

Shrewsbury Diocese JPSR E-Bulletin – August 2012

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

Vision: *A diocese fully engaged with the call of God to be a people of justice and peace*

Contact details:

- Correspondence to Michael Crawley, Secretary, Shrewsbury Diocese Commission for the Promotion of Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility, 5 Riddings Court, Timperley, Altrincham, WA15 6BG mjcrawley@waitrose.com
- Donations or contributions for *MouthPeace* to Ged Cliffe, Treasurer SDJPSR, Fern Villa, Four Crosses, Llanymynech, SY22 6PR ged.cliffe@tiscali.co.uk
- Items for the e-bulletin, diary dates and notice of events to Anne O'Connor anneoc980@hotmail.com

Contents:

1. Open Commission Meeting *The Way Forward*
2. Olympic Opening Ceremony
3. Robin Hood Tax
4. New Peace One Day Primary Education Resource
5. World Tourism Day
6. Start of Year of Faith
7. National Ethical Investment Week
8. Tax Justice Bus Tour 2012
9. Film *Searching for Sugar Man*
10. Forthcoming Events

1. Open Commission Meeting ‘*The Way Forward*’

Due to our changed circumstances, with no worker to cover the bulk of J&P activity in the diocese, the Commission now finds itself on a different path. To help decide our future we invite groups to send a couple of representatives to our **Open Commission Meeting** on **6 Oct 2012** at **All Saint's Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale 10.30am - 4pm**. What should our priorities be now? How best can we support one another? We'll explore these issues in depth on 6 October, but before we meet it would be helpful if groups could look at the following points when they next meet and discuss ideas for the way forward. Buffet lunch provided.

- What are the main areas of interest in your group?
- How do you raise awareness and involve parishioners?
- How can the links between parish groups and the Commission be most effective?
- What goals should we set?

***Please let Anne know if you plan to attend and provide a contact email or number to anneoc980@hotmail.com**

2. Olympic Opening Ceremony

The Olympic opening ceremony celebrated Women's Suffrage; the Jarrow March; the arrival in Britain of the first Caribbean immigrants on board *The Empire Windrush* and our National Health Service. The pageant delighted spectators with a rich celebration of the diversity of cultures, talents and traditions that make up the UK and included a strong J&P content – no surprise to our Chair, Tony Walsh, who taught Danny Boyle's collaborator and story-board writer, Frank Cottrell Boyce!

In a break with tradition the Olympic Flag, usually carried by Olympic athletes, was brought into the stadium by eight people chosen from around the world as symbols of the Olympic values: Daniel Barenboim, co-founder of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, a Seville-based orchestra bringing together young Arab and Israeli musicians; Sally Becker, dubbed the 'Angel of Mostar, for rescuing children from war-torn Bosnia; Shami Chakrabarti, Director of the British human rights pressure group, Liberty; Leymah Gbowee, Liberian peace activist and Nobel prize winner; Haile Gebrselassie, Ethiopian long-distance athlete and ambassador for the London 2012 inspiration programme; Doreen Lawrence, British campaigner, writer and mother of Stephen Lawrence, a black British teenager murdered in a racial attack in South East London; United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Marina Silva, Brazilian environmentalist and politician.

3. Robin Hood Tax

This tax on the financial sector has the power to raise hundreds of billions every year globally. It could give a vital boost to the NHS, our schools, and the fight against child poverty in the UK – as well as tackling poverty and climate change around the world.

France has just introduced a new financial transactions tax (FTT). The 0.2% tax is expected to raise half a billion euros in the first year, with a pledge from President Hollande that a part of the revenue will go towards combatting AIDS. Former French President Sarkozy first proposed the tax at a rate of 0.1%. However, as soon as President Hollande took office, he doubled it to 0.2%. This initial step by France heralds a more ambitious FTT that nine European countries - including Germany, Spain and Italy - plan to implement by the end of 2012.

The UK Government is standing firm in its opposition to the Robin Hood Tax, though in fact the French FTT is modelled on the UK's own 0.5% FTT on shares (the Stamp Duty), which brings in over £3 billion every year. Surely it is time for the UK Government to rethink its position on the FTT and join with other leading European countries by extending its FTT on shares to other assets, which would bring in an additional £20 billion a year – an amount the City can afford and ordinary people at home and abroad desperately need. Ask your MP to support a Robin Hood Tax and make sure the UK isn't left behind.

