

Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission Parish News Bulletin October 2019

Email: lfjcomm@gmail.com Website: www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk

St Bernadette's Parish House, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 4HT



Emergency Action

Sign the letter calling on the Government to re-instate vital support for thousands of refugees in the UK

The Government has said it will cancel vital support for thousands of refugees in the UK on 31 October in the event of no-deal Brexit. Join us and demand the Government keeps its promise

More information on Page 6

In this issues:

Where does the Church invest its treasure? P.2

Of all the money invested in the UK p.3

ATMG 10 years of advocacy for victims of slavery in the UK p.4

Promoting the common good: the importance of language p.5

Guardian of God's Creation: p.6

Report from Seeking Sanctuary p.9

Making every church in Cumbria dementia friendly by 2020 p.10

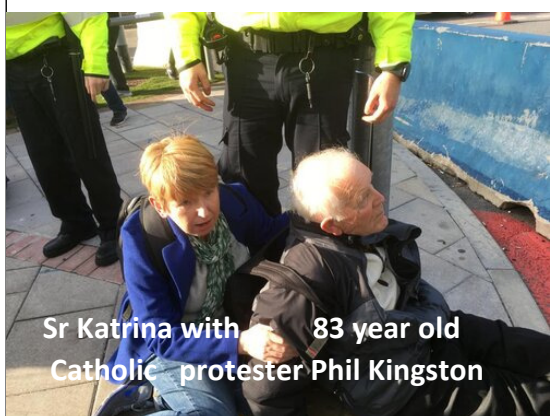
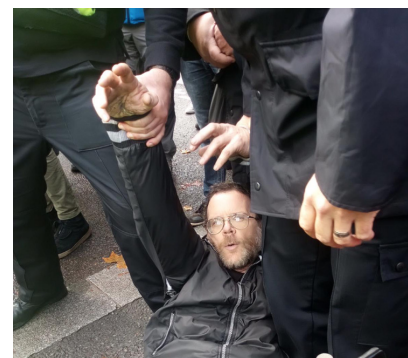
Plus updates, resources and events

Priest and Religious Sister arrested in Extinction Rebellion climate change protests

Fr Martin Newell, a Catholic priest from the Passionist Order in Birmingham and Sister Katrina Alton of the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace in Nottingham, have both been arrested in recent days as part of the Extinction Rebellion protests in London.

Fr Newell, 52, was arrested for a second time on Sunday during a demonstration with members of Christian Climate Action, the Christian arm of Extinction Rebellion.

They were both part of a group that had gathered outside Scotland Yard where people were urging police to return the vital equipment of disabled protesters which had been seized several days previously. Fr Newell was arrested when he attempted to glue himself to the ground in solidarity with the disabled protesters. When asked why he was part of Extinction Rebellion he said: "I am here to help raise the alarm, to call for a profound ecological conversion. The life of God's creation is under threat, especially the lives of God's poor. I am here to help protect our common home, our mother, our sister which is among the most abused of our neighbours, as Pope Francis has said."



Sr Katrina with 83 year old Catholic protester Phil Kingston

Sr Katrina, who was arrested last Thursday at London City Airport, on suspicion of breaching the peace and obstruction of the highway, said: "Climate change is one of the big drivers for forced migration. So in terms of climate justice, it's already the poorest people in the poorest countries who are suffering the brunt of this climate emergency." She added: "I believe, as a Christian, who has power and privilege as a white, middle-aged, middle class woman that I have to pay my dues because it's the poorest of the poor who are suffering. This is a tiny sacrifice for me to make compared to the devastation of life and livelihood that the poorest in the global south are already living."

Sr Katrina called on the government to do more to tackle climate change: "What we want is for the UK Government to respond now to actually bring about legislation that will tackle this climate emergency in 2025. Because 2050 is too late." Adding, "We also want people's assemblies to be created so, together, everybody is invested in this process."

See full article at:

<https://www.corew.org/news/2019/10/14/priest-and-religious-sister-arrested-in-extinction-rebellion-climate-change-protests>

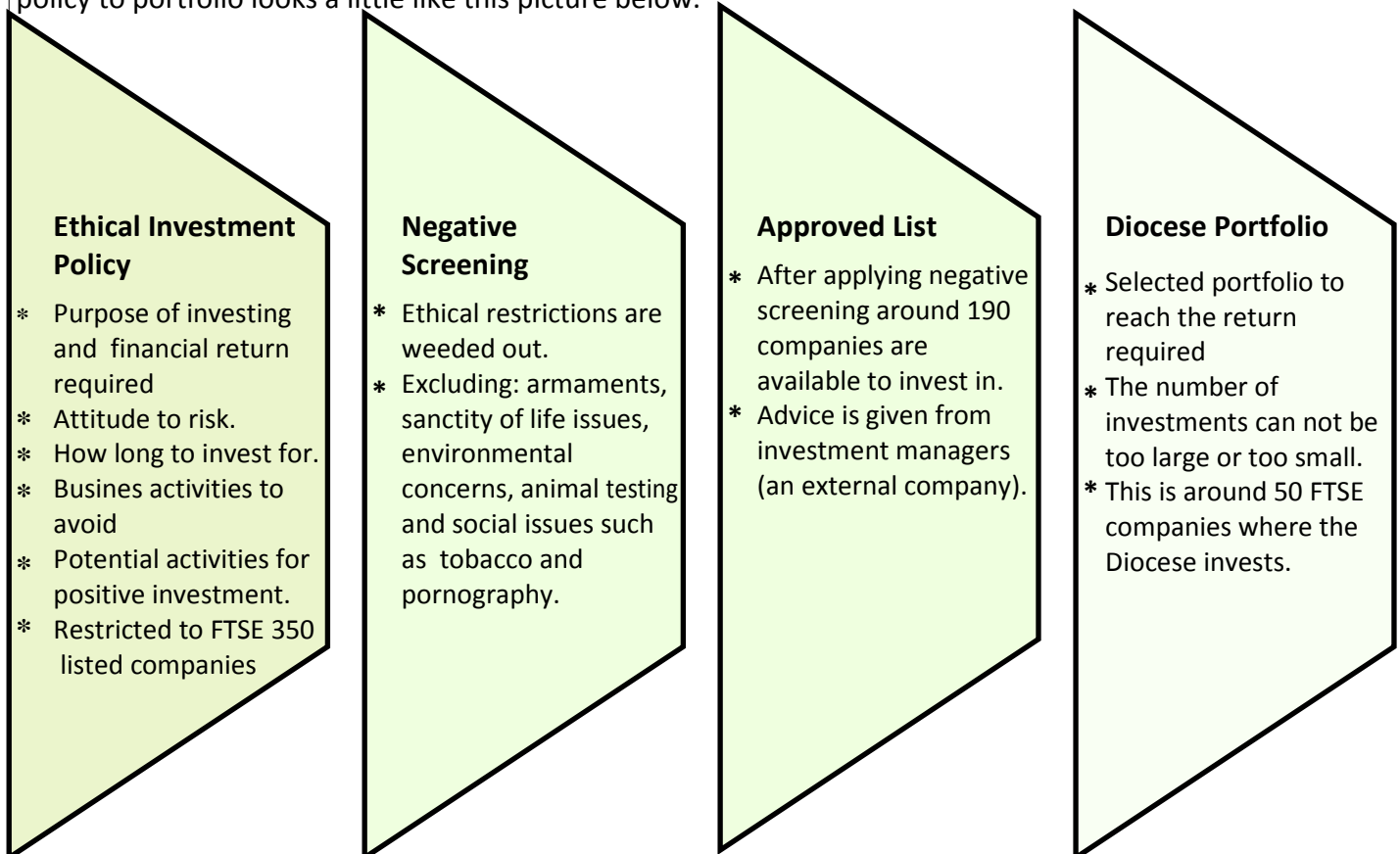
Where does the Church invest its treasure?

