

St John Fisher Justice and Peace Group, Meeting 5 Jun 03

Meeting held at 20:00 at 245 Cannon Hill Lane

Present: Liam (chair), Tom, Barbara, Cathie, Kirsty, John

Apologies: Julie, Carol, Eliane, Felicity

Cathie led the meditation.

Informing Ourselves

The notes of the previous meeting were read

It was decided that we would continue to spend time at this and further meetings on the discussion topic “Sustainable Development” introduced by Kirsty – or some sub-set of it.

It was suggested that the group should have a “mission statement” and a text was submitted. The text was:

Our primary purpose is to inform ourselves and others in the Parish on Justice and Peace issues. Our secondary purpose is a consequence of this, to initiate action by attending rallies and conferences, writing letters of protest or support, and inviting speakers to address parishioners on specific issues. We assist the poor and needy by collection of foodstuffs in January each year to coincide with Homelessness Sunday. We do not engage in Fund Raising as such but where invited we associate ourselves with the profits obtained on specific social events by suggesting the names of suitable beneficiaries and passing on such funds. We also support multiculturalism by sponsoring the Multicultural Event each year on a non profit making basis.

It was decided that the text might be too long and detailed for a mission statement and we decided to give the concept further consideration at another meeting.

Liam reported on the CARJ initiative for a Conference to review the way in which we welcome minority groups into our Churches. He said that The Canon feels that there is “nothing wrong” in our Parish. Members felt that the whole thing was being badly handled at National and other levels.

Racial Justice Sunday this year is on 14 Sep.

Informing Others

The article on the Nationality, Asylum and Immigration Act 2003 was submitted to Talkabout for the June issue. Loan copies were also left at the back of Church and were taken but not returned. An Article by Liam on Prisoners of Conscience was also submitted to Talkabout, and one on the Homeless Act 2003 for the September issue.

Liam reported a positive Foreign Office response to his letter to Roger Casale about POC Jorge Luis Garcia Perez

Planning Action

Members were urged by Liam to write to:

Chief Joshua Dariye
Governor of Plateau State
Government House

Jos

Plateau State

Nigeria

asking him to investigate the role played by members of the security forces and non-Nigerians in attacks by Muslims on Christians in Plateau State.

Sustainable Development

It was felt that our best ally was CAFOD. Currently about £1200 pa are put into the CAFOD box in Church and the Canon doubles the amount collected. Kirsty reminds us that, if we sponsor a specific project through CAFOD we could get feed back from them, invite speakers from them and in these ways inform the Parish Community here about Development needs, this might lead to greater Parish involvement in the project and its fundraising. FairTrade was also mentioned as an awareness raising exercise.

Liam will talk to the 9:30 coffee people about FairTrade and Tom will speak to Anne Towner about an Autumn stall.

Tom will speak to CAFOD, possibly about the ground-rules for a Project and possibly about having a visiting speaker – the Group thought that an audience of 30~40 would be OK.

Ending

Cash in hand: £83:90

Next meeting 3 July at Julie's

Meditation by ?

Notes by Tom?

These notes compiled by John