

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you once again to all who attended and supported our recent Justice and Peace day at St Peters School in Solihull. As our main focus we looked at Laudato Si' and the progress being made internationally in combatting climate change through the implementation of the Paris Treaty by the nations of the world. There remains the challenge of answering the call of Pope Francis to respond at different levels to the crisis facing the future of the world and the coming generations. What can we do at the level of our own personal life and our households and families, as a parish community, a school and as a diocese made up of many thousands of people and many parish communities? Each individual action can be a beginning and make a difference and we must encourage and support each other on the road.

I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Justice and Peace Commission of the diocese for their contributions. We meet regularly and seek to support and inspire the great work going on in our parishes and communities. We try to inform you of the events taking place locally on the great themes of peace, justice and reconciliation.

The Commission meets about every two months at St Thomas More's Church in Coventry. We would like to invite new members who feel they might be able to make a contribution to our work. It would initially be an invitation to attend a meeting and see what goes on and how you might be part of it. We aim to have members from as many areas of the diocese as we can, and it would be good to have a representative from each Deanery. Please get in touch if you would like more information about this by contacting our Administrator at jenkins@woxon.freemove.co.uk

We know there is much good work going on in the diocese addressing, peace, justice and social welfare. May the Lord bless all these endeavours to respond to the Lord's call to build the kingdom of peace and justice today.

With best wishes,
Fr Gerry Murray (Chair)

Annual J&P Commission Assembly 2017

Please put the date in your diaries for the next Justice and Peace Assembly being planned for Saturday 14th October 2017, to be held once again in St Peter's Secondary School in Solihull.

The main theme has yet to be decided so if you have any suggestions please contact the Administrator, contact details on the back page. Thank you.

Season of Creation

Phil Mayland

September 1st was proclaimed as the *World Day of Prayer for Creation* by the Orthodox Church in 1989. Since then many other Christian churches joined the Orthodox Church in praying for creation. At the beginning of the new millennium, Norman Habel, a Lutheran Minister in Australia, began to put into practice his ideas about a Season for the Church, honouring God the Creator.

He recorded his memories on his website: "In 2000, at St Stephen's Lutheran Church, Adelaide, South Australia, we decided to celebrate creation. For four weeks we relived the great creation stories in the Bible. The children loved it. We also confessed what we have done to creation and how God is working to renew creation. It was an exciting beginning!"

From 2001 to 2003 I worked with the Uniting Church Commission for Mission in Melbourne, Victoria. After a series of workshops, their leaders agreed to explore the idea of a season of Creation. The idea was a genuine local dream, not a product from abroad."

"In 2003 and 2004 the Uniting Church in Melbourne provided the funds to develop the resources needed to celebrate the season of Creation. In September 2004 the season was trialled in about fifty congregations in Melbourne and Adelaide. My thanks to the Uniting Church for taking the risk to support this Australian venture of faith."

Many Churches across the world, who were already marking September 1st as the World Day of Prayer for Creation, took notice and it was a natural progression for them to extend the period of prayer to a Season of Creation, ending on October 4th, the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi. During the past ten years the Season of Creation has begun to be established in the churches' calendars.

About the same time as the World Day of Prayer was instituted, concern for development of peoples and the sustainability of the environment was becoming more mainstream. The United Nations held the first Earth Day Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. A brief look at the preamble of this event indicates how serious matters were:

1.1. Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing

deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can - in a global partnership for sustainable development.

1.2. This global partnership must build on the premises of General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989, which was adopted when the nations of the world called for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and on the acceptance of the need to take a balanced and integrated approach to environment and development questions.

1.3. Agenda 21 addresses the pressing problems of today and also aims at preparing the world for the challenges of the next century. It reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation. Its successful implementation is first and foremost the responsibility of Governments.

During the last twenty-five years, work has gone on to agree on sustainable development goals and to provide the means to achieve these. Our understanding of the causes of Global Warming and Climate Change has reached the stage where the whole world agrees that action must be urgently undertaken.

During this time, Aid and Development charities, Environmental organisations and many leading scientists and experts have been warning of the dangers we are storing up for the world and its peoples. The so called developed world seems to be on a headlong rush to consume more and more of the world's resources, and many of the countries with 'new economies' are desperately trying to catch up. Governments are mainly concerned with growth in their economies without realizing that this cannot continue indefinitely and with no regard to the consequences. And all this is powered by energy from fossil fuels which cause and accelerate global warming.