“For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too.” Matthew 6:21.

As a member of the ethical investment working group of the Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission, I have had a glimpse of where the Church treasure is held! However, I am left dreaming of experiencing more challenging debates on the choice of investments.

What fascinates me about investing are the decisions and dilemmas. I love the clash of theology with that of investment decisions. The Diocese of Lancaster needs to make a return on its investment. But what is it prepared to invest in: a company that profits by targeting gambling addicts, the defence company which employs many parishioners, or a chain of pubs that does not pay the Living Wage?

Lancaster Diocese already has an established ethical investment policy, but the policy is only the start and so I thought it may help to share some impressions of how Diocesan investment works in practice. To get from policy to portfolio looks a little like this picture below.



Lancaster's policy limits investment to the top 350 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange (the FTSE 350 index), together with safe UK government bond investments. Then the negative screening takes out the main areas not to invest, such as suppliers of weapons. In fact the “negative screening” investment system used, means that the Diocese can only pick negative criteria that are given on a “tick-list” from the investment managers. Therefore it is not possible to exclude all of the criteria contained in the investment policy, such as issues of exploiting employees. Moreover, it is not possible to select any of the positive criteria contained in the investment policy, since the filters can only act to exclude companies and not to seek out positive corporate behaviours and values. Additionally, it would not be possible to invest in a company not listed on London Stock Exchange, no matter its positive social contribution. For example: a company that provided solar lighting in emerging economies, or a local community initiative to provide social housing or community renewable energy.

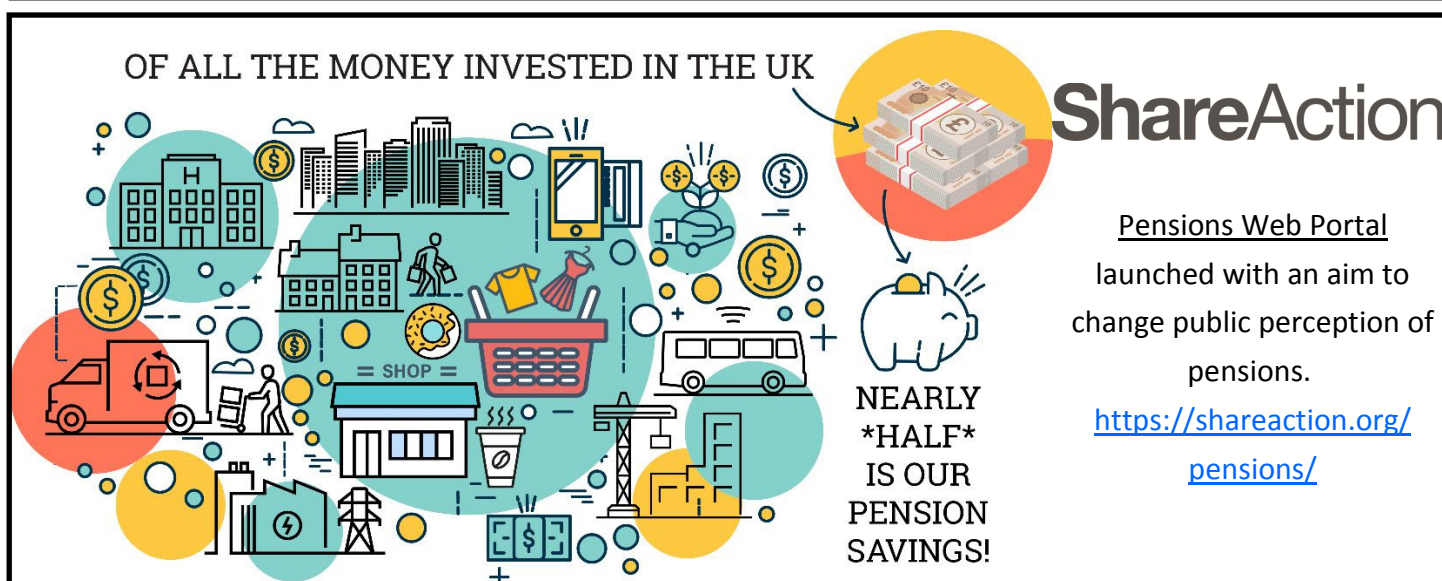
“Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and God what belongs to God.” Mark 12:17.

