



## **‘THEY KEEP US SANE’ – A VISIT TO THE FASLANE PEACE CAMP. 12TH DECEMBER 2021.**

*By David Kelly, Vice Chair, Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*

Last year was the fortieth anniversary of the Faslane Peace camp, situated across the road from the home of Britain’s nuclear submarine fleet. The four submarines that are equipped with [Trident](#) nuclear missiles, have been joined by the seven nuclear powered submarines of the [Astute](#) class, transferred from Devonport. The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency ([SEPA](#)) has increased the amount of permitted pollution into the sea, to accommodate the near tripling of nuclear reactor powered submarines based here.



The juxtaposition of the immaculate industrial site, designed for genocide, with its miles of perfect, electrified fence, and the Peace camp immediately across the road, looking hand-knitted, with its aging caravans, solar power, and wood burning stoves is remarkable. More police are employed to protect Faslane than all of the rest of Argyll and Bute. Every ten minutes a police patrol car passes by. The message of the base is ‘they keep us safe’. There are other interpretations of the patriarchy’s most treasured and insane installation. I think of the peace camp as ‘They keep us sane’, how

can planning to kill tens of millions of people be anything other than lunacy? How should we respond to the threat of mass murder as a political strategy?

As part of the celebration, an Open Day on the 12th of December was organised in conjunction with the [‘Embrace the Base’](#) collective, setup to celebrate the anniversary of the demonstration when 30,000 women surrounded the Greenham Common base for nuclear armed cruise missiles.

I set off from my home in Glasgow, all ‘layered up’, the camp is not warm in December, collected a chum and we were off.

The Peace Camp occupies a strip of land, one path wide with caravans and self-assembled buildings that run for about one hundred meters, by ten meters wide. We got there a little behind the others. Not connected to the world to football, I had not allowed any extra time to collect someone from Ibrox on match day! The visitors and most of the camp regulars were on their way by foot to a vigil at the [North Gate](#). We quickly made-up time by car. Of course, we are quickly joined by small group of Police, keen to understand this was a vigil, rather than anything disruptive. We are blessed in Scotland with a Police force who are properly briefed in our right to protest.

Always good to have new visitors to the camp, so a wee trip to [Coulport](#) was quickly organised for those who had never been. Coulport is where all of the UK’s nuclear warheads are kept and loaded onto submarines. In contravention of the non-proliferation treaty that we are signatories of, the number of bombs is being [increased](#). I took the ‘military’ road to get there, a road recently built to accommodate the huge



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convoys that take our nuclear warheads on [public roads](#) to Aldermaston and Burghfield for maintenance. We know little of the process they go through while being refurbished, but we do know that Tritium which has a half-life of only 12 years is an essential component of these bombs. We didn't stay long with the promise of a hot bowl of soup back at the peace camp, but I took the long road over the top of Peaton Hill, from where you can see what a fabulous piece of countryside has been despoiled by the enormous base. Glasgow CND will be organising a 'Reclaim the Clyde' campaign in 2023, and are actively looking for groups or individuals to join in.

In recent years, the Peace Camp has struggled to have enough residents, this has improved in the last year, but numbers could still go up, and new residents are welcome. It is quite a tough life if you are used to waking up to a warm house with an electric kettle for that first cup of coffee. Someone has to do it, glad it's not me!

The gathering was about twenty strong, and included philosophy student Matty Maslen, which is why I am writing this. I met several new 'campers' which was very encouraging. Great sense of community as we shared a meal, exchanged our histories, and met old friends. I caught up on the news, such as it was, on the 'missing' eight metre '[Happy 40th Birthday](#)' sign that Kate and I made for the camp, which disappeared from inside the camp the night before the 40th birthday party. Looked like a classic 'capture the flag' operation, and my Kate will write to the base commander asking if there is any light he can cast on this.

This is the front line in our decades long struggle to eliminate nuclear weapons. The United Nations passed the Treaty to Prevent

Nuclear Weapons ([TPNW](#)), which is being adopted by more countries all of [the time](#). Of course, the real struggle is to persuade those countries that have nuclear weapons to work to abandon them. The Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is at the forefront of this.

There are other organisations that pursue particular objectives in this global campaign:

<https://www.banthebomb.org/>

<https://tridentploughshares.org/>

<https://www.nukewatch.org.uk/>

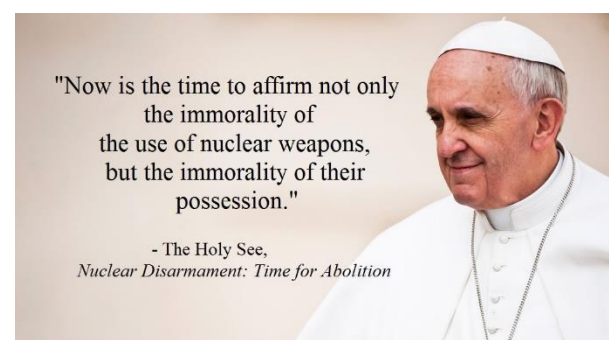
and of course, the world-wide umbrella organisation, who got the ban through the United Nations General Assembly:

<https://www.icanw.org/>

And, of course,

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

I hope you found this article of interest, and that you might help us end this abomination.





## POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI, RIP

*By Dr Ann Marie Mealey, Commission member and Director of Catholic Mission – Leeds Trinity University*

[This piece was originally written for Leeds Trinity University (LTU) and has been edited to apply more widely to justice and peace activism].

We are saddened to learn of the death of Pope Emeritus XVI. This news will sadden those who had a deep appreciation of his theological writings and those who had the privilege of attending the papal visit to the United Kingdom in 2010.



Students at Leeds Trinity studied some of the writings of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and pondered the implications of his teachings for the modern world. *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love, 2005), *Spe Salvi* (Saved by Hope, 2007) and *Caritas in Veritate* (Love in Truth, 2009) have been debated in our classrooms at LTU for several years and will undoubtedly continue to shape those students who have now graduated and work in our local schools, charities, and businesses.

The teachings of *Caritas in Veritate* very much link with our own mission as a Catholic University as they remind us that every person who interacts with us at the

university must be respected and cared for. This means taking the necessary steps daily to ensure that the good of all is maintained and guaranteed. Paragraph 7 of *Caritas in Veritate* reminds us that:

‘[t]o love someone is to desire that person's good and to take effective steps to secure it. Besides the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of “all of us”, made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society. It is a good that is sought not for its own sake, but for the people who belong to the social community and who can only really and effectively pursue their good within it.’

Put simply, to show love is to be naturally drawn into the field of justice and peace. This teaching is essential for those working towards a more peaceful and just world. We must continue to find ways of expressing our profound respect and support for those we work with, and on behalf of, as without these principles underpinning our work, we cannot claim any distinctiveness or claim to be genuinely living our mission and values.

But in addition to this support and respect, we need to teach and empower those around us to believe that they can make a difference in the world. As we help those entering the world of work, either for the first time or after time away, we must remember that employability is not simply about getting into jobs. It is also about empowering people to question the structures and circumstances in businesses, charities, communities, and classrooms that keep people disempowered, marginalised and questioning their own true potential.



On this point, the teaching of the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI is again helpful. In *Spe Salvi* he reminds us that we must always be open to asking new questions and looking at old problems in a new light. He states:

‘[...] new generations can build on the knowledge and experience of those who went before, and they can draw upon the moral treasury of the whole of humanity[...]. [...] [E]very generation has the task of engaging anew in the arduous search for the right way to order human affairs; this task is never simply completed. Yet every generation must also make its own contribution to establishing convincing structures of freedom and of good, which can help the following generation as a guideline for the proper use of human freedom; hence, always within human limits, they provide a certain guarantee also for the future’ (paragraph 24-5).

This provides a sound platform for the critical engagement that is sought after from employers. Those who can take approaches from previous generations and ask whether they are now providing a suitable moral compass for the future are extremely valuable to any organisation. Challenging the status quo, asking fresh questions, providing ethical solutions, and having the convictions to see these through are valuable both in moral and business terms.

Along with these teachings, our LTU students who attended the papal visit to England in 2010 will remember Benedict XVI perhaps for the rest of their lives. His humility, openness towards them and willingness to engage with students of all ages was very endearing indeed. The reports were overwhelmingly positive as he seemed confident and very much at ease bringing the theology of the

Catholic Church and its riches to bear on the contemporary world and its challenges. Known for his love of students, learning and scholarship, many who knew this Pope personally reported that he never forgot the names of his students and continued supporting them long after they graduated.

Of course, there are certain aspects of Pope Benedict XVI’s work that continue to be debated and will continue to be written about by scholars. Nevertheless, few can doubt the enormous contribution to theological teachings and Catholic scholarship more generally that he leaves behind. As the Bishop of Leeds, Marcus Stock puts it, ‘Benedict’s teaching as the Successor of St Peter and his theological writings have given the Church a profound legacy that will be appreciated every more deeply now and in the years to come.’

But for those who do not belong to the academy or to the Church, there is another lasting teaching that the late Pope leaves behind. Who can forget the memory of him being courageous enough to voluntarily resign from his position in 2013 and admit that he no longer had the ‘strength of mind and body’ to continue the role in such a demanding world? This action of courage played out on a world stage as one of the world’s religious leaders expressed his wish to step down from his position.

