

*The e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly within the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send articles and diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)*

## CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PEACE

**On September 21 there is a Global Day of Advocacy Action** with the theme: **Cultivating a Culture of Peace** <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace> to focus on the ecumenical common call to action on advocacy and to endorse the **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** (FFNPT) <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/> The 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly will be taking place from 10 - 24 September and it is within this context that we Christians, as a global family, will raise our voices and show how faith communities can be powerful actors for justice and hope across the world.

## SECRETARY-GENERAL'S 100-DAY COUNTDOWN TO THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE MESSAGE

Every year on 21 September, the United Nations invites the world to mark the International Day of Peace. This year's focus is on "Cultivating a culture of peace". In a world mired by conflict, inequalities and discrimination, we must strive ever harder to promote dialogue, empathy and human rights for all. As we begin the 100-day countdown to Peace Day, let us plant the seeds for non-violence, justice and hope.

**António Guterres** 13 June 2024

## PEACE DAY MESSAGE António Guterres 21 September 2024

Everywhere we look, peace is under attack.

From Gaza, to Sudan, to Ukraine and beyond we see:

Civilians in the firing line;

Homes blown apart;

Traumatised, terrified populations who have lost everything – and sometimes everyone.

This catalogue of human misery must stop.

Our world needs peace.

Peace is the ultimate prize for all humanity.

And as this International Day of Peace reminds us – the solutions are in our hands.

Cultivating a culture of peace means replacing division, disempowerment, and despair with justice, equality and hope for all.

It means focusing on preventing conflict;

Propelling the Sustainable Development Goals;

Promoting human rights.

And tackling all forms of discrimination and hate.

This month's Summit of the Future is a vital opportunity to advance these aims.

Let's seize it.

Together, let's lay the groundwork for peace.

And let's nurture a culture where equality, peace and justice thrive.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace/message>

## WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL 16-22 SEPTEMBER

In the week of 16 to 22 September, churches, faith-based communities and civil society organisations around the world will join a week of prayer and peaceful action for a just peace for all in Palestine and Israel. The World Council of Churches is taking a single focus as the theme for the week this year – Gaza.

'The devastating situation of Palestinians in Gaza after so many months of war reminds us of the need for people of good faith to work harder and pray harder for peace – a lasting peace, so that these wars are not a repetitive scene. The injustice against Palestinians in general and the long siege in Gaza in particular have been a pretext for many confrontations throughout 76 years.'

**Pax Christi** will be hosting an online prayer event on Wednesday, 18 September: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>  
**Resource: A prayer service for Peace in Palestine and Israel** (at the end of this bulletin) – feel free to use in full or adapt as you wish. I can supply laid out in an 8-page A5 booklet on request [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## FREE WEBINAR: *HOW TO PREVENT THE ERASURE OF PALESTINIANS* 3 pm WEDNESDAY, 2 OCTOBER

**Speakers** Tamara El-Halawani & Dr Zahira Jaser. **Organised by The Balfour Project** <https://balfourproject.org/>

**Tamara El-Halawani** is a research assistant at the SOAS ICOP project and a recent MSc graduate in International Politics from SOAS University, London. Her main research interests lie at the intersection of cultural studies, digital networks, and the politics of solidarity in the Middle East. Prior to joining ICOP, she worked as a reporter for The Conduit in London and served as a parliamentary staffer for her local constituency in the House of Commons. Tamara also holds a BSc (Hons) in Molecular Genetics from the University of Edinburgh.

**Dr Zahira Jaser** is an Italian-Palestinian Associate Professor at the University of Sussex Business School. She is the Director of the MBA programme. She has been researching the impact of anti-Palestinian racism in organisations and society. Her research and writings have been featured in Science, the Financial Times, The Guardian, the BBC, Wired, the Harvard Business Review and many academic journals. She holds a PhD in Management from Bayes Business School (formerly Cass) and a MSc in Organisational Behaviour from the London School of Economics, and received her BA with honours in Political Science and Economics from Università Di Padova, Italy.

**Register here:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ayeJ\\_kazQFqXvgPrU5I6Lw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ayeJ_kazQFqXvgPrU5I6Lw#/registration)

## CHRISTIAN AID: SUSPENDING 'SOME' ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL NOT ENOUGH

**Source:** Christian Aid September 2, 2024

British foreign secretary David Lammy announced today that the UK will suspend some arms sales to Israel. Mr Lammy said the decision follows a review of export licences for UK arms, which found there was a "clear risk" that they might be used to commit "a serious violation of international humanitarian law". Around 30 of 350 licences will be suspended, Mr Lammy said, stressing that "this is not a blanket ban, this is not an arms embargo".

Responding to the news, international development agency Christian Aid's Head of Middle East Policy, William Bell, said: "While this is progress, it does not go far enough. The only way to categorically ensure that arms sold to Israel are not used in violations of human rights is with a total ban. With the growing threat of this war escalating further, we need urgent steps to end the suffering and to build a world where Palestinians and Israelis are treated as equals."

