

Justice and Peace at St Augustine of Hippo

The parish Justice and Peace group (J+P): Some parishioners, together with members of the Ordinariate, with a particular interest in issues of social justice work together to support the Parish Priest and to highlight for the parish areas of need and the opportunities and means to respond.

One member of J+P is the parish CAFOD Contact liaising between the Group and Cafod's Community Participation Co-coordinator for the



South-West and members of the Group regularly attend six--monthly updating meetings with the Co-coordinator and

representatives of parishes across the Cornwall Deanery. With

the support of the Parish Priest, speakers from the congregation are arranged after all masses the weekend before the Lenten & Harvest Fast Days which are well supported.

Throughout the year a collection jar is put out before and after all masses for copper and other coins in aid of our partner parish in Ethiopia as part of the Cafod CONNECT scheme. Currently re-cycling in aid of Cafod is confined to unwanted foreign currency but it is hoped to introduce a wider scheme in 2019 working with Cafod's new re-cycling partner.

A refugee support system does not exist in Cornwall but two members of the



group collect and deliver food, clothing, bedding and small items of household equipment for the **Devon and Cornwall Refugee Service** based in Plymouth. They drive up about every six weeks.

The problem of homelessness in Cornwall is a serious one. J+P supports the **St**



Petroc's Society which is pledged to end street homelessness in Cornwall. Regular donations of food from the parish are taken to St Petroc's. Two of the current members are volunteers at St Petroc's.

The "Friends of St Petroc's in St Austell", holds its quarterly meetings at St Augustine's.

The Fairtrade Foundation works to ensure that food producers in developing



countries are not exploited. To this end J+P helped St Augustine's declare itself a "Fairtrade Church" together with other churches in the Cornwall Deanery. This means that only fairly traded tea, coffee and sugar are used on church premises. During Fairtrade Fortnight in

March we try to spread the word with events such as a "Fairtrade Café" where people can sample fairly traded food.

During Advent, money and gifts are collected for St Petroc's and Refugees via the "Advent Giving Tree" this is the only time in the year that a direct appeal is made for these charities.

During Lent, Alms are collected for one local and one international charity recommended, after discussion, by the J+P group.

The work of the J+P group is not only about raising money. Issues such as slavery, trafficking, genocide, climate change, recycling, energy conservation, pollution, racism are all of great concern.

The parish now marks Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January with prayers for all victims of genocides past and future.

Pope Francis has declared 1st September to be a 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation'. We held a Prayer Vigil on that day in 2018 and hope to make it a regular event.

We think it is important that **the children of the parish** are encouraged to take part in as many events as possible. They contribute to the Holocaust Memorial Day with a display, have written prayers for the vigil on 1st September and have celebrated 'fairtrade fortnight' with games and activities as well as by preparing and eating fairtrade food.

If you would like to join the J+P group (or drop in to see what it's like) you would be most welcome. Perhaps you have a particular interest or skill you could contribute to the group?

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month from 6.00 to 7.00 pm in Cuthbert Mayne.

For more information contact John Ballard

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*"The spirit of the Lord...
has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free"
(Is 61 : 1-2)*