

CLIMATE CHANGE MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT



Yorkshire was well represented at the Mass lobby of Parliament about Climate Change which took place on 17 June.

In total, over 9000 people took part and lobbied over 300 MP's. CAFOD have really pushed this campaign amongst the catholic community but one of the inspiring aspects of the whole event was the sheer range of organisations and interests that the Climate Coalition had brought together for this event.

The lobby took place in June because in December 2015, world leaders will meet to agree a legally binding and universal agreement on climate. Our government can take a global lead in these negotiations and we are looking to all our new MPs to show leadership on climate action for the entire time they represent us in Parliament – but there's a lot of pressure for them to keep the status quo. They will only take bold steps if they know they have our support.

Many people there came from a faith background. At the start of the event there were two separate ecumenical services held. Both of them were packed with several hundred people attending the lobby.

Nick Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury, likened Climate Change to going to see the doctor and being told you had a serious disease but that it was treatable. *"If the doctor told you that he was 95-97% certain of his diagnosis you would take the medicine – and it should be the same with Climate Change"*



The Climate Coalition supported calls for both **domestic** and **international** action as part of the lobby:-

- MPs should ask the Prime Minister and Chancellor to back a low-carbon infrastructure plan, covering energy and transport and the restoration of nature. This plan should include: Warm homes for all
 - Ensuring the UK's buildings are energy-efficient by making the retrofit of existing homes a government infrastructure priority.
 - Making 2 million of the UK's low-income homes highly efficient by 2020, and all 6 million low-income homes highly efficient by 2025.
 - Ensuring new building regulations for homes and buildings in England are zero-carbon.

The main international elements of the call to action are as follows:

- Make sure the new Sustainable Development Goals agreed in September 2015 respond to the threat of increasing climate change and deliver low-carbon development.
- Help agree a global climate deal in Paris this December that requires all countries to take their fair share of action to limit global temperature rise to well below the internationally agreed target of 2°C and support developing countries to cope with escalating climate impacts

More details can be obtained from the Climate Coalition website

www.theclimatecoalition.org



Hilary Taylor worships at St.Mary’s Church in Horsforth –part of the parish of Our Lady of Kirkstall. In their parish CAFOD group they asked people at mass to write on a small heart one thing that they loved about this earth – and which might be affected by Climate Change. Over 300 people took part in this action. The picture shows Hilary with the small hearts from St.Mary’s stuck onto one larger heart. She is waiting to go in to see the MP for Pudsey – Stuart Andrews



Michael Emly with Leeds West MP Greg Mulholland with more hearts from the same parish.

In terms of lobbying an MP it was a great way of amplifying the message - rather than being part of a small group Hilary and Michael were coming to express the concerns of a significant portion of one of the larger parishes in Leeds.



CAFOD lead from Niger, Michel, spoke of the impact that Climate Change was already making for farmers in that country. Rains are coming for shorter periods than hitherto and farmers have to look to plant different varieties of crop. He also spoke of



Some of the many hundreds attending one of the ecumenical services.

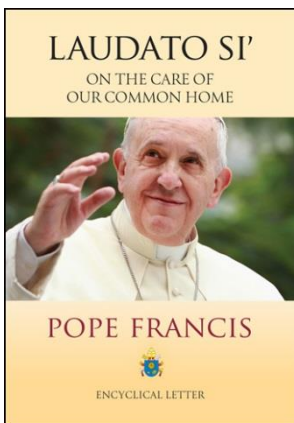
people, with little resources themselves, planting young trees to help stop desertification – something from which only their children or grandchildren will get benefit.

‘LAUDATO SI’: CLIMATE CHANGE ENCYCLICAL

The full text of ‘Laudato Si’ is available from the Commission’s website (www.leedsjp.org.uk).

It’s a bit early to provide some considered comments about it!

The pope starts out by saying: “In this Encyclical, I would like to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home .. I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation that includes everyone, since the environment challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all.” Normally, encyclicals are addressed to Bishops but, like *Pacem in Terris*, this one is addressed to everyone in the world.



Here are some edited extracts from the associated ‘Questions and Answers about the Encyclical’ (which can also be downloaded from our website.

- The document is a call to conversion and action. While ‘Laudato si’ fits perfectly within Catholic tradition, it is saying with new force that concern for the environment is no longer “optional” for a believer. Caring for the environment is now even more clearly and surely part of Church teaching.