By the end of the process, the Diocese portfolio consists of around 50 companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. This includes companies like high street banks and shops, as well as national housebuilders and utility companies. In other words, it is mainstream commercial investment and all the compromises

that involves. Is this where our heart is? The final portfolio is unexciting if you were looking for more positive investment engagement. This is disappointing when you consider the long history of pioneering work done by faith groups to bring about today's approach to ethical investment. According to FaithInvest (www.faithinvest.org): "Together, the faiths represent the fourth largest investment bloc in the financial world." But would it be a surprising headline to read that the Church invests in mainstream commercial investment and pays Caesar what belongs to Caesar. Is it perhaps beyond the scope of the Diocese of Lancaster to challenge the systemic problems within the economic system? There are no quick fixes. Although I think that a first simple step in which economics and politics could start to change is: if individuals and organisations became more transparent about the money choices that they have, what decisions they make and why. The second is to simply start making positive investments. It would make a difference if faith groups were to make positive investments for say just 1% of their funds. There are many businesses that can inspire, take a look at www.ethex.org.uk for example.

Patrick Hynes July 2019.

For general information about how UK Churches invest their money see the Church Investors Group website at churchinvestorsgroup.org.uk and the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility at www.eccr.org.uk.



You might not know it, but if you're working, you're almost certainly paying into a pension. The money you pay into your pension isn't just sitting around waiting for the day you retire. It's invested in companies. They use your money to create the products and services we interact with every day. From the tea you drink in the morning to the television you watch at night. Your pension builds the world around you. You'll probably be surprised to find out what world your money is building right now.

We're building a movement to make sure the money we put into our pensions every month builds a world in which people and planet can be safe and flourish.

Not a world of poverty, inequality and a climate crisis.

You *can* change the world your pension is building.

Your money can change everything.

[To Learn More](https://shareaction.org/pensions/i-want-to-learn/)

<https://shareaction.org/pensions/i-want-to-learn/>

[To Take Action](https://shareaction.org/pensions/take-action/)

<https://shareaction.org/pensions/take-action/>



What the average pension is invested in

Pensions are not just a way we can save for retirement. Nearly half of all money invested in the UK comes from pensions. This contributes to the world around us, right now. Importantly, it may be contributing to a world of climate and social breakdown. Visit the site for learning content and practical ways you can change the world your money is building.

<https://shareaction.org/pensions/>

ATMG: 10 years of advocacy for victims of slavery in the UK

Extracts from article by the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group Coordinator Anna Sereni on what we learned from monitoring the UK's anti-slavery efforts for the last decade.

Ten years ago, the UK modern-slavery landscape looked different. Throughout the 90's and early 00's, the awareness of trafficking and modern slavery across the UK was very limited, and the response to it was in its infancy. Then, in 2008, the UK ratified the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which provided the building block for UK's anti-slavery policies.

Although the Convention coming into force in 2009 was positive, leading non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working on trafficking in the UK were concerned about the lack of strategy for how the convention would be implemented. In response, they formed a coalition, the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG) to monitor the implementation and the UK's compliance with the Convention. Member organisations included those who directly support vulnerable people affected by specific forms of exploitation such as forced labour, sexual exploitation or domestic slavery.

This year the Group celebrates the 10th anniversary of holding the Government to account and advocating for the rights of victims. Today, the ATMG published a report, entitled *Real people, real lives*, looking back at clear successes of that decade and taking stock of key challenges lying ahead.

Over the last 10 years the ATMG has registered some significant wins in influencing the Government's response to modern slavery. These wins are not just reflected in policy, but in the services and provisions afforded to some of the most vulnerable people in the UK.

However, [despite measurable successes](#), there are some big challenges still to be faced.

In the several years since the introduction of new anti-trafficking laws across the UK, their implementation is inconsistent and there is no mechanism to monitor the impact of the UK's legislation. But the most important challenges lie in wider policies that affect the specific anti-slavery ones: on immigration and austerity. The hostile environment means that people trafficked from abroad are treated as immigrants first, and victims only second. It means that often even the identified survivors are more likely to be sent to detention, deported, or stuck in asylum system than to be properly supported. Many are unable to work, instead, they are pushed into poverty and put at risk of being exploited again in their desperation to live decent lives. The austerity policies that decimated public services in the last decade have had detrimental effect on support services for the victims of slavery. Despite best efforts of organisations directly supporting the victims, they are often of poor quality, with many frontline professionals lacking in training and capacity. The depletion of legal aid has excluded survivors of slavery out of publicly funded legal assistance. Mental health services have seen real-term cuts too, which only adds to the fragmentation of support available to survivors. Cuts to social services and education hamper efforts to prevent British children getting trapped in county lines drug gangs, while ten years of cuts to the police and judiciary have lessened their capacity to investigate trafficking cases.

Much remains to be done to heal these wounds. The many and varied challenges faced by vulnerable victims remain at the heart of the ATMG's work. Our experience has shown that slavery never simply ends with the ratification of a law or convention, but that considered implementation of these laws and change in practices are crucial for real people affected by these crimes.

As 'critical friends', we give credit where it is due. While the UK's government's progress against slavery in the last decade should not be sneered at, it must continue to be held to account. To be truly world-leading, the government must look beyond its hostile, austerity stricken policies, in order to truly create a safe environment for victims to recover in. Looking ahead, the ATMG will support them to have their voices heard much louder to influence the UK's efforts to implement a truly effective response to modern slavery.

Full article at: <https://www.antislavery.org/atmg-10-years/>

[Read more about the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group](#)

Download in PDF format:

[Real people, real lives: Ten years of advocacy for victims of slavery in the UK.](#)

<https://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Real-people-real-lives-ATMG-report-1.pdf>

<https://www.antislavery.org/what-we-do/uk/anti-trafficking-monitoring-group/>



Promoting the common good: the importance of language

“What exactly do you mean by.....?”

