



# Justice and Peace

## Autumn 2024

### In this issue:

Page 2 'Bringing Communities Alive' Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Day

Pages 2 & 3 The Season of Creation - in East Cheshire

Page 3 'The Priest's Tale' a Play 'Hiroshima' a book

Page 4 'Atomic People' a film 'Warheads to Windmills' a book

Pages 4 & 5 Pax Christi News : Peace Pilgrimage – Week of Peace in Palestine/Israel - Canon Rob Esdaile lecture – A Peace Conference - Report on A G M

Page 6 Partnerships in Place – Pendle - 'Fairtrade Fortnight – My Middle East podcasts Global Justice Now magazine

Pages 7 & 8 Burma – a Transition to Democracy

Page 9 & 10 Report on Annual N J P N Conference at Swanwick

Page 10 & 11 'Passion for Change' exhibition Celebrating Operation Noah 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Page 12 Diary

Page 13 Season of Creation page of events

Pages 14, 15 & 16 Lancashire Churches Together at the show.

### The editor writes:

Creation and Communities are themes that have emerged in this Mouthpeace. The Season of Creation was adopted by the World Council of Churches (WCC) in 2008. Following leads from the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic churches, the WCC invited churches of all denominations to observe "A Time for Creation" through prayers and actions. September, already celebrated as Harvest time in many churches in our part of the world, seems the right month for this.

Throughout the years, major Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and Anglican organizations have joined to encourage the 2.2 billion Christians worldwide to pray and act on ecological issues in September. The most effective way for this to happen is through our local communities.

The great destroyer of both communities and creation is war. So it is good that there is also focus on peace issues in this edition. Many parts of the world need our prayers and our support.



Archdiocese of Liverpool J & P Commission

Chair: Justine Silcock email: [j.silcock@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:j.silcock@rcaol.org.uk)

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

[www.twitter.com/@liverpooljandp](https://www.twitter.com/@liverpooljandp)

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission

<https://www.fair-justice.co/>

Lancaster F & J Commission worker Sue Gubic email: [lfjsue@gmail.com](mailto:lfjsue@gmail.com)

In Shrewsbury Diocese <https://jpschrewsbury.wordpress.com/>

Editor of MouthPeace: Marian Thompson 37 Dale Road, Marple Stockport SK6 6EZ

0161 427 7254

[marian37et@gmail.com](mailto:marian37et@gmail.com)

The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury



## 'BRINGING COMMUNITIES ALIVE'

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October

at the Lancaster Cathedral Social Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA4 3BT

Speakers will include: Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Sir John Battle and Clare Dixon from CAFOD.

You are most welcome to attend for some or all of the day but please bring your own lunch if you are attending over the lunchtime period. Tea and coffee will be provided. If you would like to register your interest to come please contact Sue Grubic - [ldfsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfsue@gmail.com) or by text on 07791444417

Itinerary: 10.00 – 10.30am – Tea/coffee/welcome/prayer/Message from Fr Hugh Pollock Chair of Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission

10.30 – 11.00am – Keynote speaker- Bishop Paul How does Faith bring Communities together? (Stories from afar!)

11.15 – 11.15am - Tea/coffee

11.15 – 12.00 pm – Keynote speaker- Clare Dixon (CAFOD)

12.00pm – 12.30pm – Questions and responses 12.30 – 1.00pm – Lunch (Participants asked to bring their own)

1.00pm – 1.45pm – Keynote speaker- Sir John Battle

1.45pm – 2.00pm – Chat and Comfort break

2.00pm – 2.15pm - Keynote speaker- Alison Fisher

2.15pm – 3.00pm - Questions and responses 3.00pm – Final prayer – Fr Hugh



*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

### TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The Season of Creation runs from 1 September until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

It is a time of ecumenical celebration when we reflect on God's generosity in giving us our beautiful world and we are inspired to protect it. Modern media have given us an unrivalled opportunity to see the huge diversity of landscapes,

flora and fauna on the planet but, equally, they have shown us the devastation that has occurred when we have taken it for granted. The theme this year is "To hope and act with Creation" is inspired by Romans 8:19-25. This biblical image pictures the Earth as a Mother, groaning as in childbirth. Saint Francis of Assisi understood this when he referred to the Earth as our Sister and our Mother in his Canticle. Today, we no longer see the Earth as a gift from our Creator, but rather as a resource to be used. "Creation is groaning" (Rom 8:22) because of our selfishness and our unsustainable actions that harm her. Along with our sister, Mother Earth, creatures of all kinds, including humans, cry out because of our destructive actions causing a climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, and human suffering. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Winning images of the 2024 BigPicture natural world photography competition: A visual reminder of what we are losing. <https://www.bigpicturecompetition.org/2024-winners>

### THE SEASON OF CREATION IN NORTH EAST CHESHIRE

The international Season of Creation has been celebrated by churches in Macclesfield for 7 years and is open to all local people. In 2024, the call from the religious leaders around the world is for everyone to "act and hope with creation". As we face the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer eco-anxiety. We are all called to share the hope inspired by the Christian faith. This is a hope shown in concrete actions of prayer, educating, service and solidarity.

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS** Sunday 1st September 4.00pm Prayer Service at Danes Moss Nature Reserve Meet at carpark – Lyme Green Retail Park, SK10 0TB.

Sunday 15th September 12.00-2.00pm Family Fun Afternoon in West Park Scavenger hunt, quizzes and games. Meet at the Rangers Hut next to the Café.

Tuesday 17th September 7.30pm "Brilliant Bees" Talk Learn about these amazing insects and the job of a beekeeper. Macclesfield Methodist Church, Westminster Road, SK10 1BX.

Saturday 21st September 11.00am-3.00pm Preloved Clothing and Toys Sale Items for under 5's. Pay as you feel. St. Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Road, SK11 8DJ.

5.30 pm Family Picnic and Story telling around the campfire. Bring picnic food, stories and poetry to share. Prestbury Nurseries, London Road, SK10 4DY.

Sunday 22nd September 2.00pm Creation Walk 3 mile walk to appreciate God's creation. Meet at Clarke Lane, Bollington, SK10 5AH.

Wednesday 25th September 8.00pm Film – "Six Inches of Soil" - documentary on British farmers standing up against the industrial food system. Cinemas, The Old Sunday School, SK11 6UT. Suggested donation £5.

Thursday 26th September 7.30—9.00pm "Getting to know your carbon footprint" Workshop St Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Road, SK11 8DJ.

Thursday 3rd October 5.00-8.00pm Apple Pressing - come and have a go! Drop in at Scoop and Scales, Roe Street, SK11 6UT.

Friday 4th October 7.30pm Celebration & Feast of St Francis of Assisi Prayer Service to close and thank God for the Season of Creation. St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY.

The full calendar of Season of Creation events, actions and reflections are on St Alban's Church website:

<https://stalbanmacc.org.uk/season-of-creation/> or contact: Bernadette Bailey Co-ordinator of St. Albans Justice and Peace Group at [justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.co](mailto:justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.co) Also page 13 below

Bernadette writes : ' We are thrilled to have this well and truly sat with and owned by HOPE in North East Cheshire and have more churches, organisations and eco-groups involved than ever before.'

This Season there is a call for the uniting of voices to support the Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty which demands a halt to all new fossil fuel projects. Saturday 21st September is a world day of action to endorse the Treaty which coincides with the United Nations General Assembly from 10th to 24th September. A petition to our MP in support of the Treaty can be signed at all the local events throughout the Season of Creation.