The UK Government has granted 20 companies arms export licences to Israel since the Hamas attack on 7 October, with more companies awaiting their applications to progress since 31 May. The information was acquired through freedom of information by Christian Aid. The charity, which supports partners in Gaza to provide humanitarian aid, says it condemns companies that "make profit from this war."

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the department that issued the response, noted "a licence being granted does not mean that an export takes place...some licences may expire unused, and others may expire after only partial use." The items and financial value of licences are exempt from disclosure but are published in the quarterly arms export licences statistics. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50549>

## CATHOLIC NONVIOLENCE DAYS OF ACTION

**Saturday 21st September - Wednesday 2nd October**

From the International Day of Peace on the 21st September to the International Day of Nonviolence on the 2nd October, we will again be marking the Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action.



These Days of Action are a project of the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative and Pax Christi International and the theme this year is 'Walking together builds unity and nonviolence' drawing on Proverbs 28:18 "Those who walk together with integrity will find their security in God". Who has walked with us in times of violence or hardship? Who do we walk with to offer comfort and protection to others? How has our church walked with others to promote nonviolent peacemaking?

There are a number of events taking place during the fortnight, culminating with a Peace Pilgrimage in London on the 2nd October and an online event at which there will be an opportunity to make and renew a Vow of Nonviolence. Details and resources on our website here: [paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/](http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/)

Please let us know if you would like to arrange your own short peace pilgrimage and who you might walk with. We can help with ideas and any liturgy or prayers you might want to use.

## NEW REPORT ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE UK ARMS INDUSTRY ON GOVERNMENT

The Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) and the World Peace Foundation will be launching a new report on the influence of the UK arms industry on government on Wednesday, 18 September, 19:00-20:30, with a hybrid panel discussion, in Whitechapel, London, and online.

The report, by CAAT's Research Coordinator Dr. Sam Perlo-Freeman, is entitled "***From revolving door to open-plan office: the ever-closer union between the UK government and the arms industry***".

It details the various channels of influence the arms industry is able to bring to bear on government, such as the revolving door, lobbying meetings with ministers and senior officials, and dedicated government-industry forums, and details how, over the past few decades, the arms industry has been drawn into such a close relationship with government as to blur or even erase the boundaries between the two. This ensures top arms companies a guaranteed stream of lucrative MOD contracts, despite persistent failures in delivery, and a highly permissive arms export regime, allowing sales to continue to Saudi Arabia and Israel in spite of the horrific human cost.

The launch will take place at 4th Floor Studios, 255-259 Commercial Road, Whitechapel, E1 2BT, and online via Zoom webinar. Registration (details below) is required for both in-person and online attendance.

The venue is fully wheelchair-accessible.

The event will involve a presentation and panel discussion, followed by Q&A. The speakers are:

Dr. Sam Perlo-Freeman, Research Coordinator, Campaign Against Arms Trade (report author)  
Andrew Feinstein, Executive Director, Shadow World Investigations  
Ara Marcen Naval, Head of Advocacy, Transparency International Defence & Security  
Dan Sabbagh, Defence & Security Editor, The Guardian  
B Arneson, Director, World Peace Foundation's Arms Trade Programme (Moderator)

**Register for the Zoom webinar here:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_32CwqYKMTpqA7WHavleLXg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_32CwqYKMTpqA7WHavleLXg#/registration)

**Register to attend in person here:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/report-launch-from-revolving-door-to-open-plan-office-tickets-998567762057?aff=oddttdcreator>

## 'SINGING FOR PEACE' CHRISTIAN AID EVENT SUNDAY, 6 OCTOBER

Once again, the Chester Christian Aid Group is organising an ecumenical service this autumn, using the 'Songs of Praise' format. In the past we have called the service 'Singing for Justice; Singing for Peace', or 'Singing for Climate Justice'. This time we are keeping it simple, 'SINGING FOR PEACE'. After the events of this summer in our own country, and with the news still coming out of Gaza and the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, and other places such as Sudan, we feel there is a particularly urgent need for us to come together.

The service will be held at St Mary's Handbridge on Sunday October 6th at 4.00pm. Christel Langdon-Griffiths from Christian Aid will be giving an address. There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Please do all you can to publicise the service in your own church. We hope to see you there.

With very best wishes, Trevor Dennis [trevordennis11@gmail.com](mailto:trevordennis11@gmail.com)

## HIROSHIMA PLAY: THE PRIEST'S TALE

Michael Mears brought his production of "The Mistake" to Chester last year, and will be presenting his latest play, "The Priest's Tale" on Friday, 27 September at 7.30 pm at the Chester Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham Street, Chester CH1 3LF.

