

Dear friends,

For your attention and action where appropriate: (this information can also be found on our website <http://bit.ly/2udGQts>)

Peace,  
Pacifism  
& Protest

Westminster  
Abbey

**PROTESTING 50  
YEARS OF SEA  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS  
AT  
WESTMINSTER  
ABBNEY**

Join us on Friday 3 May 2019 at 12pm  
at the 'Square' outside Westminster Abbey for a  
peaceful protest against the selling of weaponry  
and arms.

Bring food, placards, banners and weather  
appropriate clothing.

Contact campaigns @for.org.uk to get involved!

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi, Christian CND and other Christian Peace groups have been writing to the Dean of Westminster Abbey to ask them to cancel this service. Over 100 Anglican priests have signed the letter against it.

In the event that it is still to take place, there will be a protest gathering outside the Abbey.

“Pax Christi will join CND and others on May 3rd to protest the celebration of Nuclear weapons at Westminster Abbey. Pax Christi will be supporting a witness outside Westminster Abbey on the day.”

Sign the petition and share The statement that Christian CND is coordinating alongside Anglican clergy who are opposed to the service: <https://cnduk.org/westminster-abbey-nuclear-weapons-thanksgiving-service/>





## Baptised and Sent: Our call to be Missionary Disciples

Pope Francis has declared October 2019 as an Extraordinary Missionary Month, being 100 years since Pope Benedict XV's teaching on mission. It will be a special month of prayer and action, calling us to renew our missionary commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all peoples.



For the four weeks of October 2019, four themes have been approved by the Holy Father:

1. A personal encounter with Jesus Christ living in His Church
2. The witness of missionary saints and martyrs
3. Biblical, catechetical, spiritual and theological formation for mission
4. Missionary charity as a commitment to support the Church's missionary activities and communities too poor to support themselves

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and the Columban Missionaries invite you to reflect on your experiences, celebrating and putting into action the call to mission for justice, peace and care for creation at our Assembly on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019.



### Palestine is still the issue

Palestinian activists are talking of a 'new Naqba', a new catastrophe. The murderous attacks on the Right to Return marches are one part of a much wider assault. Most seriously, with the full backing of Donald Trump, a new Netanyahu government looks set to start annexing parts of the West Bank.

Such a move would be an open declaration by Israel and its Western backers that the recognition of Palestine is off the table.

In these circumstances, it is vital the whole of the movement stands with the Palestinians and that we defy the attempts that have been made over the last year to silence us.

Stop the War is co-organising meetings up and down the country in solidarity with the Palestinians. The [London rally \*Why Palestine is Still the Issue\*](#) takes place on May 2. Speakers include: Lowkey, Tariq Ali, Karma Nabulsi, Kevin Courtney, Ben Jamal and Lindsey German.

This cycle of meetings is calling for a massive mobilisation for the national demonstration for Palestine on May 11. Make sure you are there.

[National Demonstration for Palestine](#)

Sat 11 May Assemble: 12 Noon Portland Place to Whitehall



We are currently looking for a couple more volunteers for the Night Shelter: if you might be interested then see the information below, or if you know some-one who might be interested then please pass on the information and ask them to get in touch.

The Night Shelter aims to provide a safe, warm space to sleep for destitute migrants and asylum seekers. The immigration system in the UK is very complicated and many people face periods of destitution where they are not able to access any government support or benefits, they are not able to stay in most homeless hostels, and neither are they allowed to work. This might be because they have had an asylum claim refused and are preparing an appeal or a new claim, it might be because their visa has finished and they have run into complications, it might be because they have just arrived in the UK and haven't yet been able to make an asylum claim.

You can find out more about us here: <https://coventrynightshelter.my-free.website/>

Volunteers come for the night to share a meal with those staying in the shelter, talk with people, listen, clear up, look out for any problems and make sure people respect the rules and times of the shelter. The shelter is open from 8:30pm to 8:30 in the morning, there is a volunteers room to sleep in overnight, and there will always be a back-up person to call on in case of problems. Volunteers usually take on shifts between once a fortnight and once a month.

What people say about volunteering:

"The fact that you can meet people from all over the world, from completely different backgrounds under one roof. And the feeling that even if it's just a cup of tea and offering a friendly smile, it might have made their day a little bit better."

"The relationships I have had with people - it's for the experiences that I have that I keep coming back."

"I used to stay here, and now want to return the help I received"

"I feel that I am doing something to make up for the inhumanity of our formal government policies"

Training is in three parts...

- 1) A session on migration, the law, asylum, and destitution.
- 2) A session on how the shelter works, what happens and what your responsibilities are as a volunteer.
- 3) An induction shift that involves staying overnight shadowing an experienced volunteer.

Most volunteers will need to attend both sessions before coming for an induction shift; but if you already have knowledge of the asylum and immigration system from personal, professional or other volunteering experience you may only need to attend session 2.

Please contact us on [shelter@covpeacehouse.org.uk](mailto:shelter@covpeacehouse.org.uk) if you want to find out more, have any questions or for details of the training sessions.

## Peace Actions

The Jimmy Mizen Award recognises young people who have shown a firm and persevering commitment to the common good or peace-making. Nominations are now open. <http://millionminutes.org/jimmy-mizen-award>

## Peace Education Volunteers

Pax Christi Peace Education is looking for volunteers to promote peace in schools through workshops and assemblies. Support will be given.

If you are interested, please contact Aisling: [education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk)



Martin Newell from Birmingham Passionist Community

Father Martin Newell, Passionist priest: "I'm here because we have a climate emergency, we need to make radical changes to our economy, and to do that we need a political earthquake. To make it happen, we need a non-violent civil uprising. We need to have a zero-carbon economy by 2030 at the latest. This sort of change is unprecedented in human history, so we want the government to declare an emergency, to deal with this as an emergency, not business as usual, Getting arrested, going to prison, that's something I'm willing to do, it's not something I want to do, I have other things I'd rather be doing with my life, but I'm willing to do it to make this happen. And there are many of us willing to make sacrifices. For me, I'm trying to follow Jesus, he showed us the redemptive power of suffering love, on the cross and in his passion, that's the way of the cross, it's the path I am called to follow in these situations".

Learn more: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/care-for-gods-creation-say-christians-joining-climate-change-protests-in-london>



To help you keep abreast of what is going on in the diocese our Website is updated regularly. We also now have a twitter account so please follow us. Don't forget if you are running any Justice and Peace related events or holding Justice and Peace related meetings email me the details so that they can be added to the Justice and Peace Website Calendar.

We are also looking for articles for next months News Letter, so please send us information about what you have been doing or what you feel would be interesting to others.

*With best wishes as always,*

Janet Vaughan

*Administrator, on behalf of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission*

[Follow us on Twitter Birmingham J&P @BhamJandP](#)