

## **JustShare Report 2016** **for the APCM on 2 April 2017**

JustShare enjoyed a very productive 2016, with events on topics as varied as LGBT rights, climate change and the Trade Union Bill. Our high-quality speakers came from a range of backgrounds and expertise and led discussions that were fruitful and engaging. Audience participation was high with excellent Q&A sessions and wine receptions at all of our events.

The 2016 programme started off with an event co-hosted with Capital Mass which helped to raise awareness of the plight of refugees, a very timely discussion which attracted a large audience. The Bishop of Manchester, the Revd Dr David Walker, and Emily Bowerman, Programmes Manager at the Refugee Support Network, asked what we as a nation had learned from the refugee crisis and what actions we could take going forward. The discussion was skilfully led by the Chair, Andy Burns, Chief Executive of Capital Mass.

In February, we co-hosted a panel discussion on LGBT rights and Christianity with Christian Aid. The Executive of Stonewall, Ruth Hunt, and the Revd Sally Hitchiner, led by Dr Shanon Shah as the Chair, discussed how exactly Christians could foster equality and a more positive attitude towards the LGBT community. With a large audience, this event was a great opportunity to talk about this serious and sensitive issue that continues to divide the Church of England.

Climate change and global warming was also on our agenda in 2016. In March we co-hosted a debate with the St Paul's Institute between Jonathan Shopley, Managing Director at Natural Capital Partners, and Baroness Worthington, Executive Director for the Environmental Defense Fund Europe, on whether or not it should be the private sector that leads on climate change action. The debate was chaired by Helen Wildsmith, the Stewardship Director (Climate Change) of CCLA, and the Diocese's Head of Environment and Sustainability, Brian Cuthbertson, finished off the evening with some closing remarks to further the discussion, which was readily continued over wine during our after-debate reception.

April saw JustShare throw their hat into the political arena, with a panel discussion on the Trade Union Bill at St James's Church, Piccadilly. The Revd Lucy Winkett chaired a fantastic panel, including Megan Dobney of the TUC, Sara Ogilvie, Policy Officer for Liberty, and Prof Len Shackleton, IEA's Editorial and Research Fellow and Professor of Economics at the University of Buckingham. With a friendly and well-informed audience, this panel proved to be a great way to engage with government policy and understand its wide-ranging reach in society as a whole.

Staying current with the news, in May we hosted a discussion on Syria at All Hallows by the Tower, with author and scholar John McHugo giving a historical perspective on the region and the Revd Andrew Ashdown used his own experiences in the country to contextualise the conflict, with both parties considering what the future might look like. The Revd Bertrand Olivier chaired the event, hosting an excellent Q&A with the audience.

2016 was another engaging year for the City of London Fairtrade Group, with our annual ethical wine tasting event at the Old Bailey being, as always, a particular highlight. Our host, Sarah Jane Evans, Master of Wine, expertly took the room through not only ethically-made wine and chocolate, but also (for the first time) added cheese to the tasting menu. The event was warmly welcomed and hosted by the Sheriff Charles Bowman, and after a wonderful evening drinking delicious wine and eating fantastic cheese and chocolate we also managed to raise over £400 for the Bow Food Bank. We look forward to continuing this fantastic tradition in the summer of 2017.

St James's Church, Piccadilly, hosted us again in October for a wonderful panel discussion on women as agents of change. Chaired by the Revd Lucy Winkett again, our panel covered everything from women in the church to rape victims in the DRC. On the panel were Christina Rees, CBE, writer, broadcaster and activist within the Church of England, Katie Allen from Women for Women International, and Anneke van Woudenberg, Executive Director of RAID (formally of Human Rights Watch).

This event was fantastically well-attended, and led to interesting discussions about the place of women in the world, a compelling topic at the time, when Hillary Clinton was poised to possibly become the first women President of the United States.

Our Christian Social and Political Thought Lecture series continued in 2016, with two fantastic but very different lectures in the year. In June, the Revd Dr James Walters from the LSE Faith Centre asked how Christians are meant to respond to money, and led the audience through a discussion on the quest for an economy of generosity. In November we welcomed back Dr Wilf Wilde, a founding member of the JustShare Steering Committee, to give a lecture on climate change and imperial energy wars. Dr Wilde tried out a new format for the lectures, hosting an intimate seminar for interested parties after the wine reception. This proved to be a great success, with ten or so people participating in a further conversation which included a chance to talk about their own ideas and what they thought of the lecture. This a format we will continue to use in CSPT lectures going forward in 2017 and beyond.

The political upheaval of 2016 has, in part, inspired the Steering Committee to set an annual theme for 2017: 'What makes an ethical international business?' In the face of Brexit and a Trump-dominated global market, it is more important than ever to keep ethics at the heart of what the City of London does, and highlight what differences ethical international business practices can make across the globe. We have planned an exciting series of events around this theme for 2017.

We are most grateful for the support of our dedicated funders: City Deanery Burial Fund, London Churches Group, St Mary-le-Bow PCC, All Hallows by the Tower PCC, and the Tinsley Foundation. We send our sincere thanks for their continued support through monthly donations to the 'Friends of JustShare' and for the generous donations from the public received at our events.

We also wish to thank the JustShare Steering Group members for their invaluable guidance and support, and to our partner organisations for their kind collaboration. Thank you to Robert Gordon for filming and editing our events, and to the Rev'd Bertrand Olivier at All Hallows by the Tower for hosting JustShare Steering Group meetings. Finally, we are especially grateful to the St Mary-le-Bow PCC and staff for their generous support and free use of office space and equipment.

JustShare's social media reach remained strong in 2016, with both Facebook and Twitter followers growing, and more people watching videos of events. We have branded our website to display the theme more prominently, and look forward to growing our online presence even further in 2017.

**Emily Brown, Just Share Co-ordinator  
March 2017**