Pope Francis, with a scientific background himself, has clearly been concerned about these issues for a long time. He took the name Francis, after that great saint from Assisi. He has written some of the most important letters to the church and to every living person on this planet (*Laudato Si'*). Clearly, Pope

Season of Creation

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Francis intended to influence the world's leaders in setting new Sustainable Development targets in September 2015, and the Climate Change talks in Paris in December 2015.

In 2015 Pope Francis [asked Catholics to join with the Orthodox Church](#) to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. It is celebrated on 1st September. Other Christian churches have joined them in it for a number of years. The day is now an annual event in the Catholic Church. As Pope Francis [explains](#), it is a "significant occasion for prayer, reflection, conversion and the adoption of appropriate lifestyles."

This year the Holy Father has said we should mark this period of five weeks, from September 1st to October 4th, the Season of Creation, by an examination of conscience, which leads to a firm purpose of amendment. He also suggests ways in which we can change.

Finally, Pope Francis in this Jubilee of Mercy, has instituted a new work of mercy. Here I quote from his letter marking the Day of Creation: Obviously "human life itself and everything it embraces" includes care for our common home. So let me propose a complement to the two traditional sets of seven: may the works of mercy also include *care for our common home*.

As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a "grateful contemplation of God's world" ([Laudato Si'](#), 214) which "allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us" (ibid., 85). As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness" and "makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world" (ibid., 230-231)."

The full text of his letter can be found here: http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20160901_messaggio-giornata-cura-creato.html

I have a hope that in the not too distant future every Christian understands that 'Care for our Common Home' is as important to them as 'Feed the Hungry' and that every Christian Community celebrates the Season of Creation with the same dedication and reverence as we give to Lent and Advent.

Phil Mayland

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY: "A RESPONSE TO LAUDATO SI"

For the benefit of those of you who were not able to get to the Assembly this year, you will be pleased to know that it was again a very successful day, despite numbers being down.

It was great to have Archbishop Bernard with us for the whole day, starting with his truly inspirational opening prayer and faith reflection on the crucial role played by justice and peace organisations in this ever-changing world in which we live, through to closing the event with a motivational and spiritually-uplifting prayer as part of a Liturgy lead by the CAFOD team who attended the 2015 COP21 Climate Change Conference in Paris. He also took an active part in the group activities and participated in the panel to answer questions.

The keynote speaker, Ellen Teague from the Columban Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation team in the UK, described so fully, not only the urgent situation which we are faced with through climate change, but the extensive role played by a variety of Columban groups and individuals throughout the world and their achievements in highlighting and promoting alternative forms of energy production to combat the dire effects of uncontrolled changes in the world's climate.

Our CAFOD Paris team expanded on Ellen Teague's address with a local context relating directly to our Diocese, describing their visit to Paris at the end of the Climate Change conference and explained the nature of the Agreement reached.

The team had a vision that the Catholic Church in England and Wales should become the acknowledged leader and example in advocating and adopting a much simpler lifestyle; in particular, they challenged every Parish in the Diocese to become a LiveSimply Parish within the next five years and finished with the words "if we can do the most we can we will have totally responded to Laudato Si"

Eight discussion groups explored in depth the morning presentations whilst afternoon workshops provided a selection of topics under the overall justice and peace umbrella offered by Caritas AoB, Brushstrokes, Justice for Palestine, Austin Smith House, CAFOD and Leamington Catholic Parish.

The content of the contributions is available to view on our website: www.birminghamjandp.org.uk/annual-assemblies

Information about becoming a LiveSimply Parish can be obtained from the Birmingham CAFOD Office at birmingham@cafod.org.uk

Brian Austin

South Sudan and Israel

William Kenney CP
Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham

One of the major tasks of the international department of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is to support the hierarchy in countries where the Church is under severe pressure. It happens that two of the areas which our Bishops; Conference is responsible for are Sudan and South Sudan and also the countries forming what we usually call the Holy Land.