The actor/playwright has created a new solo adaptation from John Hersey's "Hiroshima" – an account by one of the very few survivors of the atomic bomb attack. Father Wilhelm was a German Jesuit priest living in Hiroshima in 1945. He survived the blast, but witnessed first-hand 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.

The 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)

## WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It's always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The theme of Pope Francis' message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is: God walks with His people. In this message, the Holy Father reminds us that all of us, God's people, are migrants on this earth, on our way to the "true homeland", the Kingdom of Heaven. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wdmr/>

## DESTITUTE AND IN DANGER; PEOPLE MADE HOMELESS BY THE ASYLUM SYSTEM

**Source:** JRS September 3, 2024

A new report from Jesuit Refugee Service UK examines the experiences of homelessness among people refused asylum in the context of the cost-of-living crisis and following the COVID-19 pandemic. It is based on surveys conducted with people refused asylum living across different areas of London and supported by JRS UK, in Autumn 2023. People refused asylum are made destitute by government policy. They have no recourse to public funds, like nearly all asylum seekers, they are banned from working, and all support from the Home Office is cut off.

The research found that rough sleeping is very common among this group, and even those not currently street homeless are perpetually at risk of it. Connected to this, there is a widespread pattern of couch-surfing punctuated by sporadic street homelessness, and generally unstable accommodation situations. People had no choice over where they slept, very little control over their daily lives, and had to accept a roof over their head on whatever terms available.

This situation was very dangerous: Over 20% of respondents did not feel physically safe around people they lived with or around. There are indications of people living in unsafe or exploitative situations in the informal renting market, or of being trapped into abusive relationships. Joyce, a destitute asylum seeker, said: "For women, it can be even worse because some men take advantage of them because they are vulnerable. They sometimes end up forcing themselves into relationships they don't want to be in so they have a roof over their heads."

The report also highlights that destitution both has a negative impact on both physical and mental health. There were strong indications this was actively dangerous to individuals who already had serious health problems. One woman who only had one kidney described her fear and helplessness living in a situation where she was disproportionately at risk of infection: "There was a time I think I have an infection...I've got one kidney. I have to be very careful."

People explained that it was nearly impossible to manage long-term health conditions because they were homeless, and this put their health at risk. For example, destitution makes it harder to regulate medication: "I'm sleeping rough in parks, buses, trains. I find it difficult because of my medical issues as I'm on a lot of medication. What about if I lose my medication? I think it may cause some complications because some of the medication [is] not supposed to be missed."

Almost universally, long-term destitution in the context of asylum is very detrimental to mental health. Respondents reported anxiety, chronic sleep deprivation, and suicidal ideation.

Sarah Teather, Director of JRS UK, said: "For years, JRS UK have supported people made destitute by the asylum system - and we see the crushing impact destitution has on them. This new report shares their stories, and the reality it reveals is horrifying. People who sought safety here are plunged into homelessness and danger, left vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and life-threatening illness. This is not new. Some people we work with have lived like this for decades, as an intentional consequence of successive governments' policies. This must, finally stop. The government has an opportunity to take a new approach. It must now end the Hostile Environment and enforced destitution."

Dr Sophie Cartwright, author of the report, said: "The enforced destitution of people refused asylum is shameful. People who just wanted to be safe are pushed, by government policy, to the very edges of society. They have no safe way to meet their basic needs and no home. They regularly have nowhere they can rest, or go just to feel secure. This is not human. It's not who we are. If any of us were forced to leave our home, we would all want somewhere to be safe. We would all want a chance to rebuild our lives. It's time to make that happen."

**Dr Sophie Cartwright will be hosting a webinar to discuss the Report at 5pm on 18 September 2024.**

**Report and link to webinar:** <https://www.jrsuk.net/destitute-and-in-danger-report/>  
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50551>

## SEASON OF CREATION: 1 SEPTEMBER – 4 OCTOBER

**Bernadette Bailey writes:** St. Alban's Parish Justice and Peace Group started the celebration of the Season of Creation in Macclesfield 9 years ago and each year we increase the number of local churches and people involved. Below is some information on the **2024 Season of Creation** and what we have planned for the parish and other churches in Macclesfield as part of HOPE in North East Cheshire. <https://hinec.org.uk/>

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is **"To hope and act with Creation"** taking inspiration from the book of Romans Chapter 8: 19 - 25. Amid the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer from eco-anxiety. As people of faith we are called to lift the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action but one embodied in concrete actions of prayer and preaching, service and solidarity. This season, we are also uniting our Christian voices through a joint advocacy initiative to support the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (<https://fossilfuel treaty.org/>) which calls for a halt to new fossil fuel projects.

Our final event will be a **Prayer Service** on 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology, at St. Michael's Church at 7.30pm, which will be led by Rev. Dr. Marion Tugwood, chaplain at East Cheshire Hospice.

**You can find out more about the global Season of Creation at:** <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

If you would like to know more or to get involved in the Macclesfield area please contact Bernadette Bailey at: [justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com](mailto:justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com) or 07831 647 928.

