

Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission Newsletter

www.birminghamjandp.org.uk



Issue 51

Summer 2022

Message from the Chair

Dear Friends, I am pleased to introduce the latest Diocesan Justice and Peace Newsletter. It is full of all kinds of interesting, challenging and practical information to inspire us to live more simply and ethically in our world.

We have come through the Covid Crisis, more or less, but the challenges of climate change highlighted by the Glasgow Cop Conference are still there and becoming more powerful in the face of inadequate responses by governments and those in positions of responsibility and influence. The final article reports the start the diocese has made in this regard but the work has to be carried out in our parish communities, diocesan institutions and schools to change the words into actions.

As I write this, word has come of the death of Bruce Kent a wonderful and much-admired worker for peace and especially the dangers and immorality of nuclear weapons in our world. He was fearless and tireless in his work for peace and a better world. May his example inspire us in our own efforts to respond to the Gospel and the teaching of the Church.

May the Lord inspire and bless us all in this work.

With best wishes,
Fr. Gerard Murray (Chair)

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Dates for your diary:

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th July
NJPN Conference
Tuesday 26th July
Justice and Peace on-line Forum 7pm
Monday 5th September
Commission meeting, 11am

September / October Our Online Assembly

Session 1
Asylum Seekers / Refugees
Session 2
Poverty / cost of Living / Energy Prices
Session 3
Economic Growth in this Country
Session 4
Liturgy
Monday 7th November
Commission meeting, 11am
Tuesday 22nd November
Justice and Peace on-line Forum 7pm

All Commission meetings and Forums are on Zoom

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE FASHION TRADE?

A close look at the fashion trade gives us an overall view of human business practice in general, because the same problems and harms that are part of the fashion trade are standard for many of our human businesses. A model that has to change. So, what is wrong with the fashion trade? The answer is that there is so much wrong that the Animators article about it has to encompass 4 sections, which will inform about human exploitation, animal cruelty, environmental harm and alternatives.



Credit: Labour Behind the Label

HUMAN EXPLOITATION

"The fashion industry is at root an exploitative system based on the exploitation of a low-paid and undervalued workforce in producing countries" says Dominique Muller at Labour Behind the Label. Fashion is a global market. Items produced on the other side of the world are sold in the UK. From the 1970s onwards, globalisation shifted clothing production from western Europe and North America to the Global South.

Garment workers, who were previously direct employees of the major brands, became distant actors in complex global supply chains, so major fashion brands no longer faced a legal obligation to pay fair wages or offer employment benefits.

This strategy of moving production to areas where human rights could be ignored has enabled the fashion industry to generate 2.5 trillion dollars in global revenues in 2019, making it one of the largest industries in the world.

By unthinkingly buying fashion clothes we perpetuate the exploitation of workers.

Forced Labour

Many of the world's biggest fashion brands and retailers are complicit in the forced labour and human rights violations being perpetrated on millions of Uighur people in the Xinjiang region of north western

China. Violations include torture, forced separation and the compulsory sterilisation of Uighur women.

Despite these abuses, a coalition of more than 180 human rights groups says that many of the world's leading clothing brands continue to source cotton and yarn produced through a vast state-sponsored system of detention and forced labour involving up to 1.8 million Uighur and other Turkic and Muslim people in prison camps, factories, farms and internment camps in Xinjiang.

According to Save Uighur, as of April 2021 the following are examples of clothing brands linked to Uighur forced labour: Anta; Alexander McQueen; Balenciaga; Bottega Veneta; Brioni; Celine; Chanel; Coach; Costco; Dickies; Dior; Fendi; Fila; Givenchy; Gucci; Hanes; Hermes; Hugo Boss; Jansport; Jimmy Choo; Kate Spade; Lacoste; Levi's; Li-Ning; Louis Vuitton; LL Bean; Michael Kors; Sephora; Skechers; The North Face; Theory; Timberland; Tommy Hilfiger; Vans; Versace; Victoria's Secret; Yves Saint Laurent; Zara; Zegna.

Child Labour

The International Labour Organisation estimates that 170 million children are engaged in child labour, defined by the UN as "work for which the child is either too young - work done below the required minimum age - or work which, because of its detrimental nature or conditions, is altogether considered unacceptable for children and is prohibited".

Many of these child labourers work within the global fashion supply chain.

These are examples of fashion companies which use child labour, according to Wisestep: H & M; Forever 21; GAP; Nike; Zara; Urban Outfitters; Aldo; Primark; Adidas; Walmart; Uniqlo; Victoria's Secret; Aeropostale; La Senza.



Angora Rabbit

Credit PETA

ANIMAL CRUELTY

WARNING – GRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY FOLLOW.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has travelled all around the world to document the treatment of animals as we describe below, including videos which can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://www.peta.org.uk/issues/animals-not-wear/angora/>

Silk

For the production of Silk, silkworms are boiled or steamed alive while in their cocoons. Female moths are crushed to death and males could be refrigerated until required.

The Wool Trade

Cashmere involves goats having their hair torn out. Goats suffered on every farm in China and Mongolia visited by the eyewitnesses, and China and Mongolia produce 90 percent of the world's supply of Cashmere. PETA saw workers in farms in China rip geese's down feathers out while the birds were fully conscious, leaving open, bloody wounds – Many struggled and cried out in terror and pain, while others just froze, paralyzed with fear. 80% of the world's down and feathers used for stuffing jackets etc comes from China.

