



Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group

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

Minutes of meeting: 11th July 2017 at 8:00pm

Venue: 30 Eastway

Present: Marie Bullard, Mike Carolan, Sandra Carolan, Viera Hamid, Peter Nash, Teresa Pollard (Chair), Julie Sheahan, Kerry Coke

Apologies: Beryl

Charity of the Year – Merton Against Trafficking

We were delighted to welcome Kerry Coke to the meeting. Kerry outlined the work of Merton Against Trafficking, which was founded 7 years ago and for whom she has been working for two years. She outlined the areas where trafficked people may be working and what to look out for, such as inadequate clothing, lack of eye contact, working unusual hours. She listed the countries that most trafficked people come from. Sadly events such as Wimbledon Tennis can create a demand for slave workers.

The scale of the current problem is enormous, it is estimated that there are more slaves now than during 300 years of the slave trade. MAT works in education, giving talks in secondary schools. They also accompany those identified as having been trafficked, providing them with clothing, toiletries and taking them to a "safe house". Altogether 3000 people have been "rescued" in the last four years.

We are asked to pray for the project users and carers and make people aware of the cause.

Merton Listening Project: This is being organised by Merton Citizens including the Salvation Army. They aim to gain responses from 7,000 people, on what they would like to see in Merton. The project is being sponsored by several Merton Churches. We are all encouraged to ask our friends and neighbours two questions

1. What are the three most pressing local issues for you and your family? and
 2. What barriers do you or those you know face in maintaining mental health?
- and return to Nick Coke at The Salvation Army - Raynes Park Community Church ,
496 Kingston Road, London SW20 8DX

<http://www.rpcc.co>, Nick.Coke@salvationarmy.org.uk,

If the questionnaire is used at groups such as the Knitting Circle, Coffee after Mass, the papers should be kept together in a labelled envelope to return to Nick Coke.

MyRaynesPark Festival - June 24th – July 2nd.

This was attended by twice as many people as last year. There were several very interesting meetings, including a lecture by Ann Morisy on 'The Divided Kingdom'. Several churches from Churches Together in Merton Park attended and should be included in publicity next year.

Community Sponsorship Information Evening, Wednesday 14th June,

Three of us attended this evening and were inspired to hear of the Syrian family, so successfully settled in Merton. Catholics in Sutton hope to host a family.

Tackling Poverty in Wimbledon: Peter has met with Councillor Tobin Byers to discuss the issues identified especially Pollution where people in Raynes Park live three years less than other parts because of pollution, The London Living Wage, and access to the Benefit system. We should all write to councillors on issues that concern us.

Any Other Business: The Food Collection in July was relatively small, possibly because of St John Fisher School Fair. We will collect for the Foodbank in August, even though people may be away. If David is away, Julie & Tony will deliver.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th September at 8.00 pm
Venue: 30 Eastway
Meditation: Teresa
Chair: Sandra

Grace was said. We thanked Kerry very much for coming and sharing with us. Also Sandra and Mike for their warm hospitality, despite building work.