



# Justice and Peace

## WINTER 2024 -25

### JUBILEE YEAR 2025 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'

Editor : The Jubilee Year starts on December 26, 2024, the feast of St. Stephen. Pope Francis will open Holy Doors in the four Roman Papal Basilicas. In addition he will open one in the Roman prison of Rebibbia, marking a historic moment in the history of Jubilee years. It will be the first time that a Holy Door is opened in a penal institution. Archbishop Fisichella, during a press conference on October 28 emphasized that this door should be seen as "a symbol of all the prisons in the world". The Jubilee Year will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026.



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Pope Francis urges us to look for signs of hope in the world and work for peace and justice. Biblically, a Jubilee is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, where right relationships with God, one another and all of creation are restored. This is an opportunity to refocus and look at our personal commitments – perhaps doing some pruning or maybe moving out in another direction. It is obviously not a special 'Catholic year'. Many will remember the Jubilee 2000 campaign in which so many individuals of all faiths and none got involved. One of my hopes is that Mouthpeace will

give you some ideas and some inspiration for the coming 2025 Jubilee year.



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The articles in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool and Shrewsbury



## ADVENT RESOURCES

Anne O'Connor has again produced some excellent helpful Advent resources. She suggests you can dip in or use in full as you wish. She writes: *Watching and Waiting is a condensed taster version of all 4 weeks of booklets on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that serve as handouts for a course that a friend and I have put together for our parish, consisting of four, one hour sessions. If you reproduce anything from writer and artist Jan Richardson, a retreat leader based in Florida, she is happy to give permission provided that you acknowledge the source title and her website address (as I have done) – do look at her artwork, reflections and 'blessings' poems.*

*Michael K Marsh, a priest of the Episcopal Church in West Texas, has also kindly given permission for his reflections to be used. There are also 4 suggested services for each week on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love' Please pass this material on to others if you wish.*

You can find it all on <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/advent-resources-2024/>



**CAFOD's online Advent calendar 2024** of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family. The daily emails start on the first day of Advent and end on Christmas Day. This email subscription also auto-renews for succeeding Advent seasons, but you can unsubscribe at any time. Sign up for daily reflections straight to your inbox <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>



**Each Sunday in Advent** we prepare for the birth of Jesus by lighting a new candle symbolising Hope, Peace, Joy, or Love. Join us in this weekly invitation to deepen our knowledge of JRS's mission while we remember and pray for those forcibly displaced. This Advent, JRS invites you and your communities to dedicate your Advent wreath and the lighting of candles every week to migrants and refugees. <https://jrs.net/en/resource/2024-advent-resource/>



**Three Advent Vigils via Zoom at 7pm on Monday 2nd, 9th and 16th of December.** As war and violence continue to blight the lives of the people of Israel, Palestine and Lebanon, we will hear from three women whose lives have been impacted by the war. The women represent each of the three Abrahamic faiths and they will reflect on how they find hope in the midst of such despair from the perspective of their own experience and faith tradition. There will then be the opportunity for us to pray as we await the coming of the Prince of Peace. Sign up <https://embraceme.org/advent-reflections>

### CAFOD CHRISTMAS FUN RUNS Join us on 27 December 2024



This year, our Christmas Fun Run in Liverpool turns 40 and our event in Bollington is returning for its 14th year. Runners, walkers and spectators alike will come together to shake off the Christmas indulgence and make a difference in the world.

**LIVERPOOL** 11 am Wavertree Sports Park, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE

**BOLLINGTON** 11 am Middlewood Way (viaduct next to St Gregory's Church), Bollington,

Macclesfield, SK10 5JR

**VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS FUN RUN** Wherever you are in the world, you can take part in this joyful fun run by yourself, with friends and family, or your parish.

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/challenge-events/run-for-cafod/christmas-fun-run>

Email [events@cafod.org.uk](mailto:events@cafod.org.uk)

## PEACE SUNDAY JANUARY 19TH 2025

The theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace'. Announcing the theme, the Vatican said that it is: "inspired in particular by the Encyclical Letters *Laudato Si* and *Fratelli Tutti*, and above all by the concepts of Hope and Forgiveness, which are at the heart of the Jubilee, a time for conversion that calls us not to condemn, but instead to bring about reconciliation and peace. Only from a genuine conversion on all levels – personal, local and international – will true peace be able to flourish, not only in the cessation of conflicts but also in a new reality in which wounds are healed and each person's dignity is recognized." Pax Christi UK is preparing resources to celebrate PEACE SUNDAY in your parish. If you would like to know more or register your interest for your parish or group, please email us on [peacesunday@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:peacesunday@paxchristi.org.uk)

**11.00am Archbishop Malcom McMahon with celebrate Mass for Peace at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral** Pax Christi members will hold a stall in the entrance to the cathedral.

**1.30 pm promptly TALK FOR PEACE SUNDAY 'FORGIVENESS, RECONCILIATION AND PEACE' BY DR GEE WALKER** in the Gibbard Room Metropolitan Cathedral organised between the Archdiocese Social Action Dept, J & P and Merseyside Pax Christi.. Gee set up the Anthony Walker Foundation after her son was brutally murdered.

