

Shrewsbury Diocese JPSR E-Bulletin – July 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. Rio+20 Update
3. West-East Orchestra plays for Peace
4. Creation Time
5. Peace One Day
6. Tax Justice Bus Tour 2012
7. News Sources plus Forthcoming Events

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

As a Commission we’ve been buoyed up and greatly encouraged by the supportive comments we’ve received from J&P and CAFOD groups around the diocese. However we’re very aware that groups will no longer have the benefit of Joan’s advice, encouragement and expertise and many of them have expressed concern about the future of J&P work in the diocese. So we’re going to throw open our next scheduled Commission Meeting on **6 Oct 2012** at **All Saint’s Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale 10.30am - 4pm** for people from the groups to join us to look at the way forward. We’ll be sharing our concerns now that we no longer have a worker and exploring ways to maintain a strong J&P presence in the diocese.

Please pencil in this date - there will be more info in the next e-bulletin.

2. Rio+20 update

The **Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development** failed to deliver concrete measures to tackle climate, food and financial crises, says CAFOD.

CAFOD policy analyst Bernadette Fischler said: “It is good news that the Rio+20 agreement has positioned the green economy in its rightful and right-headed position: in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction. But the text that was delivered in Brazil has too little meat on its bones to offer meaningful guidance towards transition to a green economy. Where are the commitments to support developing nations green their economies? Where are the pledges of money? This was supposed to be a meeting that took us to the next stage: it is 20 years since the original Earth Summit, and yet it feels like we have learned little and are starting nearly from scratch rather than building on decades of understanding and increasing urgency.”

CAFOD partner Nanette Antequisa from the Philippines travelled to the summit in Brazil. She said: “The Rio agreement should have put its weight behind the post Millennium Development Goals process and sent a clear signal that an integrated approach to poverty reduction and environmental protection must be at the heart of the global development framework post-2015. Instead, governments have been squabbling over who will lead yet another international initiative, the exact purpose of which remains undefined. The new set of goals must deliver positive change for the world’s poorest people who don’t classify the food, water, energy, and clean air they depend on as either poverty or environment issues – they just want to survive and live decent lives.

www.cafod.org.uk

Progressio has also been disappointed by the outcome, feeling that “much of the text is a re-statement of what has gone before, a compendium of past promises; there's nothing to suggest that governments really mean it and there are few new commitments to hold governments accountable to. What we needed and didn't get from this agreement is a text that sets humanity on a new course that offers a vision for a new world; there's little in the text that's truly game-changing.

Those we work with, including poor rural people, would be heartened to hear that this conference goes a long way to recognising safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right, and that the text recognises the importance for small-scale farmers to have better access to markets and health services. But the point remains that the text is very weak when it comes to means of implementation, particularly regarding financing. In the end, the people we work with will only care about results.”

www.progressio.org.uk

Watch a short interview with environmental activist Dr Vandana Shiva who sees RIO+20 as a backward step
http://current.com/technology/93815835_dr-vandana-shiva-on-rio-20.htm

3. West-East Orchestra plays for Peace

Founded in 1999 by Argentine-born Jewish conductor Daniel Barenboim and Palestinian-American literary scholar Edward Said, the **West-Eastern Divan Orchestra**, is a group of young musicians from Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Turkey and Spain. Every year they come together for summer workshops and tours - "taking their inspiration from the spirit of music and a willingness to engage with the views and experiences of the assembled musicians, each with personal ties to the troubled situation in the Middle East." Funds raised during the tour go to their educational projects in Israel and Palestine which include symposia on political and social themes, orchestral workshops and music tuition to children from refugee camps.

A special private concert was given by the orchestra to Pope Benedict XVI on 11 July, St Benedict's Day at the Apostolic Palace of Castelgandolfo. This year the orchestra will perform at the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall playing all the Beethoven symphonies over five concerts, and ending with the Ninth, with its choral message of the universal brotherhood of man, on the opening night of the Olympics.

<http://www.west-eastern-divan.org>

4. A Time for Creation - Creation Time 1 Sept - 4 Oct

2012 theme:- 'Sustainable energy in God's Creation Time - A time for Prayer and Action' Resources are available from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk

Consider adopting the **LOAF** principles at home and in the parish: **Local, Organically produced, Animal friendly and Fairly traded**. More info can be found on the **Christian Ecology** website www.greenchristian.org.uk

Celebrate the Feast of **St Francis of Assisi** (4 October) who was declared by Pope John Paul II as the patron saint of ecology.

