

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/>

National J&P Conference for 2014 *Called to life in all its fullness*

Ellen Teague writes: "Many asylum seekers in Britain are at near destitute levels because the government doesn't want to be seen to be soft on asylum seekers," Sarah Teather MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, told the annual gathering of the National Justice and Peace Network on 20 July. The ban on asylum seekers working is just one of the government measures she says has forced many into severe poverty. The Lib Dem MP for Brent Central also described as "awful" Britain's block on refugees from Syria being given sanctuary here. "Just 50 refugees from Syria have been resettled in Britain from Syria, and there are only 4,000 Syrian asylum seekers", she said; "meanwhile, 2.8 million people have been accepted into countries neighbouring Syria, such as Jordan", which she visited last November. "Fear of public opinion has prevented the British government from doing anything more" she added, pointing out that dangerous trafficking, particularly in the Mediterranean region, "is a consequence of our failure to provide a safe route for resettlement".

Speaking of her first surgery as a new MP 11 years ago, and picking up on the theme of the conference, 'Called to Life in All Its Fullness: accepting the responsibility of our baptism', Sarah reflected that, "I was baptised with water but my constituents baptised me with fire". That first surgery, she described the transformational experience of hearing stories of people who were struggling for justice. The plight of three women refugees from Bosnia, who had been raped during conflict there and were hiding in the UK, struck her particularly forcibly. "It was a conversion experience for me" she said "and I had no idea so many people lived in a kind of limbo". She admired the "quiet dignity" of refugees and asylum seekers she has met since that time. She was very pleased that campaigning to end the detention of children in Immigration Removal Centres was eventually successful last year, and she told the conference it was "nourishing for me to meet people campaigning on these unpopular causes". She advised J&P campaigners to take the view that politicians too can hear God's voice, and with positive support "they are more likely to take the courage to lead".

Around 300 participants warmly applauded three other speakers as well, who all addressed the mission to the vulnerable. Clare Dixon, Head of CAFOD's Latin America Desk, spoke to the theme of prophetic witness in Latin America, highlighting famous 'prophets' such as Dom Helder Camara of Brazil and Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who believed in the 'preferential option for the poor' and found themselves ostracised because of it. She pointed to Pope Francis being formed by the inspirational Church of Latin America to say that "we want to have a poor Church and for the poor".

Mary Colwell, the producer of Shared Planet on BBC Radio 4, called for concern for the common good to include God's creation. She quoted eco-theologian Thomas Berry who said that humanity has broken "the great conversation with Earth" and urged that "we must start talking again, and listening". Speaking over constant thunderclaps in one of the biggest storms seen in Derbyshire in recent years, she said, "I know I am preaching to the converted when I say it is being true to our baptism to care for the life and landscapes that make up planet Earth". She urged the J&P activists to "keep talking about it, work for it, love it, enthuse people about it, write letters of complaint when things are wrong, write letters of praise when organisations or governments or church leaders act".

Gemma Simmonds CJ, Senior Lecturer in Pastoral and Social Studies and Theology at Heythrop College, talked about the priesthood of all the baptised, focusing on the layperson as bridge builder, healer, and consecrator of ordinary things that through their service are transformed into effective signs of grace. "It is a disembodied theology that doesn't make sense of, or links with, ordinary life" she said. Former chair of the Methodist conference, Revd Ruth Gee, part of the all-woman line-up of keynote speakers, agreed that "the sacred is everywhere in everyday life" and she concluded the conference by encouraging ecumenical collaboration: "In working towards the kingdom, we can do it best together".

