

Justice & Peace Link Information sheet on justice & peace issues September 2020

Ongoing

Tuesday, 1 September to Sunday, 4 October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi)

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The idea of celebrating 1 September as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989, and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. Read more through the Catholic Bishops Conference website [here](#). For more resources go to the Season of Creation [website](#)

The Diocese of Clifton is providing a **series of short resource booklets** for this year's Season of Creation. They contain prayer suggestions, scripture readings, reflection questions and points for action. The first is available [here](#).

Columban podcasts on biodiversity. Called '**Jubilee for the Earth: Biodiversity & our Sacred Story**', each of the six episodes will explore biodiversity and a related issue like economic justice, peace, migration, and other topics related to Catholic Social Teaching. To be notified of when the podcast launches, click [here](#). The first podcast '[The Spirituality of Biodiversity](#)' is available now.

Events

Tuesday, 1 September

Pray and Fast for the Climate Ideally on the 1st of the month but you might like to choose a day that suits you and friends later in the month. This month's prayer points and environmental news are [here](#)

Tuesday, 1 September

1pm

The Care for our Common Home circle is holding an extra half hour Zoom meeting of **Meditative Prayer for the climate** in solidarity with members of and sympathisers with Christian Climate Action who are sitting in Vigil for the Earth for seven days and nights in London, Cardiff and Manchester. The Zoom link is

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71935362210?pwd=aTc2L01jN0k2eTZKdkFnUWdCeklxUT09>

Meeting ID: 719 3536 2210 Passcode: r94R43

Tuesday, 1 September

6.30pm

Join Global Justice Now for the launch of Nick Dearden's new book, **Trade Secrets: The truth about the US trade deal and how we can stop it**. Nick will be in conversation with Zoe Williams, journalist at The Guardian and co-host of the Another Europe Is Possible podcast.

This book launch will be held using Zoom. Sign up [here](#) to receive a link and a reminder nearer the time.

Thursday, 3 September

1pm

Join the Care for our Common Home circle, a fortnightly half hour Zoom meeting of **Meditative Prayer for the climate**. We will be live from 12.55, to greet one another before starting our prayer together. At 1.30 we join in the Lord's Prayer. Contact Martin Davis for the Zoom link m@freerangephotography.co.uk

Thursday, 3 September

7pm

Hidden Voices Somerset Would you be interested in volunteering for a new local project supporting victims of Modern Slavery and exploitation? If so, you are invited to a Zoom volunteer information session. Registration essential at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUldOitpz0rHNGsJmwkwc6UvcM4z4IJ6c-n>

See *** below for further information about this exciting project

Tuesday 8 September

2pm

Post-COVID Multilateral Cooperation – A Chance To Achieve A Nuclear-Weapons-Free World? This event, dedicated to the International Day against Nuclear Tests and the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, is hosted by the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, SOAS University of London in partnership with the Embassy of Kazakhstan in the United Kingdom. Speakers include: Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Co-Chair, All-Part Parliamentary Group on Global Security and Non-Proliferation; Kate Hudson, General Secretary, CND; Peter Jenkins, Chairman, British Pugwash Group; Moderators: Dr Dan Plesch, Director, CISD, SOAS University of London His Excellency Erlan Idrissov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UK. Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-e730HfUTzmxE9TFRnODuA

Wednesday 9 September

7pm

Care of The Heart Space with Sister Zoë Leadbetter. Arranged by Green Christian, this Zoom session explores how God is calling us, as individuals and as communities, to act for the environment. Zoe entered the Carmelite Order in 1999 on a spiritual quest to explore her 'heart space' and passion for the environment and Jubilee justice in the contemplative life. She has discovered that the journey involves both contemplation and action, and that we each need to discover our core vocation. Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMSduuqrzgpHdcr_AUsPtQhN-xc2E1wIwIbB

Friday, 11 September

6pm

St Thomas More, GL51 7RA

Stations of Creation celebratory Walk: along the lines of Stations of the Cross, the quiet one-hour walk will include seven stops, or Stations: at each there will be a short reading from Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* (On Care for Our Common Home), and some moments of reflection and prayer. Booking essential: to reserve a place, email cheltenham@greenchristian.org.uk or telephone 01242 244182. If wet, the Stations will take place online via Zoom.