For more information about the treaty see <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>

### THE PRIEST'S TALE performed by Michael Mears

Friday 27 September 2024 7.30 pm

Chester Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street, CH1 3LF

Newly revised and staged for live performance, THE PRIEST'S TALE by actor/playwright Michael Mears is his solo adaptation of an account of one of the atomic-bomb survivors from John Hersey's book 'HIROSHIMA'.

Father Wilhelm was a German Jesuit priest living in Hiroshima, who survived the blast but witnessed much of the destruction. THE PRIEST'S TALE is a clear-eyed depiction of the terror wrought at the start of our nuclear age...told with compassion, warmth and flashes of humour...

Performance lasts approx. 1 hour – with a Q and A and refreshments afterwards

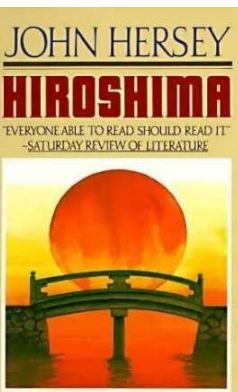
Tickets £5

Bookings: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/chester-quakers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chester-quakers) or email: [chesterquakers@outlook.com](mailto:chesterquakers@outlook.com)

*Editor: I was fortunate to watch Michael Mears online as he performed The Priest's Tale at The Sands Music Room\* at the beginning of August. It was a powerful presentation. In the Q & A session afterwards he made the point that not much has been written by people who were actually 'under the cloud' as the bomb went off. So he focused on this in his play. But also he recommended the John Hersey book 'Hiroshima' which includes the priest's story and also the film, Atomic People. Not all of us can get to Chester to see Michael Mears but we can prepare for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb next year.*

\*<https://www.sandsfilms.co.uk/sands-films-music-room.html>

### HIROSHIMA by John Hersey



During World War II, John Hersey as Newsweekly correspondent covered the fighting in Europe and Asia. He wrote articles for Time and Life magazines.

After the war, during the winter of 1945–46, Hersey was in Japan, reporting for The New Yorker on the reconstruction of the devastated country, when he found a document written by a Jesuit missionary who had survived the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The journalist visited the missionary, who introduced him to other survivors

In May 1946, Hersey travelled to Japan, where he spent three weeks doing research and interviewing survivors. He returned to America during late June and began writing the stories of six Hiroshima survivors: a German Jesuit priest, a widowed seamstress, two doctors, a minister, and a young woman who worked in a factory.

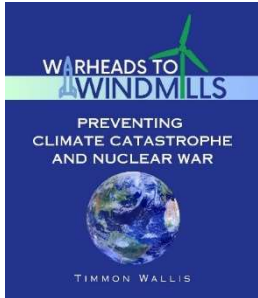
The resulting piece was his most notable work, the 31,000-word article "Hiroshima", which was published in the August 31, 1946, issue of The New Yorker. The story dealt with the atomic bomb dropped on that Japanese city on August 6, 1945, and its effects on the six survivors. The article occupied almost the entire issue of the magazine – something The New Yorker had never done before.

## ATOMIC PEOPLE – the film

This was shown on BBC 2 on 31 July 2024 and is available on iplayer for 11 months.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0021lrg/atomic-people>

The decision by the United States to drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and Nagasaki three days later - was one of the most momentous and destructive in world history. Now, nearly 80 years later, this unique film gathers the testimonies of some of the last 'Hibakusha' (survivors of the two atomic bombs) before their voices are lost forever. With an average age of 85, most Hibakusha were children when the bombs were dropped. Combining their personal accounts with archive footage, the film features a significant number of voices from this shrinking group, the only people left on earth to have survived a nuclear bomb, while exploring how their experiences continue to affect them to this day.



**WAR HEADS TO WINDMILLS: Preventing Climate Catastrophe and Nuclear War** by Timmon Wallis (Indispensable press) £13.99 from the Quaker Bookshop

To survive the climate crisis, we need money, brainpower and infrastructure for the most effective climate solutions. Those resources are currently being squandered by the nuclear weapons industry. We'll also need the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitters to stop pointing nuclear missiles at each other and start building unprecedented global cooperation. Can we "feed two birds with one scone" by converting assets from nuclear weapons of mass extinction to evidence-based climate solutions?

There are already excellent pathways to global nuclear disarmament. There are already excellent alternatives to burning fossil fuels. The obstacles are misinformation, propaganda, and politicians corrupted by profiteering corporations. This book is a tool kit for campaigners on both issues to work together on treaties, divestment, boycotts, lobbying, legislation, education, conversion and more. It debunks myths, frauds, and distractions. It's full of well-documented facts and figures, tools and strategies, personal and political inspiration for swift, decisive action.



## PAX CHRISTI NEWS

### SEPTEMBER 9 – 14 PEACE PILGRIMAGE MALVERN TO TELFORD

The SDSC Arms Fair is taking place in Telford in November. In witness against this event Faith, Justice and Peace Pilgrimage (of which we are a part) are organising a pilgrimage for Peace. Beginning in Malvern where this arms fair was previously sited, the pilgrimage will end in Telford, stopping along the way at other sites of suffering to pray and witness. We're looking for walking pilgrims both those walking multiple days or just a single day. We're also looking for help and assistance on route

Approximate walking itinerary...

Mon 9th – gather in Malvern

Wed 11th – Worcester to Kidderminster – 14.6miles

Fri 13th – Stourbridge to Wolverhampton – 10.9miles

Tue 10th – Malvern to Worcester – 6.2miles

Thu 12th – Kidderminster to Stourbridge – 6.8miles

Sat 14th – Wolverhampton to Telford – 15.9miles

If you would like to be involved you can register here <https://peacepilgrimage.org.uk/malvern-to-telford/>

### SEPTEMBER 14 – 21 WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL.

Take Action for Peace in the Holy Land. With the current war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza we are suggesting a number of actions we can all take:

- Light a candle each evening at 6pm , or any time convenient for you, and pray for an end to the war and justice for all in the Holy Land
- Organise a peace vigil in your school, community or parish
- Order Prayer Cards - Among the Rubble – to give out <https://paxchristi.org.uk/product-category/palestineandisrael/>
- Write to your MP (see [www.eyewitnessblogs.com/take-action/](http://www.eyewitnessblogs.com/take-action/) for suggestions)

News of the ongoing devastation and brutality in Gaza can overwhelm us. Where do we even begin in our prayers? Pax Christi has produced a new prayer card using the Palestinian concept of 'Sumud' as an inspiration to help us pray. See at end of page 5

Also 'MY MIDDLE EAST' podcasts from Embrace Middle East are back see Page 6

#### Praying for Peace in Palestine and Israel

##### Among the Rubble

Compassionate God,  
In our minds, we pray among the rubble,  
the unholy mess of demolitions  
in the land that we call Holy.

In our hearts we hold  
families who have lost their homes,  
children who have seen their schools destroyed,  
communities which no longer have a clinic.  
We pray for them as they weep for all that's lost.  
We pray that they will not lose hope.

And we pray, too, for  
the men who drive the bulldozers,  
soldiers who beat back protesters,  
politicians who sign the orders –  
aware that such actions destroy their humanity.