- Everything is connected, and nothing truly human is outside of the Church's concern. A person of faith should show even more responsibility regarding creation, which is a gift from God. Climate change isn't a theoretical matter, it is already doing a lot of damage, especially to those least able to adapt.
- Technology and the financial markets can be wonderful instruments, as long as they are serving human beings, enhancing human dignity, as opposed to making relatively few very rich and a lot of people slaves. This calls for honest debate. What constitutes real technological progress? Where does it help human dignity, but where does it degrade it? Or financial markets: are they helping to spread the wealth? Are they helping to bring people out of poverty? Technology and finance have helped some people a lot more than others. LS is not about moving backwards at all. It's about moving forward in a way that respects human dignity, doing everything possible to reduce the numbers of those who keep on being excluded from decent jobs, decent housing and decent healthcare. It's also about moving forward in a way that respects the planet.
- The Pope wants the wealthy nations, and those that have polluted more, to cut back on fossil fuels. He argues that alternative energy is available for all. But that requires solidarity: wealthy nations sharing their profits, helping the poorer nations to develop alternative energy sources.
- We all have to consume, to eat healthy foods, and to drink clean water. What we don't need is to foment an insatiable desire for more; creating needs that aren't really necessary at all. Think about someone who has lost all control with drink or with drugs; it becomes very violent, destructive behaviour. There is a similar kind of addiction with consumption. A constant desire for more things, more possessions, becomes an obsession. Thinking about the poor, or about future generations, can actually set one free.

LEEDS CITIZENS FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

Centenary Pavilion, Leeds United Football Club, Elland Road, LS11 0ES, 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Communities from across Leeds will come together to launch Leeds Citizens. This diverse alliance of faith communities (including the Justice & Peace Commission), residents groups, schools colleges, universities, trade unions and charities has been built to take action for the common good of the city. This assembly is to celebrate all the ground work that has been done, hear powerful stories and pledges of hard work and it will lay the foundations for a new wave of action for Social Justice in the city.

ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMISSION IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND – but the organisers need to know by **June 30**. Let us know if you would like to go and we'll send you a copy of the invite and instructions.

EAPPI – ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

In the last Newsletter we highlighted the plight of Palestinians whose everyday life is blighted by the so-called Separation Barrier.

In this edition we highlight the work of one international group working non-violently for change in the region.



The **Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)** is a programme coordinated



by the World Council of Churches (<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/>) . It was founded in response to a call from the local Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. It brings volunteers from many countries to the West Bank. Since 2002, over 1,500 volunteers have come for 3 months to be Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs).

The purpose of the accompaniers is to witness life under occupation, engage with local Palestinians and Israelis pursuing a just peace, to change the international community’s involvement in the conflict, urging them to act against injustice in the region. The key principles of the way in which they work make for interesting reading:-

(Taken from their website: www.eappi.org)

Protective Presence – Our presence makes the costs of human rights abuses more apparent to the perpetrators, persuades them to act differently, and deters attacks on civilians.

Monitoring of human rights violations – When presence cannot completely halt human rights violations, we are there to monitor and report these abuses to the United Nations and other human rights agencies.

Standing with local peace and human rights groups – We help focus global attention on the activities of Israeli and Palestinian peace groups, thereby increasing their credibility and capacity to work for reform.

Principled Impartiality - We are not pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian and we do not take sides in the conflict. We are pro-human rights and international humanitarian law.

We do not discriminate against anyone and stand faithfully with the poor, the oppressed, and the marginalized.

Advocacy – Advocacy is the tool for increasing international action for change. We share eyewitness testimonies with faith leaders, decision makers, media, civil society, and business officials, so that they change public policy for the common good. Increased international awareness increases pressure on the perpetrators of human rights abuses and helps protect civilians from these abuses.

Nonviolence – Nonviolence is a way of living that rejects the use of violence and seeks to bring change through the engagement of individuals and groups peaceful strategies. We believe nonviolence is the only way to a true and lasting solution to conflict. Our actions are nonviolent and we support all people working nonviolently for peace in Israel and Palestine.



Interested in finding out more?

Come to our conference on 26 September. One of the speakers will be someone speaking about her experiences of being an Ecumenical Accompanier.



