



*Those committed to the gratuity of the Gospel are committed to risk, not to the middle road.*

*The just peace is not a programme, it is an impossible dream. To live for and by this dream is to inhabit the Christian reality, to be midwives of miracles, of the new birth which alone makes the struggle meaningful.*

*Peter Matheson*

## Calls for a new approach to politics at NJPN Conference

The theme of this year's Annual Conference: **'Justice, Power and Responsibility; How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?'** had been chosen two years ago, but could not have been more relevant - given recent events.

The main speakers were: Jon Cruddas Labour MP for Dagenham and Rainham, Jenny Sinclair of Together for the Common Good, Polly Jones of Global Justice Now, Takura Gwatinyanya of Caritas Harare and Simon Barrow from the think tank Ekklesia.

**Jon Cruddas** opened the conference with a call for the creation of a virtue-based politics based on the common good - a more holistic vision of a person living in society, as part of community - rather than simply a commodified being, judged almost entirely on a transactional basis of money exchange.

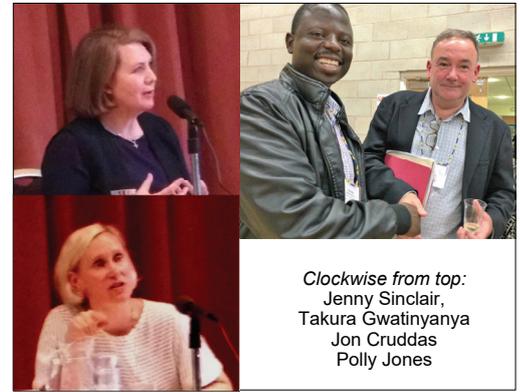
He said the Catholic Church is uniquely placed to enter the public square on these issues, with Catholic Social Teaching providing the blueprint for the development of such a virtue based model. "The virtue based model of justice can rehabilitate the political sphere," said Cruddas.

**Jenny Sinclair**, founder and director of Together for the Common Good, called for the establishment of a relationship based model grounded in the common good. "After Brexit we need an examination of conscience," she said. "It's time to climb out of our silos and see what else is going on - looking across sectors, and ecumenically - from parish to boardroom."

Calling for politics with primacy of the human person in relation with others, Jenny Sinclair said: "It's in my interest that you thrive." To build a common good requires people who may disagree, and whose interests and circumstances are different, to encounter each other in relationship. The results are surprising, "It's kind of alchemy," said Sinclair, who stressed that the demand was all the more pressing since the EU referendum, which had highlighted how polarised and excluded large parts of the UK have become.

Jenny Sinclair said the Churches are well placed to play "a special role in strengthening civil society... We can foster a culture of encounter, where people of different experience meet - at all levels and in all sectors. We can build the links between local institutions and between estranged groups," she said, reminding the audience how her father Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock had played just such a role a generation ago.

"The biggest barrier to solving world poverty is the rapacious behaviour of big corporations," said **Polly Jones**, head of campaigns and policy at Global Justice Now. She went on to outline the dangers of the Transatlantic Trade and



Clockwise from top:  
Jenny Sinclair,  
Takura Gwatinyanya  
Jon Cruddas  
Polly Jones

Investment Partnership (TTIP) which would enable corporations to sue governments if they do something that cuts profits.

She described how the idea of trade agreements like TTIP were born out of the financial crash of 2008, being sold by corporations as a way of enhancing growth in the world economy. "It has been about carving out new markets in areas where they were not able to trade before," said Jones.

She also pointed to examples of how TTIP and other such agreements are being resisted, with 250,000 Germans coming onto the streets recently to protest about the agreement. "We have to find a way to enforce our standards on the corporation and cut their power," she said.

Besides the keynote speakers, there was a range of workshops on finance, media, campaigning, and women's issues. There were also activities for children and young people, and a **panel discussion** with Ealing Cllr Theresa Byrne, Simon Barrow, Fr Martin Newell and Pat Gaffney from Pax Christi.

