

OUR MISSION IS TO HELP OUR CHURCH, MOTIVATED BY FAITH, TO RESPOND TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR.

ANNUAL REPORT 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

The Ecological Conversion Group, Registered Charity No: 1197384 in England and Wales

FOREWORD

"The urgency of the impact of climate change has never been clearer. Every continent, the icecaps and the oceans have all seen the impact of the damage being done and the threat to human life, wildlife and biodiversity. But there is a growing voice among people of faith and no faith, among the young, that radical measures are required. It is important that each and every one of us takes our part in caring for our common home, as stewards of creation. The Ecological Conversion Group is making an important contribution to raising the level of awareness and offering practical measures that we can all put into practice. Working together we will make an impact."

Bishop John Arnold, Diocese of Salford

"I welcome the Ecological Conversion Group's Annual report and the charity's continued success both in our diocese, and others in England and Wales. Pope Francis calls on us all to 'care for our common home', with the Journey to 2030's vision of the Church, as a vehicle of environmental and social justice, one that people across our community of faith are being galvanised by. I wish all those working as part of this initiative for the flourishing of the natural world, and the safety and security of our brothers and sisters across our global family, every success in the coming months and years."

Bishop Richard Moth, Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

INTRODUCTION

Greetings and thanks for picking up our latest annual report. This year has been another busy one. We have been especially excited about starting our 'Building a Caring Community' project, sharing our parish pack, and delivering deanery day workshops - meeting many new faces and hearing your stories and journeys so far.

Since lockdown, we have hit the ground running – getting established in parishes and schools and finally having our charity application approved (after massive delays caused by the pandemic), but we are so excited to finally be back out and working with communities.

Take a read and do let us know if you have any questions about our work.

John Paul, Ellie, Edd, Rosie, Claire & Fr Benedict

info@journeyto2030.org

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Ecological conversion' is a commitment, inspired by faith, to change our lives so as to help heal the threefold rupture caused by sin, with God, with other human beings, and with the natural world.

It is the process of change towards living in a right relationship with Creator and creation. Recovering a God centered life, living in communion with all that surrounds us.

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

09/05/2022 Presented on biodiversity for the Southern Diocese Environment Group. https:// westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/southern-diocesesenvironment-network/

09/06/2022 Journey to 2030 delivered a biodiversity talk to the Care of Creation group at the Association of Catholic Chaplains in Education Conference, Leeds.

27/06/2022 Delivered three workshops to Sixth formers for their ethics day.

22/07/2022 We launched our Let us Dream posters at the National Justice and Peace Conference and ran a mega workshop with the whole conference (more on this below).

01/10/2022 Our first 'Let us Dream' workshop in Launceston Deanery, Plymouth.

22/10/2022 'Let Us Dream' Deanery workshop in Bamber Bridge, Salford Diocese, as part of the Guardians of Creation research project. https:// journeyto2030.org/let-us-dream-activity-workshopsbegin/

09/11/2022 We delivered an assembly on discipleship to St Gregory's Year 7s (Archdiocese of Southwark).

12/11/2022 Delivered a workshop using the 'building a caring community' activity posters with the Poole deanery of Plymouth diocese for their World Day of the Poor.

16/11/22 Took part in a roundtable discussion on behaviour change as part of the Guardians of creation project.

03/12/22 Our second deanery day in Salford diocese for the St John Southworth deanery.

09/01/2023 Presented Journey to 2030 resources at the Northern and Southern dioceses environmental meeting.

13-15/01/2023 In partnership with Boarbank Hall, we delivered an online workshop about Laudato Si' in your parish. With input from Bishops David Oakley and Terry Drainey.

28/01/2023 Delivered talk to Arundel & Brighton's Justice and Peace Assembly

04/02/2023 Conducted 'Let us Dream' workshop in York deanery, Middlesborough Diocese.

07/02/2023 Delivered talk to Chichester parish, Diocese of Arundel & Brighton.

13/02/2023 Presented at Southern Dioceses Environmental Network.

17-19/02/2023 In partnership with Boarbank Hall, we delivered an online workshop about Laudato Si' in your parish. With Input from Bishops Patrick McKinney and Ralph Heskett.

07/03/2023 Conducted 'Let us Dream' workshop in Cathedral deanery, Diocese of Arundel & Brighton.

08/03/2023 Attended Guardians of Creation research paper launch (more on this below).

24/03/2023 Delivered talk to Sixth Form students at Cardinal Pole school, Homerton.