Our world is becoming increasingly polarised, between rich and poor; between “left” and “right” and between those who see creation as wonderful gift to be protected and those who see it as a fund of natural resources to be exploited. For some people, this polarity is the contrast between the world of God and the world of Mammon. In between the poles there are many shades of opinion. **Everyone has a unique view of the world.**

There is also polarisation in the language used. When I look at the works of Pope Francis, I am struck by his positivity. He talks of the LOVE of God and His Creation; of JOY in experiencing His generosity; of HOPE in the future and JUSTICE for the earth and the poor.

And then I look at some sections of today’s media or at certain politicians and see negative language designed to belittle and deride those who don’t share their world view. Their main tools are clichés, caricatures and stereotypes. The Oxford English Dictionary describes a stereotype, for instance, as **“a fixed idea or image that many people have of a particular type of person or thing, but which is often not true in reality”**. By using stereotypes, politicians, the media and others seek to fix in the mind of the reader or viewer an image which is often not true in reality.

The worst thing is that, knowingly or unknowingly, the person using the stereotype is often acting hypocritically, because they may well be doing exactly the same thing in a different context. When done deliberately, it is a form of bullying - a tactic to shift blame to the victim and away from the perpetrator, allowing the bully to hide their misdemeanours in plain sight.

For example: a commonly used term used against “protestors” is **“rent a mob”**. Yet for those “protestors” (or “protectors” as they often prefer to be called) the real “rent a mob” is the paid lobbyists who have a degree of access to politicians denied to the majority of the electorate. The “protectors” say that they are on the streets because it is the only place they can make their voices heard. Somebody who uses the term “rent a mob” to demean opponents whilst themselves gaining access to influence through paid lobbyists is guilty of hypocrisy.

Below are some other commonly used stereotypes and some possible alternative interpretations.

“Anarchists” and “Subversives”: Are many of these actually hiding in the plain sight in the world of politics or in poorly-regulated business? Some thoughts: Can we consider the maverick banking practices associated with the financial crash as anarchic and subversive? What real say in the conduct of corporations have the people affected by their activities? Why do some organisations spend large amounts of money promoting falsehoods or campaigning to reduce their accountability to elected governments?

“Luddites getting in the way of progress”. Might the real Luddites be those with no vision other than “business as usual”?

“Migrants”: The term is a confusing catch-all, covering refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, victims of climate change - and the rich. Double-standards are rife here. For instance, is not Meghan Markle a migrant? Is not Donald Trump the son of a migrant? A simple response to a person who talks about “migrants” is to ask them which migrants they mean.

“Scroungers”: It is well-documented that the proprietors of many of the media who use this word to undermine the poor (particularly those on benefits) are tax exiles. Some of the MPs most outspoken on social security participate in tax avoidance schemes. HMRC figures show that tax avoidance and tax evasion cost the UK about 3 times more than unemployment benefit. So do ask: “who do you mean by scroungers?”

“Traitors”: People who, for the benefit of the common good, challenge the records of governments are not traitors, but what about those who undermine the nation by deceiving the public for political or personal gain? Ask “What characterises a traitor?”

“Uninformed scaremongers”: A pre-requisite for honest debate is the existence of accurate and truthful information in the public domain. If people are “uninformed”, might it indicate of a lack of transparency, or sometimes dishonesty from organisations that have a duty to inform the public? Might some of those “Scaremongers” be people who have uncovered the truth and are seeking to broadcast it?

“Muesli-eating tree-huggers”: looking beyond the gratuitous insult of this term, it is simply ridiculous. Is not muesli now mainstream among the well-to-do....? And a desire for country living? Healthy living and a love for nature transcends social barriers.

“They.....”: A favourite term of the opinionated. Simply ask “who do you mean by ‘they’”? Not only is it right to ask what the person means, it can also be a challenge to their understanding of the people about whom they are opining.

Cont.page 6

Government breaks vital commitment to supporting thousands of vulnerable refugees

Thousands of refugees living in the UK and in urgent need of support will lose access to vital services following the Government's withdrawal of millions of pounds of pre-allocated funding in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

This move is a disgraceful U-turn on the part of the Government, threatening to seriously undermine the futures of vulnerable refugees – people the Government has committed to supporting through a range of vital services including housing, access to healthcare and school places for children.

Set up in 2014 by the European Union, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) is a pot of billions of pounds to be used by EU member states to support, in part, the effective integration of non-EU nationals, including newly recognised refugees.

The Refugee Council was awarded an AMIF contract worth £2.6million to support 3,500 refugees. Since October 2018 the charity has received part of the funds to support refugees at crisis point – those at high risk of homelessness and destitution, and in desperate need of support with isolation and mental ill health. The loss of the remaining funds will leave 1,900 refugees deprived of this vital support.

While the Government has committed, in the event of a no-deal Brexit, to guaranteeing other streams of funding that has been secured directly from the EU, it has refused to do the same for AMIF funds which were issued to charities via central Government. The Refugee Council, along with a host of other charities supporting refugees in the UK, received its AMIF funds via the Home Office, and has been told that, in the event of a no deal Brexit, their funding will be cut immediately. The charities say this is a clear back track, citing assurances given by the UK government when it first awarded the grants that funding would be secure post Brexit.

To the Refugee Council's knowledge, AMIF funds are the only EU funds that the Government has refused to secure in the event of a no-deal Brexit, meaning that refugees, a particularly vulnerable group of people, have been singled out and overlooked.

The charities – which includes Refugee Action, the Scottish Refugee Council, Barnet Refugee Service, RETAS and Refugee Women's Association – estimate that the joint value of the AMIF funds are in the tens of millions of pounds and support an estimated 30,000 refugees in the UK.

