



YORKSHIRE CND GIG IN BRADFORD

By Sam Legg

In February, Yorkshire CND held a fundraiser at Bradford's infamous 1in12 Club. The night featured the following upcoming British talent: Beb (Leeds), Flip Top Head (Brighton), Juice Pops (Manchester) & Bull (York). From the brass delights of Flip Top Head to the groovy tunes of Bull, it was wonderful to see these young talents ignite such energy in support of our cause for a more peaceful world.



You can listen to some of the music by these bands here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/04Sr6NS7kPSB3beggFfYXb?si=555cc627a71842f9>



The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) has held numerous benefit gigs over the past 65 years, with its long standing relationship with Glastonbury Festival being perhaps the most widely known

collaboration with the music industry. Doing these events has been a great way to have fun with the activist community, bringing some light to an otherwise bleak campaign, whilst also allowing us to have the funds to continue our work on both a national and local level. We were pleased to work on this event in collaboration with the 1in12 Club, as part of a scheme allowing local promoters to hold events at the space for free (if booked prior to the end of February 2023).



Yorkshire CND are in conversation with artists to arrange other shows in the near future, but in the meantime why not come say hello at one of the CND stalls at the Beans On Toast Tour? Beans On Toast is currently touring all over the UK, and recently released the song 'Against The War' to help raise funds for CND. We really appreciate his kindness and support. Please listen to it here: <https://beansontost.ffm.to/againstthewar>





CHRISTIAN GROUPS TO JOIN HUGE FOUR-DAY CLIMATE PROTEST IN APRIL

By Mytholmroyd Good Shepherd Church Community

Climate organisations are working to get 100,000 people outside Parliament from April 21st - 24th, calling for 'a fair society and a citizen-led end to the fossil fuel era'.

This event comes at a time when politicians are backtracking on climate promises, energy giants are declaring record profits, and ordinary people find it increasingly hard to make ends meet.



Extinction Rebellion - who have pledged at the start of the year to abandon their strategy of public disruption - is working with a range of organisations to gather people together for the four day event that has been nick-named 'The Big One'. Christian groups involved with the protest include CAFOD, Tearfund and many others.

Organisers, who are watching the numbers grow and more organisations getting on board, are excited about the possibilities. Ali Bath, a local organiser in Calderdale, West Yorkshire, says 'We're seeing a lot of enthusiasm from all kinds of people, not just the environmental movement. We saw in 2019 with Extinction Rebellion and the youth strikes that mass movements can change the whole conversation. The climate movement

has struggled to get back on its feet after Covid, and the fossil fuel lobby has taken advantage - but if enough people decide to come to Westminster, The Big One could be a game-changer'.

As well as talks, music, discussions and more, there will be a programme of worship and prayer over the four days, on themes of racial justice, youth, and the future, as well as an Anglican Communion and a Catholic Mass.

For more information about 'The Big One' including support with accommodation in London, and how you can spread the word or get involved, you can go to:

<https://christianclimateaction.org/2022/10/22/the-big-one/>

or sign up through at Extinction Rebellion:

<https://extinctionrebellion.uk>. You can also use those websites to find your local Christian Climate Action or Extinction Rebellion local group.

CAFOD is working with Christian Aid, Tearfund and other Christian groups to organise a pilgrimage for **Friday 21 April** that will start from 11 am at St John's Church in Waterloo, and proceed after some music and prayers to Parliament Square. More details will be shared in parishes soon.

See the following pages to learn about how CAFOD's Lent appeal is responding to those affected by Climate change and how parishioners are taking campaign action to address food poverty around the world.



LENT AT CAFOD

By Angela Powell, CAFOD Leeds

Throughout Lent, CAFOD has been encouraging the communities in Leeds to be in solidarity and respond to the needs of everyone affected by climate change. We have been sharing stories about the impact of a [CAFOD-funded project in Bangladesh](#), for skills and opportunities to adapt and grow more sustainable food in a part of the world that is constantly affected by storms and flooding.

