

Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group

<http://www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk/>

Minutes of meeting: Tuesday 10th April 2016 at 8:00pm

Venue: 30 Eastway

Present: Sandra & Mike Carolan, Fr. Matthias, Fr. Uche, Mark Eaden, Barbara Harnett, Peter Nash, Teresa Pollard, Beryl Shannon, Julie Sheahan,

Apologies: Liam Harnett, Sheila Johnstone,

Minutes: Julie

Welcome: We welcomed Fr. Uche to our meeting and welcomed Sandra & Mike back to the group.

Meditation: Peter led a meditation on Psalm 46

Informing ourselves and others: We read and discussed Chapter Four of the Laudato Si Study Guide,

Integral Ecology

We discussed how the social and environmental crises are intertwined and particularly how we can work to combat poverty and restore dignity to the excluded. This led to many ideas for action.

For next month all should read the Study Guide Chapter Five, and if possible the encyclical Chapter Five. All can be found at <http://columban.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Laudato-Si-Study-and-Action-Guide-by-Columban-Center-for-Advocacy-and-Outreach.pdf>

Julie will send the Study Guide Chapters 2 & 3 to Talkabout for the summer issue.

Activities:

Putting Laudato Si into action:

We discussed many ways we can work to "show solidarity for the poorest of our brothers and sisters"; this included:

- Offering support and possibly the hall to the Winter Night Shelter, Sandra will find out more about this project.
- Holding a Food Collection regularly.
- Collecting clothes for Faith in Action and The Passage.

We agreed to a smaller food collection, hopefully the first weekend of every month, starting on 7/8 May. Teresa will provide a basket to be left by the Justice and Peace notice board. Julie will make a poster for the notice board and for the basket. Julie will ask Wimbledon Foodbank which items they would particularly welcome. It will be advertised in the newsletter the previous week and people will be encouraged to bring just one item from the shopping list. After each Mass J & P members will take items to the Presbytery. Mark hopes to be able to take the items to the Foodbank the following week.

Fairtrade Sale: Barbara will liaise with Anne Towner and Fr. Uche to set up a Fairtrade Sale in early summer. Fairtrade is a way we can support the poorest to earn a livelihood in a way that protects creation.

Charity of the Year – Jesuit Refugee Service

Beryl has contacted Jesuit Refugee Service to see how we could offer practical help. She is also writing up JRS and Merton Refugee Service and Merton Against Trafficking for the next issue of Talkabout (copy due end of May).

Treasurer's report: Mark apologised for missing the last meetings. The balance in our kitty before the meeting was: £136.20.

Any Other Business

Notice Board: It was suggested that we might put the notice board in a more prominent position. Any practical suggestion will be listened to. Meanwhile it would be helpful if the ladder in front of the board were removed.

Bishop Tripp sent a message thanking members for their good wishes and encouraging us in our work. Fr. Matthias reported he and Fr. Uche had visited Bishop Tripp, who is looking well.

Website (address above) has been updated and is looking impressive. Julie will send an update following this meeting. All are encouraged to visit it and feed back.

Next meeting: Tuesday 10 May at 8.00 pm

Venue: 30 Eastway

Chair: Teresa

Meditation: Beryl

Minutes: Julie

Grace was said.

We thanked Sandra and Mike for their excellent hospitality.