Maurice Wren, Chief Executive of the Refugee Council, said: "The support we provide to refugees through this funding is for those who are in the gravest danger– those who are very likely to end up on the streets without our support, are destitute and extremely isolated. The idea that such a vital service is going to be cut simply beggars belief. The Government seems to have lost sight of that fact that they are dealing with the lives of real people.

"Such a disgraceful U-turn flies in the face of the Government's commitment to supporting refugee integration as set out in its integration strategy. To date, AMIF funding has enabled the government to fulfil these promises and we have been immensely proud to see the difference it's made to so many people's lives. Pulling the rug from underneath this investment makes no sense. We urge Ministers to overturn this decision immediately so that we can continue to help refugees build their lives and start to contribute to UK society."

You can help us with this urgent matter.

Call on the Government to reinstate vital support for thousands of refugees in the UK by signing this letter today. [Click here](#)

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-for-us/emergency-action-sign-the-letter/>

Cont. from p5: These are just a few examples to get us thinking. These negative stereotypes are complemented by positive euphemisms often used by politicians or businesses to give a rosy glow to their activities. For instance "growth in emerging markets" might also be interpreted as "further exploitation of the poor overseas".

Conclusion:

To control a debate, it is imperative to control the language. Is it not time, particularly in the light of the acrimonious tone of the current political "debate", to look behind and then challenge the clichés, caricatures and stereotypes used to demean those trying to promote both common sense and the common good? - and to establish, in their place, the positive language of Pope Francis: Love, Hope, Joy, Justice - which is so much more powerful.

Note: I have written this article to promote discussion I would very much welcome comment on it. stephen.garsed@gmail.com.

Dr Stephen Garsed

Guardians of God's Creation:

Educating towards a Christian Spiritual of Ecology.

*When writing 'The Call of Creation' in 2002, we, the Bishops of England and Wales, said that "care for the environment presents a major challenge for the whole of humanity in the 21st century."*¹



The passing of time makes this challenge clearer. It is now an unprecedented 'ecological crisis.'^{2,3} "A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path to renewal."⁴ "We are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what he desired when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness."⁵ Our Christian responsibility for the planet begins with appreciation of the goodness of all of God's creation: "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good" (Gen 1:31). "For you love all things that exist and detest none of the things that you have made; for you would not have made anything if you had hated it" (Wis 11:24).

Growing in Awareness of Creation

"Our Sister, Mother Earth,"⁶ "now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her."⁷ Expert study points to devastating losses in biodiversity, with up to a million species facing extinction,⁸ and an estimated 1.0°C of global warming since pre-industrial levels. This warming is already manifesting itself in changes to the intensity and frequency of climate and weather extremes, impacting on natural and human systems.⁹

The worst impacts are felt by developing countries¹⁰ and by populations that are already disadvantaged or vulnerable.¹¹

Pope Francis states that our relationship with the planet has become confrontational,¹² based on the illusion of unlimited growth on a planet with finite resources. This risks leaving a degraded environment for future generations. In the past, a lack of understanding could be claimed, but harm done going forward is done with full knowledge of the impact of our activities. Younger generations are not blind to this fact. We must both consider the kind of world we want to leave to children who are now growing up,¹³ and find responsible ways of doing so.

Discerning the threats to our common home

Pope Francis is forthright when he says: "Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world."¹⁴ Scientists talk of 'tipping points' in ecosystems and in global warming which, once reached, could plunge us into a much changed environment from which it will be difficult, if not impossible, to find our way out. If we are to avoid such scenarios, a concerted effort and widespread change to our current lifestyles will be necessary. These include approximately halving our carbon emissions, globally, by 2030 at the latest.¹⁵

This is not a primarily scientific concern. Pope St John Paul II explained that "the seriousness of the ecological issue lays bare the depth of man's moral crisis."¹⁶ Pope Francis reminds us that everything is interconnected, that we are faced with a complex crisis that is both environmental and social, and that "genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others."¹⁷

The challenge before us is to learn to care, in the same breath, not only for the beauty of God's creation, its bounteous biodiversity and life sustaining ecosystems, but also for the unborn, the elderly, those who are victims of exploitation, and others thrown away by a society focused on the satisfaction of our supposed

Continue page 8

needs as consumers.¹⁸ “How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?”¹⁹ We have only one heart, and the same heart that fails to show care for the natural world is the same heart that will fail to show compassion to the vulnerable.

A Catholic Response

It is possible to change course. Scientific research gives us an insight into what our future earth may look like. But all projections depend on the actions that we take today. We must take action urgently. We are aware of the common but differentiated responsibilities, with greater attention given to “the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests.”²⁰ We must face this challenge with confidence in the knowledge that the worst effects of this ecological crisis can still be avoided. “Nobody can go off into battle unless he is fully convinced of victory beforehand. If we start without confidence, we have already lost half of the battle and we bury our talents.”²¹

Central to this challenge will be the development of a Christian spirituality of ecology, and a call to a new lifestyle, beginning in personal and family life. The crisis we face is a summons to a profound interior conversion, whereby the effects of our relationship with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us.²²

As disciples, we are invited to be part of the redeeming mission of Christ, and to approach our task with joy and gratitude. “Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.”²³ Whilst capable of the worst, human beings are also able to start again and choose what is good²⁴ so as to more fully participate in the drama of salvation history, leading all creatures back to their creator. “...all creatures are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things.”²⁵

A Way Forward...

We look to avoid the worst consequences of this ecological crisis by engaging now and over the next decade on this ‘long path to renewal.’

As Bishops, we will review the ‘Call of Creation’ to reflect on our present situation and to promote good practice for diocese, parishes, schools, families and individuals. We need a more considered relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth through the way we manage our resources as a Church.

We, the Bishops of England and Wales commit ourselves and invite our people to engage in this urgent challenge, so that together we show leadership by our actions.

Let us pray for wisdom and courage for the path ahead.