## THE LOGO FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR



The new Dicastery for Evangelization, was entrusted with coordinating the Holy See's preparations for the Holy Year 2025. A competition was launched, open to all, to create the Logo. A total of 294 entries were received from 213 cities and 48 different countries, with participants ranging in age from 6 to 83. Archbishop Fisichella (the current pro-prefect for the New Evangelization section of the Dicastery) commented: "In fact, many hand-drawn designs were received from children from all over the world, and it was really moving to go through these drawings which were the fruit of imagination and simple faith."

During the judging, the works were identified only by a number so that the author remained anonymous. On June 11th, the three final projects were submitted to Pope Francis to select the one that struck him the most. "After looking at the projects several times and expressing his preference, the project of Giacomo Travisani was chosen," Archbishop Fisichella said.

Giacomo Travisani reflected on what motivated his submission. He said how he had imagined all people moving forward together, able to push ahead "thanks to the wind of Hope that is the Cross of Christ and Christ himself."

**THE LOGO EXPLAINED** The Logo shows four stylized figures to indicate all of humanity from the four corners of the earth. They each embrace one another, indicating the solidarity and brotherhood that must unite peoples. The first figure is clinging to the Cross. The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters. The lower part of the Cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves. Anchors often have been used as metaphors for hope. The image shows how the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but rather communal, with the signs of a growing dynamism that moves more and more toward the Cross.

"The Cross is not static," Fisichella suggested, "but dynamic, bending toward and meeting humanity as if not to leave it alone, but rather offering the certainty of its presence and the reassurance of hope."

More information on <https://www.iubiliaeum2025.va/en.html>

## NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK PLANS TO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR.



At the Post Conference Catch up on line on October 31<sup>st</sup>, Anne Peacey revealed the NJPN plans for the Jubilee Year.

She commented that opening doors is a powerful image. An open door is a sign of welcome to everyone. A closed door is a barrier that keeps us within, apart, maybe a sign of closed minds. This Jubilee Year is a time to reflect and refocus. With whom do I sit down? Which groups and organisations do I work in partnership with? Who are the keyholders in my parish who can open the door? What keeps the door shut? Which doors should we be outside knocking to come in?

As pilgrims of hope, NJPN resolves to open doors for the future generations ensuring as we go that no-one is left behind. Journey with us this jubilee year as we open the doors to a just peace for current and future generations. Join us as we commit to taking restorative action to bring about peace and justice for migrants, for people living in poverty and equality and for a world in climate crisis. We owe it to future generations to make this Jubilee permanent.

Areas important to NJPN for focus during the year: Movement of people - The environment - Peace and areas of conflict - Poverty and inequality in UK and globally.

### Opening doors programme 2025

Thursday February 6th	Opening doors to those affected by slavery and trafficking – online
Monday April 7th	Opening doors to refugees and asylum seekers – speaking to people themselves -online
Saturday May 10th	Opening doors to a sustainable future for all people; day shared with CAFOD place tba
Friday – Sunday July 25-27	'A Just Peace' Annual NJPN Conference at Swanwick



## A CENTENARY AND A JUBILEE

*Stephen Garsed and the Environmental Justice Group of Lancaster Diocese write:*

The centenary of our Diocese is a wonderful cause for celebration and a great opportunity for spiritual renewal. As we think about the past and ponder the future, it is timely to reflect on how different the church of 2024 is from the church of 1924 and what new opportunities we need to grasp through the guidance of the Holy Spirit to build a vibrant church for the future.



One seismic event in the church was, of course, Vatican II which transformed both our liturgy and how we view our mission in the world. The church became far more outward-looking, recognising that our response to the poor was not just a local thing, but

demanded a worldwide response. In 1967, Pope Paul VI published the encyclical “Populorum Progressio” (“On the Development of Peoples”) which specifically dealt with our obligations to the poor overseas.

His successors have built strongly on this foundation as they have responded to our changing times, particularly the interconnected economic, social and environmental crises, culminating in Pope Francis’ great encyclical “Laudato Si”. Pope Francis tells us that the root cause of these crises is that we have put our wants before the service of God. In doing so, we have created a “Throwaway Society” - if it’s no use to us we get rid of it. We throw away the unborn if they are inconvenient; campaigners now want to dispose of the terminally ill; whilst industry continues to flood the world with non-reusable goods with nowhere to go but the dustbin.

One of the biggest moral challenges of today, however, is the growing gap between rich and poor, in particular, where institutions and rich individuals are extracting huge sums of money from the poorest nations in debt repayments. Typically when a country can’t pay an existing debt, a new loan is made - at a higher level of interest, which just drives the country into even deeper poverty.

A duty to help those in need, including making loans, is established in the book of Deuteronomy, but there is also condemnation of people who oppress the poor by taking more than their due. These obligations to the poor are reflected in Jesus’ teaching. Successive popes have repeatedly condemned the use of economic and political structures to transfer unjust amounts of money from the poor to the rich. They have called it “structural sin”.

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year. The idea of Jubilee is established in Deuteronomy - not as a time for parties, but as a time of restoration of the land and the remission of debt. Without it, debt would continue from generation to generation without any break in the cycle.

During the last Jubilee Year (Millennium Year), the Jubilee 2000 Campaign (of which CAFOD was a founder member) pressured world leaders and financial institutions into cancelling more than \$100 billion of debt owed by 35 of the poorest countries - a wonderful achievement. Unfortunately, since then, the situation has got worse. Private companies and individuals now hold 60% of the debt of poor countries and are notoriously hard-nosed in taking their profits. A large proportion of this debt is enforceable through British courts, which is a very sobering thought.