Sixteen workshops covered topics such as Prison Ministry, Water, New Economics, Ethical Investment, Poverty in Britain and Human Trafficking. 'Palestine: Time for Action', led by Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi and Ann Farr, who has worked as an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine/Israel, inspired a packed prayer service for Gaza on the Saturday evening. Thirty stalls of resources attracted visitors in between sessions. More than 50 young people at the conference pledged to build a better world in the concluding liturgy and the smallest children sprinkled water over the congregation in a liturgy calling everyone to take responsibility for social and environmental justice and peace.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said in a message to the conference: "I am certain that this annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network in England and Wales will encourage all Christians to take up the task of evangelising, to enrich the world through their testimony of faith in Christ, and to join hands in collaboratively and fruitfully promoting the common good, respect for every human person and care for our home – Earth." For full text of Mary Colwell's talk go to: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=25210>

ARMED FORCES DAY PROMPTS CALL FOR PEACEMAKING PROGRAMME

Catholic Peace groups were amongst the signatories of a letter published in *The Times* (28 June), calling for reflection on Britain's military culture and for more action to prevent war:

On this day 100 years ago, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria and his wife were assassinated in Sarajevo in an action that led to the First World War. Unchecked militarism in Europe was also a major factor. Today (28 June) is also Armed Forces Day, one of the clearest indications of the re-militarisation of British society. Established in 2009 to increase public support for the forces, there are over 200 public events, many billed as 'family fun days'. This week also saw Uniform to Work Day promoting the reserve forces and 'Camo Day' in schools. Behind this PR offensive is a raft of policy that is embedding 'public support' for the military within our civilian institutions – from the promotion of 'military ethos' in schools, to the Armed Forces Community Covenant and Corporate Covenant that aim to enlist every local authority and major business to support the armed forces and aid recruitment.

Over 453 UK service personnel have died in Afghanistan; 34 were just 18 or 19 years old. Thousands more have to cope with long-term physical and mental problems. With so many military casualties – not to mention uncounted numbers of civilians deaths – and new security threats that waging war has created, surely it is time to reflect on the longer-term impact of our military culture and to ask what steps we might take to prevent war itself.

Philip Austin, Northern Friends Peace Board; Richard Bickle, Fellowship of Reconciliation (England); Hannah Brock, War Resisters' International; Kevin Burr, National Justice and Peace Network; Pat Gaffney, Pax Christi UK; Ben Griffin, Veterans for Peace UK; Bruce Kent, Vice President, Movement for the Abolition of War; Jan Melichar, Peace Pledge Union; Lorraine Mirham, UK Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Emma Sangster, ForcesWatch.

For more information see: <http://www.forceswatch.net/blog/war-and-peace>

PEACE WALK THROUGH LONDON

Pat Gaffney writes:

Undeterred by the odd shower, more than 60 people gathered in London's Tavistock Square on the morning of 28 June to undertake a day-long Peace Walk through the city to commemorate peace-making between 1914-2014. Why 28 June 2014? The day marked the 100th anniversary of the assassination in Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which set off a chain of events that led to the start of World War One. It was also Armed Forces day in the UK. The walk was a counter-witness to the prevailing culture of war and militarism.

"If we want peace we have to work for peace and be encouraged and inspired by those peacemakers who have led the way over the past 100 years," said the organisers - the J&P commissions of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster and Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace.

The walk began with a visit to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and the memorial to Conscientious Objectors in Tavistock Square. As the group made its way to sites that commemorated Bertrand Russell, Anne Frank, Rev Dick Sheppard, Edith Cavell and the 20th century martyrs, including Oscar Romero and Martin Luther King, at Westminster Abbey, people in the street stopped to ask what was happening and some even joined. The walk ended at the Tibetan Peace Garden in Lambeth where Archbishop Kevin McDonald joined and offered the peace prayer which Pope Francis had used at recent meetings in Israel/Palestine. The group prayed together for the inspiration and energy to be peacemakers before making their way home with a gift of white poppy seeds which they were encouraged to plant, as a symbol of peace, in their own home or church garden.