Mass was celebrated by Passionist priest Fr Martin Newell with music provided by an ad hoc group of singers, including five children, guitarists, violinists, flautists and a saxophonist, from several dioceses who played and sang beautifully - including a new setting for the psalm, composed by Sheena Field from St Hugh of Lincoln parish, Chesterfield.

On Sunday, **Takura Gwatinyanya** gave a moving account of his work in Zimbabwe with Caritas. The humanitarian NGO works in collaboration with local partners in a number of health, water, agriculture and food security programmes, as the country struggles to cope with extreme drought and economic hardship.

Alison Gelder from Housing Justice led the final 'action planning session' before the conference ended with a lively liturgy - accompanied by a film made by the children and the youth group.

*Jo Siedlecka, Independent Catholic News 18.07.16*

**J&P Conference 2016:**  
**Justice, Power and Responsibility:**  
**How Can Democracy Work for the**  
**Common Good?**

Read more reports and watch videos of the speakers at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

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## Speaking Personally: Barbara Butler



### Where do you think your commitment to justice and peace comes from?

My commitment to justice and peace work comes partly from my post graduate research for my M. Phil degree. The focus was Christian Socialism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. I explored issues like

unemployment, poverty, including child poverty, women's issues, war and peace and class.

Following my research work I went to live and teach in Zambia, and it became immediately obvious that conditions there were similar in some ways to conditions in the UK in the early 1900s. I was involved in nutrition programmes and in literacy work. I taught teachers, journalists, secretaries and others, and was constantly aware of the troubles they faced in their families.

When I returned to live and teach in the UK I kept my links with Africa and other areas of the developing world. My work in Christians Aware, with a strong focus on justice and peace, followed.

### What for you are the most important areas of concern today?

I go to Africa every other year. I also visit other areas of the developing world. In 2014 I visited Zambia for the first time since I lived there. I am aware that progress in development is slow in much of Africa. Work for gender equality, clean water, child health, employment and literacy is work for justice. Much still needs to be done.

### What sustains you in your commitment?

I am sustained by what I learn from those I work with, my colleagues and those who live in the developing world who have such very different experiences from my own. I am sustained by their support and friendship.

### What are your hopes for a Church like ours for the 21st Century?

My main hope is that more lay and ordained people may have first-hand experiences of the wide world in all its complexity. I hope and pray that the Church may see itself as resourcing the laity for their work in the world, towards justice, peace and development.

*Barbara Butler is Executive Secretary of Christians Aware, an international and interdenominational educational charity working to develop multicultural and interfaith understanding and friendship locally, nationally and internationally. Its aim is to work for justice, peace and development. She is a historian with special interest in development and justice issues.*

## The Start of a Journey for Years to Come

When I was asked to write something for the newsletter, about my experiences of this year's NJPN conference, I thought it would be relatively easy - just write up what I'd seen and heard, make some conclusions, and job done. As a first time attendee, I'd come home full of inspiration and ideas, ready to write something down. But when I sat down in front of a blank screen, ready to type, I found that I couldn't write anything at all. Writers block to the extreme.

So what was the problem? I've thought about it again and again over the last month, every time I try to write something and fail again. So I decided that instead of giving up completely I would write what I felt I could not write.

I couldn't write down the feeling I got when I arrived at the conference and was welcomed with warmth and acceptance, like an old friend. That feeling of 'coming home' that can only be felt when you've been away from a place where you belong, for far too long. It was a feeling that only increased over the weekend, as I listened to speeches that seemed to speak directly to me, to my questions, my concerns and my ongoing self-doubt. A feeling of purpose and calling that became stronger and stronger as I chatted to people over tea, over meals and during break-out sessions. A feeling that these were people that I was supposed to meet, with thoughts and ideas that I needed to hear, and a strength of conviction that I needed to feel.

I couldn't write down the feeling of personal grace and blessing



that I experienced as I sat among so many people of common purpose and faith. How this reverberated with my own faith and conviction to live and work for the common good.

How could I describe the feeling that I had when someone laid their hands on me and blessed me with such sincere love and joy that I didn't know how to respond, except to say thank you. How could I describe that at all?

