

# ST FRANCIS DE SALES JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

Trying to fulfill the Church's mission to uphold the dignity of every human being, particularly the poor and oppressed

The J&P Group at St Francis de Sales exists as a 'mission of social concern' within our parish. Our focus is on fundraising for charitable causes, awareness-raising about issues of social justice around the world, campaigning where appropriate, and creating opportunities for people to come together to pray and reflect.

2021, like 2020, has been a difficult year for us all. I am pleased to report that due to some regular monthly donations, the proceeds of the 100 Club, and fundraising events being able to restart for Christmas 2021, our fundraising reached a total of some £3300 for 2020-21 (Sept 2020-December 2021 – this includes 100 Club receipts for two years). The recent Christmas Fayre with lunch was very successful indeed.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!** However, we have not been able to carry out many of our usual activities. We very much hope to be able to get back to normal in 2022! But as a very small team we would be delighted to welcome new members to our group. For example, we really need someone to manage and develop the J&P Group area on the parish website, as well as people to support fundraising and awareness-raising activities, both in the real world and online. Could this be you? Get in touch with us on [stfrancisjpgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisjpgroup@gmail.com). If you feel moved to set up a regular monthly donation, please get in touch with Yvonne in the parish office, making clear it is for the J&P Fund. Please email us for more information and with your ideas, and thank you again for your generosity and support.

Lucy Tyler, J&P Co-ordinator

**STOP PRESS!**  
J&P Planning meeting for 2022  
**2 February, 8pm, Parish hall.**  
ALL WELCOME

## 1. Campaigning and awareness-raising

### **In the last two years we have...**

- promoted the Cafod Fast Day appeals in October and March
- publicised the plight of the local hospice after a collapse in donations due to Covid-19 (May 2020)
- highlighted the effect of climate change on communities around the world (October 2021)
- supported the Afghanistan appeal of an international women's charity (October 2021)

*If there is an issue of social justice you feel passionately about please do join our group!*

## 2. Fundraising

**£3298 was raised in 2020-21 (16 months – Sept 2020-Dec 2021):**

	£
a. Regular monthly giving	960.00
b. 100 Club proceeds (2 years)	1284.00
c. Christmas Fayre (21 November 2021)	715.00
d. Donations	339.00

*We would love to have someone to set up and keep updated a J&P page on the parish website with news and photos of our events! Suggestions for fundraising events also very welcome.*

## 3. Distribution of funds (2020 and 2021)

**We made the following donations (including from previous years' fundraising):**

a. Fair Close Centre, Newbury	Providing services for older people in West Berkshire	1100.00
b. Intercare Medical Aid for Africa	Supporting clinics in Africa	1350.00
c. La Asunción Orphanage, Mexico City	Caring for children through a home and school in Mexico City	1500.00
d. Aid to the Church in Need	Supporting persecuted Christians worldwide	575.00
e. Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice	Hospice in Reading (Emergency appeal)	580.00
f. West Berkshire Food Bank	Supporting people in need in West Berkshire	40.00
g. Women for Women International	Helping women in conflict zones (Afghan appeal)	500.00

*See overleaf for some recent letters of thanks. To find out more about the charities, scan/click on the QR codes:*



[Fair Close Centre](#)



[Intercare](#)



[Aid to the Church in Need](#)



[La Asunción Orphanage](#)



[Women for Women Intl](#)

## 4. Spiritual events

### **Climate Change Mass – 3 October 2021**

In the run up to Cop26 we organised a Climate Change mass which allowed us to learn and pray about the important issues being discussed by world leaders in Glasgow. Thank you to Fr Zbigniew for his reflections, Mark Craig for the music and all those involved in putting this together.

# THANK YOU!

We invite you to pray the following prayer which comes from Colombia:

Lord Jesus, give us the grace to hear your voice,  
And the strength to continue working for your kingdom in this time of pandemic.  
Do not allow us to be indifferent to those who today suffer the loss of a loved one, or who suffer from the absence of work.  
But give us the courage to accompany and side with those who suffer violence or injustice. Amen.

Javier Eduardo Martínez Rueda. Javier is team director at Programa de Desarrollo y Paz, working on peacebuilding as part of Cafod's 'Hands on Magdalena Medio' project.



Good morning,

I write to acknowledge and thank you for your generous donation to Fair Close Centre.

We appreciate all donations made to us being a non-profit organisation and thank you again for choosing us to receive the donation.

With kindest regards,

Louise Davies  
Centre Manager  
fairclosecentre.org

Dear St Francis JP Group,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of £500 to Women for Women International. Your donation will be used for activities which specifically support our Afghanistan response. That means money could be spent on activities such as adapting our programme to the current situation, supporting participants and staff in the country or refugees forced to leave, as well as our advocacy work specifically related to the situation in Afghanistan, additional security support for staff and our operations, among possible other solutions we develop in the coming days.

**"After joining the programme, I learned that I wasn't alone in my suffering. There are other women, who have the same pain and the same hardships. To realise that was amazing."** Zarghuna, Stronger Women, Stronger Nations programme participant, Afghanistan

Women like Zarghuna have the power to change the world. Yet they are routinely ignored, silenced, and suppressed. Together, we can end this injustice.

Behind every conflict you see on the news, women are facing a hidden crisis of violence, powerlessness and isolation. Women in countries affected by conflict are not only dealing with the traumatic loss of homes and loved ones, but also spiralling rates of sexual violence, domestic abuse and trafficking. Conflict pushes them deeper into poverty. Girls are forced to drop out of school and get married. As conflicts intensify, so does the number of women confined to their homes, deprived of the ability to have a say in the decisions that affect their lives.

But behind the headlines you will also find courageous, resourceful, and powerful women. Women who are managing not only to survive, but to bring strength, hope and joy to those around them. Thanks to you, we are investing in their power and building an unstoppable force for change.

This transformation starts with women like Zarghuna discovering that they are not alone. Thank you so much for being a part of it.

In deepest gratitude,

Sara Bowcutt  
Managing Director – Women for Women International – UK



Dear Lucy

I wanted to thank you and the parishioners at St Francis de Sales parish for your recent donation of £675. What a fantastic amount of fundraising! We are really grateful. It will contribute towards our current appeal: **Support children through the rainy season in sub-Saharan Africa.** Roads and dirt tracks will be washed away. The water will be full of disease. **Children will fall seriously ill from Malaria and other disease and infections. This is stopping them from reaching their potential and living a full life.** Your support will provide them with free healthcare and save many children's lives!

We really appreciate your support.  
Kind regards,

**Claudia Coxon**

**Community and Events Fundraiser –**  
[fundraising@intercare.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@intercare.org.uk)



The southern Malawi floods had a massive effect on Inter Care Partners in 2019

Helping women survivors of war and conflict rebuild their lives.

Women for Women International - UK  
49-51 East Road  
London, N1 6AH  
[www.womenforwomen.org.uk](http://www.womenforwomen.org.uk)

AFGHANISTAN · RWANDA · BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA · SOUTH SUDAN · NIGERIA · IRAQ · DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

J&P Group members and friends preparing for the Christmas Fayre, Nov 2021