The church is at its most authentic when it sides with the poor. Oppressed people rarely have a voice at the tables of the powerful so we have a moral duty to plead their cause. Catholics worldwide can play a huge role in opposing usury and other contemporary evils by publicly challenging the organisations responsible and pressuring legislators to outlaw the wrongdoing (such as seeking changes to the laws that allow unjust debt to be pursued through our courts). In doing this, we will be living the gospel. Our actions will make us true witnesses of our love for our brothers and sisters.

So what can we do? Catholics and other Christians have an incredibly powerful voice when we speak out on moral issues. The successes of Faith-led campaigns such as the Jubilee 2000 speak for themselves. We ask you to make yourselves aware of the issues by following stories in the media, visiting the CAFOD website and that of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CCBEW), which has a lot of information. Please start conversations in your parish and join in the various campaign actions which will be held throughout the year. We will be hearing much more from our church leaders and from organisations such as CAFOD in the coming months.

One of the features of the Jubilee will be a Holy Door in the Cathedral. Let us make it a “Justice Door” so that, when we enter, we remember all our brothers and sisters who are victims of injustice throughout the world and resolve to speak up on their behalf, in the spirit of Jubilee. Wouldn’t that be a wonderful and authentic way to celebrate our Centenary?

### COLUMBAN SCHOOLS MEDIA COMPETITION



The Columbans are looking for students in Britain and Ireland (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme: Jubilee: Pilgrims of Hope Celebrate a community bringing hope in the world today.

The Competition links to the Church’s celebration of Jubilee 2025 where Pope Francis has chosen the title ‘Pilgrims of Hope.’ In the Bible, Jubilee is a special year of bringing justice and peace to poor and marginalised people and reconciling with the natural world.

Young people are invited to highlight one community or group bringing hope in the world today, either local, national or global. This might be one they are part of or one that inspires them.

Deadline for entries is Friday 7 February 2025 Announcement of winners on Monday 10 March 2025

All details and information pages at: <https://www.columbancompetition.com>

You can read more of the Columban preparations for the Jubilee Year in the Autumn issue of Vocation for Justice <https://columbans.co.uk/justice-peace/14836/vocation-for-justice-jubilee-pilgrims-of-hope/>



Please note that LANCASTER DIOCESE FAITH AND JUSTICE COMMISSION now have a new and updated website!

Find us on: <https://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.org.uk/>



### 'BRINGING COMMUNITIES ALIVE!'

Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission led by Fr Hugh Pollock, were delighted to host a 'Bringing Communities Alive' event at Lancaster Cathedral Social Centre in October. Keynote speakers included Bishop Paul Swarbrick, Clare Dixon from CAFOD, Sir John Battle and Allison Fisher.



Bishop Paul spoke about the importance of faith bringing communities together, not just to solve problems, but to initiate and develop an encounter with Jesus. He also spoke about the importance of remembering, it is about what the Holy Spirit can do with you, not what you can do for the Holy Spirit. He talked about how faith, speaks to the individual and if we live our faith, it enables us to bring our communities alive.

Clare Dixon spoke about her experiences in El Salvador with the Romero Trust and the importance of keeping hope alive by praying and walking alongside others. She emphasised the importance of doing this by quoting Martin Luther King 'If I knew the world was going to fall apart tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree.' Clare talked about being a voice for the voiceless and the importance of telling the stories of others who are still being able to find joy in the midst of persecution.

Sir John Battle highlighted the importance of 'deep listening' and finding and sharing real truths about reality against the pressure of social media. He talked about accompanying the people from the ground up to ensure the voices of the people are heard against a back drop of political disconnection. He emphasised the power of relationships and highlighted the need for communities to come together to allow the voices of the people to be heard. He reminded us that hope is a doing word that operates within the moral framework of Catholic Social Teaching principles.

Lastly, Allison spoke about her lived experiences of social exclusion and poverty.

Many thanks to all our speakers who so generously gave of their time to make it such an inspirational and informative day.

Sue Gubic

### HUMAN RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 10TH About Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now.

Human rights can empower individuals and communities to forge a better tomorrow. By embracing and trusting the full power of human rights as the path to the world we want, we can become more peaceful, equal and sustainable. This Human Rights Day we focus on how human rights are a pathway to solutions, playing a critical role as a preventative, protective and transformative force for good. Human rights impact everyone, every day and in this campaign, Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now, we will show the tangible impact of human rights by focusing on relevant global issues, showcasing impact, successes and practical solutions. This continues the forward-looking work of UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk's vision statement, Human Rights: A Path for Solutions, presented as the wrap up to Human Rights 75, which commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Video message for Human Rights Day from UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk [https://youtu.be/iB\\_e2y2dEDU](https://youtu.be/iB_e2y2dEDU)

This time, we hope to inspire everyone to acknowledge the importance and relevance of human rights, change perceptions by countering negative stereotypes and misconceptions and mobilize action to reinvigorate a global movement for human rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/hrd2024>



### WRITE A LETTER, CHANGE A LIFE

Every year, Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign brings together people from around the world to fight injustice and support people whose human rights are under threat. Over the past few years your actions have made a real difference to people's lives. From Zimbabwe to Guatemala to Kyrgyzstan, activists have been freed and justice has been served.