And how could I explain the feelings I had as I watched my young son blossom over the weekend, making new friends and immersing himself in the children's programme. Visibly growing as a person, and bringing tears to my eyes as he spoke at the final liturgy, barely visible behind the tall lectern, telling us all that bullying must stop. How could I describe that moment in any sensible way?

The truth is, I couldn't. I went to the conference with the hope of finding out more about Justice and Peace work, making new connections with others in the network, and gaining new ideas for my work in my own parish. I came away with all of these things, but I also found so much more. I found thoughts and feelings and an unexpected calling that I just couldn't put into words. And the start of a journey that I hope to continue for years to come. The only word that I could come up with was 'profound'. I hope that next year I'll be able to come up with a few more. Until then, I will humbly make use of someone else's words, as they echo the sense of calling and faithful first steps that I brought away from the conference:

"Traveller there is no path. The path is made by walking."  
*Antonio Machado.*

Thank you all for your part in these first steps.

*Katrina Rigby  
 All Saints Parish, Newport, South Wales*

## The Challenge to be a 'Justice & Peace Family'

My wife Sheena and I are both in our forties and are teachers. Sheena also works part-time for the Medaille Trust and we have two daughters – Anna, 12 and Eleanor, 10.

We both believe that we have a duty to work for justice and peace and believe it is equally important that our daughters see they have the same duty. Of course, these beliefs offer a constant challenge to us!

Do we have a mortgage with an ethical provider or save money by using a larger bank? Do we spend more money and, usually, time, finding ethically sourced and produced food and drink or do we save that time and money by buying cheaper, more convenient wares? Do we allow our children to eat at large, fast-food chains? Do we allow our children to eat meat? Do we pay a bit more to an ethical electricity and gas provider? How much money do we give to charity? Where do we buy our clothes and our children's clothes? How much do we set aside for holidays? Where do we go on holiday? Should we give pocket money to our girls? How do we encourage them to think about and use money? How much time should we give to our parish? Should we spend money on dance and music lessons, on sports clubs? What means of transport do we use – we know the car is much quicker! How much news and politics should we let our girls watch? How do we help them to interpret the world? How do we help them to see that peace and forgiveness are options? How much time should we devote to justice and peace activities and how much time should we afford ourselves as a family? How much time should we spend at meetings or campaigning? Should we always encourage Anna and Eleanor to stand up for what is just or allow them, for acceptance's sake, to follow the crowd once in a while? How do we help them to consider the tide of consumerism and commercialism which they are beginning to feel is so intrinsically part of their lives? And so the list goes on and on...



When considering these questions, there are three things that always come to mind. The first is a simple prayer which Sheena has always used with our girls: Please God, help me to make the world a better place. The second is a line from John's Gospel, when Jesus is reported as saying; "I come to give you life in all its fullness." The third is inspirational advice from Pope Francis, when he suggests that we should always be challenged by the idealism of the young.

When our girls were small, they led us through an ideal world: we shared with them the beauty of creation, witnessed their awe and wonder and nurtured their discernment of right and wrong. As they grow older, we know we have to continue to educate our children and provide them with a holistic world view which they will not receive through any other media. We know that our girls need to be involved actively and practically with issues of justice and peace and we are lucky enough to be part of a parish community which encourages the commitment of all, young or old, to justice and peace.

In an ideal world – and if we were an ideal family – there would be no tension in our decision-making, no tension between our spending of money and time. But it is not and we are not. These questions are constant – part of the fabric of our life together. Some decisions we share as a family but there are times when we, as parents, decide on our path. Really, all we know is that we should pray more because prayer gives us strength and courage: the decisions we make are not always the right ones but it doesn't matter that we are not perfect – what matters is that we continue to support and encourage each other, by word and example, to live justly.

*Andrew Marshall*

### NJPN Exec Sets New Priorities

The Executive Committee of NJPN met for their annual residential meeting in September to review what our priorities should be in the light of the signs of the times and the changing realities of Church and society in which we seek to live out our mission.

Priority issues identified were:

**Movement of peoples:**  
**Inequality at home and abroad:**  
**Environment:**  
**Peace and Nonviolence**

Developing relationships with diocesan commissions and local groups especially where there is no J&P worker; outreach to younger adults to foster the next generation of J&P activists; and reviewing our systems and ways of working to support this were seen as the way forward. And of course, where we find the money to do all this!