The walk was based on *Peace Trails through London* by Valerie Flessati, available from Pax Christi www.paxchristi.org.uk

EDITH CAVELL TO FEATURE ON ROYAL MINT'S NEW £5 COIN

In response to a petition signed by 110,000 people the Treasury has announced plans for a World War 1 commemorative coin featuring British nurse Edith Cavell who served as a nurse in occupied Belgium and cared for soldiers on both sides of the conflict. She was executed by the Germans in 1915 for helping Allied soldiers escape to neutral Netherlands. On the night before she faced the firing squad, Cavell was granted Holy Communion and told the Anglican chaplain, the Reverend Stirling Gahan, the words that she is best remembered for: "Patriotism is not enough; I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

BISHOP KEVIN DOWLING: HOW DO I TELL THE POOR THAT GOD LOVES THEM?

Ellen Teague writes:

A standing ovation followed *The Tablet's* annual lecture (26 June), delivered by Bishop Kevin Dowling of South Africa's Rustenburg Diocese to a packed audience in Westminster Cathedral Hall. He had been introduced by *The Tablet* editor Catherine Pepinster as "exactly the kind of pastor Pope Francis wants us to have" and his call for the Church to be evangelised by the poor and vulnerable echoed the plea of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* for the Church to be concerned with social justice and structural transformations. "How do I tell the poor that God loves them?" he reflected.

Bishop Kevin's commitment to marginalised people in his own diocese and to peace in violence-torn countries as co-president of Pax Christi International clearly engaged and inspired an enthusiastic audience.

In his lecture, '*From South to North: lessons for the Church from the developing world*', Bishop Kevin talked about his conversion experiences as a young Redemptorist priest in apartheid South Africa. Being a first cousin once removed of Archbishop Denis Hurley - the Catholic equivalent of Desmond Tutu, who became a courageous opponent of South Africa's apartheid regime and a champion of the reforms and spirit of Vatican II - he was thrust into the centre of the anti-apartheid struggle himself. He talked of the South African Church focusing on contextual theology - "doing theology at the coal face" - listening to victims of systemic violence and reflecting on the structural causes of poverty, war and violence. That "led to denunciation of systemic injustice", he said, and to eventual involvement in the prophetic *Kairos* document of 1985, a theological statement on the vicious policies of South Africa's Apartheid state.

In the early 1970s Bishop Kevin was influenced by the work of the Latin American theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez and his articulation of liberation theology. Also, the 1971 Synod of Bishops document *Justice in the World*, which stated that justice is central to the Catholic Church's mission and that "Christian love of neighbour and justice cannot be separated". The response of Catholics to suffering should not simply be charity but action for justice and peace. "Aid is commendable, but we are mainly about building a globalisation of solidarity, as opposed to a globalisation of indifference" Bishop Kevin said; "we must seek the causes of suffering."

Archbishop Oscar Romero was a huge influence and Bishop Kevin quoted a Romero passage from 1980 in which he said, just months before his assassination: "The Church's good name is not a matter of being on good terms with the powerful. The church's good name is a matter of knowing that the poor regard the Church as their own, of knowing that the Church's life on Earth is to call on all, on the rich as well, to be converted and to be saved alongside the poor, for they are the only ones called blessed."

As Co-President of Pax Christi International, Bishop Kevin has witnessed Christian peacemaking initiatives throughout the world. He applauded the 2009 *Kairos Palestine* document which provides "a way to peace through justice in the context of suffering".

He was present in Sarajevo, Bosnia, on 8 June when the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in Syria was awarded the 2014 Pax Christi International Peace Award. JRS Syria now provides support to over 300,000 people in Syria affected by war, and builds bridges between religious communities by ensuring that interfaith work is a priority. Bishop Kevin affirmed JRS Syria in its initiatives to promote the rejection of the logic of war, of the perversion of religions to turn people against one another and the spread of fear of the 'other'.

During questions a relaxed and smiling Bishop Kevin suggested that Northern Churches could learn about Hope from the Southern Churches. He had, for example, been inspired by the women who assisted dying Aids patients in Rustenburg who told him that "God had called us to this." Concern for the environment was also an important issue in the South and supportive advocacy in northern Churches would be welcome, particularly over large-scale mining.

