

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.

Nineteen people have served on the Commission during the year, working with a full-time Coordinator.

The Commission has links with the National J&P Network www.justice-and-peace.org.uk, and through that Network has links with a number of 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, inter-faith 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

Chair: Tony Walsh
Elizabeth Barratt
Sue Bownas
(CAFOD Diocesan Manager)
Sr Anita Callaghan (from June 2008)
Ged Cliffe
Margaret Cook (to March 2009)
Michael Crawley (Secretary)
Dave Fitton (Diocesan Youth Coordinator)
Ged Flynn (to March 2009)
(Director, Catholic Children's Society)
Ann Gill (Treasurer)
Bernice Halson
Bryan Halson
Anne O'Connor
Bernard Payne (Vice Chair)
Mike Simpson (to March 2009)
Ann Taylor
Marian Thompson (MouthPeace Editor)
Fr Ned Wall
Anne Westmacott
Coordinator: Joan Sharples
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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 2008 - 2009

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 magazine - MouthPeace.
- 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 was maintained and regularly updated.
- Carried out a detailed survey of parish activities and produced a report of the findings.
- Held a joint CAFOD/J&P Lent Spirituality Day Faith Doing Justice at the Evron Centre, Stockport (28/3/09).



Faith Doing Justice: Susy Brouard & Joan Sharples

- Worked with seven parishes on The Changing Face of Britain, a national initiative to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ), and organised a diocesan event at St Thomas More Catholic High School, Crewe (9/5/09).

- Promoted and attended CAFOD's:
 - ◊ 'Pure Gold' Exhibition at Chester Catholic High School (October 2008);
 - ◊ Mass of Thanksgiving at St Clare's, Chester (17/5/08);
 - ◊ 'Climate Justice' Launch at Shrewsbury Cathedral (16/3/09).
- Conducted an analysis on energy costs and sources of socially/environmentally-aware energy provision.
- Produced a reflection on the Stations of the Cross which was used in several parishes during Lent.
- Held an Advent Reflection: Waiting for God led by Fr Ned Wall at Wistaston Hall, Crewe (14/12/08).



Waiting for God: Fr Ned Wall

- Organised a J&P display and stall at the Diocesan Youth Day held at Chester Catholic High School (20/7/08).
- Produced and promoted youth resources.
- Assisted the diocesan group, Catholics for Racial Harmony, in organising a Racial Justice Sunday Mass (12/9/08) and a day of reflection (7/2/09), both at St Anne's, Nantwich.

- Promoted Church Action on Poverty's Get Fair initiative.
- Participated in - and helped to deliver - the Craighead Institute Integrating Faith & Life course held in the diocese.
- Held a service to commemorate the twenty-ninth anniversary of the death of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero at St Margaret Ward, Ashton on Mersey (24/3/09).



Archbishop Romero Service

- Organised parish International Masses.
- Attended meetings of Chester Asylum Seekers' Support Group.
- Arranged a country walk—an opportunity for informal conversation.
- Promoted Fairtrade goods in parishes...

During the year ...

- A new J&P group started for the three parishes of All Saints, Ashton on Mersey, Our Lady of Lourdes, Partington, and St Margaret Ward, Sale.