1: *The Call of Creation* (Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 2002)

2: *Laudato Si'* [15] 4.LS 202, 5.LS 53, 6.LS 1, 7. LS2, 10.LS25,, 12. LS106, 13. LS160, 14.LS 161, 17.LS 70, 19. LS 120, 20.LS31,170,

3: *Plenary Resolution, The Stewardship of God's Creation* (CBCEW, 13/05/2019)

8: *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES, 2019)

9: *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 'Global Warming of 1.5 °C' Special Report* (2018) 11 & 15. IPCC 2018

11: *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 'Global Warming of 1.5 °C' Special Report* (2018)

16: *Message of his holiness Pope John Paul II for the celebration of the World Day of Peace 1 January 1990* [13]

18: *The Call of Creation* (Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, 2002)

21: *Evangelii Gaudium* [85]

22: *LS'* [217], 23: *LS* 12, 24: *LS* 205', 25: *LS* 83

Some good news

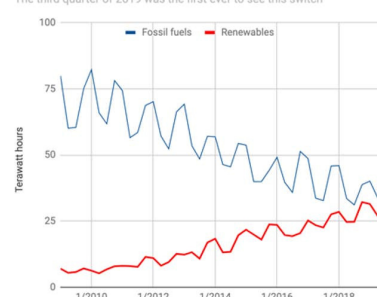
UK renewables have generated more **electricity** than **fossil fuels** for the first time, according to an analysis of energy use for the third quarter of this year.

But despite huge success in the electricity sector, other parts of the economy, including heating and transport, have made little progress in reducing emissions. Last year 6.8tns of greenhouse gases were emitted per person and by 2050 this will need to have dropped to zero.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/uk-renewables-electricity-energy-fossil-fuels-a9152586.html?amp=1>

UK renewables generated more electricity than fossil fuels for the first time

The third quarter of 2019 was the first ever to see this switch





Evictions

We start with the the sad news that yet again a forced eviction has taken place in Northern France. Less than a week after around 800 people were evicted from their refuges in woods and waste ground around Calais, it was the turn of Grande Synthe near Dunkirk. Nearly 1000 people were expelled there. Up to now these people had been left relatively unmolested due to be the humanitarian attitude of the previous Mayor who has now taken his seat as an MEP after being elected on behalf of the French Green Party. We heard the usual assurances that those displaced would be taken to other centres.

A recent report by a French group that provides information and support to immigrants concluded that, *for the refugees evacuated from previous camps, a good portion of them end up in centres scattered all over the country which lack not only the means but also the personnel competent in asylum cases, but which — more importantly — are used to “shelter” these people while organizing their deportation, whether asylum seekers whose requests were refused — still very numerous — or people waiting for a Dublin transfer [to another EU country].*

We expect to see almost all of those who have just been removed returning to Northern France within a fortnight or so, again living in precarious conditions. In the complete absence of any facilities they will make their increasingly desperate attempts to cross the Channel. Some can afford to pay excessive sums for a small boat crossing, squeezing others out of the market, rendering them tempted by the blandishments of traffickers and ending up as victims of modern slavery in the UK. And remember, there are 20 or 30 minors among these people, a couple of them aged just six or seven.

Similar scenes are being reported near ports all along the coast from Flushing to Bilbao.

Hostility

Ben reports that the febrile atmosphere and pre-Brexit hostility mounts, not just for EU citizens but for anyone considered as a foreigner. The far-right group Britain First has instigated vigilante patrols on beaches near Dover. We have pointed out to various media outlets that the Border Force and Coast Guard are well able to take care of any arrivals and this latest vigilante patrol is simply an act of provocation. The poster shown [here](#) was designed for the Home Office and displayed at points along the White Cliffs. There is no doubt that the numbers of people making a desperate attempt to cross the channel are rising but they are few in comparison to the hundreds who make the journey from Turkey to Greece every day. Here is a [picture](#) of a young man in a single kayak who was the subject of a comprehensive search and rescue operation. Two others are known to have drowned.

You can find a Media Release about this tragic situation on our website, issued on 24 August. We conclude that, 'There is nothing illegal about seeking sanctuary from violence and oppression. If these exiles were treated with a degree of humanity and respect, rather than being endlessly harassed in France, they are less likely to resort to traffickers and risk death by using unorthodox means to try to reach the UK '.

This resulted in several interviews, following which we received abusive communications, prompting Phil to compose a blog a few days later, reflecting upon these experiences – see the post on website for 28 August. Our friends from Northern France and the UK meet on a regular basis through our newly established liaison committee 'People not Walls' which met in Dover last week. As ever, the volunteers are under considerable pressure and organisations such as as Care for Calais exist from day to day and are often short of basic essentials. Links to the latest lists of needs can be found on our [website](#). www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

The Churches Together in Cumbria Dementia Project 'Making every church in Cumbria dementia friendly by 2020'



Since the beginning of the Project in 2015, 135 Dementia Enablers have been recruited in churches across Cumbria to help us work towards this aim. The role of Dementia Enabler in making their church dementia friendly is worked out at a local level and within the context of the local congregation. Much has been achieved so far but there is still much to be done! If, in your church, you don't as yet have someone in the role of Dementia Enabler, could I invite you to consider nominating someone to this role? There is a short form for them to complete and a brief training session for them to attend.

The next training session is planned for **Saturday 26th October 2019 10-12.**

The venue will be confirmed nearer the time to be as convenient as possible to those wishing to attend.

**If you would like more information, or book to attend this training, please contact me,
Yvonne Povey, Dementia Project Officer: dpotic@outlook.com.**

Nearly 35 years ago, disaster struck in Bhopal, India, when a large quantity of poisonous gas escaped from a poorly maintained pesticide factory built by Union Carbide Corporation.



Some 20,000 people were killed, and up to 500,000 have suffered severe damage to health. A second disaster is resulting from the leakage of toxic chemicals from the derelict plant into the water supply, causing further illnesses, stillbirths and birth defects. As the pollution continues to spread, the situation is getting worse.

Action for Bhopal is a group of Quakers and others campaigning for a resolution of this problem. If you're interested in what they're doing and want to help, visit their website [here](https://actionforbhopal.org/).