"Environmental concern should be central in the Church's mission of evangelisation," he said. He also urged the Church to take up the challenge to live more simply and sustainably, and this would be completely in line with the insights of Pope Francis.

Bishop Kevin is a patron of the Denis Hurley Centre in Durban and his talk was one of three in Britain - the other two being at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham and the Lauriston Jesuit Centre in Edinburgh - where collections for the project were taken. The Centre presently under construction will be home to about a dozen projects to provide medical care, a soup kitchen, job training, support for people living with HIV/AIDS and in particular will offer assistance to refugees and migrants, who have reached South Africa from as far afield as Somalia, Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For more information see: www.denishurleyassociation.org.uk

TRIBUTE TO NADINE GORDIMER

Frances Correia writes: Last Sunday, 13 July, Nadine Gordimer the Nobel winning South African novelist died. This week I have been thinking about the huge impact that her writing has had in shaping the person I am. I have read again some of her novels and been reminded of her visceral, poignant style of writing. It was in reading Nadine Gordimer as a young person 25 years ago that I came to see clearly the incredible destructive force of Apartheid. Her books are about a nation that destroys the lives of many, and yet their real genius is that they are intimate and particular. The reader is drawn into the damaging effects of Apartheid, looking at the pain it brings to individuals, how it distorts families, damages the development of the young and leaves the old in desolation.

She has an extraordinary awareness of the human body and of its fragility and she uses the experience of physical pain as the expression of the pain of Apartheid. Gordimer is not an easy read. She does not toe any party line, nor does she honour cultural taboos, her own or others. She once wrote that 'Truth isn't always beauty but the hunger for it is.' This for me is at the heart of what made and continues to make her writing both dangerous and inspiring.

The Nationalist government recognised the danger of her work and its possible influence by banning her. She had the extraordinary experience of being honoured by the Nobel Prize internationally, in 1991, but not by her own government. Post the fall of Apartheid, Gordimer continued to write about South Africa, and continued to criticise those who wielded power. She has been particularly outspoken about the importance of freedom of expression, writing that "the very aim and end of our institutions is just this, that we may think what we like and say what we think." With her death we lose another of the elders of our land. Those who fought with their best skills against Apartheid, and who yearned for a land free of oppression. We also lose one of our great thinkers, a writer prepared to look into the darkness of our experience and to give words to our deepest pain and fear.

In an age of sound bites and tweets, Gordimer's death is a reminder of our Christian call to live deeply and consciously. To feed our minds and hearts by taking the time to read, and to ponder what we read. To pray reflectively looking at the situation of our country and being aware of the needs of the marginalised and oppressed. Apartheid's political end has not healed a country still divided by wealth, race, gender, language and privilege. We have hard won freedoms, but we also have a responsibility to work using our best skills to build a more just, free and caring society. For all that Gordimer did not practice a faith, her desire for a better world for all, especially for the most oppressed, is challenge for all of us who claim to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

AUTHOR TURNS DOWN AMAZON SPONSORED AWARD

Celebrated children's author Allan Ahlberg has turned down a lifetime achievement award after discovering it was sponsored by Amazon. The writer, whose books include *Each Peach Pear Plum* and *Funny Bones*, was due to be honoured at the Booktrust Best Book Awards recently. In a letter to the Bookseller, he said he felt compelled to decline the honour because of Amazon's tax arrangements. "Could Booktrust not have found a more moral sponsor?" he wrote. "Tax, fairly applied to us all, is a good thing. It pays for schools, hospitals - libraries! When companies like Amazon cheat - paying 0.1% on billions, pretending it is earning money not in the UK, but in Luxembourg - that's a bad thing. We should surely, at the very least, say that it is bad and on no account give it any support or, by association, respectability. The idea that my 'lifetime achievement' should have the Amazon tag attached to it is unacceptable."

<http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/latestnews/entryid/1627/author-shuns-amazon-award.aspx>

ALTERNATIVES TO AMAZON?

