

January – A Time to Re-new our Commitment to God’s justice

- Be the change you wish to see in the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

January: A NEW YEAR PRAYER

New Year – new beginnings. Old Testament, the prophets spoke about a Jubilee year, a time when debts were forgiven, slaves set free, and right relationships restored. A Jubilee year is as much needed today as in biblical times.

Think of those who live in the shadow of hunger, poverty, unemployment, debt, sickness, repression, injustice. Think of the unemployed, those forced to migrate leaving family and friends behind. As Christians, people of the New Testament we abhor all that threatens life. We want a world where the human dignity of all is respected and where work, education, health, housing, are rights enjoyed by all.

Grant us, Lord God a world where the weak are protected, and no one goes hungry;

a world where the riches of creation are shared;

a world where different cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;

a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

May we be a Jubilee Congregation, a people of Christ who work for justice and peace, and who make right relationships. Be with us as we stand with our neighbours around the world calling for a new world, where all of your children are valued. With you Lord, we will make all things new.

Amen

Justice Dates for January

- 2012 is the International Year of Cooperatives, launched on January 12th. Cooperatives are based on values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity - *“it’s essentially about meeting human need, not human greed.”* <http://www.2012.coop/> - for more information on why cooperatives are so important for equality, trade and financial justice.
- January 15th is World Religion Day, emphasising interfaith understanding, spiritual harmony, human unity and true equality.