### Refugees Update

At the NJPN Open Networking Day in Bath on 17 September we heard from Phil McCarthy, Director of CSAN, about the **Community Sponsorship Scheme** whereby a parish as a community can become involved in helping to resettle Syrian refugees under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme. It does involve taking on a lot of responsibility so needs much thought and planning, but one parish in Salford diocese has risen to the challenge. You can find out more at [www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Home/News/Refugee-Scheme](http://www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Home/News/Refugee-Scheme). There is some concern that currently this is for refugees included in the 20,000 which the Government had already agreed to take, but it is hoped that by working with the authorities they may be persuaded to take additional refugees in future.

**Jesuit Refugee Service** are calling on people to contact their MPs about the implementation of policies under the **Immigration Act 2016** aimed at creating a 'hostile environment' for immigrants they don't want in the UK. See [www.jrsuk.net/news/impact-of-new-government-priorities/](http://www.jrsuk.net/news/impact-of-new-government-priorities/)

### Fieldworkers' Update

**Welcome back to Louise Cooke**

Who returns as Justice & Peace Fieldworker for Nottingham Diocese



**Welcome to Marie Bullard**

The new Justice & Peace Fieldworker for Southwark Diocese

### Progressio announces closure

Progressio, which began 75 years ago as Sword in the Spirit and then Catholic Institute for International Relations, has announced that it will close in March 2017 due to insufficient funds to continue its projects abroad. A sad loss to the justice and peace community. Read the statement at: <http://www.progressio.org.uk/what/progressio-close-after-75-years>

## OCTOBER

- 15 Birmingham J&P Assembly: Solihull  
birminghamjandp.org.uk; 01993 702 654
- 15-16 Annual Peace History Conference: Leeds  
r.julian@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
- 16-23 Week of Prayer for World Peace:  
weekofprayerforworldpeace.com, 0208 968 4340
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:  
unmeditation.org/
- 19 Homelessness Reduction Bill Mass Lobby of Parliament  
crisis.org.uk; 0300 636 1967
- 22 Caring for Creation: Lancaster:  
lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/news/; 01524 383 081
- 22-23 CARJ Urban Network Retreat: Birmingham  
info@carj.org.uk, 020 8802 8080
- 23 World Mission Sunday: missio.org.uk/wms
- 23-30 One World Week: 'Including You': oneworldweek.org
- 25 A New Cold War in Europe? Uniting for Peace Conference:  
London: unitingforpeace.org
- 24 United Nations Day: unmeditation.org
- 29 'And they shall live secure': Church & Peace: Birmingham:  
forbesbarbarae@yahoo.co.uk
- 29 Anglican Pacifist Fellowship AGM: Oxford  
anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk
- 30-5 November Good Money Week: goodmoneyweek.com/churches

### CAFOD Campaign Retreats

- 22 October Shrewsbury, Birmingham, Arundel & Brighton,  
Liverpool, Nottingham, Northampton
- 12 November Southwark, Clifton, Wrexham, Cardiff
- 19 November Salford, East Anglia/Brentwood, Middlesbrough
- 26 November Hallam, Leeds, Lancaster
- 3 December Plymouth, Portsmouth
- [www.cafod.org.uk/retreat](http://www.cafod.org.uk/retreat); 020 7095 5417 (Maria Elena Arana)

### 2016 Romero Lecture: Rutilio, Romero and Pope Francis Fr Rodolfo Cardenal SJ

- 31 October Plymouth, Catholic Cathedral 19.00
- 1 November Southwark, Amigo Hall, 16.00
- 2 November Durham, University, 17.30
- 3 November Glasgow, St Aloysius College, 19.00
- 4 November Preston, St Wilfred's Church, 19.00
- Contact: [romerotrust@gmail.com](mailto:romerotrust@gmail.com); [romerotrust.org.uk](http://romerotrust.org.uk)

