

Catholic Parish of St Peter and the Good Shepherd

Bearsted and Harrietsham, Kent

Annual Report of the Justice and Peace Group 2013/14

The Justice & Peace group meets on the first Tuesday of every month bar August at 7.30 pm in St Peter's parish room. The following are current members:

St Peter's/Good Shepherd — Marie Quarman (Chairperson), Janet O'Neill, Wieslaw Kordek

Holy Cross — Helen Judges (Secretary)

Methodist Church — Daphne Bower, Ann Smith

Membership has remained the same throughout the year. We would encourage anyone who is interested to attend any meeting.

Homeless People In October, 2013 at St Peter's and Good Shepherd food, clothing and other goods were collected for the Maidstone Day Centre and a cash collection which raised £324. Both Methodist Church and Holy Cross also donated goods and in addition Holy Cross distributed perishable food in the locality and sent a cash donation to Uganda. Daphne monitors articles on housing issues in the local press.

Poverty. A food bank had been set up by the Methodist Church and once a month food was taken to Maidstone Day Centre. Other churches were now contributing.

Supporting families and children in developing countries. Traidcraft continued in St Peter's to raise a steady income, especially at Christmas. A Charity stall sells a variety of goods donated by parishioners. This year a total of £200 has been raised which will be used to supplement St Peter's 2014 Lenten appeal. The CAFOD "Hungry for Change" cards were well received at St Peter's and over 100 cards were sent off to support this campaign.

Appeals at St Peter's/Good Shepherd The planned Lenten appeal had been overtaken by the Syria Emergency Appeal. The Advent appeal at St Peter's raised £573 for the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter.

Hiroshima Service Marie attended this service at The Friars in August to commemorate the victims of the atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Parish Newsletter St Peter's Throughout the year Janet O'Neill has supplied information from J & P group for the parish newsletter including details on appeals, feedback from CAFOD, details on Fairtrade Fortnight, Peace Sunday, Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Bearsted Parish Magazine Helen has contributed an article on Christian Aid.

Summary This year has been busy. All our group members have continued their commitment to working for human rights and justice and combating poverty and we thank them for their efforts.

Marie Quarman