Bless those who campaign against injustice;  
bless the patient rebuilders;  
bless those who hope against hope  
that peace with justice will prevail  
in the land that we call Holy.  
Amen

© Jan Sutch Pickard



**A PEACE CONFERENCE Friday 27th to Sunday 29th September 2024**

Together with our friends at Fellowship of Reconciliation, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and CHIPS we are supporting a weekend Peace Conference at Varnfield Park, Staffordshire. Our theme will be how we build peace in a time of war. Keynote speakers are:

Saturday am Bill Marsh ‘Building peace in a world of war – stories from the frontline’

Saturday pm Revd. Dr. Helen Paynter nad Dr Maria Power ‘The church, the Far Right and the Claim to Christianity’

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/jointpeaceconference/1302384?>

In June Canon Rob Esdaile delivered the Anthony Storey Memorial Peace & Justice Lecture 2024 in which he reflected on his own and the wider response to Pope Francis’ remarks in an interview with Swiss television that those who have the courage to ‘raise the white flag’ and negotiate in any conflict are the



stronger.

We’d recommend reading Canon Rob’s lecture in full and you can find a copy here [https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Rob-Esdaile\\_Courage-of-the-White-Flag\\_Storey-Memorial-Lecture.pdf](https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Rob-Esdaile_Courage-of-the-White-Flag_Storey-Memorial-Lecture.pdf) You can also watch a recording of the lecture on our YouTube channel here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTf1ggq1vmE>

**REPORT ON PAX CHRISTI A.G.M. 2024 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at the Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool and online through Zoom**

As a theme for the day, we took ‘Sumud’, the Palestinian concept of steadfastness, resilience and perseverance, often expressed in Palestine as ‘to exist is to resist’.

In his report to the meeting, Andrew Jackson, Chief Executive, reminded members of the vision around which they had all come together in joining the movement – a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. He said that the strategy for Pax Christ remained as it had been – focused on communicating and embodying Gospel nonviolence in a lifestyle of active nonviolence. Work in peace education with schools and young people would continue to be fundamental.

As part of the AGM, a new Executive Committee was elected. The members of the Committee are now:

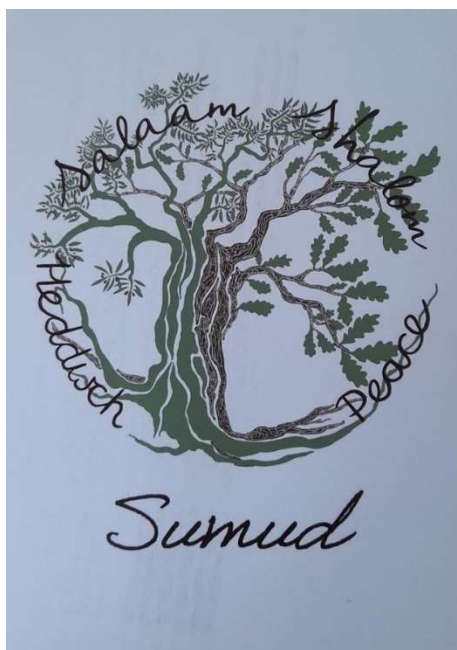
- |                                      |                            |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Kathryn Lydon – Chair                | Andrew Jackson - Secretary | Matt Jeziorski – Treasurer |
| Sr Katrina Alton - National Chaplain | Maria Lee                  | Sr Lucia McGuckin          |
| Arn Dekker                           | Lucy Irvine                | Susan Sanderson            |
|                                      |                            | Lauri Clarke               |

**Steadfast God,**  
strong and sheltering as the oak,  
and, like the olive tree, life-giving, everywhere,  
encourage your children with your *Sumud*,  
your constant presence,  
your Just Being There.

We raise to you in prayer the suffering peoples  
in your Holy Land.  
To those who are wounded, bring healing,  
to those who hunger, the nourishment they need;  
to those bewildered, give boundaries,  
a sense of direction, deep meaning.  
To those who trust in the power of arms,  
give signs of true strength;  
to those who reach out to the helpless,  
the endurance not to give up.  
To the bereaved, bring consolation  
like healing leaves,  
to the broken, the possibility of wholeness,  
to those who despair, a glimmer of light.

Teach us to stand firm in hope  
and to grow together in peace.  
Rooted wherever you place us,  
teach us the meaning of *Sumud*.  
Amen

Prayer: Jan Sutch Pickard, 2024  
Artwork: Olewydd a Derw Olive and Oak  
Tanya Rotherfield, West Wales Friends of Palestine  
Kate, common ground, Coventry



Ann Farr and Joan Sharples who have both retired were thanked for all their service over the last few years as Chair and Vice Chair.

Our current President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP also announced his retirement after serving for over 20 years in that role. He told the meeting how profoundly influenced he had been by Pax Christi and, in particular, by Bruce Kent. He said it had been a privilege and very humbling to have been asked to preside over his funeral mass.

## PARTNERSHIPS AT PLACE ....IN PENDLE

A previous observation as to the willingness of public sector partners to work with the 'faith sector' (the "F" in the VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise)\*, is playing out in practice in East Lancashire. In Pendle, a small pot of funding from the Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB (Integrated Care Board) has allowed for a pilot project to be carried out, detailing the various types of provision and support which the faith sector is making.

This involved an initial mapping of what is being provided by churches, and mosques, in three specific areas – mental health; food security; family support. The data populates a spreadsheet, which in turn generates an interactive map – the one for food can be seen with this link: [Pendle Churches Food Provision Mapping – Google My Maps](#)

The mapping was followed by a breakfast meeting of church representatives with public sector leads, sharing the mapping information, and establishing new relationships.

Since then, a third stage in the process is happening, with more representation from the faith sector at Family Hub network meetings (see Spring Mouthpeace)\*, and at community network meetings (in Pendle, this forum is called 'People of Pendle' and is convened by the CVS).



This work has been carried out in collaboration with Rev Mark Cowling (centre of picture) of the Gather Movement. Gather works to bring about 'transformation of towns and cities – socially, culturally and spiritually'. Crucial to this is a fourth stage – to bring together a small steering group of church leaders as the beginning of a Unity network. This is the stage reached with the work in Pendle. Engagement by anyone from Catholic churches in the Pendle district would be particularly welcomed.

The stages of this partnership process piloted in Pendle are now also starting to happen in Burnley and the Ribble Valley. We want to engage ALL churches in this process. If you can provide the contact details of any of your churches, please do get in touch.

Peter Lumsden – Methodist district Inter faith Officer, and representing Faith Networks on the VCFSE alliance for Lancashire and South Cumbria [Pjilumsden58@gmail.com](mailto:Pjilumsden58@gmail.com)

\*See Spring 24 Mouthpeace 'Working with the Faith Sector' page 9/10 <https://www.faith-justice.co/>



**This Fairtrade Fortnight (9 September – 22 September) we're launching our challenge "Be the Change" and asking everyone in the UK to get behind our global Fairtrade movement for a fairer future. This is a great chance to pick up a new Fairtrade product,**

spread the word on Fairtrade or join the hundreds of campaigners who run creative events and initiatives every year.

### What is Be the Change all about?

You can be the change simply by committing to choose Fairtrade as often as you can. When farmers receive fairer pay and a fair say, they can drive positive change in their communities.

We also know that every year hundreds of committed campaigners go one step further, finding creative ways to bring the Fairtrade message to your area. <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>



**MY MIDDLE EAST is back!** The fourth season of Embrace's very own podcast series has returned with six in-depth conversations on the current realities and future challenges of life in Israel-Palestine.

In this series, Tim Livesey - recently retired CEO of Embrace - speaks with a range of partners, friends and experts on the Middle East about the events leading up to the 7th October, the subsequent war that has erupted, and what it means to be a Christian today in the land where Jesus walked.