25/03/23 Participated in Integral Ecology farming conference at the Laudato Si' Research institute, Oxford.

27/03/23 Participated in the School for Synodality Conference event.

Total number of workshops/talks: 22 Total number of people attending talks and workshops: 1178

RESOURCES

The Journey to 2030 website

Since launching last in 2021, we have been working hard on building and expanding The Journey to 2030 website to show the vision of the Church as a vehicle of environmental and social justice, springing from our faith. It serves as a useful resource to any communities of individuals wanting to transform the world.

In the last year, we have been consistently adding new content; resources, blogs, and good news stories from our global community – sharing expertise, tools, and support to enable our Church to work together to make a difference. Check out our new section for schools.

As the website grows and reaches new audiences, we are adding and adapting based on your feedback and ideas - so please let us know what you'd like to see and, importantly, if you have any good news stories to share in our blog.

Visit www.journeyto2030.org to see what we have been up to.





Your school journey to 2030

HOW CAN BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE START WITH OUR SCHOOLS?

For each community, progress in building the Kingdom of God will look different, as it meets different needs and embraces and encourages different gifts. To encourage your school community in this, We have some

IN THIS SECTION YOU WILL FIND



Our 'Let Us Dream' creative activity



Building a Caring Community activity poster packs



Other resources.





















"Building a Caring Community" Poster Pack

Our latest resource, the "Building a Caring Communities" poster activity back, is being used across the country (and world!) by groups and individuals to help their communities dream of and build a better future. This is a resource that uses the "See-Judge-Act" framework as a guide to creating a parish or community project tailored to local and global needs, and an integral community mission.

You can find out more about this resource here: https://journeyto2030.org/poster-activity/

THIS RESOURCE PACK HELPS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS...



SETTINGS







INTEGRATED ACTION

Helps communities integrate environmental, social and spiritual mission. Centred on love of God.



GOALS

Engages communities in the Church's Laudato Si' goals allowing an exploration of integral ecology.



SYNOD

Integrates ecological and social action into our communities synodality.



PROJECTS

Can be used to infuse care for creation into any project or program, fitting into the 'see' of a see-judge-act-framework.



RECOGNITION OF EXISTING EFFORTS

Identifies what is already being done well. Calls for celebration.



PRIORITISES AREAS FOR ACTION

Identifies what needs to be done better. Helps identify a direction for action.



AWARDS

Developed to be fully compatible with and encourage the use of existing awards and programs.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY

Builds community and helps form teams.



ASSESMENTS

Can be used as an ecological and social audit or assessment.



A2 POSTER

Large poster for display and wider community engagement. It can equally be used to engage people who are unable to attend a meeting, draw attention to the mission, and display your parishes findings with pride or a steely determination to do better.





A3 POSTER AND ACTIVITY CARDS

A smaller focus poster and cards for a group activity. This is the same as the A2 poster in a format suitable for group discussions.



FACILITATOR HANDBOOK

A4 12 page facilitators guide includes:.

- Guide to using the posters
- Group discussion guide
- Simple explanations of key concepts: Integral Ecology & Ecological Conversion
- Reflections and guidance on the Laudato Si' Goals.
- A selection of Prayers



'Let us Dream' Creative Challenge

As a part of our vision for building a better future, we have been inviting parishes, schools, and communities to get creative and dare to dream! Our Let us Dream resource is a place where we invite individuals and groups to share their creative dreams for a world that enables flourishing for all of Creation!

The Let us Dream activity is a simple one where you prayerfully reflect on your hopes for the future with Christ at it's centre and what this practically looks like— and use any creative medium you like to share this dream.

We are building our online gallery of these dreams and are always looking for new submissions.

There are materials to help get your imagination flowing on the website: https://journeyto2030.org/let-us-dream/ including an excellent reflection on the 'dream school' by Sr Margaret Atkins: https://journeyto2030.org/let-us-dream/school/

Dreams from schools in Lancaster dioccese.







A Dream from the NJPN conference



A Dream from a Salford diocese deanery day

ACTIVITIES & UK COLLABORATIONS

Deanery Workshops

In October 2022, we started our first deanery workshops; training days using the Building a Caring Community poster pack to build local network designed to:

- Help participants realise the potential of our communities to make real change in the world.
- To encourage them to dream about and share the world they would like
- To help form a deanery network of people keen to make a change.
- To give training on using Journey to 2030 resources, so that by the end of the session you will have the confidence to run these activities in your own parishes, schools and communities.

We will be continuing to run these workshops in deaneries over the coming months - let us know if you would like one!

