

The monthly e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to anneoc980@hotmail.com
Download earlier bulletins at: <http://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/e-bulletins/>

PRAYER, FASTING AND ACTION FOR PEACE

Pax Christi invite people of faith around the country to join in solidarity with others to fast and pray for one or more 24-hour period between September 8 and October 7. Pax Christi hope that this simple gesture will be a small act of solidarity with those whose lives are destroyed by war – in Palestine, Israel, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Libya and Ukraine, and that it will offer prayerful encouragement to the many peace talks and negotiations which are taking place, as well as supporting a range of peace activities. Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi, commented: "People of faith need to draw on all the resources available to them in the face of so much violence in our world. 'We felt drawn by the message in the Gospel: 'Why couldn't we drive the spirit out?' Jesus replied: 'This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.' Mark 9:28. 'We know that people are involved in all kinds of campaigning and advocacy work and that this needs prayerful support.'"

Those wishing to join in with this project are invited to choose one or more days to fast and use the Prayer for Peace in the Middle East (see below). If they wish, they can tell Pax Christi which day and where they are from, and this will be added to a Prayer and Fasting calendar. Go to: info@paxchristi.org.uk 0208 203 3884

PAX CHRISTI PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

We come to you, God Creator.

You are the source of life and beauty and power.

Your son Jesus is the way of faith and hope and love.

Your Spirit is the fire of love, the fount of wisdom, the bond of unity.

You call us at all times to be people of the beatitudes, witnesses to the Gospel of peace and love and forgiveness.

You call us at this time, when war and rumours of war, weigh heavily on the peoples of the Middle East.

Their lives are already broken by suffering and violence. We renew our acceptance of your call.

We promise to work: to bring the light of the Gospel to those living in darkness,

to bring the hope of the Gospel to those living in despair,

to bring the healing of the Gospel to the lonely, the disadvantaged, the marginalized,

and to bring the peace of the Gospel to a divided world.

PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN IRAQ

God of mercy and compassion, we place before you our troubled world, riven with unrest and violence.

We remember especially at this time the religious minorities in Iraq,

driven from their homes and separated from their families by conflict and hostility of extremist groups.

We pray particularly for the Christian minorities long resident in the country

who now find themselves without a home or place of safety, and for those who stay alongside to support them.

We ask too for your spirit of wisdom and peace that people may live together in harmony,

respecting each other's difference and striving for a world where all are safe and secure.

We ask this in your name, Amen.

Caritas Iraq, the local arm of Caritas Internationalis is working with local Caritas organisations to help people in need. More than 1 million people have fled their homes in northern and central Iraq as religious Sunni Muslim extremists calling themselves Islamic State have seized Ninewa, Salah Al-Din and Diyala provinces. Many of those who have fled are Christians, Yazidis and Shia Muslims. They have been singled out for attacks. Their belongings are taken at Islamic State checkpoints. Women and girls have been kidnapped. Those fleeing have arrived in Erbil, Dohuk and surrounding areas with nothing.

"The biggest challenge is shelter. Many families are living out in the open. They lack the basics. Temperatures are more than 45°C," said Nabil Nissan, the Executive Director of Caritas Iraq. Caritas Iraq has provided food, water, bedding and essential living supplies. You can make a donation to the work of Caritas in Iraq here (<https://www.ammado.com/community/149494>) A personal perspective on the situation from the Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena based in Iraq, is available here (<http://annebentehadland.wordpress.com/2014/08/>)

SYRIA RELIEF

Anne O'Connor writes: A reader responded to the September issue of this e-bulletin asking why there was no coverage of the situation in Syria. I know many of you would like to do something to help and so I invite you to consider the following appeal which I am happy to endorse. Whenever I'm in London I attend Mass at Holy Apostles, Pimlico. Last Sunday a parishioner, Anna, spoke about the humanitarian aid she provides for children in Syrian refugee camps. Anna works for an investment bank in London and has two young daughters aged 4 and 6. She says: "I have been travelling to Syria for the past 18 months delivering aid to children at the refugee camp of Bab Al Salam. What I have seen in Syria is difficult to accept and the only way to cope with it is "using" my life, my job, my connections to do something. Coming back to my normal life here is harder every time. The numbers in the refugee camps have risen dramatically over the past year." Anna travels regularly to the camp, at her own expense, so all the money donated by parishioners and well-wishers is set aside to buy food for the children. Her next trip will be on October 17. Donate at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/thesonsofwar>

Anna has also organised a photo exhibition for 14 October in London in conjunction with the UK charity Syria Relief and Brazilian war photographer and film-maker Gabriel Chaim (www.gabrielchaim.com), who has spent weeks inside Syria documenting the situation. His powerful images have given a voice to a country torn apart by a meaningless war that has killed almost 150,000 civilians and made more than 2.5 million people flee their homes. He is exhibiting these photos to raise funds for the refugees who are in desperate need of help in the form of an itinerant exhibition called "The Sons of War": the opening was in Milan in June where €6000 were raised and the second showing will be in London on 14 October. All the donations raised through this project will be used to help the children displaced at Bab Al Salam Camp in Syria and the families living in the province of Aleppo. Tickets and info from http://www.syriarelieff.org.uk/future-events/?event_id1=13

KNIT-IN FOR SYRIA

Sunday 26th October 9.30am - 7pm St John's Centre, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 7GX.