You'll hear an extended interview with George Antone, an Embrace partner on the ground in Gaza. You'll listen to Palestinian perspectives from the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as a fascinating deep-dive into the future of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. And you'll hear personal reflections from the Very Reverend Canon Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College in Jerusalem, and Embrace's very own Rhiannon de Laune. <https://embraceme.org/podcast?>



**NINETY NINE MAGAZINE ('challenging the power of the 1%')** comes out three times a year and keeps Global Justice Now members informed about movements against inequality and corporate power all over the world. You can also read about the progress of our campaigns, plus reviews, and cultural and comment features.

The latest issue 29 (July 2024) includes articles on how the green transition mustn't lead to a new resource grab in the global south, what PM Starmer must do for global justice, and the secret world of investor courts. Read <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/about-us/ninety-nine-our-members-magazine/>



## MYAMAR – BURMA – A TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY?

After six decades of military rule and five years when the pro-democracy party the National League for Democracy (NLD) shared power with the military, in February 2021 the Burmese military launched another coup planning to retake direct control of the country.

Thanks to the resistance of the people of Burma, using a combination of armed struggle, strikes, peaceful protest, and economic boycotts, that plan failed. For the first time since seizing power in 1962, the military are in a fight for their survival, losing control of more territory every day. In response, the military have been waging a brutal war against the people, killing thousands, bombing homes, schools and hospitals, and forcing almost 3 million people to flee their homes. 20,000 political prisoners are in jail. In areas freed from military control, new administrations are being established to provide services to local people. But the Burmese military continues to receive significant revenue, arms and equipment from overseas, helping to prolong its survival.

Burma Campaign UK is part of a global movement working for the promotion of human rights, democracy and development in Burma. We play a crucial role in coordinating the international campaign for human rights in Burma and work closely with human rights activists in Burma and in exile. See <https://burmacampaign.org.uk/take-action/>

### ***Anna Roberts Executive Director of the Burma Campaign UK writes in the latest Burma Campaign News :***

As the conflict in Burma continues, people in Burma are paying a very high price for the inaction of the international community. The British government response to the crisis has slowed to almost a standstill. With a new government, we now have an opportunity to revitalise the British government response to the crisis in Burma. With your help, we will be taking action to persuade our new government to speed up sanctions, to cut the financial lifeline to the military and increase humanitarian support, working with local civil society and others to ensure it reaches people in areas not under Burmese military control.

### **WHAT NEXT FOR BURMA? *Mark Farmaner, Director of Burma Campaign UK writes:***

During the years Aung San Suu Kyi spent under house arrest, the broad expectation was that one day the military would either be overthrown or agree to a transition to democracy. The expectation was that there would finally be a NLD government, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, and that this central government would seek to end human rights violations and address the legitimate demands of Burma's ethnic groups for greater rights and autonomy.

When the so-called reform process began after the 2010 elections, many believed that the longed-for democratic transition was finally happening. However, the top-down military imposed process was never about a genuine transition to democracy. It was about a weakened military seeking to preserve its power and wealth.

The NLD-led government that took power in 2016 was forced to share power with the military. Sadly, this system also exposed authoritarian tendencies within the NLD. Defenders of Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD argue that they were constrained by the military from making positive changes. However, there were many examples of areas within the NLD's power where they either failed to make changes or actively implemented authoritarian policies, and, most notoriously, voluntarily and vigorously defended and justified genocide of the Rohingya. Based on our own conversations with senior NLD leaders, there was little chance that the leadership of the NLD really understood or would act on rights and protections for ethnic and religious groups or deliver any significant autonomy.

**Burma must stay Buddhist** Practical progress on this issue is essential. The root cause of military rule in Burma has never been about a 'bad' military and a 'good' democracy movement. It is about the refusal to accept Burma as a multi-ethnic multi-religious country. The view of the military, and many NLD leaders, has been that Burma is and must remain a Buddhist country of the biggest ethnicity in Burma, the Bamar.

In 2021 the military launched yet another coup, seeking to retake complete control of the country. Following the crushing of peaceful protests, armed struggle has become the main route through which the people of Burma are seeking to win their freedom.

Many young people from the cities and central Burma escaped to predominantly ethnic states on the borders of Burma. Many ethnic armed groups operate in these states, some controlling their own territory and running their own administrations to provide services such as health and education. Most took in these young people, and provided those who wanted it with military training to set up People's Defence Forces (PDFs). The combined forces of ethnic armies and new PDFs have surprised the world, and especially the Burmese military, with the progress they have made in freeing large swathes of Burma from military occupation.

For decades the British government, all governments, have operated on the false assumption that the Burmese military are invincible, so they have always pushed the people of Burma to compromise with their oppressor. Now, for the first time, they are thinking seriously about the possibility that the military might be defeated, and what comes after. The mindset of all national governments, which are central governments, is that a strong central government is essential. They fear now that if the military are defeated, Burma could break up, with ethnic groups declaring independence. Or they fear a failed state with different fiefdoms and warlordism.

This fear drives countries, especially neighbouring countries, to look at the military as a force for stability and keeping Burma together. This is one of several reasons why so many of Burma's neighbours arm and support the military, rather than side with the democracy movement.

The National Unity Government (NUG), which was formed by MPs, activists and ethnic representatives after the coup, has ministers beyond just NLD members and widespread popular support in Burma. Many PDFs are aligned to it. However, the international community is skeptical about its ability to establish a strong central government if the military is defeated.

The pattern emerging is that ethnic armies, often fighting alongside PDFs, are expanding the areas under their control, taking bases and territory from the military. They then start the process of extending their own administrative systems and laws.

The expectation that a strong central government would devolve power to ethnic states, handing over some power or autonomy, has been reversed. Ethnic armed organisations are taking back territory and power. With more territory, they are gaining access to more resources and becoming more powerful militarily and politically. In many areas the NUG needs the support and co-operation of the ethnic armies, and permission to operate in their areas, rather than the other way round. Governments are now stepping up engagement with ethnic armed groups, in addition to the NUG, belatedly recognising that they are key players in building a stable democratic Burma.

However, to describe the situation as incredibly complex would be an understatement. Different ethnic armed groups are not homogenous in their approach to human rights and democracy.

Some ethnic armed groups can genuinely claim to be a legitimate representative of their ethnic group, and want to see a stable, democratic Burma where human rights are respected. Some are like smaller ethnic versions of the Burmese military, wanting autonomy for their state and ethnic group, but are authoritarian, and hostile to some ethnic and/or religious minorities within their territory. Some are not much more than criminal gangs, with a long history of involvement in drugs, illegal gambling, human trafficking and other crimes, in co-operation with the Burmese military.

A significant new development has been the rise of armed resistance groups, PDFs, non-ethnic central Burma states particularly in Magway and Sagaing Regions in the north. In these regions numerous PDFs operate, some aligned to the NUG, some to ethnic armed organisations, or both, and some operating independently. Again, there are big differences in how they operate and their respect for human rights.