For anyone in leadership who is feeling much guilt and worry about having the courage to bow out of a position of enormous responsibility, this example is both humbling and thought-provoking. Having the ‘courage to be imperfect’ is something that is certainly worthy of consideration by everyone, and something that the late Pope Benedict XVI leaves not only to the universal Church but to the whole of humanity. With gratitude and thanks, may he Rest in Peace.





## CAFOD'S 2022 REFLECTION AND HOPES FOR 2023

*By Angela Powell, CAFOD Leeds*

### **CAFOD thank you, and looks forward to working together in 2023, for a world transformed, guided by the spirit**

At the start of the new year, we give thanks for all we were able to achieve together in 2022, remaining in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world. The women who founded CAFOD, whose 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we celebrated in 2022, would be proud the legacy of dignity, hope, and compassion has continued. Thanks to the love and generosity of supporters in the Catholic community of Leeds, we have been able to continue to work in partnership with inspirational community leaders, and church communities overseas. We are very aware of the challenges faced by all, be they economic, political, or environmental, and we keep the most vulnerable in our hearts and minds. Inspired by their hope, we respond with prayer and practical support to ensure local experts have what they need to put their creative ideas to tackle adversity, into action. In the context of a post covid world, war in Ukraine affecting supplies of basic needs everywhere, and devastating climate events, CAFOD was able to fund humanitarian relief and help people to adapt their livelihoods to sustain themselves and live the dignified life God intends for all. We start our new year in the faith we will continue to work together for a world transformed, guided by the Spirit.

So to begin, this Lent CAFOD is supporting families with the skills and tools they've asked for to fight the climate crisis. In Bangladesh, one of the most at-risk countries from the effects of the climate crisis, 14-year-old Dristy and her mum Rupali are building seed beds and planting palm trees to protect

their crops from flooding and cyclones that used to devastate both their homes and crops. Now, she passes these techniques on to her friends, some of whom have begun planting saplings of their own.



Thanks to local organisations supported by CAFOD who have worked alongside the village and share cutting-edge techniques, Rupali teaches her daughter how to plant diverse crops, build seed beds, use discarded household items to grow saplings and plant palm trees that protect their crops from the impact of regular cyclones and seawater flooding. They are doing what they can to help themselves but so many others are still without the resources or training they need.

To give thanks for the impact of your support and to prepare for Lent, all are welcome to join us at a Mass near you, followed by an opportunity to meet after and hear more about CAFOD's work.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 10 am:** CAFOD Mass, Parish of the Holy Redeemer, St Patricks' Church, Huddersfield HD1 5JY

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 12 pm:** CAFOD Mass, St Peter in Chains, Doncaster, DN1 2AA

**7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10 am:** Parish Mass followed by a coffee morning in the Parish of St William of York, St Francis of Assisi Church, Morley, Leeds, LS27 9NF



If you are planning to come along to any of the above gatherings, please email to let us know.

### Could you help us this Lent Family Fast Day – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023?

During and since the pandemic, many of our long-serving parish volunteers have stepped away from activities in their parishes and while we are working to find new volunteers to take over the role, it would be great to hear from people who would be willing and able to help out this year by:

- Giving the fast day talk in your parish at Masses on the weekends of 25/26<sup>th</sup> February or 4/5<sup>th</sup> March
- Helping to distribute the collection envelopes that are sent to your parish
- Or by using one of our Zettle devices or QR lanyards to collect online payments in parishes that no longer take cash donations

There may be young people in the parish who would be willing to help with this – could you ask them?

I can send you the talk and other information if you can help, just email me: [apowell@cafod.org.uk](mailto:apowell@cafod.org.uk)

### Do you enjoy walking?

We're excited to invite you to take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, our newly relaunched challenge to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty.



That's right – that's 5km a day and you're in good time to get in plenty of training! You can walk, run, skip, or stroll your 200km, when and where you choose, alone or with friends. You'll be among thousands of people up and down England and Wales conquering your 200km targets in time for Easter.

Last year, many of our schools, individuals and some parishes took part in our walking challenge, Walk Against Hunger during Lent. This year we're asking you to join us in our Big Lent Walk. I have signed up to do it again myself and you can sign up here:

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

The money you raise will help people as they overcome poverty. Remember: every step you take is a step closer to a fairer world. Let's tell poverty to jog on!



## LEEDS CHURCH INSTITUTE IN 2023

*By Bronagh Daly & Dwayne Hutchinson*

Leeds Church Institute recently moved to a new office location in the heart of the city, based behind the Leeds Minster at 43 The Calls. At **7pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**, Dr Helen Reid Director of LCI will welcome new team members and trustees at a Commission Service at the Leeds Minster. Justice and Peace members are warmly invited to attend this special event led by the incoming Rector, Rev Paul Maybury, followed with an address from John Battle.