There are reports coming out of Jerusalem about a renewed interest in relations between Israel and African countries. This is particularly so for relations with South Sudan. This country became independent in 2011 and Israel was one of the first countries in the world to recognise this. It sees South Sudan as an important ally as a counterweight to the basically Islamic country of Sudan from which it was divided.

This in itself is unproblematic but in 2013 South Sudan descended into civil war which has continued to this date and seems to be getting worse. It is difficult to get accurate information because of the security situation in South Sudan. There are reports from Associated Press that Israel is still providing arms to the government of South Sudan despite the situation of civil war. There are legal challenges to this arms trade taking place in Israel.

I was last in Sudan about a year ago, when the situation was dire. I was supposed to return this Autumn to attend meetings in Juba the capital of South Sudan. I am unable to attend because of personal health problems, but the meetings have now been moved to Nairobi, because of the security situation. I will, however, be visiting the Holy Land in January and we will see what can be discovered there. There is a preliminary plan to visit Sudan and South Sudan in May of next year but it is far too early to say whether this will happen.

Cardinal Vincent and myself have issued a statement on the situation in South Sudan asking for peace and also for prayer from the Catholics of England and Wales. Sudan has made positive statements about creating peace in South Sudan, which we can only hope that they will follow through on. We as a Church together with other churches and religions need to give what support we can to our brothers and sisters in South Sudan and also to see that the so called international community does not forget the thousands of people killed, and the many more injured and raped and the almost two million refugees in South Sudan.

Bishop William Kenney

WMPF cluster bomb campaign - ramifications of success

Paul McGowan

Significant changes have happened in the last month. **Textron** (USA) announced its intention to cease production of cluster bombs. Pressure groups on both sides of the Atlantic have contributed to this, as has the publicity given to the use of Textron bombs in the war in Yemen. Then, on September 14, the Trustees of the **West Midlands Pension Fund** [WMPF] agreed to exert pressure on **Hanwha** (South Korea) to abandon the cluster bomb trade. This is entirely due to the local campaign, especially in Coventry, and means that all of the WMPF's investments in cluster bombs will come to an end. The Strategic Director of WMPF has expressed 'delight' with the Textron statement, and Trustees have described the cluster bomb trade as 'horrific'. These are the first public pronouncements on this issue from West Midlands officials. We can therefore declare that:

Direct investment by WMPF (£2,500,000) in cluster bomb-makers has almost ended.

All West Midlands Council Tax-payers (at least one million people) can now feel a little better about where their money ends up.

All 270,000 members of the WM Fund, and their 500 employers, can know that pension benefits are not bought from the sale of cluster bombs and the devastation they cause.

WMPF invests in Prudential UK (£21 million) and Standard Life (£4.7 million). These companies invest in Textron. From now on, though, they will not be funding cluster bombs.

Thus, all savers and investors in the UK with Prudential (6 million) and Standard Life (4.5 million) can know that their money does not end up supporting Textron cluster bombs any more.

Investors and shareholders with financial institutions across Europe and the USA making direct investments in Textron (£30 billion since 2012) are, at least, no longer paying them to make cluster bombs.

The £9 billion similarly invested since 2012 in Hanwha will be added to this, as soon as WMPF's pressure succeeds. Plus, WMPF's £5.5 million invested in Old Mutual, and that company's 18.9 million customers will, at that point, no longer be investing in cluster bombs, via Hanwha.

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WMPF cluster bomb campaign: ramifications of success

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Even though direct WMPF investments continue to be made in Textron, Singapore Technologies and Hanwha, and indirectly via financial institutions, none of this money will now go into the cluster bomb trade.

There are no direct investments by WMPF in Orbital ATK, which was dropped from its portfolio two years ago, but is still in the cluster bomb business; indirect investments continue, largely from US financial institutions in which WMPF has a stake, but none from UK-based institutions.