Please drop in for a knit and a natter and stitch something woolly and warm for a needy Syrian family. All knitted items will be sent to Syria in time for their freezing winter and help a family stay a little warmer. Syrian winters are fiercely cold, dropping to around -15°. If you can't knit, don't worry! There will be experts giving lessons and helping out. If you can't make it on the day, then please knit something at home and drop it off at Seymour Park Community Primary School before 1 November. Wool will be provided but please bring any leftovers or spare wool you may have. Bring your own knitting needles and any spares, or indeed anything that will be helpful. If knitting isn't your thing please help by providing some food for our knitters - sandwiches, hot food, cakes etc. Hot drinks (no alcohol) and entertainment throughout the day - comedy, music and some pleasant surprises!

Please share, and spread the word. We really want this to be a successful, community-driven event. If you are in a knitting group, you can help by knitting woolly squares before the event to be knitted together for blankets. Please knit squares that are 8 x 8 inches or 12 x 12 inches. Ideally use a garter stitch, or "all knit" stitch; it's more simple and makes the knit a little thicker. Also, if possible please opt for double knit wool or any thicker type of wool, because it's warmer- and faster! We will be accepting financial donations and donations of clean, warm clothing on the day. This event is being organised on behalf of Syria Relief Charity, the UK's largest Syrian charity... based in Whalley Range! <http://www.syriarelieff.org.uk/future-events/> 0161 860 0163

CONCERN VOICED OVER US-LED STRATEGY IN IRAQ AND SYRIA

In light of recent expansion of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Dutch Pax Christi section – PAX – has issued a new Syria & Iraq Alert, highlighting the need for a comprehensive political strategy to counter ISIS. The sudden and unforeseen expansion of ISIS in Iraq and Syria over the summer has led to a dramatic shift on the ground in the Middle East, in Western public opinion, and subsequently in the involvement of the international community. Although ISIS had been a threat to civilians in northern Syria and Iraq over the past year, the potential genocide of the Iraqi Yezidi community, the capture of Mosul, and the images of journalists and an aid worker being beheaded by an English-speaking jihad fighter have caused an urgent sense that the crisis in Iraq and Syria cannot be solved without direct international interference. PAX believes that the present predominantly military response of the US-led coalition against ISIS lacks a clear political strategy. A tactical military response that is not part of a comprehensive political strategy will lead to an open-ended military campaign with unclear goals, and is doomed to fail. The costs of setting unclear and moving targets are that violence is compounded while victory remains elusive. <http://www.paxchristi.net/news/pax-issues-syria-iraq-alert/3718 #sthash.AivD3lJM.dpuf>

FURTHER READING

Development not bombs is needed to tackle Islamic State, says Rev Dr Giles Fraser, South London Anglican priest, commentator, BBC Moral Maze panelist and visiting professor at the London School of Economics (LSE) in his latest column for the Guardian newspaper. <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/20874>

* Read the whole article here: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2014/sep/26/loose-canon->

* Huge numbers of ISIS recruits galvanised by Western air strikes, Ekklesia: <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/20875>

* The Islamic State War: Iraq echo from Prof Paul Rogers <https://www.opendemocracy.net/paul-rogers/islamic-state-war-iraq%27s-echo>

CHURCH LEADERS CALL FOR CANCELLATION OF TRIDENT

In a letter to The Times 20 September seven Christian leaders stated that it is unacceptable that British citizens should be persuaded that their security depends on the credible threat to kill millions of innocent people. They went on to say that the Government should take a lead in current global initiatives to create a nuclear-weapons free world and that cancelling Trident would be a step in this direction. Those signing this letter are: Most Revd Malcolm McMahon, Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell, Anglican Bishop of Chelmsford, The Rev Sally Foster-Fulton Convener of the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council, Revd Kenneth Howcroft, President of the Methodist Conference, Most Revd Barry Morgan, Archbishop of Wales and Bishop of Llandaff, Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain, Revd John Proctor, General Secretary, The United Reformed Church.

At the same time the Rethink Trident project has been launched in The Guardian. This also has support from the Churches. Organisations such as Pax Christi, the Methodist Church, the URC Church and Quakers are taking part. From the Catholic Church, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, Bishop Terrance Brain, Bishop Peter Doyle, Bishop Thomas McMahon, Bishop Philip Egan and Bishop William Kenney have given their support to the statement - together with Anglican Bishops Alan Clayton Smith and Stephen Cottrell. Among other things, Rethink Trident states that "Instead of wasting over one hundred billion pounds on new nuclear weapons, there are many forms of socially useful spending to which the funds could be put: combating child poverty and youth unemployment; providing affordable homes; investing in education and the NHS, as well as putting serious resources into renewable energy, to name just a few. It is clear that it is Trident replacement which should be cut – not these vital areas." Read the full text and PETITION here: <http://act.rethinktrident.org.uk/petition/1>

Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi said that Christians should now to take firm action on the cancellation of Trident and make the issue of the abolition of nuclear weapons key to discussion on security in the run-up to the General Election.

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN: POVERTY NORTH AND SOUTH

Joint conference with Christian Aid plus Church Action on Poverty's 2014 AGM Saturday 8 November 2014

In recent years, it has become increasingly apparent that many of the causes of poverty are the same across the world. Both in 'developed' Northern countries like the UK and in 'developing' Southern countries like Angola, poor communities lack a voice in decisions that affect them, and are held back from escaping poverty by unfair tax, employment and business structures. Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty are both working on all of these issues. Through joint projects like this one, we share our expertise and make our voices heard more clearly. Together, we can tackle poverty in the UK and the global South. This summer, in a project organised jointly by Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty, a group of church leaders from Greater Manchester spent time visiting groups tackling poverty in Angola and in Greater Manchester.

- Hear from partners in Angola and Manchester about their work to tackle poverty.
- Explore the common ground in experiences of urban poverty, North and South.
- Look for practical ways for local churches to respond.
- Help us share the new understanding more widely.
- Meet other campaigners and share ideas.

The day will also include our AGM and elections for CAP's Council of Management and will take place at Central Buildings, Oldham St, Manchester M1 1JQ 10am-3.30pm. Book a place: 0161 236 9321 <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/conference>.

CSAN VOICES CONCERN OVER CHANCELLOR'S PLANNED WELFARE CUTS

In his speech to the Conservative Party Conference, Chancellor George Osborne announced new plans to remove housing benefit for 18-21 year-olds, freeze benefits for two years, and reduce the benefit cap to £23,000 per year.

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) warns that these cuts will have a detrimental impact on children and families in London with a real potential for driving more families into poverty. Commenting on the announcement, CSAN Chief Executive Helen O'Brien said: "Reducing the benefit cap to £23,000 is going to cause further financial hardship for many families, including and in particular, larger families. There is a real risk that lowering the cap is going to drive even more children into poverty especially in areas, such as London, where the cost of housing is crippling high.

Catholic charities and parishes over the past year have reported significant increases in the necessity for emergency food all across the country, and we fear this can now only increase. Although we understand the need to reduce Government expenditure, we call for this to be achieved without the likelihood of pushing more families into poverty."

CSAN's response to the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Hunger and Food Poverty can be read here: <http://www.csan.org.uk/resource/csan-response-appg-inquiry-hunger-food-poverty/>

UN CLIMATE SUMMIT: WHAT HAPPENED, AND WHERE NEXT

World leaders at the UN climate summit in New York have spoken of the climate change threat in stronger terms than ever before. President Obama acknowledged "we are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it" while China's Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli accepted the need to make his country's economy much more carbon efficient by 2020.

More than 120 leaders attended, responding to the pressure of 500,000 people who marched in capitals around the world in the run up to the summit, including 40,000 in London. Hundreds of CAFOD supporters wrote letters urging Prime Minister David Cameron to attend – and he did. Speaking at the summit the Prime Minister spotlighted the need to support the poorest communities who are worst-hit by climate change, saying it was a threat not just to the environment but also to poverty eradication and to economic prosperity. "We must provide support to those who need it, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable," he said. "It is completely unrealistic to expect developing countries to forgo the high-carbon route to growth that so many western countries enjoyed unless we support them to achieve green growth." And speaking at the Labour Party Conference Ed Miliband committed his party to improving the UK's performance on developing low-carbon, green technologies and services, and making it a goal for Britain to be a world leader in green technology by 2025. Acting to protect the environment "is the most important thing I can do in politics for the future of my kids and their generation", he said.

Pope Francis' Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin addressed the summit, saying climate change had become a moral imperative and "a question of justice, respect and equity, a question which must awaken our consciences". He added there were "no political frontiers, barriers or walls behind which we can hide to protect one member from another against the effects of global warming".

"World Leaders still lack the urgency that 500,000 people marching around the world are calling for, but there is no question that the summit was a big step forward," says CAFOD's Head of Advocacy and Communications, Neil Thorns. "The Prime Minister in New York and Ed Miliband in Manchester sent clear signals that the millions of people who are deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change are being heard. However, what we now need to see are concrete proposals from all parties about how they will develop low-carbon economies and support the development of the poorest sections of society. "After years of malaise and pessimism, it's all to play for again," says Neil Thorns. "If we continue to act together, we can push for action in the UK and globally in the run up to the Paris talks next year, where a fair and binding global agreement is the goal."

http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/UN-climate-summit-update?utm_campaign=CCR34748+e-alert+Climate+change+campaign+UN+Summit+update+SEPT2014&utm_content=292014September&utm_source=et_93893&utm_medium=email

As UK party leaders shape their election manifestos, join us in urging them to make climate change a priority for the sake of our neighbours worldwide.

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/Tackle-climate-change>

2014 MANCHESTER SCIENCE FESTIVAL 23 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER

WHY WE IGNORE CLIMATE CHANGE Monday 27 Oct 2014 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Venue: Blackwell's Bookshop The Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9RN. Admission Free. No need to book. Suitable for adults and teenagers.

Event category: Conversations <http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com/whatson/conversations>

Climate change is a dire problem – but our brains are evolutionarily wired to ignore it. George Marshall, author of *Don't Even Think About It*, explains why our evolutionary origins mean we're great at responding to immediate threats but not so great with something as large and long-term as a suffering planet. What excites, threatens and motivates us? And how do we overcome the psychological mechanism that stops us facing Earth's greatest challenge? As much a discourse about climate change as it is about the qualities – good and bad – that make us human.

<http://www.manchestersciencefestival.com/whatson/msf14whyweignoreclimatechange>

SAVE THE CHILDREN CAMPAIGN: READ ON, GET ON

Reading is the key to a child's future. It unlocks their potential. And for those from a poorer background, it's one of the best routes out of poverty. Yet 40% of our poorest children leave primary school without being able to read well. This is why, alongside schools, teachers and parents, we've launched *Read On. Get On.* – a national mission to ensure every child is a confident reader by age 11. Together we can make sure that every child leaves primary school with the reading skills to shape a brighter future. Being unable to read well at 11 has dismal consequences for children's futures: they are more likely to struggle at secondary school, get fewer qualifications and find it harder to get on in the workplace. As our new report shows there are strong links between poor literacy, low pay, unemployment in the UK. An inability to read well can mean a life sentence of poverty. Download the report at: <http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/resources/online-library/read-get>

www.savethechildren.org.uk/reading

NJPN OPEN NETWORKING DAY

Anne Peacey writes: Live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor' a phrase that can slip easily off the tongue but which, after honest reflection, must inevitably both disturb and challenge each one of us to look carefully at the manner in which we relate to the totality of God's creation.

On Saturday 20 September some thirty five justice and peace activists travelled from many parts of the country to St William's Church Annexe, in Reading, receiving a warm welcome on arrival.

Accepting the challenge to consider practical ways of putting faith into action individual members of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), together with representatives of diocesan groups, peace and social justice organisations as well as members of religious communities met together to explore ways of living the Gospel more fully.

The day began with prayer, followed by a formal welcome by Fr John, the parish priest. He then gave a short overview of a volunteering programme which continues to grow from a small beginning where local charities were invited to be part of a 'market place' pointing people to sources of help in times of difficulty.

Following this session, as each person introduced themselves it quickly became very clear what a wealth of commitment to and experience of working for justice and peace was present, the people of God, by their very presence, acclaiming 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven'

There then followed a short, informative presentation of the ongoing Portsmouth diocesan pastoral plan and the placing of issues of justice and peace within this plan. The main focus of the morning was a presentation by members of the Parish of St John Bosco in Reading: Living the Gospel - on being a Live Simply Parish.

In 2012 St John Bosco's had become the first parish to achieve the *livesimply* award, in recognition of the ways in which the parish community had committed to making a difference by living more simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the world's poor, wherever they were to be found. The award came at the end of four years of effort and the speaker emphasised the need to take small manageable steps. Each parish group was invited to contribute ideas thus encouraging whole parish involvement as well as interaction with community groups.

Areas of action included, for example, recycling, waste reduction, composting, fair trade, foodbank collections, shrinking of carbon footprint through such activities as walk to Church Sundays, litter picking and hunger lunches. Energy efficiency was addressed in conjunction with the parish maintenance group, resulting in the installation of solar panels. At the centre and drawing all activities into a meaningful whole was liturgical celebration.

Whilst working towards achieving the award it was recognised that personal invitations to engage with the project were more productive than by use of posters and newsletters. The team emphasised the value of the *livesimply* resource pack. It was also important to realise that achieving the award was not the ultimate goal but an encouragement to continue and increase momentum, providing a range of possibilities for the living out of Gospel values as a worshipping celebrating community.

The extended lunch break provided useful networking time and an opportunity to read reports of justice and peace activities from dioceses, agencies and groups, to browse at the book stall and collect campaigning materials. The issue of trafficking was raised and the work of the Medaille Trust was highlighted as was that of 'Unchosen' – which uses film to raise awareness of modern day slavery in the UK and Ireland.

The afternoon session focused on the work of NJPN, its members and partners, giving an overview of the range of issues, campaigns and activities with which members engage. Information was shared by Pax Christi, The Romero Trust, Jubilee Dept Campaign, 2020 Vision, Christian Ecology link, CAFOD's new Climate Change Campaign, Africa Europe Faith and Justice Network, Close the Gap as well as information on the UK Gold DVD – 'Revolving Door'. Maria Malson, on behalf of NJPN executive members facilitated the business section of the afternoon. Evaluations from the annual conference were extremely encouraging, many highlighting the joy of working ecumenically. One point to note is the importance of ensuring our voices are heard during the period leading up to the General Election. Look out for information on conference 2015, focusing on the 'Things that make for Peace'.

The environment working party continues its good work and would welcome new members. The autumn edition of the newsletter will be available within the next three weeks, a welcome resource well received by its readers, any fresh ideas gratefully received by the media and marketing working party. The NJPN web site is still work in progress but will hopefully be launched in early October.

There was a packed agenda and discussion was wide ranging but major strengths of the day were the networking, information sharing and feeling of solidarity to be found among all who attended.

TRAVELLING LIGHT

Anne O'Connor writes: Recently I was invited to write a short prayer for the Greenbelt festival on this year's theme 'Travelling light'. It brought to mind a marvellous homily by the late Fr John O'Reilly of Shrewsbury diocese. Now I really struggle to remember a good talk even a few minutes after hearing it but this one stayed with me thanks to a great visual aid. Fr O'Reilly's theme was the need for greater simplicity in our lives. It was holiday season, so to illustrate his point he held aloft a small, battered suitcase. This was more than enough, he said, to contain all our earthly possessions. The look of sheer delight on his face as he retrieved the suitcase from its hiding place under the altar table was priceless.

Our world today seems to have lost some of that simplicity. We crave more: more money; a bigger house; a faster car; designer clothes; luxury holidays. We feel under pressure to achieve these goals. But do these things really bring happiness? And are they in line with the Gospel message? It's disappointing that the parish Justice and Peace group (if there is one) isn't overflowing with members. The JPIC movement seems to be seen as peripheral to the life of the Church: its members regarded as being too 'political'. Yet time and again Jesus asks us to care for the hungry; the lonely; the widow and orphan; the destitute; the marginalised. He reminds us that we are merely stewards of the beautiful world God has created. If we are to hand on that stewardship to future generations responsibly we must make sure its valuable resources are not squandered by over-use. We are called to live more simply, for the good of all creation: to travel light. Parishes can gain a *Live Simply* Award by fulfilling the criteria set by the CAFOD/Live Simply partnership. To win the award, a parish must display nine ways in which it is putting into practice the three principles of *LiveSimply*: living in solidarity with people in poverty; living simply; and living sustainably with creation. Receipt of the award is national recognition to Catholic parishes that they are making a difference to their community – and the world. Why not encourage your parish to work towards this award. Find out more at: www.livesimplyaward.org.uk

Travelling light

Father, as we travel through the wonderful world you have created,
keep us mindful that we are only passing through, journeying as the Spirit leads us to places new.
May we tread lightly on the earth, cherishing its natural resources for future generations.
May we cease to be bound by material possessions, choosing to share joyfully with those who have less.
In love and solidarity may we seek the stranger and the outcast, placing their needs before our own.
In serving others may we become a pilgrim people, finding contentment in the space where faith and justice meet.