Many of us would like to boycott Amazon due to their tax avoidance and staff treatment issues but where?

www.hive.co.uk is one good alternative which allows you to shop on line but then either have your books delivered, or arrange to be collected from your local bookstore so you can also give them your support.

www.globalseesaw.co.uk is an ethically run social business that seeks to make a difference, especially to women exploited by human trafficking and prostitution. All profits are reinvested to bring greater change.

www.madecloser.co.uk makes it easy for people to buy a wide range of goods made near to them supporting the growth of local businesses and reducing air miles.

* Suggestions taken with permission from the Southwark Archdiocese Summer newsletter for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation www.southwarkjandp.co.uk from an article in the July/August 2014 edition of the magazine *Ethical Consumer* <http://www.ethicalconsumer.org/latestnews/entryid/1638/consumers-angry-over-tax-avoidance.aspx>

SOUNDBITE

Fair tax is the new fair trade ... All it takes is for consumers, people who are taxpayers themselves, to back the companies that pay what they owe.
— Ed Mayo, Secretary General of Co-operatives UK.

ONE PALESTINIAN CHILD KILLED EVERY THREE DAYS

Stop the War Coalition writes:

Every child killed is to be mourned but the mainstream media in its reporting always places greater value on the death of Israelis compared to Palestinians - which is why many people will not know the reality of who is killing most children in the Middle East.

<http://stopwar.org.uk/news/did-you-know/one-palestinian-child-has-been-killed-by-israel-every-3-days-for-the-past-13-years>

Official statistics from the Ministry of Information in Ramallah in June 2013 revealed that 1,518 Palestinian children were killed by Israel's occupation forces from the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000 up to April 2013. That's the equivalent of one Palestinian child killed by Israel every 3 days for almost 13 years. The ministry added that the number of children injured by the Israelis since the start of the second Intifada against Israel's occupation has now reached 6,000. Noting that 2012 saw an unprecedented rise in the number of children arrested by Israeli forces, the report pointed out that 9,000 Palestinians under 18 years old have been arrested since the end of September 2000.

Almost half of the Palestinian population is under 18. Almost two hundred and fifty Palestinian minors are being held in prison by Israel; 47 of them are children under 16 years of age. *Source: [Middle East Monitor](#)*

* Regular up-dates on the violence: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/2014/07/12/updates-and-responses-to-violence-in-palestine-israel/>

VIEWPOINT: HAS JUBILATION OVER WOMEN BISHOPS DROWNED OUT CONCERN AT DESTRUCTION OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST? By Fr Robin Gibbons

What is happening to the Christian communities in the Middle East is nothing less than martyrdom and destruction of their heritage and our ancient origins. The news in Iraq is more than grim, it is catastrophic, and yet, where is the voice of the Western Christian community? The Anglican Church voted for Women Bishops last week and good for it, but in all their rejoicing did anybody in General Synod raise a voice to speak out for the daily martyrdom and destruction of a faith that has remained rooted in a country and culture for two thousand years? They may have, but all those bottles of champagne and jubilant voices cannot drown out the cries of those who daily are being persecuted and killed for their faith.

This is the reality of Christianity at the knife edge and we who are so spoilt, so rich in resources and privilege need to now turn our attention to our own faith. How many Roman Catholic parishes this week drew attention to something so incredible that we cannot comprehend it, that today perhaps the LAST Christian has left Mosul?

Think of that, let this quote prick our consciences and get us moving out of our spiritual comfort zone:

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Sunday that the persecution of Iraqi Christians who have been driven from their homes in Mosul by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) militants could constitute a crime against humanity, Agence France-Presse reported.

We have it so easy those of us in democratic countries, we talk of a Christianity being under threat of bias in the media, and yes that exists, but it is of a different order to the magnitude of the situation these Christians face. Other bad news, the dreadful calamity of the aircraft shot down over Ukraine, the humanitarian situation in Gaza claim our attention, but surely we still have room in our hearts and breath in our voices to speak out nationally and internationally for those of our own faith, our Eastern brothers and Sisters.

