

Parishioners and pupils send their message to world leaders attending COP26

Kate and Hannah Jones, members of the Pontefract CAFOD group, were introduced to the Eyes of the World campaign during a Craft and Chat Zoom session with Community Participation Coordinator Bronagh Daly. The aim of the session was to produce a piece of art reflecting the idea that the eyes of the world would be on the UK as it was hosting the COP26 climate conference.



Kate and Hannah created an eye using embroidery on felt and a crocheted globe.

Bronagh asked the group how they might use their creations to raise awareness of the campaign. The Pontefract CAFOD group decided to arrange a display of eyes in their church.

Kate enlisted the help of children at St Joseph's Primary School, Pontefract. Pupils from Years 3 and 5 watched the Eyes of the World animation and learned about the dangers of global warming, especially for those in the poorest communities. The children decorated Eyes of the World templates and wrote messages calling on world leaders to take action to protect our common home.

The children's messages included: 'We do not want coal, oil and gas', 'We're not taking care of the world' and 'It's damaging the world'. The pupils also implored world leaders to 'Be kind to Earth', 'Make the world happier' and 'Save the world' and drew pictures of solar panels and wind turbines.

Interim Head of School Mr Sandbach said, 'I am really proud of the artwork the children produced, their drawings and messages show a clear understanding of the dangers of climate change to our planet.'



The CAFOD group used the artworks to create an eye-catching(!) display at the back of St Joseph's church. Prayer cards were distributed at masses at St Joseph's and at its sister church, St Michael's, Knottingley, which also displayed posters highlighting the importance of COP26.





As a thank you to the parishioners for all the support they have given CAFOD in recent times, Hannah baked Eyes of the World buns which were enjoyed at tea and coffee after the 11am Mass in Pontefract Parish Hall.