At Leeds Church Institute we provide opportunities for discussion on ecumenical mission and social justice. Conversations spark ideas and inform our plans. Through a series of events and discussions, people from across the city are invited to join and share their voice and learn together as a faithful city. Have a look at the range of events we have planned for the year, and if you are interested book a space and join the conversation.

If you would like to work in partnership with us, we really look forward to hearing from you at: [info@leedschurchinstitute.org](mailto:info@leedschurchinstitute.org)

### **Seeing Asylum photography exhibition and talk with Senior Lecturer in Criminology, Dr Maria de Angelis**

St Paul's Catholic Church Alwoodley, Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb @4pm – 7pm Book [here](#)

Seeing Asylum is a ground-breaking Art exhibition that tells true, yet hidden stories of women who were held in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) whilst seeking asylum. Their stories include journeys of hardship, their strikes to protest against systematic oppression and their experiences of their human rights being challenged or taken away from them, due to unaccounted

institutional oppression. Unfortunately, this led to them experiencing unhealthy practices of inhumane actions during their detainment.

The exhibition will provide attendees with opportunities to engage with the artwork through visual engagement, creativity and craft skills, hearing audio recordings of the in-depth stories of lived experiences and participate in conversations about harmful practices that have occurred within UK IRCs.

As Attendees walk around the exhibition, they will have the opportunity to speak to the facilitators, ask them questions about the artwork and hear more about the Seeing Asylum Exhibition. The facilitators include a Religious Leader, a Criminologist and a Faith and Racial Justice Lead, who are ready and willing to speak with you at the event.

We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Other Upcoming LCI Events:**

Leeds Church Institute Commissioning Service, *Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 7pm @ Leeds Minster*, Book [here](#)

Online Reading Group discussing 'Dawn of Sunday, The Trinity and Trauma-Safe Churches', *Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 7.30pm @ zoom*, Book [here](#)

Feedback and Discussion on the Hook Lecture 2022, Partnerships for Real Change, *Tues 31<sup>st</sup> January 7.30pm, @ LCI Meeting Room*, Book [here](#)






Online Reading Group discussing 'Dawn of Sunday, The Trinity and Trauma-Safe Churches', *Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30 @ zoom*, Book [here](#)

Gather Leeds 2023: Join us for an evening on Zoom with Christians from around Leeds, *Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Mar 7:45pm @ zoom*, Book [here](#)

Online Reading Group discussing 'Dawn of Sunday, The Trinity and Trauma-Safe Churches', *Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 7.30pm @ zoom*, Book [here](#)



## EVENTS

 <b>Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>	<b>We Rise – Global Justice Now Youth Network</b> Bridge 5 Mill: 1:30pm – 6:45pm We Rise is a free gathering for young people (under 30) organised by Global Justice Now. It will be a day of political education, creative workshops and movement building. It will cover climate reparations, migrant justice, activism and more. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-rise-manchester-tickets-410382383757">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/we-rise-manchester-tickets-410382383757</a>
 <b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan</b>	<b>LCI Commissioning Service</b> 7pm – 9pm Open invitation to a church service at the start of the year to commission new members of staff. The service falls within the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and they will join with Christians around the globe focussing on Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice using resources prepared by churches in Minneapolis. After the service there will be refreshments in the City of Leeds Room, time to talk and to hear more about LCI plans for 2023. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leeds-church-institute-commissioning-service-at-leeds-minster-tickets-489626394727">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leeds-church-institute-commissioning-service-at-leeds-minster-tickets-489626394727</a>
 <b>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	<b>Just Jesus</b> St George's Church: 9:30am – 4pm If you want to try a different flavour of Christian thought about action for Justice then get yourself along to this day which is free to attend. It is being organised through Lighthouse West Yorkshire. Speakers include Katie Dowds and John Swales (of Christian Climate Action, Leeds) who are both associated with this church. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-jesus-tickets-425847349887?fbclid=IwAR1O99B57EqQC5g8GOpUvAghUDDWU8cQYI2RS5W8YMXj_ocqmHNBxbR9trE">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/just-jesus-tickets-425847349887?fbclid=IwAR1O99B57EqQC5g8GOpUvAghUDDWU8cQYI2RS5W8YMXj_ocqmHNBxbR9trE</a>
 <b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Fairtrade Fortnight 2023</b> This Fairtrade Fortnight, join us in spreading a simple message: choose Fairtrade now and help save our favourite foods. Get involved: <a href="https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/">https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/</a>
 <b>Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Apr</b>	<b>Day of reflection on Climate Change</b> 10:30am – 4pm Our next Day of reflection will be on a Climate Change / Creation Theology theme. Leading this day will be Linda Jones, Head of Theology Programmes at CAFOD. We will be holding the day at Norwood Methodist Retreat Centre near Lindleywood Reservoir – a beautiful location to reflect on God's creation. Booking will open by the end of January – just as soon as we have sorted out a few more details.

***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.***