They too are the little ones of the world, remember the words of Matthew's Gospel (Mt 10: 32-33) "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven." We are being called to be witnesses, this is no empty challenge, we are being called by the Spirit to stand up and speak out for those who cannot speak, we are being called to witness to Christ in these members of His body.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=2523>

Fr Robin Gibbons is an Eastern Rite Chaplain for the Melkite Greek Catholics in Britain.

LIVERPOOL: YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONGRESS ON WORLD CITIZENSHIP

Bill Chambers writes: More than 70 young people, from Catholic secondary schools in London, Stoke on Trent, Wigan and Merseyside, gathered in Liverpool for a Congress on World Citizenship on 10-12 July. Supported by their teachers, by students from Liverpool Hope and by members of CARJ, the young people had come together to meet one another, learn from one another and support one another in their vocation as 'world citizens'.

The Congress was opened by Frank Cottrell Boyce, against the background of the film from the 2012 Olympics. Other keynote speakers included John Battle, former MP from Leeds West and Andrea Hope a young, black poet from the USA. Highlights of the three days were visits to community projects, a debate on 'why politics' at Liverpool Town Hall and the expression of Congress themes through music, dance, poetry, drama, film and other activities. A key moment was the testimony of a young Traveller who spoke of her long struggle to overcome the prejudice and discrimination which she had seen at first hand.

The event was, in part, a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of CARJ, and it was intended as the launch of a new phase of its work with young people – the creation of a network of young world citizens, supporting one another in the effort to bring about a better world. CARJ is an independent charity committed to work with people of diverse backgrounds to create a more just, more equal and more cooperative society. CARJ supports young people to achieve their full potential and encourages them to embrace their vocation as world citizens. www.carj.org.uk

A LETTER TO A PUPIL TO LIFT YOUR SPIRITS

A primary school in Lancashire has been overwhelmed with support after the head sent a tender and unusual letter to pupils following their exam results. Children at Barrowford school in Nelson, near Burnley, were told that the school was "very proud" of their effort in the Key Stage 2 (KS2) tests, but went on: "We are concerned that these tests do not always assess all of what it is that make each of you special and unique."

The letter, from Head Rachel Tomlinson along with another member of staff, told children: "The people who create these tests and score them do not know each of you – the way your teachers do, the way I hope to, and certainly not the way your families do. They do not know that many of you speak two languages. They do not know that you can play a musical instrument or that you can dance or paint a picture. They do not know that your friends count on you to be there for them or that your laughter can brighten the dreariest day. They do not know that you write poetry or songs, play or participate in sports, wonder about the future, or that sometimes you take care of your little brother or sister after school. They do not know that you know how to tell a great story or that you really love spending time with special family members and friends. They do not know that you can be trustworthy, kind or thoughtful, and that you try every day to be your very best. The scores you get will tell you something, but they will not tell you everything. So enjoy your results and be proud of them but remember that there are many ways of being smart."

The school's motto is "Learn to love, love to learn" and it aims to ensure are pupils are "rounded and grounded", with the "ultimate goal" to "provide individuals with the ability to learn what we need to in whatever circumstances we find ourselves."

MANCHESTER: CATHOLIC COLLEGE LEADS TOILET TWINNING PROGRAMME

Manchester students and teachers have helped flush away poverty for hundreds of people – by joining a campaign to twin their college toilets with latrines in poor countries. A year-long fundraising drive by sixth-formers and staff at Loreto College has netted £4,000 for Toilet Twinning, which raises funds to provide safe latrines, clean water and hygiene education in some of the world's poorest nations.

Toilets around the Catholic college now boast certificates showing their 'toilet twins' in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Chad – complete with colour photos and GPS coordinates. Over the year, students and staff have thrown themselves into many ingenious fundraisers, including: leg-waxing for male students and staff; henna hand-painting; cake and halal sweet sales; beard-shaving; and gaming competitions. One male student was sponsored to wear a dress all day; a tutor group raised sufficient funds for a toilet block at a school in rural Chad by wearing onesies. One teacher ran the Manchester Marathon for Toilet Twinning and another busked regularly in a college foyer, singing and playing the guitar.