As we start the Season of Creation, on the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, it is good to recall the message of many so many church leaders. The Pope reminds us of the key theme- the earth is suffering, the poor of the world bear the brunt of the crisis. It's down to us all to pray and act. He does very effectively in this short, punchy video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yybxtLFNHcW>

**Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation:**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/popmesmessage-for-world-day-of-prayer-for-the-care-of-creation-2023/>

**Information from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales:** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/season-of-creation/>

**CAFOD Season of Creation:** <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/season-of-creation>

## GREEN CHRISTIAN REFLECTIVE WEEKEND BEING STILL ON THE RADICAL EDGE 27-29 SEPTEMBER

Green Christian is holding a hybrid reflective weekend in September. We are offering an opportunity for members and supporters around the country to join us on Zoom. Bring Green Christian's reflective weekend into your church or home. You can join as an individual, or with a group of friends in your church or hall, or simply gather around a laptop at your home with a few friends.

Our weekend will be guided by our team of three speakers: Bishop Laurie Green, Helen Burnett and Vanessa Elston – scroll down to read about them.

They have been crafting the programme together over several months with the Green Christian team. The result is a weekend which we hope will help you deepen your existing commitment and insight as a green Christian, but also expand it with new, perhaps challenging, ways to live, as you seek to read and respond to the signs of our times.

We'll spend time in many different ways:

- Listening to our speakers share their wisdom and experience, in conversation with each other
- Responding with reflective conversations with our speakers and with each other as participants
- Interweaving all this with opportunities for stillness and a simple crafting activity which will enable us to unify head, heart and hands.



## OUR SPEAKERS

### *Friday Evening*

**Juliana Morillo** has a background in Chemistry, Environmental Management and Disaster & Risk Mitigation. She has worked for government and non-government sectors, including World Vision, across South America. She lives in Colombia, where she's involved in environmental training with churches. She is also Latin American coordinator for the Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network.

### *Saturday and Sunday*

**Bishop Laurie Green** was born in the East End of London, and is a former Bishop of Bradwell. He has strong interests in urban ministry and Liberation Theology, and is the author of "Let's Do Theology".

**Revd Helen Burnett** is a part-time Parish Priest in the Diocese of Southwark. Her parish ministry is complemented by a strong vocation to witness and action within the climate movement.

**Revd Vanessa Elston** is a pioneer priest in Southwark Diocese. She is exploring the journey of spiritual transformation (metanoia) we are called into alongside rethinking how we communicate the Christian faith in a time of climate, ecological and social breakdown.

Find out more here: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/join-online-reflective-weekend-with-green-christian/>

## CLIMATE JUSTICE GATHERING - LIVERPOOL CITY REGION SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER

Join us in Liverpool for a day of networking, talks and workshops. Our Climate Justice Gathering will be a welcoming space for individuals and groups in the Liverpool City Region to engage with the Climate Crisis.

Saturday, October 12, 2024 9:30 am to around 5:00 pm St Bride's Church Percy St, Liverpool, L8 7LT GB

Host Contact Info: [clara@tippingpointuk.org](mailto:clara@tippingpointuk.org)

We are still working on the programme but here is to give you an idea what the day will be about:

- Hear and interact with Local Campaigns around Climate Change and the Environmental Crisis
- Explore the importance of International Solidarity and Solidarity with Migrants
- How do we engage with the politics of Climate Justice
- Workshops on building our networks and tool to work together better and engage with the wider civil society: faith groups, trade unions, community groups
- A Craftivism workshop: how to use creativity to campaign
- Explore the issues of Air and Water Pollution
- Plan the next steps for our Liverpool City Region Climate Justice Coalition and more

There will be food and refreshments. Doors will open at 9am for 9.30am start. Sessions will end around 5pm.

We are aiming to make this event as welcoming for people from all cultures and backgrounds and aim to make it accessible for Disabled People. There is an access ramp to the side door of the building, and level access within the building, we will be working on more accessibility information but in the main time, if you have any question feel free to contact the venue or ourselves.

**Note that this event has been rescheduled from June 2024 due to the General Election.**

Register here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/climate-justice-gathering-liverpool-city-region-2/>

## PODCAST: ALL KINDS OF CATHOLIC

**August 27, 2024 All Kinds of Catholic with Theresa Alessandro**

### **Episode 13: I definitely wasn't going to church**

Neil talks about his sense of being a missionary in his diocesan work. He shares honestly the things that are high points, like being with young people, and some of the low points, on his own faith journey. We talk about Catholic voices on social media too.