“BREAKING DOWN THE DIVIDING WALLS”

Saturday 26 September 2015 at
Oxford Place centre in Leeds
10:30 to 13:30.

Speakers, stalls liturgy and theological reflection about the Separation Barrier

Reserve the date in your diary now!



NJPN NATIONAL CONFERENCE – “THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE”



The National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference
17-19 July at the Hayes Conference Centre in Derbyshire

'The Things that make for Peace' recognises that poverty, injustice and environmental destruction are both causes and consequences of conflict, so that all the issues that we engage with across the J&P network have their part to play in building a peaceful world.

These conferences provide a wealth of inspiring and thought-provoking speakers and workshops. There is a separate programme for children and young people.

There are a number of speakers – including **Paul Rogers** from Bradford University and **Fr.Ed Gariguez** a Filipino religious leader and environmentalist.

The Conference is expensive, though there are reduced rates for low income households. For anyone under 30 who is interested in going but concerned about the cost then **the Justice & Peace Commission is offering bursaries** to defray some of the expenses. Simply email us at jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk for further information.



“WELFARE NOT WARFARE”

This is the title of one of the many workshops that will be given at the NJPN Conference.

It will be delivered by Tim Devereux (Pictured).

Tim lives in St.Joseph's parish (Pudsey) and is Chair of the Movement for the Abolition of War (as well as being an active member of Pax Christi and several other groups).

Sipri* reports that the volume of transfers of major weapons in 2010–14 was 16% higher than in 2005–2009; the UK contributes vigorously to this rise.

Meanwhile, increasingly harsh austerity measures are imposed on ordinary people. The workshop will explore the realities of military spending, and the alternatives.

* *Stockholm International Peace Research Institute*

Do you have any news to share?







Share what you are doing with us and we can include it in this newsletter or on the website.


Formal group, ad hoc group of friends, individuals. Local, national or international issues.

Let's celebrate all that we are doing and learn from one another. Email us with your news.



EVENTS

 Tue 07 Jul 15	<p>LEEDS CITIZENS FOUNDING ASSEMBLY. <i>The Centenary Pavilion, Leeds United Football Ground, Elland Road. 7:30-9:30pm</i> See box notice on page 3. Let us know if you would like to attend.</p>
 Wed 15 Jul 15	<p>REBUILDING JUSTICE: ONCE CLIMATE ONE WORLD <i>A CAFOD event at Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral 7pm – 8:30pm</i> An opportunity to hear Fr.Ed Gariguez speak about his work and the challenges of Climate Change in the Philippines. Fr.Ed is a keynote speaker at the NJPN Conference – so if you can't make it there this is another opportunity to hear his story. Free – but booking required http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rebuilding-justice-with-fr-edu-gariguez-leeds-tickets-17184986758?aff=es2 or ring the CAFOD office on 0113 2759302</p>
 Fri 17 Jul 15 to Sun 19 Jul 15	<p>"THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PEACE" <i>National Justice & Peace Network Annual Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick, Derbyshire</i> A weekend of keynote speakers such as Paul Rogers (From Bradford University), along with workshops, opportunities for theological reflection and a 'Just Fair' running all weekend. <i>The J&P Commission is offering bursaries to people under 30 who need financial support to attend the conference – see the website for more details.</i></p>
 06 -09 Aug 15	<p>ANNIVERSARIES OF THE FIRST USE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS Are you remembering these events in your parish? A simple action would be to ensure that something is included in the Bidding Prayers at mass on the weekend of 8/9 August.</p>
 13 Sep 15	<p>RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY Will you be doing anything different on this Sunday in your parish. This year's theme aims to prompt conversation and reflection on the theme of hospitality and sanctuary. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have prepared an information pack including liturgy and discussion ideas. It has been written by Inderjit Bhogal, of the Leeds Church Institute. Go to the events page on our website if you are interested in downloading the pack (PDF).</p>
 Sat 26 Sep 15	<p>GOD HAS BROKEN DOWN THE DIVIDING WALLS <i>An event jointly organised by Leeds Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and Leeds Pax Christi. 10:30-13:30 Oxford Place Centre, Leeds</i> As part of the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, this half-day conference will provide opportunities for finding out more, praying about it and reflecting on what actions we should be taking as concerned Christians. More details to follow soon.</p>

 Find us on Facebook	'Like' our page on Facebook and 'follow' us to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.
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Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.