This year's campaign features people from around the world who are all connected because their human rights have been violated. By writing letters, signing petitions and sharing stories, you can demand justice calling decision makers to do the right thing.

Join this year's campaign and become part of a community working to make the world a more just and compassionate place. [https://youtu.be/6\\_x6RaiMwxM](https://youtu.be/6_x6RaiMwxM) <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/#takeaction>



## PAX CHRISTI CONCERNED BY HUGE MILITARY SPENDING IN UK BUDGET

Andrew Jackson, Chief Executive of Pax Christi UK has expressed concern at the huge amount of money allocated to military spending in the UK government's November Budget. On November 6th he told Independent



Catholic News: "For anyone hoping that the new Labour Government might choose different priorities when it comes to military spending, the recent Budget was a deep disappointment.

"Whilst all the indications had been that Labour would continue the approach taking by previous Governments and increase military spending year on year, there was always hope that a Government famously facing a budgetary black hole of billions of pounds, would see the colossal waste of resources that military spending represents and readjust its spending plans to cover the real priority issues that impact our security.

"In the face of a climate crisis that is threatening us all, military spending of 5.5 times the budget of the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero makes no sense.

"For military spending to be 4.3 times the overseas aid budget is immoral not least when the choice could have been taken to restore the commitment to aid spending of a minimum of 0.7% of GDP.

"As Pope Francis said on World Food Day last month 'Let us reject the line of reasoning that embraces weapons, and instead transform massive military expenditures into investments to combat hunger and the lack of healthcare and education'."

The figures are taken from the Global Campaign On Military Spending UK analysis of the budget:

<https://demilitarize.org.uk/military-budget-continues-to-grow-faster-than-peacebuilding-and-overseas-aid-spending/>



**From Monday 11th November, Pax Christi Scotland are hosting monthly online reflections on the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative's 2020 book 'Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace in the Church and the World'**  
The next session is December 9<sup>th</sup>

Each session will be led by Dr Anna Blackman, a lecturer at Glasgow University who is a member of the education board of the Catholic Non-Violence Initiative. All are welcome to attend and you can find more details here <https://www.paxchristiscotland.org/book-project/> where there is a link to register and to order the book. Please contact us on [orders@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:orders@paxchristi.org.uk) if a subsidised copy of the book would help you attend the sessions.

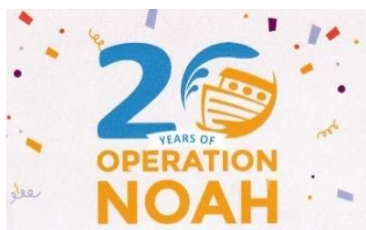
See the recording of first session [https://youtu.be/gTzszQbMF\\_0](https://youtu.be/gTzszQbMF_0)

## CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY SUNDAY March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025



Give, act and pray with others to help build a movement to end UK poverty – inspired by the powerful 'Dreams and Realities' art exhibition. This is a set of nine portraits by Sheffield artist Stephen Martin. Each portrays a person, along with symbols representing the reality they face living in poverty – and the dreams they would pursue if they weren't being held back.

The exhibition has toured the UK through 2024 in support of the 'Let's End Poverty' campaign. Now you can use the pictures to spark reflection and action in your church. Use our free worship resources to reflect and pray for change. Share the Dreams and Realities portraits (available as prints or digital slides) to inspire people to reflect on their own dreams for a better world – with prayers and suggestions for all-age creative activities. Raise funds to support people working together to reclaim dignity, agency and power across the UK. <https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>



## A Huge Thank You for Giving to our Anniversary Appeal

We're thrilled to announce that we are now more than halfway to meeting our £20,000 Anniversary Appeal target and are grateful to all who have contributed, with nine donations made just last week. We are now at nearly £11,700 raised; if you have yet to donate to our Anniversary Appeal, would you or your church help us reach our target by the end of 2024? Donate here to support our vital work.

<https://www.operationnoah.org/get-involved/donate/>

## GREEN INVESTMENT WEBINAR: A CHURCH INVESTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

In October we hosted a webinar as part of Good Money Week called The Green Investment Declaration: A Church Investor's Perspective with a presentation by Matthew Jones of Epworth Investment Management. Epworth are investment managers for the Methodist Church Central Finance Board as well as for other smaller charities and organisations. Matthew's presentation included case studies of climate positive investments that Epworth have made as part of their multi-asset and climate stewardship funds, with insights into the investments' impact and performance. Watch the webinar on our YouTube Channel here. <https://youtu.be/6zQUqoHwu5w>

### OPERATION NOAH LAUNCHES GUIDANCE FOR CHURCHES TO PROTECT PEATLANDS.

Recent research suggests that the acceleration of the climate crisis means that the natural carbon sinks we have are struggling to cope with the increased emissions and higher global temperatures. Extensive forest fires and droughts in 2023 led to more emissions coming from land than were absorbed, meaning that our remaining functioning carbon sinks are even more precious than we thought. Operation Noah has released a new resource which outlines how churches and Christian landowners can protect peat, locally, at landscape scale and through their investments.