[https://www.buzzsprout.com/2333035/15556133?fbclid=IwY2xjawFIE0pleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHa87Hbi62gDtvs8BW4SLVka3HwQysFbu61toUpt1RLgZw6JJBZ3oP-5Odw\\_aem\\_I3qEQ1pU35-Mv8-hr7RL3A](https://www.buzzsprout.com/2333035/15556133?fbclid=IwY2xjawFIE0pleHRuA2FibQlxMQABHa87Hbi62gDtvs8BW4SLVka3HwQysFbu61toUpt1RLgZw6JJBZ3oP-5Odw_aem_I3qEQ1pU35-Mv8-hr7RL3A)

Find the transcript: <https://kindsofcatholic.buzzsprout.com>

A new episode, a different conversation, every Wednesday!

Email me: [theresa@KindsofCatholic.co.uk](mailto:theresa@KindsofCatholic.co.uk)

Facebook and X/Twitter Give me a follow [@KindsofCatholic](https://www.instagram.com/KindsofCatholic)

## LAUDATO SI' ANIMATORS WRITE TO PRIME MINISTER

**John Woodhouse** September 4, 2024

Fifty-five Laudato Si' Animators, representing all parts of the United Kingdom, have written an open letter to the Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, and the ministers responsible Steve Reed and Ed Milliband. They call on the government to:

1. Introduce the Climate and Nature Bill which 60,000 marched for at Restore Nature Now. This bill would address many issues of concern e.g. reducing greenhouse gases, ending fossil fuel extraction, restoring ecosystems.
2. Commit to a transition from animal agriculture to organic, arable agriculture. Animal agriculture is a leading cause of many present world crises - climate change; antibiotic resistance; waste of resources and global hunger (food, land, water and energy are wasted in growing food for animals to eat).
3. Commit to the signing of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (FFNPT), a proposed international agreement that aims to control fossil fuel production and infrastructure expansion, and phase out fossil fuel use in a fair and equitable way. The treaty would also accelerate the transition to clean energy and economic diversification away from fossil fuels. In 2023 Pope Francis called for "the elimination of fossil fuels, and education in lifestyles that are less dependent".
4. Support rewilding and in particular the Rewilding manifesto.
5. Ensure businesses pay for their pollution, and transition to non-polluting practices and products.

They state: "We believe that climate change is now such a threat to humanity that it should not be the subject of policies of individual political parties, but that all the parties should work together to find solutions to the problem for the common good and for the sake of our children's children.

"Pope Francis issued a papal document *Laudate Deum* in October 2023 which gives a clear warning about what needs to be done urgently.

"We are sending you a photo from the march in June and a copy of a special painting by professional artist Helen Elwes who is one of the Animators which we hope you will put on your desk as a reminder that we all need to think and act to care for our common home."

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/50561>

## HELP END THE UNJUST TWO-CHILD LIMIT

**Liam Purcell, Church Action on Poverty writes:**

Churches around the UK are joining calls for an end to the UK's highly controversial two-child limit. Ask your church to sign the letter today.

The two-child limit means families are not allowed to access support through Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit, for more than two children, if children were born after April 2017.

The limit was introduced in 2017, and was unprecedented in the UK social security system, in creating differing support levels, based on sibling numbers. It has long been opposed by church leaders and charities on moral reasons, and is described by Save The Children as a sibling tax.

Today, 1.6 million children in 440,000 households are affected, and families are being denied access to £3,455 a year.

Churches have always been among the most vocal critics of the policy. The effort is being stepped up now because the new Government has launched a Child Poverty Strategy, and there are hopes that Ministers might heed the growing calls. We hope the policy will be removed in the Budget in October.

We urge all church leaders to add your names to our call for an end to this harmful and unjust policy. Read the letter (link below), then add your details.

**Letter to the Chancellor here:** <https://act.church-poverty.org.uk/page/156115/petition/1?ea.url.id=7399697>

**Read our background briefing here:** <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/2childlimitbriefing/>

- Individuals might like to send a personal letter too [Ed.]

## CAFOD NEWS FROM LANCASTER DIOCESE

### National online Harvest Family Fast Day briefing Tuesday, 17 September 7-8pm

If you are unable to join us locally, please do register for our National online Harvest Family Fast Day briefing for CAFOD volunteers and friends on Tuesday, 17 September from 7-8pm on Zoom. Hear live from Katy Katonda, our Deputy Country Representative in the DRC, and Jo Kitterick, our Director of Fundraising and Participation. Discover how you can play a vital role in supporting this year's Harvest appeal in your parish. All are welcome! Please share this invitation with fellow parishioners. You can also register here:

[https://cafod.formstack.com/forms/invitation\\_to\\_harvest\\_fast\\_day\\_briefing](https://cafod.formstack.com/forms/invitation_to_harvest_fast_day_briefing)

### Parish Resources for Harvest Family Fast Day

All the resources you need. Access the bidding prayers and newsletter announcement to send to your parish office, and posters, plus a short talk for speaking at Mass. Or order contactless devices and extra volunteer lanyards to assist your parish collections for Harvest. There's the Fast Day short film <https://youtu.be/kjNNQxx9Yk0> and ways of sharing this through social media too.