RESOURCES

CARTOON STORY OF JESUS, SON OF GOD, SON OF MARY

Online serial: 'Jesus, Son of God, Son of Mary' by Fr John Medcalf- an illustrated novel of the Life of Christ written by the late Fr John Medcalf of the Arundel and Brighton Diocese (otherwise known as Fr Juan Luis in Central and South America).

Chapters of Books 1-9 will be made available FREE each week in a serialized form on <http://www.cartoonjesus.co.uk/chapters>
Readers will be able to access this highly original and imaginative work which is funny and wonderfully human. It is for adults rather than children but has a special appeal to older teenagers. It is perfect for the classroom and parish work, as well as personal reading. The chapters excite the imagination, and make people interested in going to the Gospels to read them afresh. Each week, we'll have a chapter of the book online for you to read, starting with Chapter 1 in Book 1, and moving all the way through in sequence to Chapter 144 in Book 9. The books were adapted by Fr John from a radio play that he heard in Latin America, *Un Tal Jesús*. The cartoons have been drawn by Maggie Organ, freelance Catholic artist.

GOOD NEWS TO THE OPPRESSED

A service outline to reflect on the impact of the Poverty Premium in your worship, and inspire your congregation to take action. It can be used at any time, but is designed to be particularly suitable for use on 14 December, the third Sunday of Advent.

Many of us are familiar with the idea that people in poverty have less in material terms and have fewer opportunities – but what about the hidden costs of living in poverty? Church Action on Poverty's 'Food, Fuel, Finance' programme is working to tackle the unfair 'Poverty Premium' paid by low-income people for essential goods and services. The poorest families pay an average of £1,300 per year more than other families for these basics – a shocking injustice.

The third Sunday of Advent marks a turn in the mood, and is known as 'Gaudete Sunday' in some traditions (from the words used in the liturgy *Gaudete in Domino semper*, 'Rejoice in the Lord always'). But what do we have to rejoice about in such a broken, unjust and troubled world? The lectionary readings for the third Sunday of Advent offer us some rich themes for reflection on injustice and hope for a future yet to be revealed, where "the hungry are fed and the rich are sent away empty"; where "the brokenhearted are healed and the oppressed go free" (see Luke 1:53 and Isaiah 61:1). Mary's words in the *Magnificat* are a powerful manifesto for the church and a rallying call to a new way of being. For the moment, this world seems a distant dream. The call is then for us to recommit to bringing a fairer world closer to reality by prayer, costly commitment and action.

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/pray/worship/advent2014/autumn2014>

PEACE EDUCATION

WW1 peace education resources from Pax Christi: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/world-war-i-peace-education>

New resources including Conscience (Primary School) and Conviction (Secondary School) from the Quakers:

<http://quaker.org.uk/conscience-and-conviction>

The Martin Luther King Peace Committee at Newcastle and Northumbria universities have published teaching and liturgy resources which commemorate and reflect upon the truces which occurred on the Western Front during Christmas 1914.

Useful for Advent liturgies: <https://research.ncl.ac.uk/martinlutherking/activities/worldwaronechristmastrucecommemorations>

ENGLAND ARISE!

A new play giving an alternative, radical and anti-war contribution to the WW1 centenary. In 1914 the young men and women of Huddersfield Socialist Sunday School believe passionately in a better world. Inspired by the revolutionary art, music and literature of the times, Arthur Gardiner and Percy Ellis refuse to take arms against their fellow workers and fight in the First World War. Buoyed on by the support of their community, both at home and abroad, they take on the military in a momentous battle. They suffer prison and brutality, and are taken to breaking point in a war of wills. It costs them everything - except their conscience.

National Tour

24 & 25 October LAWRENCE BATLEY THEATRE Huddersfield 01484 430 528

30 & 31 October KARDOMAH 94 Hull 01482 363 004

1 November CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE Leeds 0113 224 3801

4 November CAST Doncaster 01302 303 959

7 November SUNDERLAND STAGES Royalty Theatre, Sunderland 0844 870 0887

9 November SQUARE CHAPEL Halifax 01422 349 422

10 & 11 November MECHANICS THEATRE Wakefield 01924 789 815

14 & 15 November PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM Manchester 07508 421 749

18 & 19 November PIONEERS MUSEUM Rochdale 01706 524 920

Inspired by Cyril Pearce's book '*Comrades In Conscience*', drawing on Jill Liddington's story of the Northern women's suffrage movement, '*Rebel Girls*'; and using first hand source material, the play brings to life a world of young people full of ideas, good humour and optimism for a brighter tomorrow. For them power comes from knowledge, not a gun. This is a story of hope.

Written by Mick Martin, Director Jude Wright, Designer Barney George, Music Jamie Lockhart & Lee Smith. www.bentarchitect.co.uk

NOT ABOUT HEROES

On the occasion of the centenary of the First World War, award-winning Manchester-based Feelgood company present Stephen MacDonald's inspirational play *Not About Heroes* at the Lowry Theatre, Salford Quays from Sun 5 October - Wed 8 October

... "these poems are not about heroes, my subject is war, and the pity of war; these elegies are to this generation in no sense consolatory. They may be to the next ...!" **Wilfred Owen**

Not About Heroes is a timeless and uncompromising exploration of courage, of humanity and a moving celebration of an intense friendship forged through poetry and the power of words overshadowed by a terrible and all-consuming war. During the First World War, two of England's greatest twentieth century war poets met at Craiglockhart War Hospital. Siegfried Sassoon was a decorated war hero hospitalised after protesting against the continuing war. Wilfred Owen was a victim of shell shock and accused of cowardice. Returning to the front, Sassoon was shot in the head but survived. Owen went on to win the military cross, die in the trenches seven days before Armistice Day and receive posthumous fame as England's greatest war poet. Weaving their great poetry, letters, and autobiographical writings this emotionally powerful and often witty play tells the moving story of the friendship that transformed them both. Suitable for Schools.

<http://www.thelowry.com/event/not-about-heroes1>

THIS IS MY BODY

There are "reasonable grounds" to suspect that a Romanian woman, who has been working as a prostitute in the UK, is the victim of human trafficking. She is given 45 days to "reflect and recover". But will this be enough time to come to terms with the horrors she has endured? *This Is My Body* is a powerful new one-woman play written by Martin O'Brien, directed by Paul Jepson and performed by Agata Jarosz which uncovers the shocking reality of human trafficking in the UK, and the failures of the system to adequately respond to and support the victims. Suitable 16+ (adults themes and scenes of a distressing nature). Venues throughout the UK June to October culminating with a showcase performance at St James Theatre in Victoria during anti-slavery week in October. Performed by Ten Ten Theatre, an award-winning theatre company working in primary schools, secondary schools, young offender institutions, parishes, community venues and theatres throughout the UK. <http://tententheatre.co.uk>

CONCERT TOUR: PACO PEÑA "REQUIEM FOR THE EARTH"

8 October: Birmingham Town Hall Kingfisher Chorale and Leicester Phoenix Youth Chorale

9 October: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Sense of Sound Singers

10 October: Leeds Town Hall Ecclesia choir and Bradford Catholic Girls' Choir

14 October: Manchester Bridgewater Hall World Voices Choir and Halle Youth Choir.

Peña is one of the leading champions of the Flamenco tradition and his shows always combine brilliantly music, drama and dance to push at the boundaries of this ancient musical form. Paco Peña's Requiem for the Earth, commissioned for the 2004 Salisbury Festival, is a powerful musical expression of the idea that our existence on this earth is ephemeral. In due time we all pass away, and most of us live in the expectation that a new generation will take over, and that life, as we know it, will continue as if for ever. But Paco's flamenco requiem takes us beyond the traditional Catholic liturgy, with its Lux Aeterna, its Dies Irae, Libera Me and Agnus Dei, for whereas the Requiem Mass expresses the hope that contrite souls will find their place in heaven on the Day of Judgement, and hence a faith in life everlasting, Paco's requiem is a requiem for life on this planet.

This Requiem featuring guitarists, percussionists, a flamenco dancer and choir is an epic lament for our planet which fuses the heat and fire of flamenco with the passionate incantations of a Southern Spanish requiem mass. Requiem for the Earth is a powerful reminder that our existence on earth is transitory. Experiencing this performance, with its driving flamenco rhythms, dark harmonies and soulful vocals combining beautifully with the expressive choral music will be a thrilling and moving evening and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Tickets: www.bandonthewall.org

CAFOD'S NEW WORLD GIFTS ARE HERE

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http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/wg_search?utm_campaign=CCR35457+2014+WG+previous+buyers+launch+email&utm_content=242014September&utm_source=et_93893&utm_medium=email

GOOD GIFTS – IT'S ALL ABOUT PEACE

KNIT FOR PEACE is one of the many gifts on sale from Good Gifts, an initiative of the Charities Advisory Trust. It has brought together Hutu and Tutsi war widows in Rwanda; Hindus and Muslims in Pakistan, India and Afghanistan. Here in the UK 11,000 volunteers donate knitting to those in need, both in the UK and abroad, including children of Afghanistan. We are delighted that a Knit for Peace Group is to be set up bringing together Jews and Arabs in Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Browse this and other ideas: http://www.goodgifts.org/browse-gifts?dm_i=DXG,2UHHE,EBFKNA,ABOK3,1

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

10 October World Homeless Day

On 10 October each year millions of people around the world mark World Homeless Day to draw attention to homeless people's needs locally and to present opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness, while taking advantage of the stage that an 'international day' provides. www.worldhomelessday.org/

Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action to prevent homelessness and bad housing. www.housingjustice.org.uk

10 October World Mental Health Day: Time to Change

Mental health problems are common - but nearly nine out of ten people who experience them say they face stigma and discrimination as a result. This can be even worse than the symptoms themselves. Time to Change is England's biggest programme to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination, run by the leading mental health charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness. These two charities work together, combining their knowledge, skills and expertise, in the biggest attempt yet in England to end the discrimination that surrounds mental health. www.time-to-change.org.uk

www.mind.org.uk

16 October Blog Action Day

Blog Action Day is a free annual event that has run since 2007. Its aim is to unite the world's bloggers by posting about the same issue, on the same day, in order to raise awareness and trigger a positive global discussion around an important issue that impacts us all, raises awareness or even funds for not-for-profits associated to the theme issue. Church Action on Poverty invite you to take part in Blog Action Day 2014 which will focus on Inequality. <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk>

<http://blogactionday.org/>

18-19 October Hunger for Justice: a weekend of prayer and action for our climate

This October, hundreds of Christians around the country will be urging their local politicians to tackle climate change as part of a weekend of prayer and action on climate change. Supported by **Christian Aid and the Hope for the Future** campaign, churches will stand in solidarity with the millions around the world affected by the changing climate and together we'll pray: 'Lord, to those who are hungry, give bread. And to those who have bread, give a hunger for justice.'