Read more about it here.





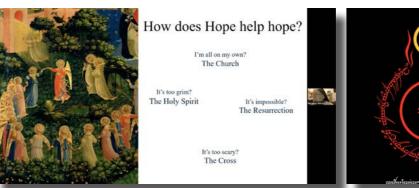




Boarbank Hall Retreats

Having completed six online retreats during the pandemic, we were delighted to run two more in January and February of this year. In partnership with Boarbank Hall, we ran two weekend programmes with contributions by Bishop David Oakley, Bishop Terry Drainey, Bishop Ralf Heskett and Bishop Patrick McKinney. These were a great opportunity to meet new people and reconnect with others who had previously participated in a retreat. These retreats, particularly listening to the challenges faced by individuals wanting to do more, have helped form many of our resources. You can catch up on what the Bishops had to say here: https://theecg.org/about/what-do-our-bishops-have-to-say-about-care-for-the-planet/

Sue Grubic, Faith & Justice Worker for Lancaster Diocese has written a lovely reflection on her experience at one of our Boarbank Hall Retreats from earlier this year. You can read all about it on page 4 of the MouthPiece here.





Sr Margaret Atkins focused on the theme of Hope, while John Paul spoke on 'Folly and Fellowship' what we can learn about tackling our ecological crisis from Tolkein.









National Justice and Peace Conference

We had the pleasure of being invited to speak at the annual National Justice and Peace Conference held in Derbyshire, UK. John Paul spoke to the whole delegation about signs of hope in our times, introducing The Journey to 2030 'Let us Dream' activity and inviting people to come with us in re-imagining a better future. We led the final input to the conference, talking of our need to be co-creators, rather than spectators in helping our Churhc communites to be hubs of the change we would like to see in the world. What does a Christ centered community look like? and how can Justice and Peace flow from it? Arming the participants with art-pens and paper we asked them as groups to sit and discuss parctically what this future looks like, as the first step towards getting there on our Journey to 2030.

You can catch up on his talk here:

https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/john-paul-de-quay-ecg-signs-of-hope-journeyto-2030/

And read the write up of the conference here: https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/









JUSTICE AND PEACE

Conference explores concept of hope across various cultures

MADOC CAIRNS

THE NATIONAL Justice and Peace Network's 2022 conference last weekend saw experts, activists and campaigning organisations hosting a series of conversations on the theme "Hope Is A Verb With Its Sleeves Rolled Up".

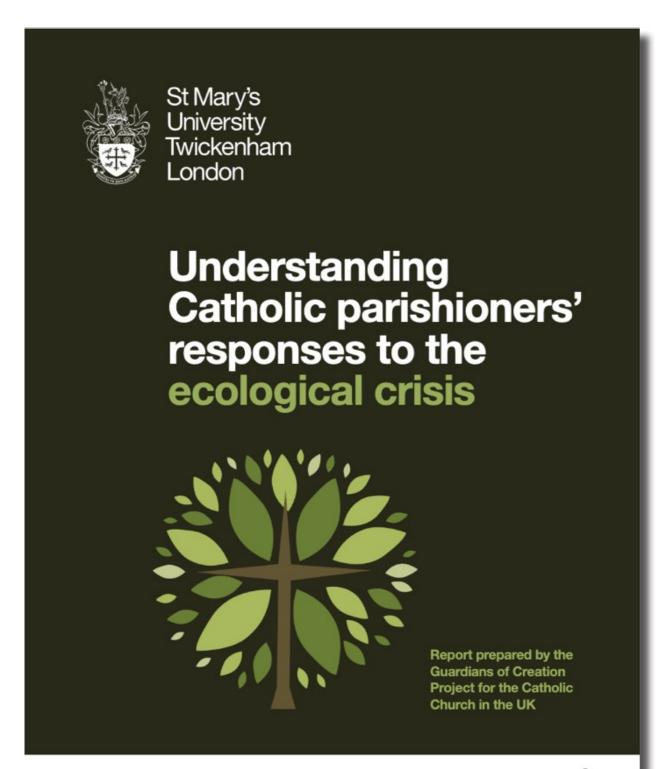
Around 150 delegates listened to speakers including former diplomats, peace campaigners, environmental activists and conflict-resolution experts over the three-day conference, held in Swanwick, Derbyshire.

The keynote speaker, Philip McDonagh, poet, diplomat and academic, gave a talk reflecting on the concept of hope in the encyclicals of Pope Benedict XVI.

Following on from the wartime insights of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, McDonagh proposed that Christians help formulate "axioms of the historical imagination" that could "provide a common criterion of evaluation across cultures". Such a proposal could create "community even among people and groups who never interact directly".

Other speakers included Patrick Devine, chair of the Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation, who spoke about his awardwinning peace-building work in East Africa. Other events at the conference included workshops on universal credit, prison reform, tax reform and a film about activists opposing the destruction of forests for coal mines in Germany and the UK.

John Paul de Quay of the Ecological Conversion group gave a talk on his organisation's drive to move Catholic parishes and other Christian groups towards ecological and social sustainability.









Guardians of Creation research project

Working in partnership with The Diocese of Salford, St Mary's University (Twickenham) and The Laudato Si' Researc Institute, (Campion Hall, Oxford), we were delighted to collaborate on The Guardians of Creation research project. Edward (ECG trustee) co-led the project, whilst John Paul consulted on the education and behavioural change workstreams.

We were very happy to be contributors to the Guardians of Creation's (Diocese of Salford) research paper Understanding Catholic Parishioners' Responses to the Ecological Crisis, which was launched alongside 3 other reports at the Salford Cathedral Centre in March 2023. As well as supporting Jakub Kowalewski, the writer of this paper, we took part in the roundtable discussions and, the paper took 2 of our deanery days as case studies to look at the different barriers that people face in "living life to the full" through ecological conversion in their communities.

Read all about the launch here:

https://laudatosicentre.org.uk/general/guardians-of-creation-launches-decarbonisation-guidance/

The Guardians of Creation resources can be found here: https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/research/areas/theology-and-ethics/guardians-of-creation-project/about.aspx

Right: Jakub Kowalewski presenting the study.

Below: The Guardians of Creation team with Bishop John Arnold.



Lancaster Diocese Justice and **Peace commission**

The team at Lancaster Diocese are positively running with the 2030 resources.

Read about their work in schools here:

Middlesbrough Diocese environment group

Barbara Hungin, Justice and Peace lead for Middlesbrough diocese has been talking at a range of events around Middlesbrough and has distributed many of our activity packs. As well as running 'Let us dream' workshops in her diocese. We were very pleased to run a workshop for the diocesan environment group and help form a network.

Nottingham Diocese

Nottingham Diocese have created their own programme for ecological action called 'Pioneer Parishes'. We were very pleased to help create their own webpage linked to the Journey to 2030 website. We also partnered with them to help create the 'Ethical Consumption' and 'Awards' pages on the 2030 website. https://journeyto2030.org/pioneer- parishes/













Southern Dioceses Environment Network (SDEN)

As a part of the planning team for the SDEN, we have continued to work together to plan monthly Zoom meetings which cover updates from each diocese, guest speakers, reflections, and sharing of new environmental action resources. Attendees have found these meetings very helpful in both building community and giving ideas for action.

We also exhibited the Journey to 2030 materials at the SDEN mass of Creation at Farm Street Church, Mayfair.

The group is open to anyone who would like to attend. You can find more information, including how to join, on the Westminster Justice and Peace website

World Day of the Poor – Plymouth Diocese

It was great to meet so many of you at the Plymouth Diocese's World Day of the Poor event. John Paul led a presentation exploring the concept of integral ecology as well as sharing some of our resources. You can read more about the event here.





Photos courtesy of Tanya Trevena

Leeds Diocese

Consulted in formulating a DRAFT diocesan Strategy for Communicating Laudato Si' and encouraging engagement with the environment.

East Anglia Diocese

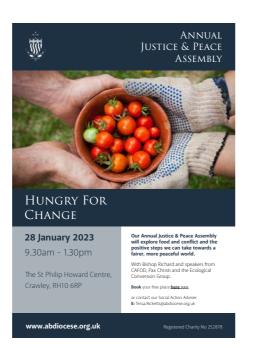
Paul Maddison and ourselves have worked on parish audits, which have helped us develop our own poster packs and reflections on the Laudato Si' goals. Many thanks to Fr Paul.

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Justice and Peace Conference

We were key members on the organising group for planning and delivery of the conference, ensuring that the theme of integral ecology was used as a narrative. John Paul delivered a talk on getting closer to producing food as a means of understanding our place in God's creation.

Laudato Si' Research Institute

We took part in the Integral Ecology and Sustainable Agriculture Conference, run by the Laudato Si' Research Institute, Campion Hall, Oxford, which looked at the Church's role in bringing us closer to God, people and land.



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

The European Laudato Si' Alliance (ELSIA)

The poster packs being used on a Taizé retreat Our 'building a caring community' activity packs have been demonstrated at the European Laudato Si' Alliance retreat in Taizé by our friend of the ECG and ELSIA member Prof. Mark Charlesworth.



Laudato Si' Action Platform

The ECG have continued working as members of the parishes and diocese working group for the Laudato Si' action platform, run by the Vatican's Dicastery for integral human development. We help bring our experiences of working in parishes and dioceses to the project, as well as discussing our experiences globally and exchanging resources and expertise with the other members. The ECG was involved in helping run a 1st year evaluation of the program as well as having input on the formulation of the Laudato Si' Goal: 'Ecological Spirituality'.



Caritas Internationalis

We have attended the 'Together we' conference on integral ecology projects. Caritas Internationalis have been incredibly helpful in feedback on our 'building a caring community' activity packs, which we hope will be useful for bringing an integral ecology lens to social action projects in a range of settings.



TESTIMONIALS

"Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si' both inspired and galvanised a group of us within the Middlesbrough Diocese Justice and Peace Commission. Having produced an Environmental Policy for the Diocese we were then considering the most effective way of helping parishes and communities to engage with the Laudato Si goals. The NJPN conference in July 2021 was our first encounter with the Journey to 2030 material created by the Ecological Conversion Group. It was immediately evident that here was a brilliant resource, artistically created which not only captured the imagination but also used the concept of integral ecology through the Laudato Si goals as a focus for parish and school mission.

Each goal has a written reflection to focus and encourage the group. The idea of a Journey is a good one and the material accepts that each group will be in a different position on that journey and that many are already engaged in activities which promote the care of our common home. The material has a wealth of practical suggestions for both individual and group action.

Within the Middlesbrough Diocese we have both used the material and distributed packs at various Diocesan meetings. John Paul facilitated our Diocesan Justice and Peace meeting in February this year – from which we established a networking group to take the material into their own parishes. We were also able to promote the sixth form syllabus within the Diocesan Education Service. Most recently I have given a presentation to a group of nuns at their annual meeting who took packs home and were enthusiastic about the possibilities of use in various settings.

We have appreciated working in partnership with the Ecological Conversion Group through John Paul, whose advice, creativity and encouragement has been fundamental to our own Diocesan journey."

Barbara Hungin, Justice and Peace worker for Middlesborough Diocese, sharing her thoughts on our resources. "The Ecological Conversion Group material on the Journey to 2030 material has also published 'Building a Caring Community' pack for parishes and schools to help with this process so please access the link below if you are interested in purchasing this resource. The website is also a fabulous resource and provides information on the Laudato Si goals/ CST links so please do use it to assist in curriculum objectives."

Sue Grubic, Faith and Justice Worker of the Diocese of Lancaster, to schools of the diocese.

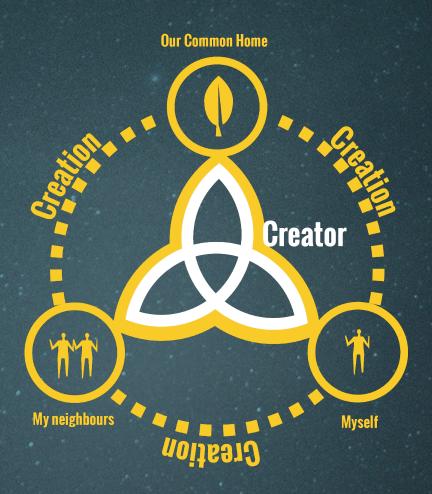
"It was a pleasure to meet you and hear your brilliant presentation. I can't thank you enough for your work spreading the Laudato si' mission. Your approach regarding the role of the dioceses seems nothing short of revolutionary... (a XXI Century continuation, I suppose, of the teachings of Vatican II...)."

A workshop participant.

"It was inspirational working with you, thank for all your encouragement and support."

Fr Paul Maddison

Thank you to all of our friends, trustees, colleagues, partners and supporters for making this great work happen.



"The divine Persons are subsistent relations, and the world, created according to the divine model, is a web of relationships. Creatures tend towards God, and in turn it is proper to every living being to tend towards other things, so that throughout the universe we can find any number of constant and secretly interwoven relationships. This leads us not only to marvel at the manifold connections existing among creatures, but also to discover a key to our own fulfilment. The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures. In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. Everything is interconnected, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity."

Pope Francis, referencing St Thomas Aquinas, Laudato Si' 240