

## Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group

<http://www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk/>

### Minutes of meeting: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 8:00pm

**Venue:** 30 Eastway

**Present:** Beryl Shannon, (Chair), Sandra & Mike Carolan, Viera Hamid, Liam Harnett, Peter Nash, Hazel Pucino, Julie Sheahan,

**Apologies:** Fr. Matthias, Teresa Pollard, Barbara Harnett, Mark Eaden

**Meditation:** Beryl quoted for us the hymn " Dear Lord and Father of humankind", which led to thoughtful reflection and comment.

#### **Merton Winter Night Shelter**

Beryl welcomed **Nicky Zisman**, organiser of the Winter Night Shelter to the meeting; also Lynda and Anne who had come to hear her.

Nicky outlined the work of the Night Shelter and explained how we might be able to help. A more detailed report of her talk is attached. At present they have sufficient venues but some groups are short of volunteers and would welcome help from us. All volunteers need to be trained and there are two training sessions coming up on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 3 – 5 pm and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 7-9 pm, both at YMCA Cafe in Wimbledon Broadway. Two or three members hope to attend the training. For next year we would hope to advertise this more widely and involve more of the parish.

#### **Christmas Cards for prisoners and those persecuted for their faith: 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> November.**

Liam has purchased 300 cards at a cost of £81, Julie will address the cards and place some information about each person in the card.

We will hand them out before and after Mass this weekend as follows:

6pm	Peter & Teresa
8 am	Barbara & Liam
9.30	Sandra, Mike & Hazel
11.00	Viera & Christine
6.30	Julie & Mark

Julie has sent a message to the newsletter about this and will also ask Father David to mention it in the notices.

#### **Peace Service: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30 pm**

The Pope's message for 2017 is "Nonviolence: A style of politics for peace". When we receive Pax Christi's service leaflet, Julie, Beryl and Liam will meet with Father Matthias to plan the service. Hopefully we can reflect on one or two of our "heroes" who have achieved change through non-violence. Margaret and friends have agreed to serve refreshments. Julie will ask the Guides to read. Invitations and publicity will need to be planned next month.

#### **Southwark Justice and Peace Assembly, 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Peter, Julie (and Bishop Tripp) attended this very interesting session on practical ways we can help refugees. Peter has circulated reports of the workshops he attended. The need to liaise with Churches in West Wimbledon and to promote Refugee Week next year was highlighted. The second workshop gave very practical advice on lobbying MPs.

Julie attended a session with **Housing Justice** who match up destitute asylum seekers with hosts who are willing to offer a spare bedroom. Clergy are particularly encouraged. Julie will write this up for Talkabout, and pass the leaflet to Beryl who will take it to the Deanery Meeting.

#### **Merton Priory Peace Centre**

Peter has drafted a new detailed proposal for this project. He drew our attention to the Buddhist Peace Centre in Ashridge Way. We will mention this project in our report to the Parish AGM. It was

felt that Christmas is a very busy time and the New Year might be a better time to meet with Father David and Father Matthias to seek their support for the project. Beryl has also spoken of this to the Deanery meeting, who hope to welcome Peter to a future meeting.

**Food Collection:** The November collection for the Foodbank was very well supported. We will send a thank you to the newsletter. For December we will collect for Christian Care, asking them if they have any specific Christmas requests. Now that this monthly collection is established, we will not hold a big collection for Homeless Sunday in January.

**Treasurer's report:** Mark has handed the funds to Sandra, who will reimburse Liam for the cards. A collection was made.

**Any Other Business:** Peter had picked up a leaflet explaining Justice & Peace produced by the National Justice & Peace network. Julie will see if we can get copies of this to promote Justice & Peace.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00 pm  
Venue: 30 Eastway  
Chair: Beryl  
Meditation: Peter

We will all bring something to share to make this a Christmas celebration.

Grace was said.

We thanked Sandra and Mike for their warm hospitality.

### **Merton Winter Night Shelter**

Six years ago, workers at Faith in Action Drop In for the Homeless, concerned that those who attended the Drop In were sleeping rough in the very cold winters, started the Winter Night Shelters. They are now about to begin their sixth year.

Fourteen faith groups in the London Borough have committed to opening their hall to welcome rough sleepers one night a week for 6 weeks. This means that for the three coldest months, twelve people have somewhere safe and warm to sleep. The first block of 7 operate from early December to mid January, the second from January to early March.

Each venue has a team of trained volunteers who provide an evening meal, a safe place to sleep and breakfast each morning before guests leave for the day. Volunteers work in three shifts,

1. From 6.30 to 10, welcoming the guests and providing and sharing a warm home cooked meal.
2. From 10 – 6, while the guests sleep, there would be at least two people, one of whom remains awake.
3. From 6 am to 8.30 to offer breakfast and then clear away. Guests leave by 8.30. Help might also be required taking bags from one venue to the next at 8.30 am.

Guests are referred by a variety of agencies within the borough, are assessed by the Co-ordinator, and sign a conduct agreement. Many of the guests show a remarkable improvement in their physical and mental health whilst attending the shelters. Some progress to work, and to finding and funding accommodation.

Whilst there is currently no need for additional premises, some of the host groups need more volunteers. At present St Marks Wimbledon on Saturday night, the Mosque at Salvation Army on Tuesday night and from January Wimbledon Methodist Church on Monday night. Therefore anyone in the Parish who would like to help is most welcome to volunteer for training. Training takes place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 3 – 5 pm and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November from 7-9 pm, both at YMCA Cafe in Wimbledon Broadway.

Next year we will need to publicise this in the parish earlier, ideally with a speaker after Mass.

More can be read at <http://www.ymcalsw.org/winter-night-shelters/>