For Mohair, Baby goats may suffer dehorning and castration without pain relief. PETA witnessed vicious handling which resulted in flesh being cut by shears. The deepest cuts were stitched without pain relief, there and then. Goats may die after being sheared as it is such a distressing process for them. They may die from the cold too. In South Africa, most of the goats that survive repeated shearings receive crude backyard slaughter which can be horrific. The slaughterhouse is hardly any better.

Wool is considered a natural and benign substance. It is not natural. In the wild, sheep grow the right amount of wool which they shed every year. Domestic sheep are bred to produce unnaturally high quantities of wool, which they cannot shed. And wool is not benign.

Lambs and sheep suffer for the wool trade. They are mutilated with no painkillers. Tails, teats, ears, and strips of skin are frequently cut or ripped off for the sake of time and money. Sheep can be violently kicked, beaten and left with gaping wounds after being sheared. In the UK alone, between 2.4 and 3.2 million lambs die each year from disease, exposure and neglect, about 15-20% (Defra). Merino lambs have chunks of skin cut from their backsides, a severely painful mutilation. To harvest Angora, workers shave or rip lengths of fur from the skin of rabbits. It's extremely stressful for the rabbit, which can suffer cuts and nicks. This is done repeatedly throughout the life of the rabbit.

The Skin Trade

In the leather trade, animals can suffer long journeys to their deaths, journeys so gruelling that they may die during them. Those that survive the journey face a distressing ordeal. They are killed crudely, watching in terror until it's their turn. PETA has film from Brazil, India and China. Workers are seen branding calves on the face and electroshocking and beating cows and bulls. Animals are so crudely bludgeoned that they may still be conscious when their throats are cut and the skinning starts.

Eighty-five percent of the fur industry's skins come from animals forced to live crammed into severely crowded, filthy wire cages. They are killed in extremely cruel ways: suffocated, gassed, electrocuted, poisoned, or bludgeoned to death. Some are even thought to be skinned alive. Electrocuting fur-bearing animals anally and genitally is an especially painful slaughter method used frequently in order to limit damage to the fur.

Millions of wild animals are killed every year by trappers, often using the very painful steel-jaw trap. Exotic animals receive the worst treatment. Snakes are commonly nailed to trees, skinned alive and discarded, dying hours later, or have mouths and anus sealed with rubber bands then inflated to death. Crocodiles are wrapped in bags, mouths tied shut, stacked up on top of each other, crudely electrocuted and crudely stabbed through the neck to paralyse them. These methods are so inefficient that it is thought that they could be conscious while they are skinned and disembowelled.

ENVIRONMENTAL HARM

Pollution from the fashion trade is poisoning humans and wildlife. The clothing industry is the second most polluting industry in the world. Every year, the textile industry alone spits out 1.2 billion tons of greenhouse gases — more than all marine shipping vessels and international flights combined — and consumes 98 million tons of oil.

The waste in the fashion trade is unbelievable, such as the dumping of thousands of tonnes of unwanted clothing from all over the world in Chile's Atacama Desert every year.



Chile's Atacama Desert

[Credit: Martin Bernetti/AFP]

Equally unbelievable, some fashion businesses regularly burn millions of pounds of their stock, to maintain their brands' exclusivity.

On 29th October 2019 an investigation by U.K. environmental group Hubbub found that some 83% of Halloween costume materials were oil-based plastics likely to end up in a landfill. That equates to some 2,000 tons of plastic (equivalent to roughly 83 million soda bottles) used for one day's celebration. The Independent found the worst fabrics for the environment to be cotton, animal derived materials and synthetics.

Cotton

Cotton is very water intensive and uses high levels of pesticides and toxic chemicals that seep into the earth and water supplies. It accounts for 16% of all insecticides used globally (Soil Ass).

Animal derived materials

The use of leather in the automotive and fashion industry is causing deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, but because the chain from source to outlet is so murky, it is possible for the fashion companies to deny knowledge of it. Also, the washing, bleaching, tanning, dyeing, and treatment of leather requires lots of hazardous chemicals which are very destructive to the environment, ecosystems, and human health.

Many different species are killed for fur. Fur farms harm the environment. Millions of pounds of faeces are produced annually by U.S. mink farms alone, polluting nearby rivers and water sources. One dangerous component of this waste is nearly 1,000 tons of phosphorus. After an animal has been slaughtered, his or her skin is treated with very dangerous substances, including acids, bleaches, and toxic dyes. Fur factories pollute the air, soils, and water sources in the surrounding environment. The World Bank ranks the fur trade as one of world's worst industries for toxic-metal pollution (Guardian).

Wool has long-term disastrous effects on ecosystems and human health. Wool processing requires a lot of chemicals. Pesticides and insecticides are also used on sheep to keep them free of parasites. Sheep release excessive amounts of methane gas into the atmosphere, with their manure also contributing to the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases. Wool uses excessive amounts of water, and the wastewater contains residual toxic chemicals and is highly polluting. Raising sheep for wool or cows for leather wastes precious resources and leads to land degradation and decrease in biodiversity.

Cashmere has the most destructive environmental impact of any animal-derived fibre—roughly 100 times as destructive as that of wool! Because cashmere goats must consume 10 percent of their bodyweight in food each day and they eat the roots of grasses, which prevents regrowth, the industry is a significant contributor to soil degradation followed by desertification. Already, 65 percent of Mongolia's grasslands are degraded, and 90 percent of Mongolia is in danger of desertification, which has led to some of the world's worst dust storms on record, and air pollution dense enough to reach North America.

Synthetic materials

Polyester is also known as PTE. It is made from non-renewable oil derived materials. It is not biodegradable, produces huge amounts of waste and pollutes the air, soil, and water with plastic microfibers and hazardous chemicals which endanger marine life, wildlife and humans. Nylon is made from non-renewable petroleum, nylon is not biodegradable. It is a major contributor to plastic waste. It ends up in landfills and oceans and pollutes the air, water sources, and entire food chain, threatening human health, wildlife and the planet.

Acrylic is also known as PMMA. It is made from non-renewable petroleum and it is not biodegradable. Its production consumes excessive amounts of energy, and uses chemicals which may lead to cancers through skin contact, ingestion, or inhalation. As it breaks down over hundreds of years, acrylic releases toxic chemicals and greenhouse gases into the environment. Viscose is a semi-synthetic fibre, generally derived from wood pulp and associated with massive deforestation. The large majority of viscose is created with a chemically-intensive process that involves a lot of energy, water, and toxic chemicals which poison the environment and put workers' health at risk. Bamboo fabric is a semi-synthetic viscose fabric. Its production consumes large amounts of resources and it is chemically intensive, harming the environment, eco-systems and human health. Wearing toxic fabrics puts our skin at risk, and may lead to cancer, hormonal dysfunction, insomnia, nausea, immunity harm, anorexia, and behavioural problems.

Acetate is a semi-synthetic fabric generally made from wood pulp and requiring a lot of water and harmful chemicals. It is polluting, wasteful and endangers workers' health.

Acetate manufacturing requires the use of acetic acid, acetic anhydride, sulfuric acid, and acetone. These acids and toxic chemicals can easily leak into waterways and pollute water sources.

ALTERNATIVES

Lifestyles

To change fashion into a sustainable trade, we have to change our old models of thought and action. We need to buy less clothing, question the need before we buy, wash clothing less frequently, not use a tumble dryer and repair when it is possible to do so. When we do buy, buy better clothes that last longer, shop at charity shops, hire clothes for the special occasion. Reuse, repair, refurbish, recycle, share, lease, and so on, so that the material is used as long as possible, and when it reaches the end of its life, the material should be kept within the economy by way of a closed-loop system, whereby the product is reused in some way instead of going to landfill. Some outlets are doing this already.

There are many companies now selling ethical fashion, and many alternatives to unsustainable fabrics.

So read the label. If the material is vegan or organic, the label usually states this. You can check how ethical the material is on the Healable page: <https://healabel.com/fabrics-materials-textiles-guide> Check the internet. Ethical Companies will be transparent.

Lobby the Government for an end to fashion's environmental destruction; for addresses, see: www.writetothem.com and <https://members.parliament.uk/Government/Cabinet>

And whenever you can, refuse to buy. Live as simply as you can.

Materials

There are ethical, sustainable, vegan and organic alternatives to harmful fabrics.

Check the label. Note that 'organic' also means no GMO seeds.

The following fabrics are among the more sustainable choices.

Organic Cotton A Soil Association Report 2019 notes that 2,700 litres of water are used to grow the cotton in one t-shirt. Organic cotton uses 91% less water.

Organic Hemp is fast-growing, doesn't exhaust the soil, and doesn't require pesticides.

Organic Linen requires much less water than cotton, is good for soil health, is very durable and can be grown without fertilisers. It can be planted in areas where other crops cannot thrive. Flax can also be used in its entirety (seeds, oil, and crop), meaning there's no waste. Linen is also biodegradable—as long as harsh chemicals are left out of the process.

Organic Bamboo (Bamboo Linen) is a fast-growing, regenerative crop that doesn't require fertilisation. But check the source, as there are concerns about land clearing and harvesting methods.

Plant leather. There are many alternative leathers on the market. For instance, Pinatex from pineapple leaves. Its production is much more sustainable than traditional leather, it requires less water and no harmful chemicals. The leftover leaf waste is recycled and used for fertiliser or biomass.

Vegan wool. Several types are available. Seaweed doesn't need fertilisers. It produces no waste. It removes toxins from seawater and can have a negative carbon footprint. Very sustainable.

Cork is biodegradable, completely recyclable, renewable and eco-friendly. It can be harvested from trees without harming the trees.

Reclaimed fabric - Unused, leftover fabrics from manufacturers which would otherwise be dumped. Innovations – New, more sustainable materials are continually being developed. Here's a sample site, to show you how fast the alternative market is growing: <https://www.materialinnovation.org/current-innovator-profiles>



TENCEL™ fibers

TENCEL™ branded lyocell and modal fibres are produced by environmentally responsible processes from the sustainably sourced natural raw material wood. TENCEL™ fibers are found in the collections of many leading designers and renowned retailers.

<https://www.tencel.com/>



Credit: Healabel

Credit Laudato Si Animators UK



LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY

The Main Drivers of Loss of Biodiversity

"...our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes..." Laudato Si' Encyclical paragraph 161

In the BBC film 'Extinction: The Facts' (1), released in 2020 and narrated by David Attenborough, scientists listed the 5 main drivers of loss of biodiversity, which are: Cocoa / Coffee / Palm Oil / Beef / Soy for livestock feed (poultry, pigs, dairy cows, beef cows, farmed fish).