Senior Tutor Helen Gettings, who led the fundraising campaign, said students had been moved and motivated by news of the recent rape and murder of two girls in India. The teenagers were attacked as they were forced to relieve themselves in fields in the dark, for lack of a latrine at home. "This magnificent sum will improve the quality of life of people in those communities not afforded the advantages that we enjoy, and rather take for granted," said Helen. "Loreto's students and their teachers have made a magnificent effort in making a tangible and very practical improvement to people's lives in other parts of the globe."

Loreto's efforts this year bring the total of toilets twinned by the college to 103: two years ago, they raised sufficient funds to twin 37 toilets."Toilet Twinning CEO Lorraine Kingsley said: "Loreto's 103 twins make it the most successful school in the country in terms of fundraising for Toilet Twinning – and we can't thank them enough. Having a proper toilet for the first time is life-changing for a family in a poor community, and is the first step up out of generational poverty. Loreto's twins are all the more special because of the extraordinary effort and enthusiasm that went into their fundraising."

To learn more about Toilet Twinning visit: www.toilettwinning.org

GAME FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN ABOUT LOCAL WILDLIFE

I am writing to let you know about a fantastic new game that we have put together in order to support kids in learning about their local wildlife and to also enable them to share what they discover with other children around the country. The game has three main aims:

- 1) We believe that children have to a large extent lost the connect with nature that they used to have and this game has the aim of improving general basic knowledge of common creatures in the UK through reconnecting kids with nature.
- 2) To use technology to reduce the amount of screen time kids get by encouraging them outdoors
- 3) To give parents, schools and other organisations an easy to access, free tool that makes it easy and fun for them to support kids in connecting with nature.

Here it is: <http://www.flyonthewall.uk.com/wildlifetrackers/>

If you could spare a few minutes we would very much appreciate your feedback on this game as we want to develop the game around the needs of children and their association with nature. We also very much need support in raising awareness of the game so please:

- 1) Feel free to share this email with anyone you know
- 2) Link to <http://www.flyonthewall.uk.com/wildlifetrackers/> via any wildlife/education relevant websites that you work with.
- 3) Share <http://www.flyonthewall.uk.com/wildlifetrackers/> through your social media sites.
- 4) Send an email to your friends/contacts/members that you feel will find this interesting.
- 5) If you visit schools or children's groups at all then we can email you a flyer to print out and pin on a noticeboard or hand out to the kids.

Joel Chudleigh joel@deepfootprints.co.uk Fly On The Wall <http://www.flyonthewall.uk.com/>

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

1 September – 4 October Time for Creation *Joining the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace*

The beginning and the end date of Time for Creation are linked with the concern for creation in the Eastern and the Western traditions of Christianity, respectively. September 1st was proclaimed as a day of prayer for the environment by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I in 1989. The Orthodox church year starts that day with a commemoration of how God created the world. On 4 October, Roman Catholics and other churches from the Western traditions commemorate Francis of Assisi, known to many as the author of the Canticle of the Creatures.

The proposal to celebrate a Time for Creation during these five weeks was made by the Third European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu in 2007. The following year, the WCC Central Committee invited churches to observe Time for Creation through prayers and actions. Prayer and liturgy resources: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/time-for-creation>

As Christians we are inspired to be stewards of the earth, to conserve and protect God's creation and the earth's resources. By our actions, we can mitigate the effects of climate change, stop the destruction of habitats and reverse the decline of species worldwide. The way we treat the earth today is already affecting the poorest and most vulnerable in the world and, in time, will affect us all. www.greenchristian.org.uk

7 September Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer

On Sunday 7 September, join Christians across the UK in prayer and action for an end to the arms trade. CAAT Christian Network's annual Day of Prayer is an opportunity to reflect on alternatives to profiting from weapons and the destruction they cause. It is a chance to engage our communities in prayer and action for positive alternatives. This year, as CAAT launches its new campaign, *Arms to Renewables*, calling for the vast public resources which support the arms trade to be redirected to growing renewable energy, we will be reflecting on what "swords into ploughshares" means today.

