

What's it all about?

One of the most important documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church and the World (1965) proposed the creation of a body which would "stimulate the Catholic community to foster progress in needy regions and social justice on the international scene". The Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace was set up to "promote justice and peace in the world in the light of the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church".

In Shrewsbury Diocese, Rt Rev Joseph Gray set up a J&P Commission in 1984.

Sixteen people have served on the Commission during the year and it has full-time Coordinator.

It has links with the National J&P Network [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), and through that Network with national organisations working for justice and peace.

Current Priorities include:

- Fostering J&P activity by parishes, Local Pastoral Areas (LPAs), and individuals
- Dialoguing with other departments and Commissions of the diocese
- Improving communication
- Engaging with young people
- Reflecting on climate change issues and promoting action and resources within the diocese.
- Encouraging greater political engagement.
- Monitoring implications of increased migration.
- Continuing to promote the work of agencies working for the Common Good
- Continuing to network with other Christian traditions and other faiths.
- Creating opportunities for prayer
- Providing opportunities for reflection on Catholic Social Teaching (CST)
- Promoting Craighead Institute 'Integrating Life & Faith Course'.

## Justice & Peace Commission

[www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](http://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk)

Chair: Tony Walsh

Elizabeth Barratt

Sue Bownas

(CAFOD Diocesan Manager)

Sr Anita Callaghan (until June, 2009)

Ged Cliffe

Michael Crawley

(Secretary)

Dave Fitton

(Diocesan Youth Ministry

Coordinator)

Ann Gill

(Treasurer)

Bernice Halson

Bryan Halson

Anne O'Connor

Bernard Payne

(Vice Chair)

Ann Taylor

Marian Thompson

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Fr Ned Wall

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## Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission



### REPORT 2009 - 2010

Vision:

A diocese fully engaged with the call of God to be a people of justice and peace.

Purpose:

As Christians, we are called to try to live out God's will.

God calls us to act for the common good and the good of all creation.

The main task of the members of the Commission is to answer that call personally and to engage the diocese in doing likewise, in the light of scripture and Catholic social teaching.

In the past year the J&P Commission, its members and Coordinator, have:

- Celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the J&P Commission.

Bishop Brian planted a tree at Wistaston Hall, Crewe, at the start of our special Advent gathering in December (13/12/09)



- Produced the quarterly magazine - MouthPeace containing a huge range of topical articles.
- Produced quarterly QuickNews Network mailings and a J&P Calendar and contacts list for national organisations working on J&P issues.
- Submitted articles to the diocesan newspaper The Shrewsbury Voice.
- Ensured that the Commission's website [www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](http://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk) was maintained and regularly updated.

- Engaged with CAFOD's Climate Justice Campaign, promoting 'Wave' cards and attending 'The Wave' event in London prior to the Copenhagen meeting.



- Celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight.

- Promoted Pope Benedict's social encyclical Caritas in Veritate and Choosing the Common Good, the document produced by the Bishops of England and Wales.
- Promoted General Election resources.
- Promoted Church Action on Poverty's Get Fair Campaign encouraging people to lobby their MPs to commit to ending UK poverty.
- 14 people from the diocese attended the National J&P Conference 'Amazed by Migration' at Swanwick, Derbyshire.
- Held a successful event at St Thomas More High School, Crewe. The culmination of work



in seven parishes, The Changing Face of Britain, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ).

- Organised speaker events in Ludlow on fairtrade, peace, and the Israeli/Palestine situation.
- Organised a Live Simply Creation Walk using materials produced by CAFOD.
- Involved local schools to participate in the Altrincham One World Week event.
- Led sessions at schools and with a Confirmation Group.
- Prepared assemblies and resources for Key Stage 3 & 4 for the Poverty and Homelessness Action Week.

- Promoted the Craighead Integrating Life & Faith Course.
- Assisted the diocesan group, Catholics for Racial Harmony, in organising a Racial Justice Sunday Mass (13/9/08) at St John the Evangelist, New Ferry.
- Held a service to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the death of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, at All Saints, Ashton on Mersey (24/3/10). A Mass to commemorate Romero was held at St Mary and the Angels, Hooton.
- Encouraged a Wirral-wide meeting of J&P activists hosted by the West Kirby J&P Group.
- Arranged a Country Walk—an opportunity for fresh air and lively conversation.



- Promoted Fairtrade goods in parishes...

During the year ...

- A new J&P group started at Our Lady's, Stockport and
- J&P groups have been started at Ellesmere Port Catholic High School and St John Plessington Catholic College.