Operation Noah has prepared sermon notes and prayers for use during Creation Time - which will be the five Sundays in September this year. The notes combine reflections on the bible passages with the themes from Operation Noah's **Ash Wednesday Declaration** regarding climate change.

<http://www.operationnoah.org/creationtime>

5. Peace One Day

The annual **International Day of Peace (21 September)** is organised by **Peace One Day**, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness of peace issues. The story behind Peace One Day is an inspiration to those of us who may feel overwhelmed and powerless as individuals in the face of injustice. It was founded in 1999 by an ordinary man, British documentary filmmaker and actor Jeremy Gilley, whose dedication and persistence achieved the extra-ordinary goal of passing a UN Resolution 55/282 to nominate one day a year for peace. Unanimously approved by all member States the resolution also invites organisations and individuals to commemorate the International Day of Peace through education and public awareness, and to co-operate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire.

Peace One Day's **Global Truce 2012 campaign** is calling for and working towards a day of ceasefire and non-violence, observed by all sectors of society, on Peace Day 2012. It is hoped that this will be the largest reduction of violence ever recorded globally on one day and the largest ever gathering of individuals in the name of peace.

Peace One Day Education is joining the campaign with the launch of the **Global Truce 2012 Schools' Network** in recognition of the crucial role education plays in the long term success of Peace Day. Schools, youth groups and educational bodies are invited to join this network and make their commitment to mark Peace Day 2012. There are currently 60 schools, youth groups and educational bodies in the Schools' Network, active in 43 different countries around the world. You can join at <http://peaceoneday.org/?p=3510> It is hoped that the network will continue to grow in the lead up to Peace One Day 2012 to ensure every country in the world is represented. The Peace One Day Education page on the website is regularly updated with the campaign's developments: <http://peaceoneday.org/teachers/>

6. 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. In an age of austerity and spending cuts, tax avoidance is morally unacceptable: tax dodging costs lives. It effectively amounts to robbing the poor - in the UK and in poor countries - of the money that should be spent on education, health and welfare.

The Bus Tour is a great opportunity to build support for Tax Justice via the local and regional media, with local and national politicians, church leaders, campaigners and supporters in the churches and other sympathetic audiences (eg trade unions).

If you could host the bus when it passes through your region – or if you just want to be kept informed of our plans – visit www.church-poverty.org.uk/taxbus now!

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

Sunday 14 October Preston, Lancaster, Blackpool

Monday 15 October Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester

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

7. News Sources

Keep up to date with all the latest news worldwide:

Independent Catholic News <http://www.indcatholicnews.com>

Sign up for regular email updates http://www.indcatholicnews.com/maillist_proc.php?op=joinform&list_id=2

Ekklesia is a beliefs and values think tank/news service (UK and worldwide) examining religion, politics, theology, culture and society with briefing, research, commentary and analysis on topical issues by leading commentators. <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk>

Catholic Social Teaching Online - the *livesimply* network website www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk is a valuable resource for parishes, schools and people wishing to deepen their understanding of the faith and explore the link with social justice. The site focuses on six themed areas of human dignity, community and participation, care for creation, life and work, peace and solidarity.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY

20 –22 National J & P Conference at Swanwick — theme '**A New World Order? - China Today and Our Response**' – please check for available places: 020 79014864 www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

22 Wilmslow, Pownall Park 12 noon *Race Against Hunger* to highlight the importance of good nutrition to enable everyone to fulfill their potential – the African child as well as the Olympic athlete – and for 15 million children to jump the hurdle of malnutrition, giving them a fairer start in life. The day includes an alternate Olympic event: attempting to break the world record for the fastest 100m on a space hopper! More info from Claire Hazelgrove at ONE.org <http://act.one.org/go/644?t=2&akid=3224.5537615.m0aIFN>

AUGUST

6 & 9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima & Nagasaki More information and prayer resources from Pax Christi www.paxchristi.org.uk 020 8203 4884

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. A Jesuit priest, peacemaker, retreat leader and author, John travels the world teaching the active non-violent message of Jesus. Free event, open to all – donations towards travel costs welcome. NB. St John's is just over 5 mins walk from the station. The church car park will be open but drivers will need to negotiate the one way system. 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

Racial Harmony Mass for **Shrewsbury Diocese** to be held this year in **Telford** – more info in next e-bulletin.

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.

11 Opening of exhibition about the work of **The Leprosy Mission**, at St Peter's Centre, The Cross, **Chester**. www.leprosymission.org.uk

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

OCTOBER

6 Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility Commission Meeting to plan *The Way Forward* at **All Saint's Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale** 10.30am - 4pm – more info in next e-bulletin.