

Meeting of Justice and Peace Group, 27 March 2024 (draft)

Sederunt: Paul Foley, Brenda McLaughlin, Mary Pattison, Vincent Davies, Andrea Batchelor,

Fr Stephen (later)

Matters arising from meeting of 20 February 2024:

- Various online campaigns had been circulated for the group's interest.
- Local ecumenical links from Taize had not yet been followed up; Mary and Andrea to try to make contact with Stonelaw and Blairbeth Burnside churches re Ecocongregations.
- Sharing minutes with other J&P groups – Paul had circulated some minutes which were very interesting in terms of the range of topics covered. We aren't sending ours out yet, but it was agreed we probably should, and also put up our minutes on the parish website. Paul(?) agreed to follow up and also to send to St John's Uddingston.

(Not actually discussed but Andrea asked Frances about information-gathering from foodbank visitors, but this hasn't started yet.)

Agenda:

1 Clare from Refuweegees has been in touch with Brenda and is more than happy for us to visit their office or to provide a presentation for the group. Discussion around how to take this forward: it was agreed we should try to visit them to learn more about what they do (Mary, Paul and Andrea depending on who is available.) Then perhaps we could suggest to our 3 schools that they might like to be involved eg with filling Refuweegies backpacks and/or writing letters. Brenda to investigate dates.

2 Catholic Social Teaching in our parish: Anne Marie Clements from Justice and Peace Scotland and Fr Stephen are both positive about this and involving the deanery is a possibility. Discussion over how to take this forward: Paul agreed to draft communication to the parish about this around the end of April to gauge interest.

J&P Scotland is going to co-locate with the Catholic Parliamentary Office, which might be particularly useful in election year.

3 Linking up with the primaries for environmental projects – Andrea made contact by phone with St Anthony's PS and has arranged a meeting to discuss this for after the school holidays. Mary contacted St Mark's but has had no reply yet to offer of meeting after holidays; she will follow up with a card, offering to support anything they are doing; also possibly involvement with Refuweegees will be part of the discussions now that we have established contact. The Pope Francis award (<https://sces.org.uk/faith-award/>) might be worth exploring too.

4 Recycling: Andrea passed round the results of her taking part in Greenpeace's Big Plastic Count. This could also be added to schools' agenda for example asking pupils to encourage families to count how much plastic they are using. Discussion noted structural issues around making any difference with this.

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/>

<https://thebigplasticcount.com/media/GP-BPC-Investigation-Guide-2024-Digital-Pack-Final.pdf>

5 Voter ID: Mary's communications have been very promising. Anne Marie Clements is interested in this but is waiting for the J&PS new campaigns, communications and events coordinator to be in post.

Clare Haughey MSP has written back indicating that the Scottish government fundamentally disagrees with voter ID. She has written to the Scottish Government minister for parliamentary business about it, looking for information about what communications are being made to people in Scotland to prepare them, particularly for the general election.

Discussion centred around involving other MSPs by communicating with other J&P groups to try to get more people doing the same thing. Mary agreed to do a summary of what she did and the outcome. Paul will send to Rick and Tommy for their groups. Information could also go in our bulletin.

6 Next meeting – 24 April, 7.30, to be advertised in the bulletin.