<https://actionforbhopal.org/>

Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre cut ties with major oil companies

In recent days, the Royal Shakespeare Company has announced that it would no longer accept sponsorship from BP, after school students [threatened to boycott the company](#) if it did not cut ties with the oil giant.

The National Theatre in London has announced that its funding from Shell will come to an end, [as it declared a climate emergency](#).

Illegal arms sales to Saudi: Email your MP



The Government has admitted multiple **breaches of a Court ruling** that should have stopped arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen.

Under fire from MPs responding to the revelations in the House of Commons, Secretary of State for International Trade Liz Truss MP continued to insist that the UK's arms export controls are 'rigorous and robust'. But the Government has shown that it cannot be trusted to apply its own rules, or uphold the ruling of the Courts.

Pressure is mounting in Parliament for an immediate arms embargo on Saudi Arabia and its coalition allies.

Please add your voice. **Demand an arms embargo now.**

Write to your MP or email at: <https://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/act-now/arms-embargo-now>

Prayers for Prisons Week

For families of prisoners: We pray for those loved ones who serve a hidden sentence as a result of the shame associated with having a family member imprisoned. In times of darkness we pray they are able to go beyond the bonds of societal stigma and maintain positive relationships with their loved ones.

For those who work in the criminal justice system: Let us pray for those who work throughout the criminal justice system. May they continue to go beyond in their work towards creating a safer society and promote justice and mercy on the road to rehabilitation.

For victims of crime: May they be supported to go beyond their victimhood and find comfort in God's love. Teach us to be mindful of the impact of our actions on others. Lead us and heal us in your journey to new life and hope.

For prisoners: We pray for those who are prisoners. Through reflection and understanding, may they be able to go beyond their sentence and see hope for a future without crime. Let us follow Christ's message and reach out so that his presence be known by those who seek him.

**Prisoners'
Sunday** 
13th October 2019
A day of prayer and action

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (**Pact**) is a national charity that provides support to prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. We support people to make a fresh start, and minimise the harm that can be caused by imprisonment to people who have committed offences, to families and to communities.

What we do:

- * Build stronger families and safer communities.
- * Reduce risk of harm to prisoners and their children.
- * Remove barriers and increase awareness in public services.
- * Influence commissioning, policy and legislation.

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

Training day to learn how to use Church Action on Poverty's new **Poverty, Faith and Justice workshops** in your church or diocese.



Friday 15 November

11am-4pm

Church Action on Poverty,
28 Sandpiper Court,
Water's Edge Business Park.
Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ

Poverty, Faith and Justice is a series of five workshops, designed to help people to explore the relationship between their faith and action for justice. The sessions make use of a variety of content including factual information, real experiences, videos, biblical reflection and church teaching from different traditions. The training day is for people who want to run the workshops for their own church or group. It will equip you with the skills and confidence to deliver the workshops, and answer any questions you may have about what is involved.

Originally designed for Leeds Justice & Peace Commission, the workshops have been piloted across Leeds Diocese with great success. Here are some quotes from participants who have completed the course:

'Great balance of content - informative, practical and theological'.

'How to take action. It was simplified and made action seem accessible and possible.'

'I really enjoyed the mixture of activities: icebreakers, videos, discussion, information, slides, etc.'

'Practical, bitesize, manageable approach to social justice issues.'

The cost of the training day is £20. Please [contact us](mailto:sarahd@church-poverty.org.uk) sarahd@church-poverty.org.uk if a bursary place is required.

To book online: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/poverty-faith-and-justice-training-day-tickets-74417397439>



<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/truthtopower/>

Update from Churches Together in Cumbria Environment Group



The Churches Together Environment group met again recently.

Our previous chair Ian James stepped down from this post earlier this year, and Sir Martin Holdgate has agreed to be interim chair. Our focus with this group is to be more outward looking, to attract new members, and to encourage all churches in the county to register as an eco church or for a LiveSimply award (if they have not already done either).

We recognise the need to be more relevant to today's world, and to that end we aim to use social media for improved communication and sharing of news and activities.

This is under development at present, so please keep an eye on the CTiC website and facebook pages for further news.

We are meeting again on Thursday 31st October 4pm – 6pm in Penrith.

If you are interested in being involved with this group, or even just interested in coming along to see what we are about, please do get in touch with Pam Martin Email: pammartin47@gmail.com

The group recognises that not only is caring for our environment the fifth mark of mission, but is something which should be a top priority for us all, and for our buildings. There will be another Caring For our Common Home conference in March 2020

It would be great to encourage members from our catholic community to join Fr Hugh on the group

**Christian Vocation -
Loved, called, gifted, empowered
Prayer, reflection and discussion
with Stephen Hoyland**

Saturday 19 October 2019 10.00am – 3.00pm
St Joseph's, Crown Street, Cockermouth CA13 0EJ
Stephen is a spiritual director employed by the Jesuits to lead retreats up and down the country. He also trains prayer guides. He lives in Lancaster Diocese and feels strongly about the lay vocation.

All are welcome whether you book or not but, if possible, let Anne know you're coming by emailing anne.foley@blueyonder.co.uk or phoning 01772 555483

Please bring a packed lunch.

Tea and coffee are provided.



ACTA - A Call to Action - ACTA aims to encourage dialogue at all levels in the Church we love and to grow in our relationship with Jesus through an exploration of the Sacred Scriptures and the riches of Vatican II.



The 4th annual Churches Together in Cumbria

Dementia Conference

Saturday November 16th 2019 9.30-3.30

Penrith Methodist Church, Wordsworth St.

Penrith CA11 7QY

Keynote Speaker: Wendy Mitchell

author of 'Somebody I used to know'

and daily blog 'whichmeamitoday'

Booking is via Emma Brown: ebctic@outlook.com

Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own lunch

MODERN SLAVERY IN RURAL AREAS: A GUIDE TO SPOTTING THE SIGNS

If you think you have spotted the signs of modern slavery call the modern slavery helpline on 08000 121 700, or for labour exploitation concerns call the Gangmasters' and Labour Abuse Authority on 0800 432 0804. In an emergency situation always call 999.



