

## Justice and Peace News & Prayer

### November 2020

#### 1 We Give Thanks For:

- The installation of the first water refill facility in Falmouth Town centre. The point was installed outside the town hall by Suez Recycling and recovery UK, working with Plastic Free Falmouth. Falmouth was one of the first towns in the UK working with the local council to produce a Plastic Free Charter that businesses agree to in order to get a licence to trade.
- Japan announced the weaning of the economy off fossil fuels, with a target at net zero by 2050. Two days later, South Korea made the same pledge.
- Funding of more than £4 million for long term homes for rough sleepers and other vulnerable people in Cornwall has been announced by the Government. The money will fund local schemes that will provide secure 'move on' style accommodation for people at risk of sleeping on the streets and is aimed at ending rough sleeping by 2024.

- A positive meeting concerning the future of Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Gardens has been held with Cornwall Council. Town Clerk, Mark Williams, said the council's director of cultural services continues to work on the business plan. Mr Williams also said that with the consent of Cornwall Council and GLL, the town council could reopen the gardens from this week, subject to Cornwall Council confirming some matters for the insurer.

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## 2 Supporting Persecuted Christians

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- In November we have the International Day of Prayer and Red Wednesday, when we remember, stand in solidarity with, and pray for persecuted Christians.
- The Bishop of Truro's report to the Government on Persecuted Christians, published in July 2018, had 22 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Government. A forum for Freedom of religious Belief (FORB), was set up to work on these.
- The Government should visibly and robustly stand up for the rights of Christians everywhere and protect the world's most vulnerable, regardless of race, background or creed. 83% of the world's population live in countries where religious freedom is threatened with bullying, arrest, jail, expulsion or execution.



- By September 2020, 17 of the report's recommendations have been implemented or are being implemented.
- One aim is the creation of a UK Global Human Rights Sanction Regime and for the UK to be the global leader in FORB.
- Successful action has been taken with the release of prisoners in Eritrea Yemen and Uzbekistan.
- With Covid-19, religious discrimination has resulted in Governments' further repressing religious minorities, withholding of food, healthcare and aid, and blaming religious minorities for the spread of Covid-19 in India, Iraq and Pakistan.
- Technology is used to spy on, repress religious minorities and their worship.
- With people confined to their own homes due to the pandemic, they need to feel safe from attacks.

*William Wilberforce wrote:*

**“You may choose to look the other way,  
but you can never again say you did not know”**

### **For Reflection**

- *What actions do I take regarding the widespread persecution of Christians?*
  - *Prayer?*
  - *Supporting the work of the Churches' agencies?  
e.g. Open Doors, Aid to the Church in Need,  
Barnabas Fund, Christian Solidarity Worldwide.*

### 3 World Day of the Poor 15th November 2020

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#### **World Bank Report on Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020**

The goals of the World Bank are to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity. Its analytical, operational and convening work, underpin these aims.

Over the past decades, progress has been made in reducing poverty (the first of the world's sustainable goals). However, the World Bank's report of October 2020 warns that 150 million people are likely to be in extreme poverty because of the Coronavirus and countries will have to prepare for a different economy post Covid, allowing capital, labour skills and innovation to move into new business sectors.

#### **Africa**

An estimated 413 million people in Africa live in extreme poverty, more than half of the world's poorest people. The majority of people are in subsistence agriculture. Governments need to take action to reduce poverty by; -

- Diversifying the economy
- Having healthy, educated people who are productive
- Investment in better roads and railways
- Investment in available and reliable electricity

***“Africa's development has to come from inside Africa”***  
(Francisco Ferreira, World Bank Development Research Group)

## 4 Fairtrade

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### **CHOOSING FAIRTRADE HONEY IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER**

If you don't already choose to buy Fairtrade honey, you may feel compelled to, after reading these excerpts from a report on honey, printed in the quarterly magazine of the **Shared Interest Society**. Shared Interest currently works with six Fairtrade honey organisations in Latin America and Africa.



According to the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Fairtrade Small Producers and Workers (CLAC), some honey brands have begun mixing honey with other ingredients, including rice or artificial sweeteners. Miguel Angel Munguia, CLAC, President says; “This constitutes a real and concrete threat that violates the quality and genuineness of honey. Counterfeit honey is an increasing problem: fake or adulterated goods of low quality are passed off as pure or single-origin honey, driving down prices for honest producers. Fairtrade offers beekeepers a number of ways to confront these challenges and grow their businesses. Many Fairtrade beekeepers are also farmers – the bees they keep help to pollinate crops, which they can sell and subsist on. Fairtrade works with beekeepers to establish surroundings in which Bees can flourish, for example, by advising them on bee-friendly cultivation methods. Given the critical role of bees in pollinating plants, their future will affect humanity’s prospects. Working with beekeepers to maintain stable bee

populations is in everyone's interests, and choosing Fairtrade honey is one way you can contribute."

The advice given by CLAC is: "Read packaging information carefully to find out the origin of the honey and if it is 100% natural."

*We say:*

***CHOOSE THE WORLD YOU WANT  
CHOOSE FAIRTRADE***



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## 5 Mock COP26 – Once Again, Youth Take the Lead!

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**MOCK  
COP**

**We are here to fill the void  
of the postponed **COP26**  
with a large and inclusive  
online youth-led event**

**19th November - 1st December**

Imagine my delight (and relief) when I heard about a group of young people who are not prepared to sit back and wait another year before the climate issue is properly addressed. Jodie (16), Jamie (14) and Aoife (16) have set up Mock COP26,

a youth forum to fill the void left by the postponement of COP26 with a large and inclusive youth-led online event from 19 November to 1 December 2020. They have even managed to secure £15,000 of crowdfunding to help run the event.

Once again, our young people are showing up the older generation with their determination to not let anything, rogue viruses included, stop us from addressing the burning issue of climate change. Below is a link to their Facebook page and short video about the event.

I would encourage everyone to (1) watch the video, (2) pray for this event and for the young people behind it, (3) attend the online event itself and (4) share the message of urgency and hope with others.

Let us thank God for these young prophets in our midst!

<https://www.facebook.com/MockCOP26/videos/1157648778038468>

Euan McPhee

2 November 2020

**Justice & Peace News and Prayer** is compiled by Mary Bradley on behalf of the Justice & Peace Action Group, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together. Any comments or items for inclusion may be sent to [mary@corisande.plus.com](mailto:mary@corisande.plus.com).