Looking at this situation, on the surface, it may be understandable why there are fears of Burma disintegrating or failing as a state, of warlordism and ongoing conflict. The answer though, isn't to throw a lifeline to the Burmese military which created this crisis in the first place. Despite the great challenges, no-one that Burma Campaign UK has spoken to in our recent trips to Burma and its borders thinks the military can in any way be part of the solution. Instead, people are working on building their own ground-up solutions. In Karenni State different armed groups, PDFs, political parties and civil society groups have come together to form an Interim Executive Committee to collaborate in running the state, which has been mostly freed from military rule. In Karen State the dominant Karen National Union is taking steps to engage with the different ethnic and religious communities in the new areas under its control, and working with the NUG and other ethnic armed groups on proposals for the future of the country seeking unity not just in opposition to the military, but for a positive vision of what replaces the military. Given the legacy of decades of military rule, Burma faces challenges like no other. Removing the military is already an incredible challenge. Rebuilding afterwards will be just as challenging. As one activist put it, it will be messy and painful, but we have no other choice.

The people of Burma will need international support to achieve a transition to democracy, not to be pressured into a deal with the military which may produce a brief short-term stability, at the price of long-term conflict, human rights violations and instability.

It may prove to be that the process of self-won devolution, with any dialogue on the future of Burma beginning from such a position of strength for ethnic groups, could, in the long-term, deliver a more stable outcome for the country than previous expectations of a democratically elected central government devolving power.

**With the new government, we now have a new opportunity to revitalise the British government response to the crisis. Please write to the new British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, calling on him to urgently speed up and scale up the British government response to the situation in Burma.** Key points to include in your letter.....

The British government must: Sanction Burmese and international companies involved in supplying jet fuel to the military. Sanction Burmese state-owned banks used by the military to purchase arms and receive revenue.

Triple UK aid to Burma, working with local civil society and others to ensure it reaches people in areas not under Burmese military control.

Expel the Burmese military attache from the UK. The Burmese military are not welcome in the UK.

Send your letter to: The Rt Hon David Lammy, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH Or you can send an email via our website here: <https://action.burmacampaign.org.uk/speed-up-sanctions>





**Report on 'JUST POLITICS' the Annual J & P Conference at Swanwick 19 -21<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

Marian Thompson writes:

"When we started planning this Conference we were expecting a General Election in the Autumn/Winter 2024/5 but events have overtaken us" Anne Peacey Chair of NJPN explained as she welcomed us on the first evening just two weeks after the General Election.

John Battle who was chairing the conference suggested it was good after the intensity of the General Election to reclaim the politics of everyday life. He thought the election campaign narrative was dominated by the media and had lacked vision. It was good to have a time to reflect on the way forward. He suggested that our job in our workshops was to work on achieving practical hope reminding us of the Seamus Heaney quote that 'Hope has two beautiful daughters, anger and courage' Maybe it is time to let go of the anger?

The key note speaker on the Friday night was Right Reverend Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford and member of the House of Lords.

She suggested 'Just Politics' offered a spectrum. At one end is a politics of integrity that pursues Christlike justice and at the other end is a shrug of the shoulder 'Oh it's just politics' something hardly worth engaging with. Bishop Guli in her talk discussed how we transform the indifference of merely politics into the pursuit of a truly just politics. She also asked how the church should be involved in this change? What can the church offer politics?



John Battle, Anne Peacey, Bishop Guli

The bishop thought there were tensions which we as church and as individuals had to consider in trying to shape politics in a just Christlike way: for instance how to be renewed and relevant while maintaining a theological and moral constancy. Can we be flexible, open and ready to listen and maybe to change yet remain true to strongly held convictions. Can we disagree well? The bishop saw the need to develop a shared language to help and also to step outside the four walls of a building or larger institutional structure whether our church communities or 'the Westminster village'

Developing these themes with personal examples Bishop Guli concluded that perhaps she was wrong pitching the church against politics and asking what one can offer the other. The work of the church seeking justice and peace, freeing the captive and bringing good news to the poor is inherently political. To seek the kingdom of God is a bold political choice.

You can read Bishop Guli's address in full on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50241>



On Saturday morning Molly Scott Cato, Professor Emerita of Green Economics and finance and economy spokesperson for the Green Party developed the theme of the importance of democracy. She wondered how we can embrace those who do not share our views? How do we disagree constructively? She was concerned that when canvassing people were saying 'I don't believe in democracy' and that passions could run high. She reminded us of the Lao Tzu saying 'Do you have the patience to wait until your mud settles and the water is clear'

In the afternoon speaker was Steve Whiting, a Quaker who has worked on peace projects and the nonviolence training programme 'Turning the Tide'. Steve talked of the relationships between business with its aim to make profit, the government and civil society aiming at the common good. He asked us to consider how we change power that causes injustice and how to do it nonviolently.



*'Politics is noble: it is one of the highest forms of charity, as Paul VI used to say. We sully it when we mix it with business. The relationship between the Church and political power can also be corrupted if the common good is not the only converging point'. Pope Francis 'the Joy of the Gospel'*

*"Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life."* Quaker Advices and Queries 1



On Saturday evening there was a real cause for hope for the future. In the 'Just Politics: Perspectives from Emerging Leaders' session eight young people took to the stage and answered questions – first those they had prepared themselves and then taking questions from the floor. Their thoughtful, understanding answers were refreshing, encouraging and at times inspiring. Several of them had been coming to Swanwick over the years with their families and enjoyed the children's sessions. But they had obviously learnt as well. Several referred to Catholic Social Teaching... "Activism and my faith are completely intertwined..." one said. "I strongly believe in a preferential option for the poor and the Common Good," another commented. But they also called for a more inclusive, welcoming, caring, listening

church. One young woman said she hoped to see women's ordination, and greater LGBT+ rights. Several voiced concern for the environment and world peace. One young person pointed out how dull church can be sometimes. We have such a Good News story - church should be more joyful, more "fun" she said. The group received a standing ovation at the end of their session.

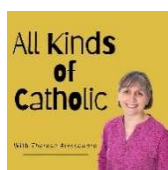
On Sunday morning Fr Chris Hughes , a priest in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle was joined by Sara Bryson of Citizens UK\*. They talked about community organising in Tyne and Wear. Civil society can be quite divided but this is a way of bringing various community groups together to negotiate. Fr Chris likened it to the Vatican II idea of pilgrims journeying together.

One of the things Citizens UK is concerned about is payment of the Real Living Wage to all workers. Fr Chris mentioned only 7 Catholic Dioceses paid this to their employees. These were, Westminster, Brentwood, Birmingham, Salford, Hexham and Newcastle, and Cardiff. He suggested when we returned home we could perhaps write to the Bishops Conference about this. We were then encouraged to form into groups to discuss a way forward. A group containing members of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury Dioceses formed and we noted that none of our Dioceses paid the real living wage. <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage/>



\*See Spring Mouthpeace page 8 about Citizens UK in Lancashire <https://www.faith-justice.co/>

Read Media Release <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-2024/njpn-conference-2024-focus-on-just-politics/>  
Jo Siedlecka's full report of the conference on <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50258>  
Thank you to Tom Ormiston who supplied the pictures of the conference above.



Theresa Alessandro talks to 'all kinds of ' Catholic people about how they live their faith in today's world. In this one she is talking to several people who attended the conference. <https://kindsofcatholic.buzzsprout.com/2333035/15480402-9-recharging-the-batteries-of-social-justice>

While at Swanwick we were fortunate to have the chance to spend time with **'PASSION FOR CHANGE'**

This is an exhibition of sculptures and poems that connects the Passion of Christ with the suffering of all living beings in our world. The aim of the exhibition is to invite people to reflect on these connections and how they can help us to work for a just and compassionate world for all, especially the poor and powerless. It thus answers the call in Laudato Si' that 'the cry of the earth is the cry of the poor'.