Parishes have been holding collections and individuals and young people in schools have been joining in big walks to help more families around the world to cope with the climate crisis. We know communities are losing loved ones, their homes, and their crops through no fault of their own, and the people we serve are determined to adapt but they need our help to get tools and training, and we need to respond because caring for one another is very much part of our faith, it is how Christ taught us to be.

Thankfully, Lent enables us to pause our usual ways and through prayer, fasting and charity we can reflect on how we can better serve Christ through what we say and do. In the face of traumatic world events, the love shown through the Cross reminds us that hope reigns over despair. Together as Christian communities, we can and do act together.



CAFOD exists to enable compassion over adversity, to bring about a fairer world and more dignified lives for everyone. We are

thankful to the communities who are acting in solidarity with others.



(Pictured here), is Viv Hinde from The Parish of St Josephs, in Leeds diocese, putting her faith into action by joining the [Big Lent Walk](#) to raise vital funds for CAFOD.

On the second Sunday in Lent, we were reminded about the disciples climbing a mountain with Jesus. When they make it to the top, they don't want to leave. The image of 'ascending the mountain' is an image of the human quest for God; the mountaintop is a place where we see a vision of Christ transfigured.

This Lent, we are each called to renew our own quest to better serve Christ, the Word of God, to make an extra effort, to 'ascend' a spiritual mountain. It's through this experience of meeting the Word anew that we become the face of Christ in our world today. In faith, we can play our part, enabling everyone to recognise the face of Christ in our sisters and brothers as we reach out in solidarity to all.

And after Easter, we can remain in solidarity by addressing the causes and structures that prevent people such as small-scale farmers, from helping themselves in these circumstances. CAFOD's Fix the Food System campaign is all about the imbalance of power between large corporations and small-scale



farmers around the world. And at the heart of the global food crisis is a struggle for control over the world's seeds.

For generations, small-scale farmers have freely swapped and shared a wide variety of seeds. However, the freedom of farmers to choose what seeds they use is under threat as the World Bank supports new laws which push farmers towards using seeds sold by big agribusiness. This puts control of the world's seeds into the hands of a few giant corporations. If we want a sustainable food system, then we must stand with small farmers across the world as they fight for control over their seeds.

Please join CAFOD in demanding the World Bank end all policies that restrict farmers' freedom to choose which seeds they use to grow food. Read more and send a message to the World Bank [here](#).

From late April, CAFOD will share materials in our parishes for anyone who wishes to get involved in the meantime see cafod.org.uk/food for updates.

DO YOU FANCY A FILM SHOW IN YOUR PARISH?

The Commission has a number of films such as *The Letter* (Laudato Si), *Righting the Wrong* (St Oscar Romero) and a number about Palestine. We also have the technology & will come along to show them! – Email us to explore doing this in your parish or community.

THE TWELVE MEET THE COMMISSION

Towards the end of February, 4 members of the Commission met with the group of young people who form the Diocese of Leeds Youth Leadership Team, known as The Twelve, which is facilitated in collaboration by Caritas Leeds, Leeds Citizens and the Leeds Diocesan Youth Service.



We were there to listen to the key concerns that The Twelve had identified previously. The session was led by Graham Brownlee of Leeds Citizens, with Jessica Wilkinson and Ryan Wilkinson from the Diocesan Youth Service also in attendance. We joined two groups to explore different issues that were important to them and the young people that they had surveyed, about which they wanted to take action. They had rather high expectations of what the J&P Commission could do!

Omswarup Behera has provided this summary of what the two groups wanted to explore:



We met with The Justice and Peace Commission and discussed ways to help children struggling with resilience, family (values) problems and injustice. We conducted a survey of young people and one of the main concerns was that they couldn't find any support if members of their family had health conditions like cancer. In order to combat this rising problem, we would like to make it more aware that many children are struggling and adults need to make a healthy connection with the children, whether that is in school or at home.

Our solution is that we would like to work with schools so that they can put in a more efficient system for worried children. Many people feel judged if they are taken out of class and singled-out and some of the shyer pupils would probably feel more comfortable over emails rather than a face-face confrontation.

Not only was this an issue but students felt that major external issues like climate change or starting adulthood and taxes were not talked about enough. They would like to see more of this embedded into the Personal Development Time at school so that students can understand how to cope with adult life and have a balance between work life and social life.