<https://www.operationnoah.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/FINAL-Climate-solution-Protecting-Peat.pdf>

### LIFE After DOOM: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart by Brian McLaren

(Hodder & Stoughton, 2024)

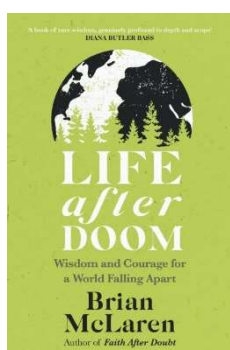
In his latest book, Brian McLaren considers a range of issues that all pose significant threats to the future of existence as we know it – from increasing inequality and the rise of extremist politics to the climate and biodiversity crises. He does not hold back on outlining the scenarios that he sees as possible outcomes in the medium to long term and none of them are comfortable.

We have already passed some crucial tipping points. However, what he goes on to describe is by no means without hope – something to which he devotes a chapter and that he describes as being 'complicated'. How do we maintain a commitment to action in the face of doom?

In a book that has repeated warnings about the need for self-care in the face of existential threats and eco-anxiety, there are reviews and discussion questions at the end of each chapter to encourage readers to meet together and discuss what they have read. Although McLaren writes as someone coming from a background of religious faith, this is not the central strand of this new book; he critiques religions along with governments and economic systems that have caused division and harm.

We are reminded that great civilisations have risen and fallen before, and while it may well be that ours is set to fall, there are still reasons to seek out learning from indigenous wisdom, to be continually reminded of the beauty of creation, to celebrate love wherever it is found and to live as well as we possibly can.

Nicky Bull, a former Operation Noah trustee.



### WHY DO WE NEED THIS TREATY?

After decades of climate negotiations, fossil fuels have finally been dragged centre stage. Despite this, many governments are still approving new coal, oil and gas projects — threatening our chances of limiting warming to 1.5°C. It's crystal clear we now need a concrete, binding plan to end the expansion of new coal, oil and gas projects and manage a global transition away from fossil fuels.

The proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty would complement the Paris Agreement by providing the global roadmap needed to: halt the expansion of fossil fuel, manage an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas, lay the foundations for a true just energy transition in which no worker, community or country is left behind.

In order to protect people from the threat fossil fuels pose to our climate, our health and our future, a growing bloc of 14 countries are seeking a negotiating mandate for a Fossil Fuel Treaty.

Faith signatories include CAFOD, SCIAF, Iona Community, Operation Noah, World Council of Churches, Laudato Si Movement, Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul, CELAM, UNANIMA International.

read <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/faith-letter-old> Watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsIRf\\_jNAvQ&t=121s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsIRf_jNAvQ&t=121s)

National Justice and Peace Network Environment Group when they met on 25 September 2024 recommended the NJPN Executive and all NJPN members sign.

Find out more <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/> and <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/our-campaign>



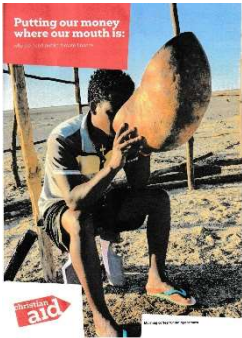
### GLOBAL JUSTICE NOW November edition of magazine 'Ninety Nine'

It includes articles on UK support for Israel's war economy, the fight for justice against Shell in Nigeria, support for the fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty and the popular uprising in Bangladesh – as well as campaign and global movement news.

Read online [https://issuu.com/wdmuk/docs/99\\_30\\_web?](https://issuu.com/wdmuk/docs/99_30_web?)

Download [https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/99\\_30\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/99_30_WEB.pdf)

More about their work <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/>



'PUTTING OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS- why we need public climate finance' is a new report from Christian Aid was released on November 11th 2024

It was released as the world leaders met in Azerbaijan for COP 29 and warned them they must stop "chasing shadows" with attempts to make up for insufficient and poor-quality public finance with private contributions.

This latest report shows people living in the 10 countries most affected by climate change between 2000 and 2019 received less than 2% of all climate finance. The 750 million people now living in these countries received on average less than \$1 each per year from rich countries. Christian Aid is urging governments to pay for public, grant based finance through progressive taxes on major polluters e.g.

fossil fuel companies The full report can be read here: [www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/our-work/putting-our-money-where-our-mouth](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/our-work/putting-our-money-where-our-mouth)



**CHESTER WORLD DEVELOPMENT FORUM** members will be aware of the development of "HyNet", a complex project centred on Ellesmere Port, where so-called "Blue" hydrogen is going to be produced and piped to industries with high demand for energy locally - and eventually to distant users around the region. The production process also generates carbon dioxide as a by-product, and it is planned that this will be captured and stored in depleted gas wells under Liverpool Bay.

In October 2024, CWDF circulated a message about HyNet which highlighted some concerns of the local group opposing the project - HyNot, which includes some CWDF members. There was some lively follow-up - more than we usually receive about our mailings. <https://hynet.co.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/HyNotNW/>

One of our members is Dr Martin Evans, an Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University. He pointed out that there was an ongoing, parallel debate about international development issues that arise from the production of hydrogen in the Global South and its consumption in the industrialised North. We asked him to write a short report on this topic; we hope you that you will find it both useful and informative.

I asked Martin to keep the final report short, so he omitted a number of references from his original draft. If anybody is interested in learning more about this or has any questions, please let me know and I will pass on your enquiry to Martin.

