

The Diocesan Justice and Peace website always has some interesting articles and is well worth a read if you get the chance. It is at [Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Justice & Peace - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk))



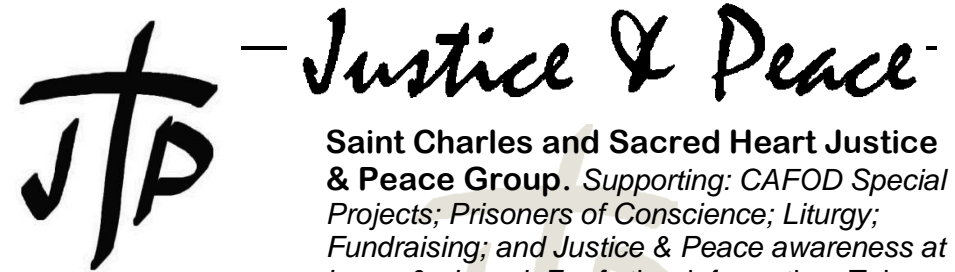
Hassockfield (Derwentside) Immigration Detention Centre – An interfaith prayer vigil takes place on every month, usually on the first Sunday at 3pm). For more information, see the Diocesan website [Interfaith Prayer Vigil - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Interfaith Prayer Vigil - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk)) . An online version of the prayer vigil can be found [here](#). Usually about 30-40 people attend. You can find out more by going to [No To Hassockfield –](#)



The DIOCESAN REFUGEE PROJECT [Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://Justice & Peace Refugee Project - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle (diocesehn.org.uk)) is always in need of help. Food donations can be left in the church porch. The full list of items that are needed is available [here](#). Azad Hazan, who manages the project, issues regular reports on the progress. The latest update can be found on the project webpage by following the link [here](#).

March ceilidh at Sacred Heart

A heartfelt thank you is extended to everyone who attended the St. Patrick's Day Ceilidh on March 14th at Sacred Heart. It was a tremendous celebration of music, dancing, and community spirit. Special thanks to the incredible volunteers and coordinators whose hard work made the event a resounding success. Thanks also to all the families and friends who joined in with such energy and enthusiasm. It was a wonderful night filled with laughter and camaraderie. The evening raised £420 which was sent to Freedom From Torture and the Diocesan Refugee Project.



Saint Charles and Sacred Heart Justice & Peace Group. Supporting: CAFOD Special Projects; Prisoners of Conscience; Liturgy; Fundraising; and Justice & Peace awareness at home & abroad. For further information: Tel 07427837813 or visit the parish websites at www.stcharlesgosforth.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

April 2025

or
[Sacred Heart RC Parish, North Gosforth \(sacredheartng.org.uk\)](http://Sacred Heart RC Parish, North Gosforth (sacredheartng.org.uk))

Upcoming events and news:

- The Justice and Peace Group AGM will be held at 7 pm in the church hall at St Charles.
- **A prayer vigil for peace in Israel and Gaza** is held each Saturday morning from 9.30am to 10.00am outside the Abbey in Hexham. All are welcome to join, even if just for a few minutes. On the last Saturday of each month there are prayers inside the Abbey at the end of the vigil. **Prayers for peace in Gaza and Israel** are also offered each Thursday at Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert RC Church, Crook from 7.00 – 7.30pm. All are welcome.
- The following message has come from the Diocesan Justice and Peace Co-Ordinating Council. *Take reusable products with you wherever you go – when you are enjoying your coffee from the local coffee-shop you are not adding to emissions by using a disposable cup. Choose products when shopping which are not wrapped in plastic or take advantage of a local zero-waste shop. This tells companies that you will not accept products packed in plastic. Use your £ to vote for change. We would welcome feedback, please email Chris Myers at: chrisj.myers57@gmail.com.*

Justice and Peace Group Accounts

Our Financial Officer, Maria McKenzie, has published the annual accounts for the year ending December 2024.

Annual J&P accounts for the year ending December 2024

Brought forward	£64.53
Income	£2141.59
Expenditure	£2066.60

Balance carried forward £139.52

Income		Expenditure donations to	
Coffee mornings	£584.57	Cedarwood Trust	£100
Homeless bookstall	£311.02	Changing Lives	£100
Soup Lunch	£230	CAFOD (Soup Lunch)	£230
One World Lunch	£248	CAFOD Emergency Fund (One World Lunch)	£149
Jo Cox Event	£69.20	Freedom From Torture (One World Lunch)	£149
Trinity Bookstall	£388.60	Refugee Project includes ceil money	£350
Ceili	£201	Crisis	£100
Write For Rights	£39.20	Nightstop NE	£100
Donation	£50	Peoples Kitchen	£100
Donation	£20	Emmaus	£100
Total	2141.59	SVP Blackfriars includes Jo Cox event money and ceil money	£200
		Kenton Food Bank (Trinity Bookstall)	£169.30
		Trinity Church (Trinity Bookstall)	£50
		Hazelrigg Food Bank (Trinity Bookstall)	£169.30
		Total	£2066.60

Total with money brought forward £2206.12

Bookstall for the Homeless: Donations to our bookstall support 6 local homeless charities: NightstopNE (De Paul Trust), Emmaus, Changing Lives (Cyrenians), Crisis, The People's Kitchen, and SVP Blackfriars.

Thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout the year for your generosity

Action against the arms trade

Founded in the UK in 1974, the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) is a not-for-profit peace campaigning organisation which works generally for the reduction and ultimate abolition of the international arms trade, together with progressive demilitarisation within arms-producing countries. At this time, and with the increased threats to security in Europe, CAAT is fighting an uphill battle. Arms production is being stepped up, military spending is increasing rapidly and these moves have the support of the majority of the populations, although the question of what will be jettisoned to pay for it all has yet to be answered.

But the most important work of CAAT, and other affiliated organisations is not to undermine the ability of democracies to defend themselves, but is rather to try to prevent those same democracies acting as enablers of repression and criminality in other countries. And that is something that has been going on for a long time.

Every second year the UK hosts the [DESI Ams Fair](#) at the Excel Centre in London. This is supported and part funded by the UK Government. Amongst other things, it brings to the UK representatives from some of the most repressive regimes across the world. In 2015, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office published a list of 27 countries of concern. Of those, 17 sent delegations to that year's DESI event and of these 11 received specific invitations from the UK Government.

Two years later the DESI event saw large scale demonstrations and hundreds of people blocked the access roads to the Excel Centre. Many of these were arrested and eventually 4 of them were charged. Their defence was that they were taking lawful action because a crime was being committed inside the Excel Centre. [The judge agreed and dismissed the case, a ruling that was later supported by the Supreme Court.](#)



The bookstall at St Charles is ongoing - bring and buy and your donations will help 6 homeless charities.