The Twelve comprises students aged between 13 to 17. All spoke passionately and articulated the problems that had been raised very clearly. We discussed each person's ability to make change and encouraged the young people to recognise their own 'agency' – the power that they themselves possess. Whilst this will vary between educational establishments, they did identify channels where they might be able to explore how to bring about the

changes they are seeking. Graham Brownlee extended this thinking by encouraging us all to think about who has the power to bring about the changes they are seeking – either directly or the people who can influence those with the direct power.



The different Commission members there committed to helping the groups further their ideas in any way they can. This article, bringing an awareness of these issues to a wider audience, is one of the actions arising from this meeting. Another Commission member was meeting with the Diocesan Director of Education and promised to draw their attention to the issues raised.

We agreed to meet with them again and to provide further assistance in any way we can. It was great to see younger generations exploring such issues and we look forward to them graduating into our SPARK Social Justice project as they get older.

To find out more about The Twelve then take a look at their webpage on the Diocesan website

www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/youth/the-twelve

Or check out their Twitter/Instagram handle

@thetwelve_dol



CLIMATE CHANGE – TIME FOR REFLECTION

Our next Day of shared Reflection, organised in partnership with the CAFOD group in Our Lady of Kirkstall parish, is called 'Encounter, Conversion, Hope'.

'Encounter' is a word that is most often used in the context of a meeting with other people. It often implies getting a deeper understanding about someone – as in 'encountering Jesus' or the idea behind 'Marriage Encounter'.

Rarely is the term used in connection with the natural environment around us – God's creation.



In this day led by Linda Jones, Head of Theology Programmes at CAFOD, we will encounter God's creation directly through the window of Norwood Methodist Retreat Centre in the beautiful Washburn valley, near Lindleywood Reservoir.

In *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis calls us all to an 'ecological conversion'. Again, 'conversion' is a word not usually in the same sentence as ecology! Pope Francis calls us to recognise what we are doing to this part of God's creation. The conversion he talks about is twofold. Firstly, it is a personal conversion whereby we come to recognise how our own lifestyles affect the natural environment around us – how much of the planet do we

need?. Secondly, though, he talks about the need for 'community conversion'. As communities (churches, towns, countries) we need to recognise our collective impact on the environment and consider how we care for it.

When you consider what is happening all around us, where do we find Hope in our current situation?

Join us for this day, which includes mass. The day is free to attend but booking is essential as the Retreat Centre has limited space. Equally, there is no public transport to the venue and we will be facilitating lift-sharing between attendees wherever possible.



Sunday 30 April 2023

10:15am to 4pm

To book a place go to the events page on the Justice & Peace website and follow the link to the Eventbrite page:

<https://www.leedsjp.org.uk/events/>



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION EVENT

By Joe Burns, Commission member

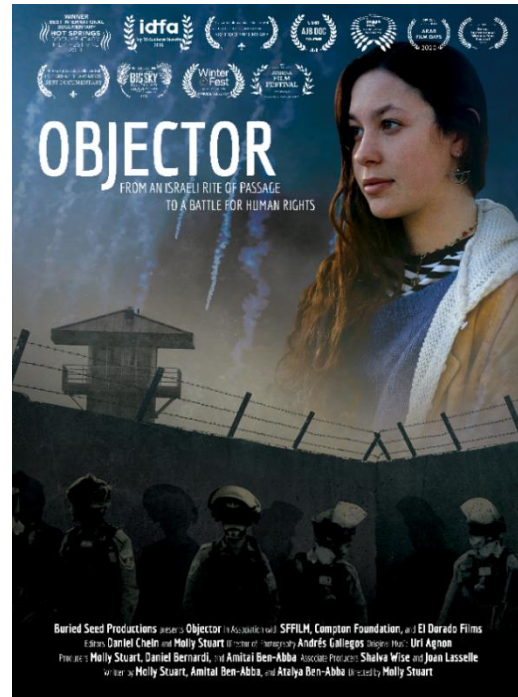
Conscientious objection is often associated with the first or second world war. A 'Conscience' clause was included in the 1916 Military Service Act – compelling men to enlist to fight in the First World War. Around 14,000 men applied for such an exemption, with around half of them agreeing to undertake non-combat duties, such as being stretcher bearers.