Paul McGowan

Vocation for Justice

We can strongly recommend the Columban Missionaries' 12-page magazine *VOCATION FOR JUSTICE*, which is sent out three times a year to around 8,000 readers, for a voluntary subscription (£15 is suggested) requested every year. Obtainable from JPIC, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY or email JPICSSC:btconnect.com, but did you know you can also download (including back issues) from their website at: <http://www.columbans.co.uk/resources/publications/vocation-for-justice-magazine/>

This is really essential reading for anyone concerned about justice and peace issues. The magazine covers such issues as Environmental Justice, Patenting Life, Migrants, Mining, Debt, Nuclear Weapons and UK Poverty. Contextual theology is always central. Over the years Vocation for Justice has promoted many campaigns, including Jubilee 2000, Stop Destructive Mining in the Philippines, Make Poverty History and Stop Climate Chaos. At their 1994 General Assembly the Columbans said that, "in looking at the world and the missionary challenges it presents, we do so from the evangelical standpoint of solidarity with the poor and the exploited Earth." Justice and Peace is a vital element of mission work in all the countries where Columbans are based.

In the Summer 2016 issue you will find articles mainly centred on the migrant crisis, but also on Laudato Si', the central role of gospel non-violence, tackling corruption and more, together with ideas of action. Highly recommendable. Do take a look.

CAFOD's "Step into the Gap" programme: personal experience

Charlotte Bray

My name is Charlotte Bray and I'm currently doing the Step into the Gap program with CAFOD. I have just graduated from Durham University, where I spent the last three years studying for a degree in theology, and although I had many different opportunities and career paths open to me after my graduation, I chose to do Step into the Gap. Why? Because this particular gap year program with CAFOD gives me the opportunity to put my faith into action and dedicate a year of my life towards working for global justice.

But what is Step into the Gap? Step into the Gap is a unique gap year opportunity for young adults aged 18-30. It is partly UK based, and partly overseas based, so as part of the Step into the Gap program with CAFOD this year I am working as part of the Catholic chaplaincy team in Newman University in Birmingham, where I will be raising awareness of issues to do with global justice among the staff and students there. I am also going to be doing CAFOD outreach, both nationally and locally in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, so hopefully you'll see me out and about while I'm doing CAFOD related things throughout the year.

But what's particularly exciting about my CAFOD gap year is that in January I'll be travelling to Cambodia to visit CAFOD partners there, so I'm particularly privileged to have the opportunity to experience first-hand the amazing work which CAFOD and its partners are doing around the world, both in the UK and overseas.

For me personally, what is so special about this gap year program is that it allows you to grow in your faith whilst also allowing you to help develop a better world for those living in poverty and all those who are marginalised in our world. I am passionate about social justice so would love to be instrumental in helping the Catholic Church to embody Pope Francis' vision of a poor church in solidarity with the marginalised. But more than that, I would love to help transform the whole world into one where people of all faiths and none are in solidarity with those living in poverty.

Step into the Gap is an amazing opportunity which allows me to begin working towards that goal. So this gap year programme with CAFOD is the first step in what will hopefully become a lifelong journey for me.

Charlotte Bray

Climate Change: now is the time to live Laudato Si'

Cardinal John Onaiyek, Archbishop of Abuja

One of Pope Francis' most inspirational actions came almost exactly a year ago when he delivered his Encyclical on Ecology, entitled Laudato Si'. Pope Francis is truly inspirational. From his ubiquitous presence as he travels around the world to his words both spoken and written, there is perhaps no one more widely respected than our Pontiff. In Laudato Si', Francis emphasized that we all have a role to play when it comes to caring for our common home - our planet. Francis reiterates that humans are both a part of creation and set apart by God who calls humanity to "cultivate and care for" the gift of creation (Genesis 2:15).

A year after the Pope inspired us with Laudato Si', it is especially vital to now focus on finding ways to live Laudato Si' - after all, it is action, not words that are the true test of the Pontiff's message. As the Roman Catholic Cardinal Archbishop of Abuja, I am keenly aware of what caring for this planet, and taking on climate change means. Hardly a day passes when we don't feel the impact of climate change. Changes in our rainy seasons, crop disruptions and dangerous diseases are facts of life that are only exacerbated by our collective addiction to fossil fuels and the emissions they spew into our sky.

We feel the impact also on the socio political plane. As desert encroachment dries up traditional grazing grounds in the North, itinerant cattle herdsman invade the South seeking better pastures, thus leading often to bloody clashes with farmers in their villages. This is often perceived as Muslim-Christian conflict. There is another side to the story. Nigeria depends a lot on proceeds from the sale of oil. It seems that our government has not been able to resist the temptation to allow the oil companies to employ criminally careless production methods that maximize profit but destroy the environment. The ecological degradation of the oil producing area of the Niger Delta has led to serious security challenges from armed militants.

