energy price rises.

### The EU

In 2021, the EU imported 40% of its gas from Russia - so many of its member states are exposed to high energy prices.

European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** has proposed:

- A cap on the revenues of electricity companies which produce energy from wind, solar and nuclear sources. These revenues have risen as the price of electricity from these sources is linked to soaring gas prices - the cap is expected to raise €140 billion (£121bn).
- A "solidarity levy" - or windfall tax - on excess profits made by oil, gas, coal and refinery companies in 2022.

She also proposed a mandatory reduction of electricity consumption in peak hours by 5% across the EU, until March 2023

The plans were approved by EU energy ministers on 30 September and will apply from 1 December 2022.

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/61522123>)

Our government not only failed to act ahead of the crisis, it failed to act as it began to unfold. Even now, the actions it has taken such as the £400 energy price discount show a complete disregard for the inequality that a decade of inequality has entrenched in British society.

The failure to tailor support to those who truly need it, coupled with the recently

announced mini-budget, clearly contradict the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching..

So, where the elected have refused to help, charities and local organisations have once again stepped up. Here is a (non-exhaustive) list of places where people can find support in the Leeds area to help ease the burden of the winter ahead.

### Flourishing Families

Family Cookery Project – for £1 a session, provide all the equipment, fresh ingredients and recipes for a healthy, simple to follow, economical and easy to repeat at home meal.

Follow this link to learn more & to find the recipes:

<https://flourishingfamiliesleeds.com/family-cooking/>

### Money Buddies

FREE access to energy advice as often as you need.

We'll even come to your home and do an assessment to show you where you could be leaking money. We'll help you with reading your bills, meters and how to get the best out of your boiler and radiator settings. In many cases we can get FREE specialist help for you have items fitted at no cost.

If you have a dispute with your energy provider we'll guide you in the right direction when it comes to putting in a valid complaint.

<https://moneybuddies.org.uk/services/free-energy-advice-in-leeds-includes-energy-plan-designed-to-save-you-money/>



### InterACT Pantry



Meanwood Community Centre, LS7 2QU.

Provides access to food, including fresh fruit and vegetables and store cupboard favourites for £3.50

<https://www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/pantry-listings/leeds-interact-pantry-meanwood/>



St Vincent  
de Paul Society  
England and Wales  
Turning Concern into Action



As winter approaches, people on little to no income will be hit the hardest. With your help our volunteers can continue to reach out to individuals and families who need us the most. Your donation to our Cost of Living Support Fund will help bring hope and show someone cares during this difficult time.

<https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/113481/donate/1>

### Pudsey Community Project



Pudsey Community Project

Provides community, youth/children and poverty resources for Pudsey and the immediately surrounding area. This includes the Community Pantry which provides access to food, including fresh fruit and vegetables and store cupboard favourites for £3.50:

Pudsey Community Project, Fartown, Pudsey, LS28 8LP

<http://www.pudseycommunity.org.uk/>

### Can You Help?

If reading this you feel you are in a better position to help others, rather than in need of support yourself, why not consider donating to the SVP Cost of Living Fund:

Alternatively, many of these organisations and dozens more we haven't listed are looking for volunteers who may have time, but not money, to spare.

Here is a link to a useful website that links organisations and volunteers together:






<https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/>

### WHAT IS AVAILABLE IN THE REST OF THE LEEDS DIOCESE?

Write in and tell us what is happening in your part of the Diocese – we would be delighted to publish more information.



## EVENTS

 <b>Sat 15 Oct</b>	<b>Has the Church become a 'Not for Prophets' organisation? @ St Roberts Centre</b> St Roberts Centre: 10am-4pm, FREE EVENT (donations welcome) 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? Register here: <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/has-the-church-become-a-not-for-prophets-organisation-tickets-388513754097">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/has-the-church-become-a-not-for-prophets-organisation-tickets-388513754097</a>
 <b>Tues 18<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Anti-Slavery Day 2022: Launch of the Leeds Pledge to Tackle Modern Slavery</b> Leeds Civic Hall: 9:30am – 1pm A number of significant key-note speakers to Leeds, including Dame Sarah Thornton DBE QPM and Dr Liz Such FHEA PhD. Subject matter experts from West Yorkshire Police, Palm Cove, Ashiana, Justice & Care, and Hope for Justice will also be joining us. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/anti-slavery-day-2022-launch-of-the-leeds-pledge-to-tackle-modern-slavery-tickets-405066222977?aff=ebdssbdestsearch">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/anti-slavery-day-2022-launch-of-the-leeds-pledge-to-tackle-modern-slavery-tickets-405066222977?aff=ebdssbdestsearch</a>
 <b>Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Oct</b>	<b>Faith in Action Day</b> Online: 11am – 2:30pm Join CAFOD online for a day of talk and prayer to learn how we can fix our global food system, what to expect from COP27, and how we can use our faith to create a better, more hopeful world. <a href="https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Faith-in-Action-event-2022">https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Faith-in-Action-event-2022</a>
 <b>Sat 26 Nov</b>	<b>Peace &amp; Craft Fair</b> Victoria Hall: 10am-4pm 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.
 <b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Film Screening: Boycott – Leeds Palestinian Film Festival</b> 6:30pm – 8:30pm The film we will show is called Boycott. After the film there will be the opportunity for discussion and there will be a short input from Ben Jamal. He spoke and did the Q+A at the UK premiere of Boycott in London. He is the chairperson of national PSC.

***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.***