Today there is a recognised procedure for registering a conscientious objection and, as the UK has a volunteer army, it has become much less talked about. Equally, conscientious objection is applied to other situations where action may conflict with religious beliefs (a doctor carrying out an abortion, for example).

However, several countries still require citizens to perform a period of compulsory military service and in these it is a much more live issue.

Every May 15th International Conscientious Objectors Day is celebrated across the world. We are partnering with Pax Christi in the Leeds Diocese and the Leeds Palestinian Film Festival Committee to host such an event.

Israel is one of the countries where military service is compulsory. We are going to show a film called 'Objector' which follows the story of a young Israeli woman, Atalya, who refuses to do her military service on the grounds of conscience in that she thinks the treatment of Palestinians by the Israeli Defence Forces is morally wrong. It is an intense and moving story. The film lasts



around an hour. We sponsored a showing of this film as part of the 2021 Leeds Palestinian Film Festival.

As a prelude to the film there will be a short talk by Rev Clive Barrett. Clive is a Trustee of the Peace Museum in Bradford and has written a book about conscientious objectors in the First World War.







After the film there will be a panel discussion and the organising group is currently working on getting together suitable people. We are hoping to have someone involved with the film as part of the panel.

The event will take place in Wheeler Hall, attached to St Anne's Cathedral, and starts at 6:30pm.

Doors will open at 6pm and light refreshments will be available along with a selection of stalls selling Palestinian goods and advertising various related causes.



EVENTS

 Thu 23rd Mar	<p>Politics & the Common Good – Scottish laity Network 7pm - 8:30pm</p> <p>one of a series of 6 events organised by the Scottish Laity Network that take place during Lent 2023.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWihmmwB0un4ioHUoCAognziA9cjh6SMwdMZ4JRlJlqFyWw/viewform</p>
 Thu 30th Mar	<p>Politics & the Common Good – Scottish laity Network 7pm - 8:30pm</p> <p>one of a series of 6 events organised by the Scottish Laity Network that take place during Lent 2023.</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWihmmwB0un4ioHUoCAognziA9cjh6SMwdMZ4JRlJlqFyWw/viewform</p>
 Sun 30th Apr	<p>Day of reflection on Climate Change 10:15am – 4pm @ Norwood Methodist Retreat Centre near Lindleywood Reservoir</p> <p>Day of reflection on a Climate Change / Creation Theology theme. Led by be Linda Jones, Head of Theology Programmes at CAFOD. Free to attend but booking essential – see our website events page to book a place.</p>
 Thu 15th May	<p>Reflecting on International Conscientious Objectors Day 6:30 – 8:30pm @ Wheeler Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, Leeds</p> <p>With a showing of the film <i>Objector</i> and an introduction by Rev Clive Barrett(see page 7 for details)</p>
 Thu 22nd May	<p>Catholic Social Teaching: Civilising Economic Life 7pm - 8:30pm @ LTU</p> <p>Online open lecture organised by the office of the Director of Catholic Mission at Leeds Trinity University. This lecture will be given by Prof Philip Booth, Professor of Public Policy at St Mary's Twickenham. To book a place please contact Dr Ann Marie Mealey a.mealey@leedstrinity.ac.uk</p>
 Fri 21st Jul To Sun 23 Jul	<p>Sustainability? – Survival or Shutdown 21st @6:30pm – 23rd @2pm @ The Hayes Conference Centre</p> <p>45th National Justice & Peace Network Conference. What is sustainability? It is always a lively event with a combination of keynote speakers and a range of workshops with a good craic around the bar in the evening. Also running during the weekend will be a 'Just Fair' with stalls from many organisations working around sustainability and other social justice issues.</p> <p>It's not a cheap weekend (full cost is £225) though there are low income options as well. Use the button to download the application form.</p> <p>https://www.leedsjp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-NJPN-conference-WEB-Booking-Form-2023-11-2.pdf</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.