GROUPS OF TENTS

Victims of modern slavery may be housed in tents in fields or in makeshift shelters at all times of the year. Homeless or vulnerably housed people are at high risk of modern slavery.



CARAVANS ON SITES

Victims of modern slavery may be housed in caravans close to their place of work or on wastelands. The caravans are likely to host several people, be dirty, and in disrepair.



GROUPS OF PEOPLE WAITING

Victims may be picked up and dropped off at their workplace by their trafficker. They will wait by the side of the road and often be picked up by a minibus or in a van.



HAND CAR WASHES

Hand car washes are a risk area for modern slavery. Look for cash-only payments, an overbearing manager and fearful workers wearing no protective clothing.



DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Victims of domestic servitude will work cleaning the home and looking after children. They will not be able to leave the house unsupervised and their ID will be confiscated by their exploiter.



POP-UP BROTHELS

Temporary brothels may take over holiday cottages in rural areas, particularly during off-season. Look for lots of men coming in and out of the property at odd hours.



LABOUR EXPLOITATION

Labour exploitation has been found in farms producing meat, eggs, flowers, and vegetables. Migrant labourers who do not speak English are at risk of being exploited.



COUNTY LINES

Young people from cities are groomed to sell drugs in county towns. Look for teenagers travelling alone by train during school hours.

Modern slavery in rural areas – a guide to spotting the signs
Poster available to download at:

<http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/modernslaveryinruralareasaguidetospottingthesigns1.3%201.pdf>

**UK Anti-Slavery Day is on
Friday 18th October.**

Could your church or community use the day to raise awareness?

**The Pan Lancashire
Anti Slavery Partnership**
Preston on 24th November. 2019
Exhibition on the Flag Market;
stalls around the town;
and the Bus venturing to Deepdale
for the match

CAFOD FAITH IN ACTION DAY

**LOVE IS
CIVIC &
POLITICAL**
OUR FAITH & THE COMMON GOOD



Saturday 9th November: 10am - 4pm.

Sandymount House of Prayer,
16 Burbo Bank Rd, Blundellsands, Crosby,
Liverpool L23 6TH.

Soup and roll provided for lunch.
Donations towards cost of day accepted.

"A Taste of Palestine",

at the **Friends Meeting House** in Lancaster,
on **Saturday 19th Oct, from 3-5pm.**

This family friendly event is an opportunity to celebrate the richness of Palestinian culture, and hear directly from Palestinians, including those living in Lancaster. All welcome.

The venue is wheelchair accessible. [Poster to download](#)

This free event is organised by Lancaster Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Sunday 17th November 10am



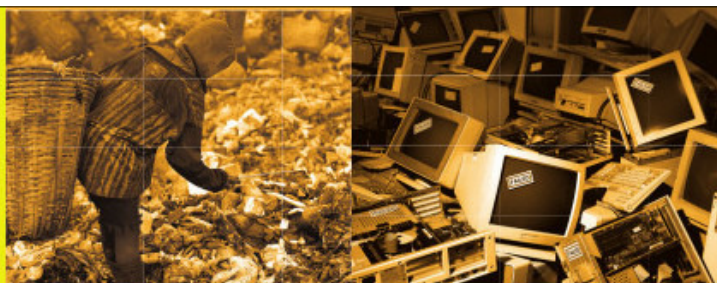
CAFOD Lancaster Memorial Mass Holy Trinity & St
George's Catholic Church,
33 Blackhall Road, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BW

ARE YOU A BUDDING JOURNALIST?

SCHOOLS JOURNALISM COMPETITION 2020

We are looking for students (aged 15-18 inclusive) to write an article or produce a short video report that informs, challenges and raises important issues on the topic:

TACKLING OUR 'THROWAWAY CULTURE'



The winning article will be published in the **Far East** magazine and the winning video report will be broadcast online on **Columban** websites in Ireland and Britain and shared on social media. **Don't miss this chance to make your mark!**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2020**

For more information on entry guidelines see:

www.columbancompetition.com

or email **hello@columbancompetition.com**



**COLUMBAN
MISSIONARIES**

PRINT PRIZES: 1ST £300 · 2ND £150 · 3RD £100

VIDEO PRIZES: 1ST £300 · 2ND £150 · 3RD £100

POPE FRANCIS

“I would like us all to make a serious commitment to respect and care for creation, to pay attention to every person, to combat the culture of waste and of throwing out so as to foster a culture of solidarity and encounter.”

World Environment Day, 5 June 2013.



Events & Opportunities for Awareness Raising

4th October	CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY www.cafod.org.uk
6-27th October	The Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region is scheduled to meet in Rome Pope Francis document for Synod of the Amazon in October 2019 http://www.synod.va/content/synod/it/attualita/synod-for-the-amazon--preparatory-document--amazonia--new-paths-.pdf
10th October	WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY https://wfmh.global/world-mental-health-day-2019
11-18 October	END HUNGER WEEK OF ACTION
12th October	ACTA CONFERENCE Manchester
13th October	HOMELESS SUNDAY www.housingjustice.org.uk
13 – 19 October	PRISONS WEEK www.prisonsworld.org www.prisonadvice.org.uk
13 -20 October	WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE. www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com
16th October	CARJ Conference Birmingham
18th October	UK Anti-Slavery Day
19th October	Christian Vocation Stephen Hoyland see p.12
19th October	A taste of Palestine in Lancaster see p.12
21-28 October	ONE WORLD WEEK oneworldweek.org
24 –30 October	UN DISARMAMENT WEEK un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek
9th November	Faith in Action Day CAFOD see p.12
16th November	CT in Cumbre Dementia Conference see p.12
17th November	CAFOD Lancaster Memorial Mass 10am Kendal see p.12
24th November	Pan Lancashire Anti-slavery event Preston see p.12

Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission

Email: lfjcomm@gmail.com www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk