

teaching, social work and management, Kathryn became a volunteer with Citizens Advice for 7 years and joined a 're-formed' Merseyside Pax Christi group.

The group has developed a local identity as a 'faith -based group', which works closely with other peace groups in the Liverpool area.

Kathryn has served on the Executive since 2022, initially as a member and as Chair from 2024 until 2026. She has been helping to maintain the core work of Pax Christi for the past 6 months, in the absence of a CEO.

Colin Kerr:

I offer to stand for election to the post of treasurer to Pax Christi.

I have been a member of Pax Christi for about fifteen years, becoming actively involved in recent years, especially since attending the AGM in 2025 and the excellent annual conference held at Swanwick where I met many members. Over the last year I, with another member, have established an ecumenical Pax Christi Peace and Justice Group in Wood Green, centred on St Paul's Roman Catholic church, and St Michael's Church of England church, my parish church, where I am a weekly communicant.

Born and raised in Belfast, I studied architecture in Manchester and spent most of my working life in London - perhaps gravity pulled me south! My work, 30 years of which were as a founding partner with Molyneux Kerr Architects, included many churches, a special interest.

Recently, I attended the excellent nonviolence day held at Farm Street Jesuit Centre, which was coordinated by Pax Christi, and currently I am following the Catholic Nonviolence training course, which is on-line on 10 successive Saturdays.

Jesus' teaching points us to peace and nonviolence. Pope Francis brought and now Pope Leo brings this teaching clearly before the church and into the wider public sphere. Our job in Pax Christi is to follow this central Gospel truth and help take it wherever we can, within and without the church.

I am also a member of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and the Peace Pledge Union.

And I have an allotment. Thank you for reading this statement.

Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY
www.paxchristi.org.uk



Annual General Meeting London, 6 June 2026

10.30 **Arrivals and Registration**

11.00 **Welcome**

Kathryn Lydon, Chair of Pax Christi Executive Committee

Opening Prayer & Introduction - *Fr Joe Ryan*

11.20 **'Mixed Grill'** – Video and in person:

Secretary General PCI - *Martha Innes Romero*

Reflection on Pope Leo's Peace Message 'Towards an Unarmed and Disarming Peace' - *Fr Gerry McFlynn*

'Peace Pairs'

Youth Peace Forum – launched in Florence November 2025

Catholic Nonviolence Initiative - *Pat Gaffney*

1.00 **Lunch** - Video display of messages

1.45 National President - *Bishop John Arnold*

2.00 **Annual General Meeting**

Introduction - *Chair, Kathryn Lydon*

Apologies 2026 and Minutes / Matters Arising AGM 2025

Elections to Executive Committee, Resolutions

Reports available beforehand. Questions on the day to Chair -
Kathryn Lydon

Finance & Membership - *Fausta Valentine*

Education - *Aisling Griffin*

3.15 Discussion around washing line inputs - *Fr Joe Ryan*

3.45 **Liturgy** - *Sr Katrina Alton*

ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ex-officio Members are the President, [Bishop Arnold](#), National Chaplain, [Sr Katrina Alton](#), Secretary ([vacant](#)) and another staff member.

Continuing Executive Committee Member: [Fr Joe Ryan](#)

Standing down:

Kathryn Lydon from Chair, Maria Lee, Susan Sanderson, Sr Lucia McGuckin

Executive Committee standing for re-election:

1. Arn Dekker: Nominated by Sheila Brookes, Sheila Thomas
2. Lucy Irven: Nominated by Carol Burns, Susan Sanderson
3. Kathryn Lydon: Nominated by Jan Harper, Maureen Wilcock

We have one new Executive member nomination for 2026:

Colin Kerr: standing for election to Executive Committee as Treasurer.
Nominated by Kathryn Lydon, Barbara Kentish

Co-opted members:

Professor Anna Blackman

Nominee Statements:

[Arn Dekker:](#)

I originally became aware of Pax Christi in my native country of The Netherlands.

Although not a member of Pax Christi then, I took part in a 3-day route as a member of YCW because the topic to be discussed while walking through the Dutch countryside was Youth Education.

Through the YCW I became aware of the planned study fortnight in Frankfurt, Germany, and I went along as I believed that my knowledge of both German and English might be of some assistance.

While there, I met my wife, Lynette, and I found myself living in first London and later Cambridge a few years later.

Friends from the Justice and Peace group in Cambridge made it clear that Pax

Christi was looking to increase its membership and so both Lyn and I signed up.

Many years later we both were asked to serve on the Pax Christi council and I am currently in my second season for the second time.

I have organised a display at a previous AGM of a selection of my peace medal collection; I have written a Peace Trail for Cambridge; and I was fortunate in going to Linz (Austria) for the Beatification of Franz Jägerstätter, a cause very much supported over the years by Pax Christi.

[Lucy Irven:](#)

Lucy has been a Pax Christi member for many years and a member of the Executive Committee for the past 2 years.

Lucy lives in Skipton, North Yorkshire. She works locally as Parish Administrator for St Stephen's Parish and has been involved with the Parish Justice & Peace group, Skipton Churches Together, Fairtrade Skipton and Grassington & District Peace group. She has worked for the Diocese of Leeds in Refugee Support and for St Monica's Housing, helping destitute asylum seeker women.

In 2023 Lucy became an Oblate of the Benedictine Monastery of St Laurence at Ampleforth Abbey, following the Rule of St Benedict, joining the Divine Office and practising Lectio Divina in daily life.

[Kathryn Lydon:](#)

Kathryn's interest in peace was kindled at the London University Chaplaincy where Bruce Kent was Chaplain. In 1972, while working in Burundi as a teacher with VSO, Kathryn experienced violent conflict first hand, living through the genocide, rooted in tribal tensions better known from the violence in Rwanda in 1994.

Kathryn joined Pax Christi Liverpool group in 1980 when it was formed in response to the threat of Cruise Missiles. In 1996, she became a member of Christian Life Community (a lay community inspired by Ignatian spirituality), serving as the North West Regional Rep and as a member of the National Team from 2011 – 2016.

Kathryn has been a Cafod volunteer for 40 years and served for three years as Chair of the Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission (2004 -7).

Retiring from paid employment in 2014, having held a variety of posts in