Sunday, 13 to Monday 21, September

World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel This week is set aside by the World Council of Churches.; 'Church organisations, congregations, and people of faith are encouraged to bear a common witness by participating in worship services, educational events, and acts of support in favour of peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians'. [Pax Christi have prepared some resources.](#)

Thursday, 17 September

1pm

Join the Care for our Common Home circle, a fortnightly half hour Zoom meeting of

Meditative Prayer for the climate. We will be live from 12.55, to greet one another before starting our prayer together. At 1.30 we join in the Lord's Prayer. Contact Martin Davis for the Zoom link m@freerangephotography.co.uk

Saturday, 19 September
1.00 - 3.00pm

A faith response to the climate emergency – an online workshop with Ruth Jarman and friends Can we face the reality of the science on climate and species extinction while holding on to faith, hope and love? This day will tell the truth about the science, grieve for all that is lost and explore what God and the future may be requiring of us now. Ruth studied Chemistry at Oxford and worked in the semiconductor industry in Somerset, Paris and California. She co-founded Operation Noah and is Information Officer for the national charity Green Christian. With others, she started Christian Climate Action in 2012, which uses non-violent direct action in the face of climate breakdown. Arranged by the World Community for Christian Meditation. Cost £10

<https://io-wccm.org/civicrm/event/register?id=311&reset=1>

Monday, 21 September

The UN International Day of Peace Ffi click [here](#)

Saturday, 26 September

The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons A day for public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Ffi click [here](#)

Sunday, 27 September

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees: The theme chosen by the Holy Father for the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee to focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people". See the whole message [here](#)

Online talks/articles

['How we can turn the tide on climate'](#) A TED talk with Christiana Figueres and Chris Anderson

['It's Time to Talk About Torture'](#) a talk by Dr Alison Wickert's given via the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution in July, is now available to watch on YouTube. An Independent Catholic News article by Phil Kingston

[Bringing climate change to the forefront of public and government consciousness](#) An article published in the Independent Catholic News article by Phil Kingston

Actions

A new bill has been developed by a group of people including members of Extinction Rebellion, Power for People, as well as prominent scientists and academics.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill calls for:

the UK to make and enact a serious plan. This means

- dealing with our real fair share of emissions so that we don't go over critical global rises in temperature our entire carbon footprint be taken into account (in the UK and overseas)
- the protection and conservation of nature here and overseas along supply chains, recognising the damage we cause through the goods we consume
- those in power not to depend on technology to save the day, which is used as an excuse to carry on polluting as usual

- ordinary people to have a real say on the way forward in a citizens' assembly with bite. BILL
You can [sign up to support this bill](#)

The Amazon is burning: No to EU-Brazil trade deal! Petition to the Ministers of Trade, Environment and Agriculture of the EU countries and all European leaders. For further information and to sign click [here](#)

The next 6 months are critical if we stand any chance of tackling this climate crisis. The question is no longer 'do you believe in climate change?', the question is 'do you care enough to do something meaningful about it?' As Christians, are we going to make a stand in tackling the biggest justice issue of our time? There is a place for everyone. Click the following link to find out more. <https://christianclimateaction.org/2020/07/18/uk-sept-2020-rebellion/>

Prayer

Laudato Si: Opening the Door to the Spirit

'Spirit of light, come, illuminate, clarify and raise our awareness; help us delve into the essence of what matters. Without your presence everything is meaningless and history is without direction.

Stay, Holy Spirit, Spirit of Transformation, awaken, strengthen, and increase the energy of your people. Without Your strength, everything stops functioning.

Stay, Spirit of Creation, renew, and build our future. Without your courage, we grow old and incapable of new behaviour and action that sets us free.

Stay Spirit of Consolation, comfort and console the hearts of the afflicted. Without Your help everything becomes sad and lifeless.

Stay Spirit of Peace, inspire our young people to wrestle with the difficulties they face. Without your presence, peace is superficial and full of contradiction.

Stay Spirit of immediate help, you are much needed. Christ is at the door and knocking. Come and lead the way to the Kingdom.

Stay Hidden Spirit, Promised Spirit, Spirit of the prophets, Jesus, Mary, the youthful Church, the martyrs of Brazil, Latin America and the World.

Pour your love on us, and accompany us on the journey with your people who gather and struggle alongside each other to build the life of a Kingdom of Justice, of Peace, and of Love.

The prayer above was written by Fr Leo Dolan, a priest of Clifton Diocese who has worked with indigenous communities in Brazil for well over 30 years. He and his community have circulated more than 2000 copies of this prayer to the isolated members of his community and to the local prisons making all inclusive. Notice how it captures the spirit of Laudato Si - to allow the Holy Spirit to enter into our communities and show his presence. To be fully human and fully alive does not require money and possessions but does require living the beatitudes.

*** Information for the item at 3 September above ***



Hidden Voices Somerset - Volunteer Victim Support Recruitment.pdf

If you would like to publicise an event, please send details to the Secretary, Clifton Diocese Justice and Peace Commission justiceandpeace@cliftondiocese.com. The items above are included as they may be of interest because of their relevance to peace and justice issues. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Justice and Peace Commission.

