

NEWS
23 MARCH
2022

PRAY FOR UKRAINE
PRAY FOR PEACE

Please send any comments or items for future issues to

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NATURE

- The future of a 1000-year-old oak tree has been safeguarded after the Government agreed for it to be given expert care.
- The Woodland Trust says "It is a magnificent specimen and a truly awesome sight".

TREE PLANTING

- A new variety of fast-growing broadleaf hardwood tree grown in the UK for the first time will absorb carbon 7 times faster than newly planted woodland. The trees are deciduous so will boost biodiversity and regenerate the soil.
- Timber produced is strong, light and a source of high value.
- There is a shortage of wood and these trees will produce the wood we need to build and live sustainably.

AUSTRALIA

• Renewables sink Australia's largest coal fired power plant. The plant will close 7 years early because it can't complete with renewable s including solar, wind and battery power.

WALES

- The Welsh Government has announced plans to trial a basic income for vulnerable young adults.
- Every 18 year old leaving care within a 12-month period will receive £1,000 a month regardless of their employment status.
- Payment will continue for 2 years. The Justice Minister said this will deliver financial sustainability.

TFOR REFLECTION & PRAYER

MAJOR UK BANKS AND PENSION FUNDS

have invested £32 billion in companies producing nuclear weapons, despite the Universal Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entering into force in 2021.

• These include Barclays, HSBC and NatWest.

UK WAGES

lag behind global average.

- Average wages would be £76 a week higher if growth had kept pace with international average since the financial crisis.
- Had the UK kept pace with the OECD average since 2002, a typical UK workers pay would be worth £4,000 more today.

SHOCK STAT

• 430,000: Number of oil barrels a day saved if countries cut road speed limits by 10km per hour, according the international Energy Agency.

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE, and all those other countries where there is armed conflict.

LENTEN RESOLUTIONS

- Turn out your clothes cupboard and donate items not needed to a charity shop.
- Audit our recycling and look for more ways you can recycle.
- Have a conversation with a rough sleeper, or someone who is lonely.
- Create a wild space in your garden or plant some wildflower seeds.

FROM NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK NEWS 20 MAR 22:

There are still refugees in Calais...

<u>Seeking Sanctuary</u> **writes:** - As we look to the heroic efforts to welcome Ukrainian refugees, particularly in Poland, we have become increasingly aware of the difference in welcome of European and refugees from further afield. As tragic as the suffering under Russian bombardment is, it is not different from the experiences of so many thousands of people in Aleppo in Syria, or that of the Yazidi in the Middle East. And let's remember the many Roma families caught up in the fighting. In Calais the authorities are at least giving homeless Ukrainians shelter in the Youth Hostel but others have to endure life in tents and the like. There should be no differentiation in our treatment of refugees - all must be treated equally.

A call from the Calais NGOs. "We ask the authorities to put into practice the same reception conditions as those for Ukrainian refugees. Whether they come from Ukraine, Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia or Sudan, all refugees deserve and must be the object of protection, compassion and security. Europe has just proven that it is possible to establish safe pathways and decent reception conditions for those fleeing their country because of persecution or war. All should benefit from it."

Calais is organised to accept donations of goods that are sorted, packed and labelled and that appear on the "current needs" lists. Anyone can deliver them on a day trip with a car, or drop them off at one of the UK drop-off sites that are available.

Please help.....

Thank you!

As a PS to the above, America Magazine have an article entitled <u>'The outpouring of support for Ukraine is a great thing. Can we show the same compassion for victims of other global crises.'</u>

Regardless of whether we are in the US or the UK, the situation is still very much the same, and sadly shows that some refugees are more acceptable than others.

Mary Bradley