

Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group

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

Minutes of meeting: Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 8:00pm

Venue: 30 Eastway
Present: Sandra & Mike Carolan, Viera Hamid, Fr. Matthias, Beryl Shannon, Julie Sheahan,
Apologies: Peter Nash, Teresa Pollard, Barbara & Liam Harnett, Mark Eaden

Meditation: Julie read a thought-provoking piece from "The Lightless Sky" by Gulwali Passarlay, a young Afghan refugee who echoed many of our thoughts about the problem of indifference and the need for every individual to play his/her part in working towards a fairer world.

Informing others and Action

Charity of the Year – Jesuit Refugee Service: Julie sent the £100 raised at the Coffee morning to JRS, who acknowledged it. Teresa met Fr John Moffat, who is chaplain to the JRS and confirmed the great need for their services.

Merton Welcomes Refugees is promoting ways we can prepare to welcome new refugees to Merton. See www.mertonwelcomesrefugees.org Viera will ask a friend for more information about how Merton is preparing for refugees and how we could help.

The convoy to Calais in which Beryl's daughter was taking part was not allowed to travel to Calais; however the goods collected were delivered.

Southwark Justice & Peace Autumn Assembly on 5th November will look at practical ways of addressing the refugee crisis; Peter and possibly other members plan to attend. The Spring Assembly also looked at Refugees and Migrants. Information about both Assemblies is in the attached reports from Southwark.

Food Collection: This now seems to be well established for the first weekend of each month and David Poole takes a carload each time to the chosen charities, who always express their gratitude. It is publicised in the newsletter the previous weekend. Julie will ask Fr. David to also promote the collection in the notices. We might re-emphasise that just one or two items is requested.

Ethical Actions: September: Use water carefully, do not waste
October: Buy more Fairtrade items

We have not chosen activities for November and December, suggestions on a more ethical Christmas, not overspending, are welcome.

Southwark Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation has a new co-ordinator Mrs. Marie Bullard who is chair of the Justice & Peace group at St Cecilia's and has supported us before. Julie will write to her, welcoming her to the role and expressing the hope that we can work with her and St Cecilia's and that she and others from St Cecilia's may again come to our Peace Service.

Night Shelter: Sandra confirmed that the organiser of the Night Shelter will come and talk to our meeting on Tuesday 9th November. She proposes that we support Wimbledon Methodist Church when they host the rough sleepers. We will advertise this meeting in the newsletter and invite interested parishioners to join us.

Christmas Cards for prisoners: Julie will ask Fr. David if we can repeat this activity one weekend in mid November. (Prisoners Sunday is too early this year). She will ask Liam if he wishes to buy the cards and select the recipients again.

Peace Service: New Years Day falls on a Sunday, which is not a suitable day for our service. We agreed to hold the service on Monday 2nd January at 7.30 pm. Fr Matthias agreed to lead the service again. He will confirm the date and time with Fr. David and Sr. Catherine. We will look to Pax Christi again for an outline for our service.

Treasurer's report: Mark has been unable to attend meetings and feels he should resign as treasurer. Sandra has offered to take on this role. A collection was made.

Any Other Business: Many thanks to Mike for re-hanging the notice board in the new location by the Church door. This gives much better prominence to our notices. Julie will ask John to make a new heading for the board.

Viera suggested that we consider Christmas gifts for the lonely/housebound of the Parish, and/or visiting them. Sr. Catherine could supply names and addresses. It might be necessary for any visitors to have a CRB check.

Beryl mentioned the new award-winning Ken Loach film 'I, Daniel Blake', which deals with the benefits system and recommended us to go.

She will also find out more about Merton Against Trafficking, which we might choose as a Charity of the Year next year.

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th October at 8.00 pm
Venue: 30 Eastway
Chair: Peter
Meditation: Beryl

Grace was said.

We thanked Sandra and Mike for their excellent hospitality.