And while we can share our worries about the changes we are seeing in our climate here in Nigeria, I find true inspiration in the solutions we are embracing across Africa, particularly since Pope Francis delivered Laudato Si'.

Maybe I am biased, but I find the Encyclical to be an Encyclical for Africa. While it's well known that Africa

does little to cause climate change, it hasn't stopped us from being leaders for climate solutions. Morocco, which will be hosting this year's UN Climate Negotiations in November, is already poised to host the largest solar plant in the world. When it is completed in 2020, the Moroccan super-solar plant will power one million homes with over 500 megawatts of clean electricity. In Cape Verde, a wind farm provides 20 percent of the West African country's current electricity needs.

Last year at the UN climate negotiations in Paris, the African Renewable Energy Initiative took flight, and once it is fully supported with a total of 20 billion dollars in the coming years, Africa will be able to develop as it reduces emissions. For the more than 620 million people who live in Africa without electricity, this is good news. Of course, not everyone can take so-called, "big actions," to tackle on climate change, but that certainly doesn't mean small actions don't add up. They do. Actions come in many forms, and speaking up is one of the actions we can all take. We cannot be silent when it comes to impacts we are seeing at home.

We must pressure leaders at home and abroad, to wake up and see that climate change is not some far off thing that will appear in a few decades. It is here now. We know it. We see it. We live it. We need to make sure the global transition to renewable energy is a just transition that includes Africa. Across our beautiful continent, we have had great examples to follow when it comes to speaking up.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has long been a champion for caring for our environment, speaking against pollution and for a healthy Africa. Just recently, Archbishop Tutu, along with many other leaders from a number of faiths, including the Muslim community, urged churches to divest their investments from fossil fuels, just the same way Nelson Mandela urged the world to divest itself from interests supporting apartheid.

Across Africa, you will see that the ways people live Laudato Si' knows no single region, no single country or religion - it is something all Africans have been doing. I urge you all to keep it up. Together, we can take good care of creation for future generations. I urge everyone to not just listen to the words of Pope Francis in Laudato Si', but to keep finding ways to live them. Read the original article on:

Theafricareport.com : [Climate Change: Now is the Time to Live Laudato Si | North Africa](#)

Cardinal John Onaiyek, Archbishop of Abuja

Columban Society JPIC Statement: Economic Justice

Ellen Teague

The Columban Missionary Society has produced a statement of policy on Economic Justice. It can be read alongside existing statements on the other Columban JPIC priorities of Climate Change, Water, Extractive Industries, Peace, and Migration. It is based on nearly 100 years of Columban experience, listening to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth. The Columbans hope that this statement will contribute to advocacy and education efforts with many different audiences committed to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

Pope Francis regularly highlights the rootedness of many of the world's social and ecological crises in economics. He says in *Laudato Si'*: "Economic powers continue to justify the current global system where priority tends to be given to speculation and the pursuit of financial gain, which fail to take the context into account, let alone the effects on human dignity and the natural environment. Here we see how environmental deterioration and human and ethical degradation are closely linked."

Concerns are expressed in the statement under the headings: Global Trade and Investment Policies, International Debt, Poverty and Migration, Food and Industrial Agriculture, Environmental and Cultural Destruction and Growing Militarism.

The Columban response is to call for fair trade, to do advocacy work tackling free trade agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), to support Jubilee campaigns calling for debt cancellation, to commit to socially and environmentally responsible investing, and to support national and international networks and partnerships that address Justice and Peace issues.

Read the Columban JPIC statements at:

<http://www.columbans.co.uk/what-we-do/mission-in-britain/justice-peace-jpic/>

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30590>

[From the NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin September 2016. This monthly E-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury & Wrexham.]

Ellen Teague

News From Pax Christi

Ann Kelly

RESPONSES TO VATICAN CONFERENCE ON NONVIOLENCE AND JUST PEACE

The current issue of *Justpeace* is devoted to reports of this conference which was organised by the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International. It also includes FAQ's on nonviolence and just war and an explanation of the concept of 'just peace'. The conference called for a move away from reliance on the just war approach towards gospel non-violence and working for just peace and is therefore an important development in the way the Church approaches issues of war and peace.