<http://robinhoodtax.org.uk/>

4. Peace One Day Primary Education Resource

A new Peace One Day Primary Education Resource has been launched extending Peace One Day Education materials to children aged 5-11. Younger pupils can now learn about peace-related issues, such as anti-bullying and the importance of teamwork through enjoyable cross-curricular activities. Although created with the UK primary curriculum in mind, the resource has been designed in such a way as to make it adaptable for classrooms across the world, as well as for use by families outside the school setting. Parents and teachers can register and use the resource, particularly in the run-up to Peace Day 21 September 2012.

<http://peaceoneday.org/resources/>

5. World Tourism Day

The theme for World Tourism Day (WTD) 2012 is **Tourism & Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development** and aims to highlight tourism's role in a brighter energy future; a future in which the world's entire population has access to modern, efficient and affordable energy services. Tourism, one of the world's largest economic sectors, has already taken important steps towards this future – improving energy efficiency and increasingly using renewable energy technologies in its operations. These steps are creating jobs, lifting people out of poverty and helping to protect the planet.

<http://wtd.unwto.org/>

Pope Benedict XVI has called for eco-friendly, sustainable tourism – to read his message in full go to:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=20875>

6. Start of Year of Faith October 11 2012 – 24 November 2013 (Feast of Christ the King)

The Year of Faith celebrates the 50th anniversary of opening of **Vatican II** and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**.

"The Year of Faith [is] a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity. ... Faith and charity each require the other, in such a way that each allows the other to set out along its respective path. Indeed, many Christians dedicate their lives with love to those who are lonely, marginalised or excluded, as to those who are the first with a claim on our attention and the most important for us to support, because it is in them that the reflection of Christ's own face is seen. Through faith, we can recognise the face of the risen Lord in those who ask for our love".

Porta fidei, the Apostolic Letter with which Benedict XVI proclaims a "Year of Faith"

7. National Ethical Investment Week 14 – 20 October

With public interest in ethical finance at an all-time high, churches and faith groups are being urged to use this autumn's National Ethical Investment Week (NEIW) to spread the word about green and ethical savings, investments and other financial products. Now in its fifth year, NEIW's 2012 Churches' Action Guide offers practical information to help raise awareness and worship materials. The guide is sponsored by CCLA (www.ccla.co.uk) the specialist investment manager for charities, churches and local authorities, and produced

by the UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF www.uksif.org), in association with the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR www.eccr.org.uk)

<http://www.neiw.org/church-guide>

8. Tax Justice Bus Tour 2012

This autumn, Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty are joining forces to take the Campaign for Tax Justice on the road, with a seven-week Tax Justice Bus Tour. Our bright red London bus will be touring the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland, to promote the simple message: it's time for Tax Justice for the poorest communities at home and globally.

www.church-poverty.org.uk/taxbus

Schedule for our area:

Day 32 West Midlands Monday 24 September Stafford, Stoke, Shrewsbury

WEST MIDLANDS Contact: John Cooper, 0121 200 2283, jcooper@christian-aid.org

Days 50-53 North West Friday 12 October Stockport, Knutsford, Crewe

Saturday 13 October Bury, Rochdale, Bolton, Chester

Sunday 14 October Preston, Lancaster, Blackpool

Monday 15 October Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester

NORTH WEST Contact: David Hardman, 01925 582820, dhardman@christian-aid.org

9. Film: *Searching for Sugar Man*

What's more important: fame and the wealth it brings or family, friends and personal contentment? If you could re-write your own life story, would you? A fascinating and profound documentary film *Searching for Sugar Man* (currently on general release) poses these questions as it attempts to track down a Detroit-based Mexican singer-songwriter from the early 1970s whose two albums sank without trace in the US and yet are credited with fuelling the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Sixto Rodriguez's songs had a profound effect on young white South Africans, anxious for change, at a time when they felt isolated by sanctions and persecuted by the hard-line political authorities. In a series of interviews with music producers, journalists, co-workers and family, against a backdrop of his songs, the film gradually unfolds the mystery of what happened to the man hailed in South Africa as 'bigger than Elvis.'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

24 Ludlow Assembly Rooms 8pm Film Screening of *Tune for the Blood* following the dramas and challenges of a year in the life of young Herefordshire Farmers followed by Q&A – part of the **Ludlow Green Festival**. Tickets £6 Box Office 01584 878141, for full details see www.ludlowassemblyrooms.co.uk

26 Green Festival in Ludlow Events include Green Fair, Green Walk, Food Foraging Countryside Walk, Apiary Visit, Local and Wholesome Food and Live Music. For full programme go to www.greenfestival.co.uk Arranged by Ludlow 21, a voluntary community-based group in Ludlow that encourages all people to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle www.ludlow21.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

4 North West venue for John Dear SJ on his speaking tour of the UK St John's, Standishgate, Wigan WN1 1XD 17.30 onwards. Jesuit priest, peacemaker, retreat leader and author. Info: Liverpool J&P office 0151 522 1080.