Find out more & get involved today: www.christianaid.org.uk/hungerforjustice

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 4** Week of Action against Drones <http://dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com/drones-week-of-action-2014/>
- 4** St Agnes Church, Darmonds Green, West Kirby, CH48 5DU half day conference 11 am - 2.30 pm on *Pope Francis's Vision for the Church* (Evangelii Gaudium). Speaker Brian Davies, who, after a career in adult and Higher Education and as CAFOD's former Head of Education, has been involved in Justice and Peace activities and reflections on *Evangelii Gaudium* around the country. The event is free and includes tea and coffee. Please bring your own lunch. mngmacook@aol.com 0151 625 6512.
- 4** Scientists for Global Responsibility Conference *Living Within Environmental Limits: From Science to Practice* 10am-4:30 pm Halton Mill, (part of the award-winning eco-development) Mill Lane, Halton Lancaster LA2 6ND
To find out more & book a place: <http://www.sgr.org.uk/sites/sgr.org.uk/files/Programme-provisional-2014.pdf>
- 8** *Joining the Generations: working together for people powered development* Progressio event 6.30 - 8.00pm, followed by refreshments 24 Greencoat Place, Victoria, SW1P 1RD (Progressio's AGM, open to all members, will take place from 5.30pm). Younger and older people, among the most overlooked and disenfranchised in many societies, are finding fresh ways to approach ongoing issues of poverty. Join us for drama, spoken word, and live links from partners and volunteers in the developing world. Hear from a panel of younger and older people how are generations working together to make change. What signs of hope are there? What can young people learn from those who have gone ahead? RSVP www.progressio.org.uk/generations
- 8-15** International Debt Week
- 10** Priory Lecture "*Faith in Britain Today*" The Rt Hon. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, (previous) Minister of State for Faith and Communities 7.30pm at Priory Church of St Mary, Priory Lane, Lancaster LA1 1YZ Admission (including light refreshments) £5
- 10** Prayers for Peace St Anthony of Padua, Queen's Drive, Liverpool 18. 7.30 - 8.30 pm. Info kathrynlydon@hotmail.com
- 10** Chester Christian Aid "Thank You" Evening 7.30-9pm, Hoole URC, Hoole Road Chester, CH2 3NT for everyone who helped with Christian Aid Week in Chester this year – raising the sum of £23,540.95. Meet our Chairman Revd Canon Trevor Dennis, and listen to Linda Tiongco, Christian Aid's Head in the NW Region. Coffee, Tea, Cake, all free of charge, no collection!
- 11** *The example of Oscar Romero in Pope Francis' Vision for the Church* Birmingham J&P Commission Assembly. Guest Speaker: Julian Filochowski, Chair of the Archbishop Romero Trust. Info: David Jenkins jenkins@woxon.freeserve.co.uk tel: 01993 702654
- 11** Challenge the Arms Trade in the North West 10.30am-5pm, MERCI, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HR. Free event with vegetarian sandwich lunch provided. Email events@caat.org.uk to book a place.
- 11** International Day of Action on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)
- 11** Peace History Conference London: 020 3397 3019 abolishwar.org.uk/info.php?p=12
- 13** Vote in House of Commons on Recognition of a Palestine State. The decision will not be binding on the Government, but it will be an important indicator of support, and will add to the pressure. Contact your MP and ask her/him to vote in favour of this.
- 16** Blog Action Day <http://blogactionday.org/>
- 17** CAFOD Quiz for CAFOD's Connect 2 Ethiopia projects organised by Ellesmere Port LPA J&P Group 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre. Fee £3 for adults £1 for children which includes interval refreshments. Teams are welcome or join a team on the night.
- 17** International Day for Eradication of Poverty www.unmeditation.org/
- 17-18** "*Oxjam Chester Takeover 2014*". Oxjam began in 2006, with the aim of creating a network of music-loving people across the UK, all united by a shared goal - to raise money to fight poverty and suffering around the world. Oxjam is still going strong, with hundreds of incredible gigs taking place each October. The local events in Chester will be in multiple venues around the city such as Telford's, Alexander's and The Compass. Further information at www.oxjamchester2014.com
- 18** *Dignity or Slavery – does work still work for the Common Good?* Salford Justice and Peace Assembly, 2pm at Holy Cross College, Manchester Road, Bury, BL9 9BB. Speaker: Paul Donovan. Paul will address issues such as zero hours contracts, low pay, trade unions etc in the light of the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. Details: faithandjustice@ymail.com
- 18-19** Christian Aid Hunger for Justice weekend www.christianaid.org.uk/hungerforjustice
- 19-25** Good Money Week www.neiw.org
- 19-26** One World Week *Living Differently* www.oneworldweek.org
- 19-26** Week of Prayer for World Peace: 020 8968 4340 www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com
- 26** KNIT-IN FOR SYRIA 9.30am-7pm St John's Centre, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 7GX. Syria Relief 0161 860 0163 <http://www.syriarelieff.org.uk/future-events/>
- 27** *Why we ignore climate change* 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Venue: Blackwell's Bookshop The Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9RN. Admission Free. No need to book. Suitable for adults and teenagers.
- 27** Christmas card addresses for the Latin Patriarchate available from LACE 0151 522 1000. (This early date is to encourage groups to send cards in early December so that they are received in the Holy Land before Christmas.)