John Tacon, Hon. Treasurer, Chester World Development Forum [chester1wdf@gmail.com](mailto:chester1wdf@gmail.com)

### GREEN HYDROGEN AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - a short informational report

#### What is 'green' hydrogen?

Molecular hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) is a gas at room temperature and pressure. It is colourless and odourless; any 'colour' attributed to it refers only to its origins or production. Various colours are used, but current environmental debates mainly concern 'blue' and 'green' hydrogen. 'Blue' hydrogen is produced from methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) – the main component of natural gas – and water (H<sub>2</sub>O) via 'steam methane reforming'. The two-step process involved can be summarised and simplified as: CH<sub>4</sub> + 2H<sub>2</sub>O --> 4H<sub>2</sub> + CO<sub>2</sub>. It also requires a considerable input of energy. 'Blue' hydrogen is thus derived from a fossil fuel and has carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as a by-product, but its advocates argue that this can be safely sequestered through carbon capture and storage (CCS) mechanisms. (Hydrogen produced in the same way but without CCS is known as 'grey' hydrogen.) 'Green' hydrogen, by contrast, is produced through electrolysis, with an electric current passed through water to produce hydrogen and oxygen: 2H<sub>2</sub>O --> 2H<sub>2</sub> + O<sub>2</sub>. Such hydrogen is only 'green' if a renewable means of electricity generation is used, such as solar or wind. This is deemed more sustainable as, first, no fossil feedstock (such as methane) is required – only water; second, no carbon dioxide is directly produced; and third, the energy input is renewable.

#### What are its uses and potential?

Some recent British governments have promoted 'green' hydrogen as an energy source for the 'green transition' in various sectors. While he was PM, Boris Johnson famously claimed that 'Britain will become the Qatar of hydrogen'. Subsequent Conservative governments showed less enthusiasm, but in their October 2024 budget, the Labour government allocated new funding for eleven



'green' hydrogen projects as part of its manifesto commitment to make the UK 'a clean energy superpower'. 'Green' hydrogen is seen variously as a means to help decarbonise industrial processes (notably the production of steel and some fertilisers) and transport (particularly through synthetic fuel manufacture), and possibly as a partial substitute for natural gas for domestic use (if safety can be assured).

Views differ on whether 'green' hydrogen requirements in the UK could be met from domestic sources alone, particularly given the growing demands for electricity for other purposes. Like some other developed economies, the UK may need to rely increasingly on imports of 'green' hydrogen, sourced mainly from areas of the Global South which have a comparative advantage in renewable electricity generation to drive industrial-scale electrolysis of water. For example, one recent report estimated that the African continent could generate over 7 terawatts (1 TW = 1 trillion watts) of electricity from solar energy, while its coastlines could generate 1.3 TW from wind. Hydrogen gas is, however, difficult, and dangerous to handle, and hence costly to transport. Long-distance transport options therefore include combining 'green' hydrogen with atmospheric nitrogen to make 'green' ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), which can then be used in fertiliser manufacture or converted back to hydrogen; or combining it with low-emission carbon sources to create synthetic fuels.

#### What are the international development implications?

Various European governments (particularly Germany), the EU, and private investors in Europe and beyond are espousing and supporting 'green' hydrogen production, with a particular eye on Europe's near (and very sunny) neighbours in North Africa, from where hydrogen could potentially flow to Europe through pipelines. Such countries are in turn competing (by offering land and tax incentives) to profit from their northern, developed neighbours, which are seeking to decarbonise their economies for environmental reasons and because of the energy crisis precipitated by the war in Ukraine. Matters are more complicated for some potential producers. Algeria, already a large exporter of natural gas, is interested in diversifying some of this into producing 'blue' hydrogen for export, while also developing its renewable energy capacity for 'green' hydrogen production. Other countries, in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere, are similarly looking to capitalise on this potential market, including South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and the DRC. The Middle East and the Americas are also seen as potentially important regions for producing hydrogen, with some Middle Eastern countries furthermore showing interest in investing in North Africa.

However, the technical, financial, environmental and developmental realities involved both in 'green' hydrogen production and in its multiple uses in energy and industrial systems are complex and uncertain at a national and international level. Financial viability is hard to assess given limited infrastructural and market development to date. Some analysts doubt whether it would be economical to ship 'green' hydrogen (predominantly as 'green' ammonia) from more distant producers, such as those in Southern Africa, when producers in North Africa and the Middle East have the geographical advantage of relative proximity to European (and Asian) markets. Few projects have therefore progressed beyond Memoranda of Understanding – between companies from wealthier countries and potential producer states – to detailed planning (feasibility study and design) stages at present; even then, the final investment decisions are mostly still pending.

#### What do activists say?

Contestations already abound over the environmental costs and benefits, sustainability and, in international development terms, the equity of 'green' hydrogen. Critics point to the inequity of large-scale renewable energy development in Africa to produce hydrogen for export, when large proportions of their domestic populations have no (or only limited or unreliable) access to electricity. While over six hundred million people (about 43% of the continent's population) are lacking access to electricity, Africa has received just 2% of global clean energy investment and accounts for less than 2% of global renewable energy capacity.

A further concern is that 'green' hydrogen production could exacerbate existing problems in the context of water scarcity (given the high water demands of the process) and/or land conflicts (with the risk of 'land grabbing' by large corporate/state interests from local users with traditional land rights). Such problems are generally worsening amid climate change and, in Africa particularly, population growth is increasing pressures on land. As an idea of the potential scale involved in 'green' hydrogen ambitions, Morocco recently stated that it would make 1 million hectares of land available to such investors. Tunisia, meanwhile, has earmarked 0.5 million hectares for production in its south, an area already suffering from water scarcity and land conflicts, and also plans to source large volumes of water from desalination – an energy-intensive process in itself, producing environmentally harmful concentrated saline effluent.

Unsurprisingly, there has been pushback from civil society in some countries. In Tunisia, for example, environmental groups and various bodies concerned with political and civil rights have issued public statements and engaged in small-scale physical protests, despite the politically repressive context. In Namibia, too, concerns have been expressed about local environmental impacts, with one of the world's largest touted 'green' hydrogen projects located in a national park. Namibian activists argue that this plan risks, first, loss of biodiversity undermining livelihoods based on eco-tourism; and second, reputational damage caused by local environmental damage scaring off hydrogen-importing countries in Europe, leaving 'green' hydrogen production facilities as a stranded asset. Long experience with extractive industries suggests that it is very unlikely that foreign companies or their backers would clear up the environmental and social mess left by such failures; they would just walk away.

Indeed, a deeper historical argument is that 'green' hydrogen exports would simply reproduce the sort of extractive economies that most African countries have endured for centuries, with limited developmental benefits (and often some negative impacts) for their own people. The risk with hydrogen is that (again) these countries end up exporting resources in a raw or semi-processed

state with little 'added value', while mostly still having to import high-tech manufactured goods, including the plant needed to produce 'green' hydrogen. These arguments parallel those in other current (and perhaps better-known) debates about Africa as a source of the 'green minerals' (such as copper, nickel, cobalt, lithium, manganese and rare earth metals) needed to decarbonise electricity generation and for battery manufacture. Claims that domestic access to electricity in producing countries would improve amid 'green' hydrogen investment also look shaky in the light of experience with fossil fuel extraction, where energy benefits for the masses are often patchy; Nigeria is a prime example of such problems. The ability for a 'green' hydrogen economy to create large numbers of local jobs has similarly been questioned.

### Conclusion

'Green' hydrogen has become another arena for debates about 'climate justice' and 'energy imperialism'. It is fair to ask why countries in the Global South, where access to electricity and safe water are already often inadequate for so many, should again be exploiting their natural resources to support energy profligacy, further industrial development and high consumption in the Global North (having done so for many decades with oil and gas exports). To return to the British context, while 'green' hydrogen could well play a useful part in decarbonising energy use in some sectors going forward, careful thought must therefore be given to what that part is and, crucially, where and how this commodity is sourced. The possible risk with national 'blue' or 'green' hydrogen projects is that, without such careful consideration, they could be the thin end of an unpleasant wedge. Over time, through infrastructural investment and technological development, increasing domestic dependence on hydrogen risks locking the UK into a potentially inequitable (and not so 'green') global hydrogen production and trading system.

Dr Martin Evans Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University

### Further reading

Ammar, S. (2024, 14 August). Green hydrogen: Africa is not Europe's battery. African Arguments. <https://africanarguments.org/2024/08/green-hydrogen-africa-is-not-europes-battery/>

Scott-Quinn, B. (2021, 21 October). Sorry Boris Johnson, the UK will not become the Qatar of hydrogen. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/sorry-boris-johnson-the-uk-will-not-become-the-qatar-of-hydrogen-170307>



### CALL FOR DEBT JUSTICE IN JUBILEE YEAR

Many of the world's poorest countries have been plunged into a new debt crisis. The amount that lower income countries spend on debt payments has increased by 150% since 2011. Despite facing significant poverty burdens, countries are having to make huge repayments on high-interest loans to wealthy banks, institutions and governments, leaving them unable to properly fund essential services.



About 3.3 billion people now live in countries where debt interest payments are greater than expenditure on health or education. This debt burden also leaves countries less able to cope with the increasing effects of climate change. In many countries, debts are being paid at the expense of hiring doctors and teachers, building schools, hospitals and sewage systems, preparing for floods or coping with droughts.

We need to cancel unfair debts, build better financial systems and implement fairer laws to prevent future debt crises. And the time to act is now! 2025 is a Jubilee year, which is when the Bible calls for debt cancellation to restore justice and human dignity. This Jubilee year, people across the world are uniting in solidarity to demand action on to the debt crisis.

Join us, and sign the petition for debt justice. <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/161357/petition/1>

Watch the webinar on 'Debt, colonialism and power' <https://youtu.be/bjU9LuZ1lYQ>

### A PACT FOR THE FUTURE



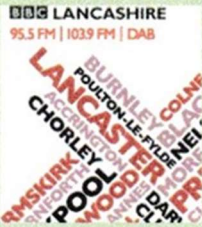
On 22 September in New York, world leaders adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. This Pact is the culmination of an inclusive, years-long process to adapt international cooperation to the realities of today and the challenges of tomorrow. This Pact is the most wide-ranging international agreement in many years, covering entirely new areas as well as issues on which agreement has not been possible in decades. It aims above all to ensure that international institutions can deliver in the face of a world that has changed dramatically since they were created. As the Secretary-General has said: "We cannot create a future fit for our grandchildren with a system built by our grandparents."