## NOVEMBER

- 1-2 Africa-Europe Faith & Justice Network UK Networking Day:  
Crewe: [aefjnuk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aefjnuk@yahoo.co.uk); 07787 078 833
- 5 Catholic Association for Racial Justice AGM: London  
[carj.org.uk](http://carj.org.uk); 020 8802 8080
- 5 Green Christian Annual Members Day: London  
[greenchristian.org.uk](http://greenchristian.org.uk); 0845 459 8460
- 7-18 COP22: Marrakesh: [coalitionclimat22.org/fr](http://coalitionclimat22.org/fr)

- 11 Remembrance Day
- 12 Diocesan Care of Our Common Home: Winchester:  
Register with name at [laudatosi12nov@gmail.com](mailto:laudatosi12nov@gmail.com)
- 12 Christian CND AGM: London  
[christiancnd.org.uk](http://christiancnd.org.uk); 020 7700 4200
- 12 Veterans for Peace Public Conference: London  
[vfpuk.org/annual-gathering/](http://vfpuk.org/annual-gathering/)
- 13 Remembrance Sunday  
Lecture: London: [abolishwar.org.uk](http://abolishwar.org.uk);
- 13-20 Interfaith Week: [interfaithweek.org](http://interfaithweek.org); 020 7730 0410
- 15 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church:  
[csw.org.uk](http://csw.org.uk); 0845 456 0410
- 19 **NJPN Open Networking Day**: London
- 19 Church divestment and investment skill-up day: London  
[operationnoah.org](http://operationnoah.org); 07804 059 426
- 20 Year of Mercy ends
- 25 International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women:  
[unifem.org/campaigns/november25](http://unifem.org/campaigns/november25)
- 25 Buy Nothing Day: [buynothingday.co.uk](http://buynothingday.co.uk)
- 25 Freedom from Torture benefit concert: Newport S. Wales:  
[freedomfromtorture.org/events](http://freedomfromtorture.org/events); 020 7697 7808
- 26 The Lucas Plan 40th Anniversary: Birmingham  
[lucasplan.org.uk](http://lucasplan.org.uk); [info@breakingtheframe.org.uk](mailto:info@breakingtheframe.org.uk)

## DECEMBER

- 1 World AIDS Day: [worldaidsday.org](http://worldaidsday.org)
- 3 Truth Telling and Politics: Oxford  
[lascasasinstitute.org](http://lascasasinstitute.org); 01865 278 400
- 10 Human Rights Day: [un.org/events/humanrightsday](http://un.org/events/humanrightsday)

## 2017 JANUARY

- 13-15 Christians Aware Conference: Migration in Europe: Swanwick  
[christiansaware.co.uk](http://christiansaware.co.uk); 0116 254 0770
- 15 Peace Sunday: [paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk); 020 8203 4884
- 15 World Day for Migrants and Refugees: [w2.vatican.va/](http://w2.vatican.va/)
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: [ctbi.org.uk](http://ctbi.org.uk); 020 3794 2288
- 20 Annual Las Casas Lecture: Rowan Williams: Oxford  
[lascasasinstitute.org](http://lascasasinstitute.org); 01865 278 400
- 22 Homeless Sunday: [housingjustice.org.uk](http://housingjustice.org.uk); 020 3544 8094
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day: [hmd.org.uk](http://hmd.org.uk)
- 28 Way of Life Workshop: London:  
[greenchristian.org.uk](http://greenchristian.org.uk); 0845 459 8460

## FEBRUARY

- 8 Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking
- 12 Racial Justice Sunday: [carj.org.uk](http://carj.org.uk); 020 8802 8080
- 14 Climate Coalition Show the Love Campaign
- 18 **NJPN Open Networking Day**: venue tba
- 26 Church Action on Poverty Sunday:  
[church-poverty.org.uk](http://church-poverty.org.uk); 0161 872 9294
- 27-12 March Fairtrade Fortnight : [fairtrade.org.uk](http://fairtrade.org.uk); 020 7440 7676

The National Justice & Peace Network encourages and facilitates communication and networking between Catholic/Christian individuals, groups, and organisations (both lay and religious) who are working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation at grassroots, diocesan, national or international level.

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