28 Action Aid UK *Towns Against Tax-Dodging* free event 6.30-8.30pm Mary Quaille room, The Mechanics Centre, 106 Princess St, Manchester M1 6DD discussing the impact is tax dodging having in the UK and some of the world's poorest countries. Tickets: http://campaigns.actionaid.org.uk/page/event/detail/townsagainsttaxdodging/jr?utm_source=campaigns&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ACT1409TT7-M

NOVEMBER

1 St. Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster 1.30 -4.30pm. *'Pray and fast for the climate'*, an initiative to mobilise Christians to fast and pray on the first of every month for a meaningful and just climate agreement. We hope this will be agreed in December 2015 at the Paris climate summit. It is also an invitation to join Yeb Sano to fast the 1st of every month until the talks. Yeb was the Filipino delegate to the UN climate talks in Warsaw when typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines. He fasted during the conference because no progress was being made and has continued to fast the 1st of every month. All are welcome for all or part of this free event which will include simple liturgical worship, prayer information stations and a planned showing of the stunning Yann Arthus-Bertrand film *"HOME: Our Planet from the Air."* <http://operationnoah.org/what-we-do/year-of-prayer-and-fasting/>

4 Manchester Policy Week: *The Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership: Cash Bonanza or Risky Deal?* Panel Discussion and Public Debate hosted by Manchester University 7pm-9pm Nowgen, Grafton Street, M13 9WU (near Manchester Royal Infirmary). TTIP has provoked intense public debate in the UK and further afield. Advocates claim that it will significantly boost growth, while critics argue that it will lead to the erosion of hard-fought social and environmental protections Join the debate and reserve a place <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/manchester-policy-week-the-transatlantic-trade-investment-partnership-cash-bonanza-or-risky-deal-registration-12930079215?aff=eorg>

6 Inter-faith Holocaust Study Day 9.30am-1.30pm Menorah Synagogue 198 Altrincham Road, Sharston, Manchester M22 4RZ 0161 428 7746 for clergy, teachers and students, members of all faith communities and others interested. There is no charge for this event, but you must book your place in advance. Please let us know if you wish to stay for the light buffet lunch (cost £7). If you are staying for lunch and/or making a donation, please enclose a cheque made out to Tikkun Olam. (*Tikkun Olam* means "repairing the world", the duty of all humanity) . Enquiries preferably by email to hsd@menorah.org.uk or call 0798 414 8313

10 Christmas cards addresses for prisoners of conscience available from LACE 0151 522 1000

11 CWDF bi-monthly Forum Meeting 6.45-9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. Speaker Linda Tiongco, Christian Aid NW. www.chesterwdf.org.uk

11 Pax Christi Schools Outreach Day, Manchester to support members who want to engage with local schools and young people. This will be in collaboration with Quaker Peace and Social Witness and supported by Northern Friends Peace Board. For more information or to book a place contact Matt Jeziorski education@paxchristi.org.uk

11 13th National Miscarriage of Justice Day 10am-5pm John Foster Building, 80-98 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5UZ. Free event with guest speaker Ricky Tomlinson and many workshops followed by entertainment including free open mike poetry from 5pm at The Casa Bar, 29 Hope St, Liverpool L1 9BQ. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/joyfrance> or email: joyfrancewords@gmail.com

14 Cafod Quiz Night (see notice for 17 October)

20 7.30pm *'Days that shook the world – the Christmas Truce'* Marine FC, The Arriva Stadium, College Rd, Liverpool L23 3AS Followed by an opportunity to talk and discuss. Bar available. Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

22 Next NJPN Networking Day 10.30 - 4.00pm, CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SW1V 1BX Speaker Oliver McTernon of Forward Thinking on the spirituality of remembrance. All welcome, no need to book. More details from admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk 020 7901 4864

27 Advent Reflection Day. Bishop Richard Llewellyn will speak about Kairos Britain Tent of Nations and reflections from his time as an Ecumenical Accompanier. Luther King House, Manchester. Contact John Logan 01942 214656 logan-j@btconnect.com

30 'Waiting in Hope: Carols for Advent.' St John's, Fountains Rd, Kirkdale, Liverpool L4 1QL. 7pm

DECEMBER

7 Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Commission Annual Advent Reflection Wistaston Hall Sunday afternoon

JANUARY

18 Liverpool J&P Annual Memorial Lecture at LACE. 'Together for the Common Good.' 2-4pm. Speaker: Jenny Sinclair. Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

Many of the items featured in this and previous bulletins are taken from the daily e bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com an invaluable free resource for up-to-date J&P news and events. Sign up too for weekly bulletins from National J&P Network www.justice-and-peace.org - contact the Administrator 020 7901 4864, admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

NEW BISHOP FOR SALFORD He is Bishop John Arnold, auxiliary in Westminster and a member of the Bishops' Conference Department for International Affairs; Chair of CAFOD's Board of Trustees; and a Trustee of Caritas Social Action Network. Aged 61, he was born in Sheffield. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1983 and as bishop in 2006. More next time!

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN