**NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING**

**On Monday 15th May 2023**

# Meeting 174

**Present : Anne Elson, Jenny Armstrong, Diana O’Reilly, Lynda Gould**

**Apologies; Anna Godwin, Jonathan Holden**

We started with the Span prayer and reflected on the reading for the 7th Sunday of Easter

John 17 1-11

**Matters arising**

**ACAT cards -** Diana reported that following organising signing of cards for those 4 people identified by ACAT at St Peter’s for one weekend and at Our Lady’s for 2 weekends there were 60 cards signed in all, which she is about to post. Money collected in was £127 which covers postage of £111. There will be surplus to send to ACAT together the remainder of last year’s money. It was felt to be quite successful and some people particularly engaged in discussion at the signing. Noted that 3 people ideally are needed there to help – one to encourage signing and 2 to help with the process.

**Prayer Intention for May/June**

As the prayer intention has not yet been in the newsletter it is suggested we maintain the same one we chose last month.

**‘’We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide those who strive to bring peace in areas of conflict, such as Sudan and Ukraine’.**

Jenny will ask Jonathan to put in the newsletter and Lynda to put on the board

**Poverty and Homelessness**

The Way Ahead project is temporarily suspended and the Minister and Regional Officer, Helen Ryman, are working on the advertising of new posts. There was a farewell to Yvonne MacKinnon and Fiona Paton on the 26th April. Many of the service users were there as well as volunteers, including several from the Saturday Friendship Group. Yvonne has an office in Dale Street Methodist Church for New Chapters and her Trustees are negotiating for a property in Leamington to be used as the Rehab centre. Meanwhile there is concern as to where the visitors to the WAP can go when other agencies are not available. Helping Hands operate at some times and the Night shelter at others, but do not cover the specific times or have the same advice services.

Those contributing to the SFG as yet have not had an email to make them aware of the situation, although many will know. Anne is to ask Royce if this can be done as soon as possible.

Jenny was made aware of a website **‘ Streetlink’** whereby individuals can log concerns about rough sleepers and it will be picked up by the relevant authority. In this area the organisation is P3. Jenny was able to do this when a neighbour told her of an elderly rough sleeper she had seen in town. without shoes.

**Live Simply**

There will be a meeting this week and it is likely that the team will have a stall at the Ecofest on the Pump Room Gardens on Saturday 2nd September. We could have input into this with some information about some of the activities such as the ACAT cards.

**Future of J and P in the parish**

**We discussed how we could make a difference in the parish, given our limited numbers and some ideas were discussed:**

* Bidding prayers each week for a relevant cause
* Passing on relevant information about forthcoming events – such as talks by the UN society

 (next one Sat 20th May Warwick District UN Association Dr Lutz Oette and Dr Mohamed Abdesalam Babiker who will address the Hybrid meeting on Saturday 20th May 2023 from 12:30 - 1:45 pm via Zoom relating to the on-going internal conflicts and international politics relating to Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea - Horn of Africa. . The meeting will take place at Leamington Spa Baptist Church (Warwick Hall), Chandos Street, CV32 4RN.

* Putting information on the notice boards. It was suggested that the notification from Pax Christi recently received about the 75th anniversary of the Nakba – when 750,000 Palestinians lost their lands as the State of Israel was introduced. Di to make the letter suitable for a poster to go on the board. Anne will put on the notice boards.
* We also discussed how to engage young people – ask a rep from each group to send someone to J and P?

**Any Other Business**

Span is having an Open Day on Thursday 8th June to encourage participation in the process of distributing its funds, and to let people know about the work.

J and P could have a display – using the ACAT material. Jenny and Anne to look at . Diana has the information.

We finished with a prayer

**Next meeting 26th June in the Church hall at 7.30 pm.**