The exhibition, which is supported by the Passionist Community, comprises a number of 'Stations'. Each one is made up of a sculpture, a poem, and quotes from Scripture and from Laudato Si'.

**Station 1 SHARE**



Luke 22: 19 And he took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke the bread and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

1. Brother Sun and Sister Moon,  
Mother Earth and stars above  
Clouds and storms and all the weather  
Shared with passion, shared with love

2. Fish and fowl and frozen Arctic  
Plant and flower and tree and leaf  
Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor  
Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief

3. Share the power and share the riches  
Feed the poor and welcome the strange  
Give us the strength to share with each other  
Give us the passion for change.

Laudato si' 92

*Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth.*

**Station 2 AGONY**

Luke 22:39-44 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.



Can you hear her scream? Faint maybe but deep and real, like the cry of the poor, like the cry of the earth, like drops of blood in Gethsamane

Laudato si' 49 *We have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.*



**Station 11 TOUCHED** John 19.40 Then they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the aromatic spices, in strips of linen cloth according to Jewish burial customs.

Mary mourns

The drowned migrant	The burned-out trees	The hungry child
The poisoned rivers	The homeless drunks	The vanishing coral
The stressed-out workers	The starving birds	The precarious poor

Mary mourns

*Laudato si' 84 The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God.*

**Station 13 RISEN** Mark 16 v 5-6 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you'."

The Romans, priests and landowners  
thought they'd won again, now  
this upstart labourer rebel  
was dead and buried

Their wealth and power confirmed forever  
by suffering and death. Rulers and owners  
rely for show on rows and rows  
of tidy graves of slaves

But they didn't bank on an empty tomb  
on revolt, resurrection and defeat of death,  
by Jesus the God of Love, urging us on  
and showing and sharing the truth  
and the way to see and to hear and to act  
on the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor  
of Brother Sun and Sister Moon  
of Mother Earth and stars above  
of all that's living, breathing, suffering  
the passion for change and the passion for love.



Laudato Si' 205

*Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom.*

*231 In order to make society more human, more worthy of the human person, love in social life – political, economic and cultural – must be given renewed value, becoming the constant and highest norm for all activity.*



**NEXT YEAR THE NJPN SWANWICK CONFERENCE WILL BE ON 25-27 JULY**

**The Theme: Towards a Just Peace: Challenging the inevitability of violence**

**Keynote speakers: Dr Rowan Williams : Archbishop Emeritus Tim Livesey: Embrace the Middle East**



**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF OPERATION NOAH**

Operation Noah's Staff and Trustees write: 2024 marks 20 years since Operation Noah was founded, and we'd love you to join us in celebrating this milestone. We've seen great progress over two decades of climate campaigning and educational work with UK churches. Christian institutions are now taking the climate crisis more seriously than ever before, and we rejoice that most UK Church bodies have now divested from fossil fuels – a testament to your dogged campaigning over many years. But of course the impact of climate change has dramatically worsened over the past two decades as well, and we know that the battle is far from won. The next 20 years will be crucial in the fight against climate change and we need your continued support.

**Join us in celebrating 20 years by:**

**i. Planting a tree for Operation Noah** One of the most positive things we can do for the climate is to grow more trees. These act as carbon sinks and provide shade, cooling and wildlife habitats. This is why we're asking supporters and churches to plant a tree to celebrate our anniversary. For tree-growing ideas, prayers, the best time to plant and other tree-growing resources visit <https://www.operationnoah.org/growing-trees-resources/>

**ii. Giving us an anniversary gift** In our anniversary year, could you or your church make a monthly donation to help us continue our vital work? You can set up a Direct Debit or one-off gift here. <https://www.operationnoah.org/get-involved/donate/>

**iii. Fundraising** You might also consider a 20-mile sponsored hike, cycle ride or run to support our work, while others might bake 20 cakes or organise a sponsored 20-hour film marathon – we'd love to see you get creative! Please Email us at [admin@operationnoah.org](mailto:admin@operationnoah.org) and let us know what you're doing.

## DIARY

### SEPTEMBER 1 – OCTOBER 4 The Season of Creation

St Alban's J & P Group in Macclesfield have combined with other churches and groups locally to provide a range of events during the season. Pages 2 & 3

#### SEPTEMBER

**9- 14 Peace Pilgrimage Malvern – Telford.** See Pax Christi News page 4

**9 – 22 Fairtrade Fortnight** 'Be the change' see page 6

**11 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day preparation meeting** on zoom 7.00 pm – 8.15 pm (contact for link [kkeenan@cafod.org.uk](mailto:kkeenan@cafod.org.uk))

**13 CAFOD Quiz Night** at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children and the usual raffle will take place with good prizes. Refreshments will be available at the interval. All proceeds will go towards Cafod's latest development project. Contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419

**14 – 21 World Week for Peace in Palestine -Israel** See Pax Christi News page 4

**21 World Day of Action to endorse the Fossil Fuel Non Proliferation Treaty which demands a halt to all new fossil fuel projects.** See page 2

**21 Catholic Nonviolence Day of Action** <https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/>

**27 'The Priest's Tale' performed by Michael Mears** 7.30 pm Chester Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham Street CH1 3LF More details and booking Page 3

**27 – 29 Peace Conference Varnfield Park Staffordshire** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/jointpeaceconference/1302384?>

#### OCTOBER

**2 Catholic Nonviolence Day of Action** <https://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/>

**4 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**

**5 – 12 Living Laudato Si' Residential week** Boarbank Hall Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH  
<https://boarbankhall.org.uk/contact/>

**11 CAFOD Quiz Night** at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm  
See September 13 for more details

**12 'Bringing Communities Alive'** the Lancaster Cathedral Social Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA4 3BT 10 – 3.30 pm see page 2 for more details

**31 NJPN Post Conference catch up on zoom** 7.30 – 9 pm contact Sharon Chambers for the link [admin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org)

#### NOVEMBER

**15 CAFOD Quiz Night** at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm see 13 September for more details

**Note from NJPN :** In the Conference Booklet we advertised a Networking Day, which we hoped to have in Leeds on the 21st September. Unfortunately due to other things going on in the area on that date we are unable to go ahead then. We will be putting another date in place very soon and will email you all out the details as/when it has been booked. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. Sharon Chambers Administrator National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN)  
email: [admin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org)

**Copydate for Autumn Mouthpiece November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024**

**EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:**

**National Justice and Peace Network** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

**Independent Catholic News** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

**NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-northwest/>



Lancashire Churches Together had a very lively active presence at the Royal Lancashire Show in July -see pages 14 -16 below. Thank you to Sue Gubric for sending the colourful report. Unfortunately she was unable to go herself as it clashed with the NJPN Conference at Swanwick.

