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GOOD NEWS

MEXICO

Millions said adios to poverty. The Mexican Social Development agency says that the number of people living in poverty was down by 8.9 million in 2020 with pro working-class policies and a boost to the minimum wage. “There is less poverty, less inequality in our country.”

SOLAR PANELS

A record number of house owners are installing solar panels. 20,000 a month to harvest energy.

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT

Progress has been made. In 1900 there were no women in Parliament worldwide. As of 2022, more than a third of countries in the world have at least 30% in parliament, according to Our World in Data.

SEASON OF CREATION, ECUMENISM, and HARVEST FESTIVAL

The congregations of our Anglican Parish Church and our local Methodist Church had a very special Joint Harvest Festival, with the most beautiful flowers and produce, after which 70 people sat down to a shared lunch. For a while now the Methodists have held their Sunday worship in the King Charles the Martyr parish hall.

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

DISABILITY SUNDAY

Was celebrated recently. Much has been done to enable people with disability to live as normal a life as possible, but much remains to be done. One important principle is to always keep in mind that it is always an individual person with particular needs, rather than to speak about “the disabled”.

Recently I visited a well-known beautiful garden with members of our local Stroke Club. In spite of twice before mentioning to the establishment the need for a handrail down the steep curving slope to the entrance, still nothing has been done. This calls for further action on my part.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

Was on 21 September. Our local Quakers invited church members in the vicinity to a shared supper, followed by a talk by Simon Dell MBE, on the “Conchies”,

conscious objectors of WW1. Their treatment was ridicule, hard labour, imprisonment in Dartmoor Prison and threatened death. None of them gave in. And in spite of this adhered to their belief and would not be prepared to take up arms to kill. What would I do?

Members of our Justice and Peace group joined in a Peace vigil recently in the town centre organised by the Quakers to coincide with the annual British Arms Trade International Sale of weapons in London. Many thousands of people are employed in manufacturing these weapons designed for destruction and murder, a lucrative trade for the UK.

September 25th END OF OUR HOSEPIPE BAN

I got a letter in the post this morning from the SW Water Authority thanking us for our co-operation in the past months to save water as our reservoirs had been so depleted. Yet our authority is one of the worst in the country for polluting our rivers and coasts. River and coastal pollution is high on the parliamentary agenda at present, endangering wild life.

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

LOAF stands for food which is locally produced, Organically grown, Animal friendly or Fairly Traded. The decisions we make about our food have far-reaching effects, influencing the way food is produced and animals are treated. LOAF meals can raise questions about over exploitation of soils, land, people, fishing methods and industrial agriculture's dependence on oil for transport, fertilisers and packaging. The Christian Ecology link asks churches to follow one or more of these principles when planning any communal meal.

Our J and P group are having a LOAF shared lunch before our meeting next week. Make a difference by choosing one of the LOAF principles in your meal planning this week.

WATER

Make a conscious effort to save water in little ways this week and as you do so pray for those who suffer drought or floods on account of climate change and that their needs will be addressed by the rich nations.

FOOD BANKS AND COMMUNITY FRIDGES

Find out in your locality what is available for those who are in need of food and how you and your church can help.

Mary Bradley