

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.

The current Commission has eighteen members and a full-time Coordinator.

It has links with the National J&P Network www.justice-and-peace.org.uk, and through that Network with national organisations working for justice and peace.

Current Priorities include

- Promoting reflection and action on issues:
Live Simply: The Proper Use of the Earth's Resources
Who is my Neighbour? Global Displacement
Set All Free: Conflict-Peace Building
- Engaging with the Diocese through our website, newsletters (**MouthPeace & Quick News Network**) and annual report
- Encouraging new and existing J&P groups and working with young people
- Networking with diocesan agencies and services and also with ecumenical, interfaith and secular groups which share our vision
- Nurturing the formation of individuals and groups on justice-and-peace issues, scripture, and Catholic Social Teaching.

Justice & Peace Commission

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

Elizabeth Barratt
Sue Bownas
(CAFOD Diocesan Manager)
Ged Cliffe
Margaret Cook
Michael Crawley (Secretary)
Dave Fitton (Diocesan Youth Coordinator)
Ged Flynn
(Director, Catholic Children's Society)
Ann Gill (Treasurer)
Bernice Halson
Bryan Halson
Anne O'Connor
(Responsibility for Youth)
Bernard Payne (Vice Chair)
Mike Simpson
Ann Taylor
Marian Thompson (*MouthPeace* Editor)
Fr Ned Wall
Tony Walsh (Chair)
Anne Westmacott

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Underlying all our work is a commitment to

- promoting truth and countering misinformation
- considering the gender, race, and special needs concerns implicit in all our work.
- working with all those with whom we share a vision

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission



REPORT 2007 - 2008

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, through its members and Coordinator, have:

- Produced quarterly ***MouthPeace*** mailings.
- 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 Shrewsbury Voice***.
- Ensured that the Commission's website was maintained and regularly updated.
- Promoted the ***Live Simply*** initiative through talks and articles in ***MouthPeace***.
- Held a day on ecology ***Celebrating Creation***



Celebrating Creation: Tony Walsh, Tom Cullinan, Mary Colwell and Mike Monaghan

- Attended meetings of **Chester Asylum Seekers' Support Group**.
- Assisted other organisations with their initiatives:
 - Chester World Development Forum's ***Development & Climate Change*** event at Chester University.
 - Newman Association's ***Catholic***

Migrants : Opportunities & Challenges.

- Assisted the diocesan group, Catholics for Racial Harmony, in organising a **Racial Justice Sunday Mass**.
- Promoted Church Action on Poverty's ***Just***



Racial Justice Mass: Sr Martine Patoir, Judy Hearnshaw, Fr Oliver O'Doherty, Kathleen Manley, Bishop Brian, Flora Quest, Joan Sharples

Church initiative.

- Promoted the ***Set All Free*** exhibition and initiative.
- Organised a speaker event ***Slavery Today***.
- Participated in the Craighead Institute ***Integrating Faith & Life*** course held in the diocese.
- Held an Advent Reflection: ***Keeping the Flame of Hope Alive***.
- Organised parish ***International Masses***.
- Produced J&P resources for young people.
- Held two J&P Area Meetings in the north-east of the diocese: on Church Action on Poverty's initiative, ***Just Church***, and ***Working in Parishes***.

- Promoted the Fairtrade Schools initiative to Diocesan Primary Schools.
- Arranged a country walk—an opportunity for informal conversation.
- Promoted fairtrade goods in parishes.
- Mailed a leaflet to all parishes and schools in the diocese containing information and contact details on initiatives concerned with issues related to refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants.

During the year ...

- Ellesmere Port J&P Group celebrated its tenth anniversary, originally set up in the parish of Our Lady of the Sea, it now has contacts in all the Ellesmere Port parishes.



Members of Ellesmere Port J&P Group celebrating their tenth anniversary

- The Commission produced a statement expressing its deep regret at the decision made by Amnesty International to change its position to one of regarding access to abortion as a human right in certain circumstances.
- People in J&P Groups have encouraged ecological awareness, promoted fairtrade, written Christmas cards to prisoners of conscience ...