

Dear friends,

For your attention and action where appropriate: (this information can also be found on our website <http://bit.ly/2udGQts>)

I am pleased to let you know that you can now book onto this year's Lenten Retreat. It will take place on the 2nd Saturday in Lent, **16th March 2019**.

### **The Passion of Christ, and the Passion of the Earth**

#### Programme

- 9:30am Registration opens - coffee/tea available
- 10:00 Welcome and opening prayer
- 10:15 Talk 1 - the Passion of Christ in the Gospels and today: Led by Fr. Martin Newell CP
- 11:00 Quiet reflection time
- 11:30 Q&A
- 12:30 Lunch, bring own pack lunch  
with time to walk round the grounds for reflection and look at Justice and Peace table
- 1:30 Talk 2 - 'Passion of the earth': Led by Fr. Martin Newell CP
- 2:15 Quiet reflection time
- 3:00 Open forum
- 3:30 Closing prayer / tea and departures
- 4pm Depart

To help us with the provisions of refreshments please can you book on as soon as possible.

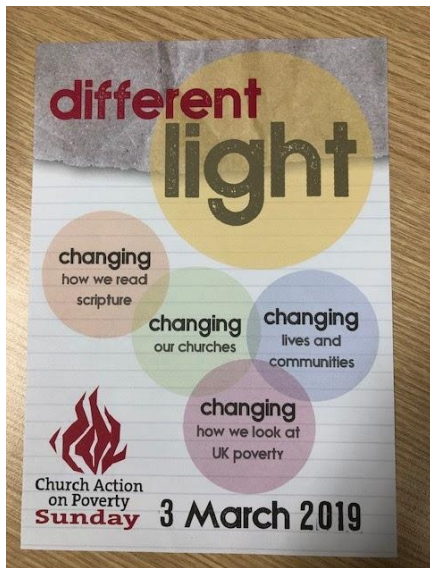
<http://bit.ly/2FJFaRX> or email me to let me know that you plan to attend.



I am also pleased to inform you that this year our Assembly will be slightly different. It will be a joint event with the Columbans. It will still take place at St. Peter's School in Solihull on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Please make sure you have this date in your diary's. Booking forms will be available nearer the time.

### **Baptised and Sent: Our call to be Missionary Disciples**

Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month. The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and the Columban Missionaries invite you to reflect on your experiences, celebrating and putting into action the call to mission for justice, peace and care for creation.



### **Church Action on Poverty**

Can you help on Sunday 3 March by taking a collection or holding a soup lunch?

For full details of how to get involved [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

## **Inspiring Hope**

### **Bishop Kenney shares his experience of CAFOD's work in Sudan and South Sudan**

**Wednesday 6 February 2019**

**7.30-9pm**

**St Peter's RC Church, 3a Dormer Place, Leamington  
Spa, CV32 5AA**



Join us to hear Bishop Kenney share his experience of Sudan and South Sudan, and CAFOD's work there.

To book your place, please contact Elizabeth Wignall at [ewignall@cafod.org.uk](mailto:ewignall@cafod.org.uk) or on 01922 722944.

All very welcome!

**Climate Coalition** [www.theclimatecoalition.org](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org)

The Climate Coalition is the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action against climate change. 130 organisations; 15 million strong. Together it is creating a broad, fresh and diverse voice for change. People across the UK are coming together from all walks of life to join one of the biggest conversations about climate change this country has ever seen.

For 2019, their main date is **Show The Love**. This will run from the **5th - 24th February**, and it would be great if you can get involved! You can find ideas for doing so on our website [here](#). Every February since 2015, hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life have joined in one of the biggest climate movements yet. Join them in 2019 to start new climate conversations, and in making and sharing green hearts to **#ShowTheLove** for all the things you want to protect from climate change. It has never been more important to make your voice heard to the people who have the power to make a world of difference.

In **March** they will also be holding their **Green Heart Hero Awards**, which were held for the first time last year and aim to celebrate all the action taking place on climate change across the country. You can see what they got up to last year [here](#). Culminating [months of exciting activity](#), the Green Heart Hero Awards are our chance to give a big round of applause to the movers, shakers, and doers who are paving the way to a cleaner future. The inaugural ceremony last year featured an incredible audience, including over 40 MPs from across all major political parties, Prime Minister Theresa May, Climate Minister Claire Perry, sport and business leaders, well known TV personalities, and inspirational community members. The incredible nominees and winners show that beautiful things truly are possible when we work together to tackle climate change.

Finally, **in Summer** they are hoping to be part of a **mass lobby on parliament**. Plans are still in the works for this, but you can stay updated with all of this via the supporter newsletter, which [you can sign up here](#).

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**Help please:** I am now compiling February's newsletter. Please can you contribute articles, information about forthcoming events photographs of events / activities that your parish / groups have been involved with.

Thanks.

Dear all,

I expect you already know there is going to be an arms fair (DPRTE) at the Birmingham NEC on March 28th. As you might expect, opposition to this has already started.

1) There is now a "Birmingham Stop the Arms Fair" group that has met twice so far to help organise opposition to the arms fair: see the facebook page for more information, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/brumstaf/>

2) The plan is to organise and support awareness raising, lobbying of local MPs and councillors etc, leafletting, and to have peaceful protests on the day.

3) The idea on the day is to have some 1 hour slots for different groups to take the lead. One session is hopefully going to be for Christians. There is already someone who has offered to lead that, but it would be good if different people contributed a liturgy or prayer etc.

4) There is also:

A - a CAAT training non-violence training day happening on FEB 2ND at Carrs Lane Church, Birmingham

B - a planned public meeting on Feb 9th in Birmingham, location tbc

C - an email address for BSTAF: [stopthearmsfairbirmingham@protonmail.com](mailto:stopthearmsfairbirmingham@protonmail.com)

5) For those in Coventry - I bumped into Beth from the Coventry Peace House on Saturday, and she has since emailed me for more information about this. It would be great if some people wanted to do some campaigning on this in Coventry.

Please spread the word!

Martin

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[www.facebook.com/austinsmithhouse](https://www.facebook.com/austinsmithhouse)

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To help you keep abreast of what is going on in the diocese our Website is updated regularly. We also now have a twitter account so please follow us. Don't forget if you are running any Justice and Peace related events or holding Justice and Peace related meetings email me the details so that they can be added to the Justice and Peace Website Calendar.

We are also looking for articles for next months News Letter, so please send us information about what you have been doing or what you feel would be interesting to others.

*With best wishes as always,*

Janet Vaughan

*Administrator, on behalf of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission*

[Follow us on Twitter Birmingham J&P @BhamJandP](#)