We have to reduce our dependence on these monoculture cash crops. Forests are cut down and natural habitats cleared to grow a single crop. All wildlife is driven off and chemical sprays are used. This sort of crop is not a healthy food crop. It is grown to feed a demand, not to feed hungry people. It destroys wildlife and destroys the land. It is not sustainable.

We need to change our models of production and consumption, because they are not sustainable. We also need to change our economic model, presently based on supplying a demand regardless of consequences. If we continue in our present course, we will need 2 earths by 2030 and 3 earths by 2050.

Chocolate

Cocoa means chocolate, and giving up chocolate may be very difficult for some people. But cutting down is well worth considering. And we can be discerning about the brands of chocolate we choose. The Ethical Consumer explains the issues in more detail (2) (no need to subscribe, just scroll down). Fairtrade and Rainbow Alliance certification do help, but are not enough on their own – opt for vegan and organic as well, for the best guarantee of being environmentally friendly. Ethical Consumer has a list of 97 chocolate brands which are given a score of between 0 and 20 for ethical standards, but you have to subscribe to view the list. Below are some suggestions (3) and (4) that will help.

Coffee

Cutting out coffee or cutting down on the amount of coffee we consume is necessary. Switching to a more sustainable brand will also help.

Here are four brands that seem particularly ethical and green, are organic and support the farmers and the environment:

Cafedirect - sold in many shops

Equal Exchange – sold in a variety of shops

Source Climate Change Coffee – sold by Ocado,

Planet Organic and Holland & Barrett

Clipper – Sold in Waitrose, Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco etc.

Other eco-friendly brands are Bird & Wild / Grumpy Mule / CRU Kafe / Lost Sheep.

Palm Oil

Palm oil seems to be in everything. Actually, it's only in half of everything! It is said to be found in 50% of supermarket products, from food to cleaners to cosmetics.

Palm oil is a very efficient crop compared to other oils, but make sure, if you choose to use it, that it is Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified, and organic if possible.

Certifications such as RSPO and the Forest Stewardship Council cannot be completely depended on, and Fairtrade has limitations, so avoiding palm oil is at the moment a good option to try for. Fortunately, Ethical Consumer lists food items which are palm oil free. See the Palm Oil Free list (5).

At the same site Ethical Consumer describes the issues around palm oil, and names stores that either avoid it or sell a sustainable version. Two supermarkets are worth mentioning, Iceland - all their own brand food is palm oil free, and Marks and Spencer – all palm oil used is RSPO certified.

Beef

We have a great opportunity, as we come out of the pandemic, to transition to sustainable businesses and agriculture. If we grow organic arable crops instead of beef, we will be able to feed far more people and cause far less destruction and pollution, while using far less resources. So, we will save on energy, land, water and feed.

For example, it takes 2,400 gallons of water to produce 1 pound of beef, while producing 1 pound of tofu requires 244 gallons of water, and 1lb of vegetables takes 39 gallons.

The saving in resources will be so great that we will even be able to re-wild land.

Here are two articles which explain the situation briefly, from Greenpeace (6) and from The Guardian (7).

Restoring degraded land, re-wilding land, planting trees and investing in sustainable agriculture and businesses will lead to a strong recovery and less unemployment. We can do our bit by choosing not to eat beef.

Equally important, we need to use our vote to lobby Governments to transition away from destructive businesses and agriculture, and towards sustainable businesses and agriculture, using laws, incentives (such as grants) and disincentives (such as taxes).

Soy Feed

Soy is fed to chickens, pigs, dairy cows, beef cows, and farmed fish.

It is estimated that 700 – 800 million people are hungry or starving, yet 70 – 80% of the world's soy crop is fed to farm animals, instead of to humans. Some is used for other purposes, and less than 10% is fed directly to humans. Feeding the soy to animals results in the loss of about 90% of the calories and proteins that the feed contains, giving back only about 10%.

It takes a tremendous amount of land, and uses a tremendous amount of water, to grow this livestock feed, and in the Amazon rainforest land is cut down for this purpose.

If we eat soy directly and not through livestock, we will be using far less land, water and other resources. So, avoiding eating the livestock that soy is fed to (chickens, pigs, dairy cows, beef cows, and farmed fish) will help a great deal. Also try to make sure that the soya milk and tofu you buy is from the US or Canada, not from rainforest land, and that it is organic. You can consult this Guardian article (7) for the eco and health pros and cons of different milks, and this Viva site (8) for which soy milks are eco-friendly (click on "Soya and the environment" on the list on the left).

(1)

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mn4n?fbclid=IwAR3ufiALNHsbSNLLg_f-R3HkWrpoqQEpg6Clf0T_3yeSgkjWeyJ5yg-ORm8#:~:text=With%20a%20million%20species%20at%20risk%20of%20extinction%2C%20Sir%20David,greater%20risk%20of%20pandemic%20diseases

(2)

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/food-drink/shopping-guide/ethical-chocolate>

(3)

<https://thegreenparent.co.uk/articles/read/seven-best-ethical-chocolate-brands>

(4)

<https://www.psychologies.co.uk/top-5-best-sustainable-vegan-and-plastic-free-chocolate-bars>

(5)

<https://www.ethicalconsumer.org/palm-oil/palm-oil-free-list>

(6)

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/why-meat-is-bad-for-the-environment/>

(7)

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/28/what-plant-milk-should-i-drink-almond-killing-bees-aoe>

(8)

<https://viva.org.uk/health/healthy-vegan-diet/soya-facts/>

RECYCLING

Although Recycling is not the best answer to the problems of excessive consumption, over-production, waste and pollution, it can be part of the answer. So, after making a commitment to buy nothing without questioning the need, and considering zero waste gifts for presents, check out our helpful list of what to do with what.

GIVING USABLE PRODUCTS AWAY FREE

Trash Nothing

Loads of quality goods offered free. Trash Nothing offers an opportunity to give away your reusable unwanted items, and to freely obtain things you could use. There are so many exciting things on offer – subscribe and make it your first port of call!

<https://trashnothing.com/beta/> [Freecycle](#) / [Freegle](#) /

Similar to Trash Nothing. Type in your town to see what they have to offer, or to offer something yourself:

<https://www.freecycle.org/find-towns>

<https://www.ilovefreegle.org/>

CHARITY SHOPS

They take most things including clothes, toys, CDs, vinyls, books and ornaments.

Many Charity shops accept clothes & textiles that can't be resold - label the bag "RAGS".

ORGANISATIONS COLLECTING TOOLS

Tools with a Mission <https://www.twam.uk/>

Tools for Self-reliance <https://www.tfsr.org/>

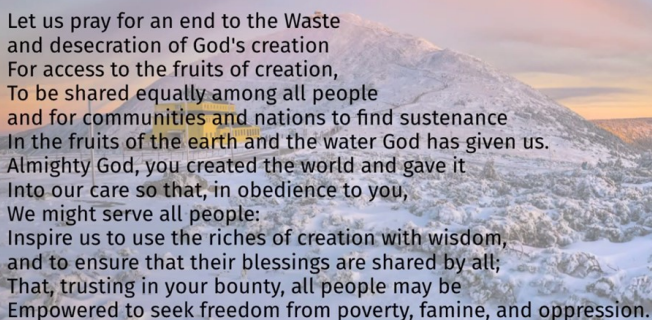
STORES

Whatever store you shop in will recycle something.

For instance; Asda, Co-op, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco, Waitrose etc will probably recycle the following:

- * baby food pouches
- * bread bags
- * bubble wrap
- * cling film
- * coffee pods
- * crisp packets
- * crisp tubes
- * food wrapping
- * fruit and veg packaging
- * Juice cartons
- * pet food pouches
- * plant pots
- * plastic bags
- * Printer ink cartridges & batteries
- * reusable clothes
- * salad bags
- * small electricals (kettles, toasters etc)
- * textiles
- * yoghurt tubs, food tubs & trays

Prayer for Environmental Sustainability



Let us pray for an end to the Waste
and desecration of God's creation
For access to the fruits of creation,
To be shared equally among all people
and for communities and nations to find sustenance
In the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.
Almighty God, you created the world and gave it
Into our care so that, in obedience to you,
We might serve all people:
Inspire us to use the riches of creation with wisdom,
and to ensure that their blessings are shared by all;
That, trusting in your bounty, all people may be
Empowered to seek freedom from poverty, famine, and oppression.

- * Some stores recycle empty make-up containers (Sainsbury's, Tesco) / textiles any condition (Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco), energy saving light bulbs (Sainsbury's, Tesco), used single use face masks (Morrisons).

Stores are adding to the list of what they recycle all the time, so it's worth checking before you throw away.

REPAIR SHOPS, MENDERS

Restart

To find out where your local electronics repair shop is:
https://therestartproject.org/groups/?utm_source=newslettermar22&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mar22&utm_term=.w8x

FURNITURE

Unwanted furniture can be taken to Age Concern, Sue Rider, Salvation Army.
 Collections can be arranged.

CLOTHES & TEXTILES

M & S

All clean old clothing, whether reusable or not, any condition any brand, can be left in Marks and Spencer stores which sell clothes. If reusable, they will be sent to Oxfam. If not reusable, they will be recycled into new materials.

H & M

All clean old clothing, any brand, any condition is accepted. If reusable, it will be sold as second hand. If non-reusable, it will either be turned into other products or be recycled into textile fibres. 2 bags per person per day accepted. A £5 voucher is given per bag towards future purchases of £25 or more from H&M to tempt you to keep buying. Resist!

Primark

Clothes, shoes, bags, textiles accepted; any brand, any condition. Plus, towels, sheets and pyjamas.

COMPOSTING

Local Authorities usually take garden and kitchen waste, which they compost. Or you can start a compost heap in your garden.

LOCAL COUNCILS

Local Councils will have an online list on their website of how and where to recycle items locally. Most Councils collect paper & cardboard / tins, cans & foil / juice cartons / plastic bottles / plastic pots, tubs & trays / empty aerosols / trigger spray bottles / plastic & metal lids / plastic cutlery / sweet & biscuit tins. And separately: batteries / food and garden waste / glass bottles.

LOCAL TIPS

Run by the Local Council. Recycle many things: all the above plus electrical goods, clothes & shoes, wood, metal, rubble, car batteries & tyres, used engine oil, furniture, fluorescent tubes, low energy bulbs, rags (label the bag and put with clothes & textiles).

POSTING OR ARRANGING COLLECTIONS

Recycling for Good Causes takes unwanted broken jewellery & watches, old cameras, foreign coins. Request a free sack or use an envelope and freepost address, fill in the form or freephone them to arrange a collection.

<https://www.recyclingforgoodcauses.org/individual-donors/>



Ending the arms trade in the West Midlands

Between Christmas and Lent this year our leaders thought it wise to put the finishing touches to their long-running European manoeuvrings and finally plunge us into a real war again, notwithstanding the trail of smouldering destruction that their previous efforts had left scattered across the globe, or the aftermath of the pandemic, or the ever-growing climate emergency, or the cost and availability of food and fuel.

No, nothing else would do but a good old-fashioned land war in Europe, pitting Good against Evil, would you believe? It's enough to make you think they might just have done it deliberately to put a stop to the campaigning nuisances who simply won't leave those innocent arms investments alone. Let's see how they get out of this one, we seem to hear them saying!

Because for three months we have had to live with an incessant media narrative which changes not one iota from channel to channel or from newspaper to newspaper or from political party to political party. The momentum to re-arm, stockpile, chuck weapons into the fight, eliminate neutrality, stoke militarism, drive out analysis and habituate ourselves to the use of nuclear weapons shows no sign of slowing, let alone ending.

And where does all this leave our little Coventry Justice and Peace Group and its ten-year struggle to rid the West Midlands of its publicly-funded (Council Tax) arms trade investments? Up the proverbial creek, maybe? Well, yes, actually, quite possibly.

Nothing daunted, and more than likely under the influence of instinct, we found ourselves carrying on as normal outside Coventry Cathedral last Thursday morning. Except that we had treated ourselves to a new banner and a new set of leaflets. Every May, the City Council holds its AGM in the new Cathedral, after processing from the ruins of the old Cathedral. All very symbolic, you notice? From the old to the new, from the ruins to the future, out with the old Lord Mayor and in with the new Lord Mayor. Renewal of commitment to the City's ideals – Peace, Reconciliation, Sanctuary, and most recently of course, Culture. Who would not endorse these words? Who could be against them? Who could not be inspired by them?

Meanwhile, our representatives are content to syphon off a proportion of our Council Tax for the benefit of fifteen of the leading nuclear arms-manufacturing companies, as they have done year after year since the West Midlands Pension Fund was set up, decades ago. And every August 6th they have the bare-faced cheek to invite a representative of the Japanese Embassy to attend another Cathedral ceremony purporting to deplore the use of nuclear weapons and vowing to ensure they will never be used again.

Well, maybe this year they won't be doing that. Things seem to have changed.

"Why don't you take your leaflets to Russia?" was heard this year. For the first time in ten years. I couldn't think of the reply until it was too late....

Paul McGowan



Building back greener?

Christian perspectives on the future of our economy, money and work 7-8 October, 2022

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/conference2022/>

Green Christian's conference this October is inspired by their Joy in Enough project. It will offer thought-provoking talks on creating a sustainable economy with opportunities for bringing questions and concerns. All are welcome to attend.

Joining us by Zoom on the evening of Friday 7th October, is environmentalist and writer, Paul Kingsnorth, founder of the Dark Mountain project. The event starts at 7pm, with Paul's talk starting at 7.30pm.

This will be followed by an in-person event at the Priory Rooms (7 minutes walk from Birmingham New Street Station), Birmingham B4 6AF, from 10:15am to 4.:30pm on Saturday 8th October.

Speakers on Saturday will be: Grace Blakeley, economics and politics commentator
Professor Christopher Southgate, scientist and theologian
There will also be workshops and discussion, opportunities for informal get-togethers and networking, and taster sessions of Plenty!
Do use the image from the website

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

<https://greenchristian.org.uk/the-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty/>

Did you know that the Glasgow Climate Pact agreed last year was the first COP to mention fossil fuels? And that was simply to 'phase down' 'unabated' coal. We know we need to do better than that.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty is a global initiative to phase out fossil fuels and support a just transition.

As an individual or an organisation or church, you can endorse the treaty and also sign a faith leaders letter, making the moral case for the Treaty.

Join us by calling for the Treaty in one or all of these three ways:

- Endorse the call for a Treaty
- Write to your environment minister
- Sign the Faith letter

Ruth



Justice and Peace Assembly On Line

Dates, time and speakers still to be confirmed

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| Session 1 | Asylum Seekers / Refuges |
| Session 2 | Poverty / cost of Living / Energy Prices |
| Session 3 | Economic Growth in this Country |
| Session 4 | Liturgy |



40 Years as Lady Godiva

Pru Porretta MBE, founder and director of Godiva Trust, Pru created the Godiva Sisters group innovating and advocating for community social cohesion. She represents Coventry locally, nationally and internationally in her role as an ambassador for the city and as Coventry's official Lady Godiva for the past 40 years. She raises the profile and the funds of many charities as supporter, trustee and patron. She is a born change maker, catalyst and connector seeking opportunity to improve and enrich lives through diversity, equality, imagination and openness.

The Godiva Sisters are a network of amazing women, the Godiva Sisters representing the different cohorts of migrant communities that have for generations moved into and made Coventry their home. The organisation is known as The Godiva Trust. The embracing principles of: Giving of yourself, giving to others and leaving a legacy, in the spirit of the original Lady Godiva. Godiva Sisters is part of the Godiva Trust which is a registered charity. The group holds regular weekly meetings, and the sisters get involved in festivals and campaign for better rights for women, both nationally and internationally.

Pru Porretta MBE, formed the Godiva Sisters group 20 years ago. It is made up of international women who were born in many different parts of the world but now live in Coventry and make it their home.

Although Pru started to form the Godiva Sisters in 2001 with a group of Sikh ladies she quickly added 5 other groups, from Christian, Muslim, African, Irish, Ukrainian and Chinese. The next year more groups followed from many other cultures and faiths to date we now have over 50 different Godiva sisters representing local women from all faiths and cultures who meet to portray characters both ancient and modern, whose lives have inspired and can still inspire today through the story of Godiva, as well as raising the profile of minority groups and engendering community cohesion.



In 2018 the Godiva Sisters were honoured with the Queens Golden Jubilee Award for promoting peace, unity and community cohesion, and engaging people in community and heritage projects inspiring new generations.

Our reach as Godiva Sisters crosses all communities in Coventry. As well as British born sisters, we have sisters representing the following communities throughout the city.

- Chinese
- South Asian (Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim sisters)
- African
- Welsh
- Caribbean
- Polish
- Ukrainian
- Malaysian
- Irish
- German
- Latin American
- Iranian
- Turkish

- Kurdish
- Russian
- Romany
- Ethiopian
- Japanese
- Serbian
- Bangladeshi
- Bolivian

There are also sisters who represent a variety of religions, and others who represent refugees, transplant recipients, nutrition, choreography, wisdom, and poetry and disabled.

Our reach is city wide, and we attend many events. We have also been involved with the city of culture team, taking part in two city parades, one for the opening of the city of culture as Godiva Sisters and one parade for the closing of the city of culture in May 2022 as Amazing Women.

Having a wide and trusted reach in the city has enabled us to get the correct and positive messages out about the Covid19 pandemic to our members with the hope that this will disseminate to their communities in full. We have made 3 films, one with all sisters in all languages, one with young children and one with the Chinese community.

Pru was the mastermind behind the Godiva Sisters Peace Tree in the memorial park. She encouraged not only her sisters to decorate the tree with peace messages in different languages but to celebrate their festival there keeping communities safe together in the outside plus giving the citizens much to look forward to when taking exercise alone or with their dog

Because of Covid many Coventry residents took advantage of taking exercise at the War Memorial Park Coventry. The Godiva Sisters under the guidance of Pru Porretta had adopted a small tree since November 2020 Peace month and decorated it with poppies, doves and international messages of peace. Since then each month Pru with the help of Godiva Sisters, have continued to decorate the Godiva Tree to celebrate Christmas, Chinese New Year, International women's day, Persian New Year, St Georges Day and International Peace Day to name but a few. During this time Pru noticed that in another part of the park, the rose gardens, 4 empty rose beds laid bare, after making enquiries with the head gardener, she followed up with a request to work in collaboration then to buy roses to fill and dedicate the 4 new rose beds to those Coventry residents who have lost their lives during the pandemic to be remembered. This is now Coventry's remembrance rose garden to those who died from Covid



Pru Porretta MBE
Director, Godiva Trust
Registered charity 1148481

What is ONE?

ONE is a campaigning and advocacy organisation of more than seven million people around the world taking action to end extreme poverty and preventable disease, particularly in Africa.

ONE pressures governments to do more to fight AIDS and other preventable diseases in the global South, to empower small-holder farmers, and to expand access to energy.

Crucial to ONE's current work is ensuring vaccine equity around the world. While countries (including the UK) are easing off restrictions and learning to 'live with COVID', the pandemic is far from over in other parts of the world, notwithstanding its economic aftershocks which continue to wreak havoc in already-struggling countries.



The pandemic has taken the lives of 15 million people, triggered the first increase in extreme poverty in 25 years and pushed over 20 countries to the brink of debt crises. World leaders have the power to reverse these trends, if they choose to use it by adopting and acting on a plan to defeat the virus.

The West's response to the war in Ukraine shows that countries can work together in times of crisis, but we have yet to see the same collaborative effort to put an end to other global threats like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, or commodity price shocks.



In June ONE will be pressuring officials gathering in Germany for a meeting of G7 Foreign Ministers to take swift action, including by agreeing on a concrete plan to end the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic aftershocks inflicted on low-income countries. We also have a new food and energy crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine that has already seen the price of food and fertiliser double in some of the world's poorest countries.

The latest data gathered by ONE shows the full scale of the converging crises facing the world in 2022. In addition to the continued threat from COVID, almost 900 million people are without enough food, 55 million more since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, while the economic aftershocks of the pandemic and war in Ukraine are set to cost the global economy trillions – with two-thirds of the world's countries seeing their economies contract and at least 23 countries in Africa in danger of defaulting on their debts. In the face of an unchecked pandemic, an uneven global recovery and a new food and energy crisis, world leaders need to step up.

In June, at the G7 Foreign Ministers meeting in Bavaria, Germany, ONE is calling on the group to accelerate efforts to tackle these converging crises – fully funding the fight against COVID, rebuilding the global economy, responding to the climate crisis, and taking steps to ensure the world is better prepared to react to future health emergencies. The G7 must also tackle the urgent food security issues exacerbated by Russia's war on Ukraine by fully funding humanitarian appeals and rapidly scaling up economic support to vulnerable countries.

ONE is also currently working to influence the UK's financial commitment to the 7th replenishment for the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#), which takes place every 3 years. The Global Fund requires a 30% increase by donor governments this year in order to carry out their work - saving a total of 20 million more lives. Germany has already pledged an increase and we hope to see the UK maintain its leadership role when it comes to overseas aid and pledge the full amount to end these diseases once and for all.

For more, follow links to find out more:

[ONE's recommendations for the G7](#)

[ONE data dive on food security impact of war in Ukraine](#)

[ONE data dive on the global vaccine rollout](#)

[ONE data dive on debt](#)

[ONE data dive on Special Drawing Rights](#)

GenerAction Postcard Action



Earlier in May, One launched their new GenerAction campaign to address the converging crises of conflict, COVID and climate.

It was launched as we find ourselves in a moment that will define our generation. These crises threaten our future, our security and our hope for progress and equality. Without action, millions of people will be pushed into extreme poverty and hunger. Millions more will continue to be denied access to basic health care like vaccines and medicines, putting lives at risk from preventable, treatable diseases.

But we must be the generation that refuses to be broken by these crises – Generation Action or GenerAction.

How can I take part?

Up until the 17th of June, ONE Leaders across Europe will be engaging people in their communities and asking them to fill in postcards, addressed to G7 leaders.



The Catholic Association for Racial Justice, concerning the new Police Action Plan, is very important.

Police action plan released to address race disparities affecting Black people.

On 24 May 2022, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing, released a Police Race Action Plan which sets out the Commitment of Chief Constables in England and Wales to become an anti-racist police service.

The Action Plan will be subject to further consultation and will be finalised in December 2022.

CARJ sees this as a very important initiative, addressing an issue which has been troubling our society for many years, and more recently became a



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global concern following the death of George Floyd. We intend to help people understand the Action Plan and have a voice in the public discussion that will take place over the next six months.

We will be in touch with you in the near future to schedule a discussion of the Action Plan. Meanwhile you can access the press release and the Action Plan through the link: [Police action plan released to address race disparities affecting Black people, changing a legacy of distrust \(npcc.police.uk\)](https://www.npcc.police.uk/press-releases/2020/06/police-action-plan-released-to-address-race-disparities-affecting-black-people-changing-a-legacy-of-distrust)

Please visit and read the background to this report. It is sobering. It begins:

“The Police Race Action Plan released by National Police Chiefs’ Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing sets out the commitment of Chief Constables in England and Wales to become an anti-racist police service and to explain or reform race disparities.”

This article on the website contains clear statements from leading Police Officers. As concerned Christians, we all need to be aware of this work and be prepared to contribute to the discussions which will take place between now and the end of the year. We also need to pray for those charged with preparing the final document, and for those implementing the plan.

Phil Mayland



Archdiocese of Birmingham Climate Action Group June 2022

The Climate Action Group was formed by Archbishop Bernard and the Trustees to carry out the intentions of the Trustees contained in their Statement of Intent, which describes what should be done, by everyone, to reduce our impact on the environment and to mitigate against climate change. We plan to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Action Group have begun work by sub-dividing into four sections:

- 1: to identify potential funding streams for a Diocesan Environment Lead; to consider alternative options for an environment lead and projects which may attract funding.
- 2: Parishes: to work on decarbonisation and renewable energy; to ensure that all parishes are part of the National scheme for dioceses to take energy from renewable sources.
- 3: to further promote the Live Simply Award in schools, aiming for 100% enrolment.

4: to plan Live Simply approaches for parishes and parishioners; to identify environmental champions in parishes.

Why the Live Simply Award?

The **LiveSimply** award is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies - to respond to Pope Francis’ invitation in *Laudato Si’* to “work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us”.

The award is earned by communities and schools who can show how they have been living:

- simply
- in solidarity with people in poverty
- sustainably with creation.

The award celebrates what you have already done and inspires you to do more. It helps your community to live, not just more simply, but also more fully. Parishes/schools are asked to complete an Action Plan under these three headings. For each heading they need to identify one major action and two smaller ones. The beauty of this ‘bottom up’ plan is that each parish/school makes their own plan from where they are, and it can include some of the actions they already undertake.

Work by the four sub-groups is ongoing. Some of the aims will clearly take longer than others to achieve. However, we can report that invitations to become environmental champions have been sent, using as many contacts as we have. There have been some positive responses so far. All parishes have been contacted recently to invite them to begin work on registering.

Schools: 97% of schools have now registered for the Award. (up to 26th May). This is a great achievement and demonstrates that the desire to respond to the climate crisis is real and determined.

The Action Group are also working on communications via podcasts or a blog; articles in the Sower magazine, and by updating the Trustees.

Phil Mayland

If you have a contribution you would like included in the **November 2022** newsletter please send it by Email for consideration to:

The Administrator, J&P Commission.

Email: admin.jandp@rcaob.org.uk

November 2022 Edition:

Last date for copy **31st October 2022**

The views expressed in this newsletter are the view of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission or the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham.

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