# CALENDAR OF ECO EVENTS, ACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1st September</p> <p><b>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - Prayer Service - 4.00pm.</b> To pray in an endangered habitat, Danes Moss Nature Reserve. Meet at car park at Lyme Green Retail Park, SK10 0TB to walk to reserve.</p> <p>8th</p> <p><b>Reflective Service</b> 4.30pm to celebrate the Season of Creation in the new monastic garden. St. Peter's Church, Prestbury, SK10 4DG</p> <p><b>Saving our Planet Workshop and Worship</b> 6.30pm-8.00pm For young people 8+ (with an adult). The Hope Centre, Park Green, SK11 7NA Book via The Hope Centre.</p> <p>15th</p> <p><b>Family Fun Afternoon</b> scavenger hunt, quizzes and games. 12.00pm - 2.00pm in West Park. Meet at the Rangers Hut next to the Café.</p> <p><b>Family Cycle Ride</b> along the Middlewood Way. Meet at 12.30pm below Tesco Car Park, SK10 2AB to cycle approx. 7 miles to Nelson's Pit for a picnic. Bring a packed lunch.</p> <p>22nd</p> <p><b>Creation Walk</b> 2.00pm. 3 mile walk to appreciate God's creation followed by a picnic of drinks and cakes. Meet at Clarke Lane, Bollington, SK10 5AH</p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b> 9.00am - 8.00pm everyday to 1st October. Holy Trinity Church, Hurdsfield, SK10 2PX</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>Consider how many bottles of water or soft drinks you buy. Could you replace these with tap water in a reusable bottle? Find out more: <a href="http://www.refill.org.uk">www.refill.org.uk</a></p> <p>Bible Study - Mondays, 11.00am at East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR</p> <p>9th</p> <p>Remember to say Grace before eating your meal today, and throughout the Season of Creation, thanking God for creating the food and for the people who have produced it.</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p>	<p>3rd</p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> 10.30am - 11.30am. Tuesday and Thursday mornings to 3 October. All welcome. The Hope Centre, Park Green, SK11 7NA</p> <p>10th</p> <p>Make do and mend rather than buying new. Find something that could be repaired and bring it to the monthly <b>Repair Café</b> on Saturday 14th September. More info email: <a href="mailto:repaircafe.macc@gmail.com">repaircafe.macc@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> - see above</p>	<p>4th</p> <p>Have a meatless/vegan meal. Meat and cheese have a large carbon footprint. Could you do this more often during the Season of Creation and beyond?</p> <p>Bible Study - Wednesdays, 7.00pm at East Cheshire Hospice Chapel, SK10 3DR</p> <p>11th</p> <p><b>Litter Pick</b> 6.00pm - 7.00pm All welcome. Picker equipment provided. Meet at St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p>	<p>5th</p> <p><b>People, Planet, Pint</b> 6.00pm - 8.00pm. The Fountain, Park Green. Come and chat about local sustainability initiatives and a drink on the house for the first 30.</p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> - see above</p> <p>12th</p> <p>Reduce food waste by planning your meals and buying just what you need.</p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> - see above</p>	<p>6th</p> <p><b>Foodie Friday</b> 6pm for 6.30pm St. Michael's Church, Market Place SK10 1DY 3 course meal, pay what you feel, all made from food which would otherwise be wasted. Booking required - St Michael's Office 01625 421984.</p> <p>13th</p> <p>Whilst shopping select Fairtrade plastic free and locally produced products with low food miles.</p> <p>Have you shopped at <b>Scoop and Scales</b> the refill shop at the Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT? Find out more: <a href="https://www.scoopandscales.co.uk/">https://www.scoopandscales.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>7th</p> <p><b>Litter Pick</b> Join the monthly litter pick in Prestbury followed by tea and coffee. Meet at St. Peter's Church, Prestbury, SK10 4DG</p> <p>14th</p> <p><b>River Bollin Clean Up</b> 10.00am - 3.00pm Riverside Park, SK10 2SL. Drop in, families welcome.</p> <p><b>Repair Café</b> 10.00am - 2.00pm Community Centre, Duke Street, SK11 6UR</p> <p><b>Walk - Prestbury to Adlington</b> 10.00am meet at St. Peter's Church, Prestbury, SK10 4DG to walk to their sister church along the Middlewood Way and canal.</p> <p>21st</p> <p><b>Preloved Clothes and Toys Sale for under 5's</b> 11.00am - 3pm. Pay as you feel. St. Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Road, SK11 8DJ</p> <p><b>Family picnic and story telling</b> around the campfire. 5.30pm Prestbury Nurseries, London Rd, SK10 4DY. Bring food and tales to share.</p> <p>28th</p> <p><b>Open Green Spaces</b> 10.00am - 1.00pm. Visit one or all of the towns green spaces/gardens that support biodiversity and help out if you have time. Map available at: <a href="https://stalbansncc.org.uk/season-of-creation/">https://stalbansncc.org.uk/season-of-creation/</a></p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p>
<p>1st October</p> <p><b>Treacle Market</b> 1.30pm-2.30pm. Come and join us at St. Michael's Church for a drink and discuss the importance of action on climate change.</p> <p><b>Harvest Service</b> 9.30am Mass St. Alban's Church, SK11 8JD. Bring some food items to donate for local people who would otherwise go hungry.</p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p>	<p>23rd</p> <p>Remember we are part of God's creation and to take care of ourselves in the way God intended with compassion and care.</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p> <p>30th</p> <p>Pray for all those who have been affected by climate change, natural disasters and wars through injury, death of loved ones, loss of their homes or livelihoods.</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p>	<p>1st October</p> <p>How is your money or pension invested? Does it contribute to harming creation - through fossil fuels or destroying natural habitats? Check out your bank at: <a href="https://bank.green/">https://bank.green/</a></p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> - see above</p>	<p>25th</p> <p><b>Film: "Six Inches of Soil"</b> 8.00pm - 9.45pm. Cinemac, Roe Street, SK11 6UT. Inspiring story of British farmers standing up against the industrial food system. Suggested donation £5.</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p>	<p>26th</p> <p><b>"Getting to know your carbon footprint" Workshop</b> 7.30pm St. Alban's Parish Centre, Chester Rd, SK11 8DJ</p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> - see above</p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p>	<p>27th</p> <p>Take stock of what you've done so far. How are you getting on with listening to the voice of Creation? What more could you do to take better care of God's creation?</p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p>	<p>28th</p> <p><b>Open Green Spaces</b> 10.00am - 1.00pm. Visit one or all of the towns green spaces/gardens that support biodiversity and help out if you have time. Map available at: <a href="https://stalbansncc.org.uk/season-of-creation/">https://stalbansncc.org.uk/season-of-creation/</a></p> <p><b>Interactive Prayer Room</b></p>
<p>2nd</p> <p>Pray for all those who have been affected by climate change, natural disasters and wars through injury, death of loved ones, loss of their homes or livelihoods.</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>Turn off the television, computer, mobile phone, etc. and spend half an hour going for a walk or other activity in God's natural world. Invite your family or others to join you.</p> <p>Bible Study - see above</p>	<p>3rd</p> <p><b>Apple Pressing</b> 5.00pm - 8.00pm Come and have a go at pressing apples. Drop in at Scoop and Scales, Old Sunday School, Roe Street, SK11 6UT. Suitable for all ages.</p> <p><b>FRAYER SESSION</b> - see above</p>	<p>4th</p> <p><b>Celebration and Feast of St Francis of Assisi - Prayer Service</b> 7.30pm. To close and thank God for the Season of Creation. St. Michael's Church, Market Place, SK10 1DY</p> <p>Thereafter... Continue to live as good stewards of God's creation taking care of yourself, people, animals and the environment that He has blessed us with - Our Common Home</p>			

## THE ROYAL LANCASHIRE SHOW 2024

*Supporting Farmers and raising awareness of Farming and Mental Health*

The Churches Together in Lancashire Tent was again well supported at the Royal Lancashire Show this year. We are very grateful to the organisers of the Show who provided us with a free space for a very large marquee. We are also very grateful to the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund and the Lancashire Foundation. The grants received covered the cost of the Marquee, the electrical supply and the provision of free hot and cold drinks.



We were delighted to be visited by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Amanda Parker, who took time to meet with all the organisations. Over the weekend we also welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn, the Mayor of Burnley, and the Bishops of Blackburn, the Rt Revd Philip North, the newly appointed Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Joe Kennedy and Major David Taylor of the NW Division of the Salvation Army



The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Amanda Parker with the Revd Anton Müller, Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn, Brian Taylor, Louise Taylor, The Rt Revd Joe Kennedy, Bishop of Burnley, The Rt Revd Philip North Bishop of Blackburn

### This year we partnered with Lancashire Mind

<https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/> Thank you to Chris Bell who sent to us a fantastic team which included Kat Sybelski, Nicola Tomkins, Hannah Holden, Jeanette Colcough, Hazel Cook, Rachel Whippy, Samantha Blackburn, Ellie Byn, Emma Bateson, Kiera Kitchen, Karen Arrowsmith and Aasiya Nazir. We were very moved by man who was brought in by his friend. He had lived with depression and mental illness for many years and over a cuppa opened up to members of the team. He was making great progress and looking for a welcoming church. We were able to point him to some great places. He also told of his desire to learn the Bagpipes! As it happened, the Accrington Pipe Band were at the Show and some of them came into the Tent. Our man has arranged to have lessons starting now!



Rachel Whippy and Karen Arrowsmith with the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire



Nina Hayhurst with the Mayor of Hyndburn  
Cllr Mike Booth

New to the Church Tent this year we had Field Nurses <https://fieldnurse.co.uk/> who sent to us Nina Haywood and Sarah Bargh who offered free blood pressure checks and health advice. The Bishop of Blackburn, The Rt Revd Philip North was checked out and found to be in tip-top condition!



Accrington Pipe Band



Sarah Bargh with Bishop Philip North

It was great to be supported by Community Roots, an NHS non-clinical organisation that works alongside a range of community partners to help local people make connections in the community that signpost to the points of support and care.

<https://www.communityroots.lscft.nhs.uk/>



Shaun Elliott, Community Roots with the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire



The Revd Anne Pettifor  
Agricultural Chaplain



Also joining for the first time were the Agricultural Chaplaincy Association <https://www.agrichaplains.org.uk/> represented by the Revd Les Hann and the Revd Anne Pettifor who took part in leading the Church-in-the-field service on the Sunday afternoon. With them were the MND Association <https://www.mndassociation.org/> represented by Sue Müller who also shared resources for Parish Nursing <https://www.parishnursing.org.uk/> Sue Müller was the first Parish Nurse in Lancashire before moving to the MND Association. Sue also shared material from Compassionate Communities based at St Catherine's Hospice. <https://www.stcatherines.co.uk/our-care/compassionate-communities/>



Sue Müller  
Motor Neurone Disease Association  
With the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire

It was good to welcome for the first time Anna Chaplaincy <https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/> represented by Dr Sheila Fisher who is also the Chair of Trustees at Wigan Hospice and a Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) in the Diocese of Blackburn.



Dr Sheila Fisher, Anna Chaplain  
with Bishop Joe Kennedy

The Farming Community Network <https://fcn.org.uk/> were back represented by Jackie Clegg and Georgina Lamb. FCN supports farmers and families within the farming community.



Georgina Lamb & Jackie Clegg  
Farming Community Network

The Rural Focus Group brings together various churches and organizations represented by the Area Dean for the Tunstall Deanery with Liz MacLean, Area Dean for Whalley, the Revd Karen Herschell, Vicar of Balderstone, Mellor and Salmesbury and the Revd Pippa Daniels, Curate at Dolphinholme, Quernmore and Over Wyresdale.

It was good to welcome back the Christian Police Association <https://cpauk.net/> represented by the Revd Adam Woodhouse, a URC minister, PC Marty Long and his wife Annabelle, PC Paul Pountain and PC Mark Porter.



Annabelle and Marty Long  
Christian Police Association  
with Bishop Philip

**A great team came to represent PLASP**  
<http://www.olotv.org.uk/parish-groups/trafficking/plasp> the Pan Lancashire Anti-Slavery Partnership under the direction of former Police Detective Sion Hall. Joining the PLASP team were Marek Krolic, himself a survivor of trafficking. His story of terrible abuse was heard by the Mayor of Hyndburn, Cllr Mike Booth who has committed himself to addressing this continuing issue. Marek also met the newly appointed Bishop of Burnley, the Rt Revd Joe Kennedy, who will be the Diocese of Blackburn's lead for Modern Day Slavery in the County.



Sion Hall, Marek Krolic, Dawn Eccleston  
Bishop Philip, Mayor Mike Booth

Not put off by last year's mud and rain we were delighted to welcome back Karen Livesey with a team from No Whispers CIC an organisation that works tirelessly to inform, educate, and empower adults about child sexual and criminal exploitation. No Whispers is now a "network partner" with Churches Together in Lancashire and in November will be leading an interdenominational day on Child Sexual Abuse in Religious Organisations with the churches safeguarding leads. For this work Karen is a recipient of the 2024 Inspiring Women Awards.

<https://www.inspiringawards.co.uk/2024-event/>



Our thanks go again to Anne Garsed of Fair-Trade Lancashire and her brilliant team of servers: Janette Fletcher, Janet Sherwood, Peter Thorne, Ruth Bruce, Anne Thorne, Simon Millwood-Hopkins. This year we ran out of cold drinks on the first day! There was special display highlighting the plight of cocoa growers in West Africa illustrated by a beautiful interactive cocoa collage.



The Revd Brian Drury  
Ian Marshall

Our Baptist member, the Revd Brian Drury, was again on hand to keep the power connected and lead the music for the morning worship led by our Quaker ecumenical officer Ian Marshall.



The Revd Tony Ford  
with Bishop Philip

Volunteers are welcome as are your prayers and financial support! Our volunteers this year included Douglas Martin, Secretary of the Lytham Council of Churches, Peter Lumsden, Lancashire Forum of Faiths and Citizens UK, Sarah Earnshaw who for the last two years has led the children's activities; the Revd Darren Holland, Ecumenical Officer URC NW Synod; the Revd Janet Calderley URC and Pastor Stephen Norwood of the Blackburn Community Church, the Revd Tony Ford, Free Church of England as well members of Catholic churches and the Salvation Army. A truly ecumenical team representing the one Church in Lancashire.

We look forward to returning in 2025 when we will be partnering with Citizens UK who were also with us for the first time represented by Davinia Jackson, Phill Sage & Peter Lumsden. The focus will be on Rural Poverty and the Living Wage Campaign.

<https://www.citizensuk.org/chapters/Preston/>



Phill Sage & Davinia Jackson with the Lord Lieutenant



The 2024 Tent Team



The Sunday Service was led by the Revd Clare Downing, Moderator of the NW Synod URC with Captain Tracy Collis of the NW Salvation Army, joined by the Revd Daleen Ten Cate, URC, The Revd Anne Pettifor and The Revd Liz MacLean. The music was led by the Balderstone Brass Band.

You can sponsor the Church Tent and contribute to the Christian presence and the proclamation of the Gospel at Lancashire's biggest Agricultural Show. Please do get in touch with the Revd Anton Müller, County Ecumenical Officer, Churches Together in Lancashire [antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk](mailto:antonmuller@ctlancashire.org.uk)

Next year we look forward to having "Hope at Home" an organisation that support survivors like Marek.

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

In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12v5