Pope Francis has demonstrated his support for this approach by giving nonviolence as the theme for World Peace Day (Peace Sunday).

However, the response in England & Wales has not been so supportive. Pax Christi circulated information about the conference to all bishops, but few responded, while the reaction of the Bishops' Conference has been to post a reiteration of the just war doctrine on its website, with no reporting of the Vatican conference.

There would seem to be a need therefore to open up the discussion among Catholics in this country and with our bishops. Pax Christi will be exploring way of doing this.

NEWS

Three Pax Christi members, Anne Dodd, Patricia Stoot and Pat Gaffney took part in an anniversary Peace Pilgrimage to Vezelay over the bank-holiday weekend. This was to mark the 70 anniversary of the 1946 Pilgrim Cross. You can read about the experience and see photographs here. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/august-september/>

RESOURCES

1. For schools we have a wonderful new schools workshop Religion, Peace and Conflict for GCSE Religious Studies. Do pass on to any teachers you know. Direct link to the resource is here. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/gcse-re/>

2. Advent and Christmas. We know it is early but... great chance to share a message of peace with our cards and books. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/2016-Advent-Christmas-flyer1.pdf>

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News from Pax Christi

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EVENTS

Peace Sunday 2017 is on 15 January and the theme is *Nonviolence: A Style of Politics for Peace*.

We are delighted that this is one of the outcomes of our Nonviolence Conference in Rome this April. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

We will be adding materials over the coming months.

PAX CHRISTI MEMBERS IN BIRMINGHAM DIOCESE

Sue Scott from Birmingham: a creative approach to raising awareness about Palestine.

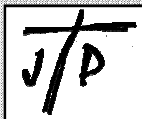
A small group based at St. Dunstan's in Birmingham has started holding a stall at the monthly Kings Heath farmers' market in order to sell Palestinian goods and to raise awareness of the situation in Palestine/Israel. The stall has a variety of information leaflets and is brightly decorated with peace flags and kites, and kite-making sessions have been held, which attract the children. One of us takes round a small tray of olive oil, za'atar and pieces of flat bread and invites people to "a taste of Palestine". This has proved a useful way of engaging people in discussion and of directing them to the stall. We feel the project so far has been successful enough for us to continue (though our hardiness may be tested when winter comes!).

8th July 2016, member Paul McGowan challenges Coventry Council over continued investment in Textron.

Following more than two years of campaigning against West Midlands Pension Fund investments in Textron, a US Company involved in the production of Cluster Munitions, the Pension Committee say they will not divest.

Please read Paul's extensive article on page 4 of this Newsletter].

**The Birmingham Diocese
Justice and Peace Commission**



For information on the J&P calendar and links to J&P organisations, as well as the J&P Commission, also for downloads from the J&P Resource Pack and much more.....access our website:

www.birminghamjandp.org.uk

Fairtrade News

Argos has become the first high street retailer to offer Fairtrade gold rings. This is a huge success, meaning Fairtrade gold is accessible to more consumers and offering more miners a fair price for their hard day's work.

Gold mining is a dangerous job and the lives of miners are incredibly difficult.

Fairtrade is making a difference to miners, their families and communities by ensuring decent working conditions, protection of workers' rights and environmental protections in addition to the fair price at the heart of Fairtrade.

We'll be launching new resources to help you make Fairtrade gold a choice in your communities - more information will be available soon.

To hear first-hand from a gold miner, sign up for a regional Fairtrade conference in your area. They are taking place in London, the South West, North England and the East Midlands. The conferences are also an opportunity for you to take part in collaborative workshops to get tips for your campaign, hear the first news about Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 and network with fellow campaigners from your area.

Go to:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/in-your-community/regional-supporter-conferences>

[Except taken from NJPN NW J&P E-Bulletin September 2016]

Articles for these Newsletters are always accepted with gratitude since we feel it is crucially important for Justice and Peace Groups around the country to publicise their activities for the benefit of us all, and to liaise with each other to share thoughts and ideas, and especially Best Practice.

If you have a contribution you would like included in the Spring 2017 newsletter please send it by Email for consideration to:

David Jenkins, Administrator, J&P Commission.
Email jenkins@woxon.freeserve.co.uk

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The views expressed in this newsletter are the view of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission or the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.