You can now find digital parish resources at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parish-fundraising>

**Gather Together this Harvest:** Parish events are a great way to bring people together, have fun and raise money to support families around the world facing poverty and injustice. Check out ideas for your parish here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/organise-an-event/gather-together>

**'Bringing Communities Alive'** Saturday, 12 October: at the Lancaster Cathedral Social Centre, Balmoral Road, Lancaster, LA4 3BT. Organised by Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission. 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 - [ldfjsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfjsue@gmail.com) or by text on 07791444417. The Day begins at 10am – 10.30am with Tea/Coffee/Welcome/Prayer/Message from Fr Hugh Pollock Chair of Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission, and closes at 3pm with a Final Prayer.

**Silverstone Run Fest:** On Sunday 24th November you could line up on the iconic F1 circuit to run for CAFOD! Choose from a family mile, 5k, 10k or a half marathon. Email [events@cafod.org.uk](mailto:events@cafod.org.uk) if you or someone you know would be interested.

And please click for:

- Our events featuring pioneering parishes who are reducing their carbon footprint, an international artist and eco-designer and a Great British Bake-Off winner! <https://cafod.org.uk/volunteer/online-talks>
- Our Voices of Change Podcast, <https://cafod.org.uk/voices-of-change> the latest episode with Simon Giarchi from CAFOD in Plymouth around social justice, the power of community, love, and Gospel-driven action.
- And don't forget our Year of Prayer webpage <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/year-of-prayer>

**Patrick Gardner Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD: Lancaster Diocese**

Email: [pgardner@cafod.org.uk](mailto:pgardner@cafod.org.uk) Mobile: 07920 565 454

• Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) an invaluable free resource for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles.

• See current NJPN news here: <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/news/>

• Sign up for regular news and information from NJPN (plus copies of this newsletter & back issues for NJPN North West) at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk) or contact [ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org](mailto:ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org) 020 7901 4864

• Read the SUMMER issue of **MOUTHPEACE** the quarterly online newsletter for Shrewsbury, Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses: <https://jpschrewsbury.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/mouthpeace-summer-2024.pdf>

*The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*



## DIARY

### SEPTEMBER

**9-14 Peace Pilgrimage Malvern to Telford** The SDSC Arms Fair is taking place in Telford in November. In witness against this event FaithJustice and Peace Pilgrimage (of which Pax Christi 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. Pilgrims walking multiple days will need simple accommodation and food and support drivers will be needed to move overnight bags from stop to stop, and to help transport tired walkers. We will need local people to help us promote this event. And we're looking for local knowledge of sites of suffering on our route.

You can register your interest here: <https://peacepilgrimage.org.uk/malvern-to-telford/>

**14 Fairtrade Fashion Show celebrating 30 years of Fairtrade.** 3pm St Columba's Church Hall Plas Newton Lane, CHESTER CH2 1SA Contact: Anne Mosquera 01244 340243 Tickets £4 Under 18's £2 (including refreshments). Illustrated Talk, Fashion Show, Sustainable Products and Clothing for sale, Fair Trade Stall, Refreshments Proceeds will empower girls and women in Malawi through funding their education and enabling them to generate an income [www.chanasachifundomalawi.org](http://www.chanasachifundomalawi.org)

**16-22 ICAN Week of Action on Nuclear Spending** <https://psr.org/ican-week-of-action/>

**16-22 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel** <https://www.oikoumene.org/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-and-israel>

**18 Pax Christi Online Prayer Event for Palestine and Israel** <https://paxchristi.org.uk/>

**18 Webinar to discuss new JRS UK Report *Destitute and In Danger: people made homeless by the asylum system.*** Webinar starts at 17.00. Report and link to webinar: <https://www.jrsuk.net/destitute-and-in-danger-report/>

**18 CAAT** launch a new report on the influence of the UK arms industry on government, 19:00-20:30, with a hybrid panel discussion, in Whitechapel, London, and online. **Register to attend in person here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/report-launch-from-revolving-door-to-open-plan-office-tickets-998567762057?aff=oddtcreator> **Register for the Zoom webinar here:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_32CwqYKMTpgA7WHavleLXg#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_32CwqYKMTpgA7WHavleLXg#/registration)

**21 International Day of Peace** <https://internationaldayofpeace.org/> **Theme: Cultivating a Culture of Peace**

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Learn more here: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

**21 Start of Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action** [paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/](http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/nonviolence-in-action/)

**27 The Priest's Tale, a solo adaptation by actor/playwright Michael Mears of one of the atomic-bomb survivors' accounts from John Hersey's 'Hiroshima'.** Performance lasts approx. 1 hour – with a Q and A and refreshments afterwards. 7.30 pm at the Chester Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham Street, Chester CH1 3LF. 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)