9 Racial Justice Sunday Resource Pack from www.ctbi.org.uk/588 or Catholic Association for Racial Justice www.carj.org.uk/CARJ_rjs.html

9 Racial Harmony Mass for Shrewsbury Diocese *Being An Inclusive Church* in Our Lady of the Rosary & St Luke, Church Road, Trench, Telford TF2 7HG 2.30 pm, followed by light refreshments. All welcome

10 CWDF Forum meeting 6.45 for 7.00pm at St Peter's Centre, The Cross, **Chester**. Speaker: Forum member Susan Flynn about Merseyside URC's ongoing work with women of Malawi.

15 Christian Aid Concert. 7.30 pm at Hamilton Street Methodist Church, Chester. Donation request of £6.

20 –22 Peace Day Celebrations in Wrexham. Programme coordinated by Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum, and includes a day for schools at St Christopher's School for which volunteer helpers/contributors are being sought. Further information from Genny Bove, 01978 757489 peacedaywrexham@yahoo.co.uk

21 UN International Day of Peace With this Day, the UN challenges all involved in conflicts to observe a day of ceasefire, and urges all public institutions and civil society to mark the day with peace-related public awareness events. Details www.un.org/en/events/peaceday (see **item 4** above)

27 "Working with the Street Children in Uganda" (Organised by the local Stockport charity Retrak.) An Audio Visual talk by Detective Constable Anna Rickards and Sir Peter Fahy - Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police hosted by Our Lady's Justice & Peace Group Stockport. 7.30pm at the Evron Centre 1 Adswood Lane West, Shaw Heath Stockport. SK3 8HT. Please contact: Brian Potter 0161 485 8312 BMPotter@talktalk.net to reserve a seat.

27 World Tourism Day (see **item 5** above) <http://wtd.unwto.org/>

28 Conference Tackling Fuel Poverty in Shropshire 9am - 1pm at **Craven Arms Community Centre** hosted by Shropshire RCC. Philip Dunne MP will open the conference and other speakers will include: Paul Sutton Executive Director Shropshire Housing Group; Dr Kevin Lewis Director of preventative health programmes (public health); Graham Whitham - Poverty policy advisor Save The Children; Samantha Nicklin Campaigns Manager Age UK; Julia Baron CEO Shropshire RCC and Jon Cooke Volunteer Affordable Warmth Forum.

The conference will look at the problem of fuel poverty both locally and nationally and how it affects the lives of families and individuals. It will help participants to be aware of the signs of fuel poverty and look at the work being undertaken to help tackle the problem both by organisations and volunteers across Shropshire. It will be of benefit to anyone working in the field of health, housing, education, family wellbeing and community work.

Free of charge but booking essential – early booking recommended. To reserve a place please email clive.leworthy@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

29 Ceilidh at **Belmont Community Hall**, New Street, Wellington, TF1 1LU 7.30 - 10.30pm. A fundraising event to support the work of providing housing and support to the homeless young people and families of Telford & Wrekin. Tickets £8 available from Telford Christian Council, Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford, TF3 4HS 01952 291904 or email: kaybennett@telfordchristiancouncil.co.uk

30 Salford Diocesan Assembly Holy Cross College, Bury from 1.00-5.30pm (Registration 12.00-1.00, tea and coffee available – please bring a packed lunch). Theme: **"Good News to the Poor –are we?"** with main speaker Fr Tom Cullinan. Workshops and closing Mass. All welcome. Further enquiries from Joan on 0161 708 5588 (please ring before 8pm) or email joan.sweeney9@ntlworld.com

OCTOBER

4 Feast of St Francis of Assisi who was declared the patron saint of ecology by Pope John Paul II

6 Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Commission Meeting to plan **The Way Forward** at **All Saint's Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale 10.30am - 4pm** (see **item 1** above)

7 Chester Marathon. CWDF (**Chester World Development Forum**) member Heather Lannin is running and seeking sponsorship for children's projects in Sierra Leone. Contact 0784 062 1878.

11 Start of Year of Faith (see **item 6** above)

13 The Tax Justice Bus Comes to Chester! Provisional arrangement for the Christian Aid/Church Action on Poverty campaign bus to come to Chester at 7pm, venue to be announced. This is part of a Britain and Ireland tour by the bus to highlight the injustice at home and abroad of tax loopholes currently exploited by unscrupulous companies. (see **item 8** above for other venues in the North West)
See <http://act.christianaid.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=48&ea.campaign.id=15246>