**NOTES OF JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING BY ZOOM**

**On Monday 27th June 2022**

# Meeting 165

**Present:** Jonathan Holden, Jenny Armstrong, Anna Godwin, Liz Moreton-Smith, Rosalind Bentley, Julia Fitzsimmons

**Apologies:** Anne Elson, Lynda Gould

Jenny hosted this 20thth Zoom meeting. The last meeting was on 23rd May

We started with the SPAN prayer .

The minutes from the 23rd May were taken as correct.

Jenny welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially those joining us from Warwick and after introductions we read the Gospel for the 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Luke 10 1-12 17-20

**Matters arising**

Jenny did email Janet Vaughan at the Birmingham J and P Diocesan commission for information about what J and P groups there are in our Deanery. She has sent out an email to gather information and awaiting the results.

# Rosary Intention for June

We decided to pray for those who are struggling with the cost of living – families on benefits and low income as prices for many essentials are rising very quickly.

After some email consultation we decided on

**'We pray we all may do what we can to protect the members of our community suffering most from cost of living increases'** ‘

**Jonathan to put in the newsletter**

**Information sharing about our different churches and the J and P activities.**

**The J and P group at Warwick** became involved in getting the Live simply award in their early days and this became their main focus – as they found all the activities could be included in it. They then set up ‘ Circle of Friends’ which has now received the Syrian family in the last week. They have found a house, and got the finance together as well as a team of people who can help and support in many ways. This has been a considerable achievement and a lot of hard work. This now continues with the support work – and settling in the family. – looking at benefits, health appts, schools, jobs, English.

They have also recently started up a ‘Welcome Café’ for Ukrainian refugees which is at St Mary Immaculate Church once a month. This is a joint effort with Warwick Quakers. This is publicised through Facebook and has been successful. Leamington also has one which meets at Newbold Comyn and Morrisons. It is an opportunity for the newcomers to meet, to be helped with clothes and other items they need. .

**Liz will send the Facebook link to Jenny .**

Other activities are cards to POC by one parishioner, recycling, (they have a ‘recycling for good causes ‘ box as do Catholic Leamington (moving to OL soon) and have a contact who recycles through ‘Teracyle’ who take crisp packets etc and also donate proceeds to charity. There was a query as to whether there is a collection point for ink cartridges.

They have good links with the local Primary school. St Mary Immaculate, too and have encouraged the school with ‘live simply’ award. Jenny pointed out that it was more difficult in Leamington as there are 5 Catholic Primary schools, but it would be a good ambition to do this. Anna said that Our Lady’s Church has good links with their local school, Our Lady’s and St Teresa’s through ‘Kindaid’ SPAN have been involved with all the schools in helping those in need.

They enter all these activities under the banner of ‘Live Simply’ as they all qualify in some way to ‘living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor’.

**Those from Catholic Leamington highlighted the activities that are held under the Justice and Peace banner.**

**Jenny spoke about the Saturday Friendship Group –** which has been going for over 10 years and now has new leadership – all the volunteers working as a team with Julia Fan as convener. There are about 8 volunteers from CL at the WAP (Way Ahead Project) at the Salvation Army, working with those who are homeless or vulnerable. They work either on a Saturday morning where a breakfast is cooked or during the week where a drop in with food and support is operative. They fundraise over £6,000 per year to support the WAP and keep the Saturdays going, using a variety of fundraising methods.

**Live simply** – working at the moment towards the ‘Ecofest’ to be held on 4th September on the Pump Room Gardens – this is run by WDC and we have had a stall for several years (it originated at St Peter’s a few years ago) We promote fair trade, green energy and CAFOD, as well as offering activities for the children. We also have a ‘Recycling for good causes and have raised around £200 for CAFOD so far. We had a ‘ Live simply Sunday ‘ recently to encourage people to make ‘just one pledge’ to help the planet.

**Liturgical input** – we have (often spearheaded by Brian Austin) asked the priests to think about J and P for various special days and seasons, Peace Sunday, Homelessness Sunday, the Season of Creation, Hiroshima and Nagasaki memorials for example and we have supplied a penitential rite, bidding prayers and suggested they look at appropriate websites. Also and very importantly we have run special J and P Stations of the Cross in Lent – in church or latterly on a Powerpoint presentation in the Hall because of COVID. This highlighted many areas of concern at home and abroad. It was however a lot of work to find images and produce literature and we have to look at how we can do this in the future.

**Prisoners of Conscience cards** - recently we have done this at Easter or just after and this year we sent over 100 from the 3 Churches**.**

Catholic Leamington has also very recently run a very successful Synod with several meetings over the 3 churches and questionnaires – this is hopefully to be carried forward. It is noted that we are to have a new priest shortly, Father Stephen Day, and to lose both Father John and Father Benedict. We will be looking to work with our new priest to use the ideas and suggestions that came forward and to have good dialogue with him.

**The Way Forward for J and P in Warwick district and /or the Deanery?**

Jenny is waiting to hear from Janet Vaughan at the Diocesan Commission as to other groups that are in the Deanery - we thought any future meetings might consider going Deanery wide (Rugby? ) but not further. As regards the links with Warwick and Leamington it was thought to be excellent to collaborate and to have an exchange of ideas but not necessarily to join together at every meeting. Warwick contacts, such as Liz and Angela are on the email google group for J and P and get an invitation to Leamington meetings. It was felt to be really useful to have our sharing of information today. We are better informed as to activities. Leamington want to know more about the Ukrainian Refugees and Warwick to know about Ecofest among other things. . Meetings are on Zoom at the moment and it is easier for people to access them in general – particularly time wise.

We closed the meeting with a prayer –particularly for Wilf Feely and his wife, Jean and family as he has recently suffered from a stroke and is in hospital. Wilf has been a member of our group since it began.

**Next meeting on 18th July - Gospel will be the 17th week of Ordinary Time Luke 11: 1-13.**

**Jenny will send a Zoom link**