

Justice and Peace Group Annual Report 2019

Churches together
in
East Grinstead



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Our main activities for 2019 included organisation of, or involvement in:

- The Spring Charity meals. These raised £3217.50 which was shared equally between Crawley Open House, the EG Foodbank, Crawley Prison Fellowship, Age UK EG & District, and the EG Mental Health Association - £643.50 each. Thanks to Nick Castiglione for all his hard work and for all restaurants and participants for supporting us.
- The 2019 Sleep Out - our 29th - held on 29 June raised £4150 (including the street collection) and was divided between Crawley Open House, The Easter Team and Worthing Churches Homeless Project (now Turning Tides), a total of £1383.33. Thanks to all those who sponsored us, Town Mayor Danny Favor attending and Ian Wilkins from Crawley Open House.
- The Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Management courses.
- The Group continues to support Syrian families accepted under the UNHCR scheme and runs a weekly Talk Club at OLSP/Moat Church as well as liaising with Crawley Refugee Welcome Group (information from Cathy Merry. Tel: 01342 810771).
- Petitions on Climate Change were available to sign at all Churches and a Global Healing event was organised at St Bernard's Church, Lingfield.
- Two of our members are part of the Prison Fellowship Team which runs Sycamore courses for prisoners at Lewes Prison - these are based on restorative justice and are highly valued by the Prison Service. We also offer prayer support and are involved with the Angel Tree Project which

provides presents for prisoners to send to their children at Christmas - 90 in 2019, on behalf of prisoners at HMP Lewes.

- Three of our members are involved in Fairtrade EG seeking to raise awareness about farmers and producers in the developing world and the importance of buying Fairtrade goods to help them have a fairer and more secure future. A full programme of events was held during Fairtrade Fortnight. www.fairtrade-eg.co.uk Fairtrade EG is also part of Fairtrade West Sussex which achieved Fairtrade County status with the Fairtrade Foundation in October. www.fairtradewestsussex.org.uk
- Mustard Seed: 248 shoeboxes were sent off to Moldova in late November from East Grinstead schools and churches in EG and Lingfield as part of Mustard Seed's *Love in a Box* scheme.
- J&P members take packet food, tins, clothes and sleeping bags to COH and food to EG Foodbank as well as clothes, trainers and bags to Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group. Members also write letters for Prisoners of Conscience, help at the EG Foodbank, and also attend the annual J&P Assembly organized by the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. The 2019 event was focused on Modern Slavery.
- The Group made various small donations to charities including Pax Christi, Church Action on Poverty, Housing Justice and Prison Fellowship Crawley for Angel Tree.

EG Justice and Peace Group meet on the second Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm at Moat Church. Please join us as we are an ecumenical Group working together for over 25 years in EG.

Mike West and Sue Joy, Co-Chairs, EG Justice and Peace Group.
Further information from Mike on EG 325359 or Sue 01342 835190.