Overall, the agreement of the Pact is a strong statement of countries' commitment to the United Nations, the international system and international law. Leaders set out a clear vision of an international system that can deliver on its promises, is more representative of today's world, and draws on the energy and expertise of governments, civil society and other key partners.

"The Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations open the door to new opportunities and untapped possibilities," said the Secretary-General during his remarks at the opening of the Summit of the Future. The President of the General Assembly noted that the Pact would "lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order – for all peoples and nations." The Pact covers a broad range of issues including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance.

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12641.doc.htm>

<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/un-summit-of-the-future-pact-for-the-future-45d2/271951195>



**It's beginning to look a lot like....**



**Lancashire Carers Sing Christmas!  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December Midday**

Live from the Studios of BBC Radio Lancashire Blackburn



**Calling all Carers at Christmas**

A special broadcast sharing the stories of those who offer care for others at Christmas



With the combined Lancashire Bands of The Salvation Army, the Blackburn People's Choir and special guests

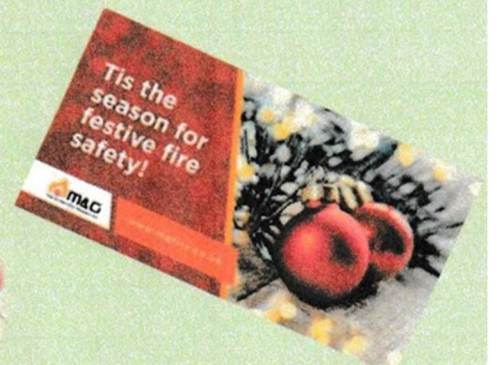


Join the service live at midday or Hold your own local event at a time or venue of your choice with BBC Sounds



Download the carol sheet Register a venue at:

<https://www.ctlancashire.org.uk/lancashire-carers-sing-christmas-2024/>



## DIARY

### DECEMBER 2024

- 8 Merseyside Pax Christi invite you to 'Light in Dark Times' an Ecumenical Advent service for Justice and Peace at 4 pm at St Teresa's Church, Utting Avenue East, Norris Green, Liverpool L11 3BW All welcome as we pray for peace in our city, our country and our world.
- 9 Online event with Anna Blackburn 7 -8.30pm Pax Christi Scotland more details page 6
- 10 Human Rights Day <https://www.ohchr.org/en/get-involved/campaign/hrd2024> Page 5
- 18 Lancashire Carers sing Christmas 12 noon live or online see page 11
- 26 Start of Jubilee Year Pope open 5 Holy Doors in Rome page. 1
- 27 CAFOD Fun Run – Bollington, Liverpool and Virtual page 2

### JANUARY 2025

- 9 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 1.45 for 2.00pm start. Venue, usually St.Michael's Parish Room, Horne St Liverpool L6 5EH Contact [sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheilacogley@yahoo.co.uk) to confirm arrangements.
- 13 Online event with Anna Blackburn 7 -8.30pm Pax Christi Scotland more details page 6
- 17 CAFOD Quiz Night at Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30 pm Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children and the usual raffle will take place with good prizes. Refreshments will be available at the interval. All proceeds will go towards Cafod's latest development project. Contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419
- 19 Peace Sunday 11.00 am Archbishop Malcom McMahon with celebrate Mass at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral . Pax Christi members will hold a stall in the entrance to the cathedral.  
1.30 pm Talk 'Forgiveness Reconciliation and Peace' in the Gibbard Room Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral .  
More information for Peace Sunday page 2
- 18 -25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity theme 'Do you believe this' <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

### FEBRUARY

- 6 NJPN meeting on zoom 'Opening doors to those affected by slavery and Trafficking' page 3
- 7 Deadline for entries for Columban Schools Media Competition page 4
- 10 Online event with Anna Blackburn 7 -8.30pm Pax Christi Scotland see page 6
- 13 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 1.45 for 2.00pm start.. See January 9 above
- 14 CAFOD Quiz Night See January 17 above

### MARCH

- 5 ASH WEDNESDAY Merseyside Pax Christi will hold a Walk of Witness through Liverpool City Centre. Start at 1.30pm at St Luke's Bombed out church at the top of Bold St.
- 7 World Day of Prayer 'I made you wonderful' prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands  
<https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>
- 10 Announcement of winners of Columban Schools Media Competition page 4
- 13 Merseyside Pax Christi meeting 1.45 for 2.00pm start.. See January 9 above
- 14 CAFOD Quiz Night see January 17 above
- 17 Online event with Anna Blackburn 7 -8.30pm Pax Christi Scotland see page 6

### APRIL

- 7 NJPN meeting on zoom 'Opening doors to refugees and asylum seekers – speaking to people themselves' page 3
- 20 Easter Sunday

### ADVANCED NOTICE

- May 10th NJPN DAY shared with CAFOD 'Opening doors to a sustainable future for all people' page 3
- July 25-27th 'A Just Peace' NJPN Conference at Swanwick

### EDITOR : THANKYOU TO THE FOLLOWING HELPFUL WEBSITES:

**National Justice and Peace Network** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

**Independent Catholic News** <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/>

**NW NJPN Bulletin produced by Anne O'Connor** <https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/category/njpn-northwest/>