**27-29 Peace Conference** at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire. Pax Christi, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and CHIPS. Our theme will be how we build peace in a time of war. Keynote speakers are to be announced but this will be a great opportunity to come together with others to strengthen our knowledges and skills and to encourage each other again to continue to work for peace. Places are limited. Further info and booking details here:

[https://www.tickettailor.com/events/jointpeaceconference/1302384?fbclid=IwY2xjawDzmuRleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHey8Mea0dZO9erZxf0yrpbt-jKci7scx-lylpkHiBuFPwpQBGng5LQ3Utw\\_aem\\_0hIr3KTnKOScQWbdv-HbSA1](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/jointpeaceconference/1302384?fbclid=IwY2xjawDzmuRleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHey8Mea0dZO9erZxf0yrpbt-jKci7scx-lylpkHiBuFPwpQBGng5LQ3Utw_aem_0hIr3KTnKOScQWbdv-HbSA1)

**September - 4 October SEASON OF CREATION**

Theme: 'HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION.' It urges campaigning for climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities impacted by climate injustice and biodiversity loss. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

## September - 4 October SEASON OF CREATION

Theme: 'HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION.' It urges campaigning for climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities impacted by climate injustice and biodiversity loss. <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

## OCTOBER

**2 International Day of Nonviolence London Pilgrimage** to mark the end of **Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action**

**2 Free webinar from the Balfour Project: *How to prevent the erasure of Palestinians*** with Tamara El-Halawani & Dr Zahira Jaser. Starting at 3pm. Register here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ayeJ\\_kazQFqXvgPrU5I6Lw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ayeJ_kazQFqXvgPrU5I6Lw#/registration)

**4 CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day** <https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/family-fast-day-appeal>

**4 Feast of St Francis, patron saint of ecology**

**4 Prayer Service** St. Michael's Church, Macclesfield 7.30pm, led by Rev. Dr. Marion Tugwood, Chaplain East Cheshire Hospice, to mark the end of the Season of Creation contact Bernadette Bailey at: [justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com](mailto:justiceandpeacemacc@gmail.com) or 07831 647 928.

**5-12 Living *Laudato Si'* Residential Week** A week to explore how to live out *Laudato Si'* fully in our personal lives and within the Church. All welcome. **Boarbank Hall**, Allithwaite, Grange Over Sands, Cumbria, LA11 7NH.

Contact Sr Margaret Atkins on [margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk](mailto:margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk) or 015395-32288 [www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk)

**12 CLIMATE JUSTICE GATHERING - LIVERPOOL CITY REGION** 9:30 am to 5:00 pm St Bride's Church Percy St, Liverpool, L8 7LT. Contact Info: [clara@tippingpointuk.org](mailto:clara@tippingpointuk.org)

**12 Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission** will be holding an event 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. More details to follow but do feel free to contact me if you would like to register your interest to come: **Sue Grubic *Faith & Justice Worker Diocese of Lancaster*** [ldfsue@gmail.com](mailto:ldfsue@gmail.com) or by text on 07791 444 417

**13 Start of Week of Prayer for World Peace**

**13-19 Prisons Week 2024** *Jesus looked at him and loved him – Mark 10:21. And he looks at you and loves you too.* This year we invite you to remember that he looks at you and loves you, as he looks at them and loves them. <https://www.prisonweek.org/>

---

# WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

16-22 SEPTEMBER 2024



**"Whatever you did...you did for me" Matthew 25:40**

The World Council of Churches invites faith-based communities around the world to join in a Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel from 16 to 22 September.

This year's theme is based on Matthew 25:35-40. It challenges us to ask whether we act positively or negatively – 'as if we are doing it to Jesus' – and reminds us of the urgent need to work and pray for peace.

*'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in,  
I needed clothes and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you looked after me,  
I was in prison and you came to visit me...  
...Whatever you did...you did for me'.*

## LIVING TOGETHER MEANS SERVING ONE ANOTHER

A reflection on the present situation in the ongoing conflict in the Holy Land needs to be founded on some fundamental principles.

First, Israel has a right to exist on the basis of the United Nations Resolution 181 dating from 1947.

Second, millions of Palestinians were dispossessed of their homes, their land, and their fundamental freedoms due to the creation of the State of Israel in 1948.

Standing as we do now, nine months into a terrible war in Gaza, and 58 years into Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, there is still a very long way to go before the people of Israel and Palestine will be able to live alongside one another in freedom, equality and security.

It must also be understood that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank from 1967, and the blockade of Gaza since 2007, are injustices that have compounded the previous dispossessions.

There is no going back: we have to go forward.

There has been enough violence, hatred and division in Israel and Palestine to last more than a lifetime. It is made all the more painful because of the significance that Jerusalem, and all the land, holds for the people of the Abrahamic faiths. Jews, Christians, and Muslims all revere the land. They feel spiritually rooted in it because of the events of salvation history for each faith that have taken place there.

There is enough religious fervour to sustain this conflict for generations to come. People of faith need to dig deep to find the best spiritual wisdom that each faith contains to discover how to live together in tolerance and equality. Living together means serving one another.

Ultimately, we will discover a better way when the peoples of the land can say "I belong to Jerusalem" rather than "Jerusalem belongs to me."

**The Very Revd Canon Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's College, Jerusalem, August 2, 2024 (adapted)**  
<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2024/2-august/comment/opinion/struggle-for-freedom-is-longer-and-harder-than-we-imagine>

## PRAYER

Spirit of God, we ask for:  
understanding that puts an end to conflict; mercy that quenches hatred;  
forgiveness that overcomes vengeance and the gift of courage to witness to the truth.  
We pray for the commitment to act and work for peace.  
Amen.

**Pax Christi**

## BREAKING DOWN THE WALL THAT DIVIDES

*'For Jesus is our peace ... and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us'.*

**Ephesians 2:14**

### PRAYER

God, loving Parent of all humankind,  
You are our Peace.  
In Jesus you embodied peace with justice –  
Peace, which can still prevail  
in the face of all the walls we build.

We pray for the people of Palestine and Israel,  
especially the hundreds of Palestinian families  
whose homes have been destroyed  
to build the great dividing wall.

We hear their cry,  
their helpless anger at the wall of concrete  
cutting across their daily lives,  
limiting their travel, study, and healthcare;  
limiting their access to work, worship,  
family connections, and even celebrations.

We pray for their children,  
living in a world crossed by razor wire  
that tears at flesh and draws blood.

We confess our complicity in maintaining barriers  
of ignorance, fear, privilege, prejudice,  
'us' and 'them'.

But you are our peace,  
with power to cut this wire for good,  
to break down all our walls.

Help us to proclaim what is right,  
and together share in the work of building peace,  
the work of justice.

**Jan Sutch Pickard,  
World Week of Prayer for Palestine and Israel**

### POEMS FROM THE CHILDREN OF GAZA

A new book, *Moon Tell me Truth*, is a collection of illustrated poems created last year by children from Gaza for a competition run by the Hands Up Project, a British educational charity that links children from other countries with young people in Gaza via the internet, using drama and story-telling to foster creativity, mutual understanding and friendship.

Most students featured in the book are now displaced and their schools have been damaged or destroyed. Two of the young poets were killed by Israeli airstrikes in October 2023 – Obada, 14, and Fatema, 9, along with all her family.

Fatema's poem *Eyes are for looking* has been shared all over the world.

*Eyes are for looking  
And seeing sun  
Tongues are for greeting  
And saying fun  
Legs are for walking slowly  
And also run  
Hands are for shaking with friends  
Not for shooting gun*

Roa'a, aged 13, writes:

*My darling's face is sad.  
The moon's face in our homeland is sad.  
Sad you are my city  
... you the spring of tears and a long sad history  
... you are the painting of pain and expressions of pain.  
Your eyes have the green colour of olives  
and the blue colour of sea  
... while the night falls over the face of life.  
Darling: wipe out that sadness  
and weave the dress of impossible from the tears.*

<https://www.handsupproject.org/shop/moon-tell-me-truth>

## SUMUD

*Sumud* is an Arabic word which means 'steadfastness'.

*Sumud* stands firm against the occupation of Palestinian lands and people. It chooses nonviolent advocacy for political change and 'resistance through existence': a determination to sustain normal daily life, such as the building and rebuilding of houses despite the risk of demolition; commuting for work or pleasure despite the aggravation of checkpoints; continuing to invest in education.



## PRAYER

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.

**Jan Sutch Pickard, Pax Christi**

## Recommended music

**Traditional Palestinian Lament** from the album *Stealing Jesus Back* – Garth Hewitt

### ***The peace of the earth be with you***

The peace of the earth be with you,  
The peace of the heavens too;  
The peace of the rivers be with you,  
The peace of the oceans too.  
Deep peace falling over you;  
God's peace growing in you.

John L. Bell – Recording by the Wild Goose Worship Group

## A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

God of mercy and compassion,  
of grace and reconciliation,  
pour your power  
upon all your children in the Middle East:  
Jews, Muslims and Christians,  
Palestinians and Israelis.

Let hatred be turned into love,  
fear to trust,  
despair to hope,  
oppression to freedom,  
occupation to liberation,  
that violent encounters  
may be replaced by loving embraces,  
and peace and justice  
may be experienced by all.  
Amen.

**Prayer via Terry Hephrun,**  
*President of Burnley Catenian Circle 54*

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Blogs/holy-land-update/reflections-and-prayers-for-peace>

## **BLESSING** (*We say together*)

We go now in peace,  
to love and to serve.  
We go, with the blessing and power  
of our great and glorious Creator  
to share light and make peace.  
Amen.

**Rev. Lisa Degrenia** *In the Light of God's Love*