If you would like to take part, please email events@caat.org.uk to order a pack.

8 September Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Sunday is an opportunity for all Christians in Britain and Ireland to focus their worship, prayer and action on racial justice. This year's Racial Justice Sunday will be planned by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW). Contact CBCEW for more information on the theme for 2014 www.cbcew.org.uk

20 Sept – 5 Oct 2014 British Food Fortnight

Encourage family, friends and your School and Church Communities to follow the LOAF principles from Christian Ecology Link's Food Campaign - choose food that fulfils at least one of the following criteria: **L**ocally produced; **O**rganically grown; **A**nimal friendly; **F**airly traded. <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/resources/loaf>

21 September Peace One Day - An annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence

The annual International Day of Peace (21 September) is organised by Peace One Day, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness of peace issues. Peace One Day was founded in 1999 by British documentary filmmaker and actor Jeremy Gilley, whose dedication and persistence resulted in a UN Resolution 55/282 nominating one day a year for peace and inviting 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. www.peaceoneday.org

Peace Day 2014 hopes to build on the achievements of 2013, reducing violence around the theme: *Who Will You Make Peace With?* Find out more about Peace One Day's 2014 campaign here: www.peaceoneday.org/global-campaigns

21 – 27 September World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel

When did we see you in prison? Theme - Child Prisoners

An annual event to promote education, prayer and action for peace in Palestine & Israel. Each year 500-700 Palestinian children from the West Bank (between the ages of 12-17 years) are prosecuted in Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated and detained by the Israeli army or police. Young Israelis too can be imprisoned. 50 Israeli teenagers said that they will refuse to join the Israeli Defence Force because of the occupation of the West Bank (March 2014). www.worldweekforpeace.org

Resources for 2014 available from Pax Christi including a Prayer written by Palestinian Christian Church leaders in Jerusalem <http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Jerusalem-Prayer-2014.pdf>.

www.paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns

27 September World Tourism Day *Tourism and Development in the Community*

Tourism has experienced continued growth and deeper diversification to become one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the world. Modern tourism is closely linked to development and includes more new destinations for tourists. These dynamics have turned tourism into a key driver for socio-economic progress. Tourism has become one of the major players in international commerce, and represents at the same time one of the main income sources for many developing countries. Mexico will be the global host for the 2014 World Tourism Day, an annual event held by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) whose goal is to "foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value. The event seeks to address global challenges outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and to highlight the contribution the tourism sector can make in reaching these goals." This year's theme is *Tourism and Development in the Community*. www.wtd.untwo.org

mexicotoday.org/.../mexico-host-world-tourism-day-September-27-2014

4 October Feast of St Francis of Assisi

www.ctbi.org.uk

St Francis offered a way for everyone to share his radical life of simplicity and loving service of God and neighbour. Pope Francis explained his choice of name, saying: 'For me, he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and protects creation ... How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor'. So, in the name of Francis, we too are encouraged in a radical commitment to the Gospel.

Prayer of Franciscan conservation

Living God, where there is waste, let us bring recycling;

where there is recycling, let us bring reuse;

where there is reuse, let us bring sustainability;

where there is sustainability, let us bring justice;

where there is justice, let us bring love.

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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

A united Christian response will highlight the importance of the home as a basic necessity for all human beings. To have somewhere we call home is a fundamental part of our human dignity. To be deprived of such a basic necessity is to feel less than human.

— Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, first president of Housing Justice

10 October World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day, which is supported by the United Nations, is held annually on 10 October to raise public awareness about mental health issues worldwide. This event promotes open discussions on illnesses, as well as investments in prevention and treatment services. Mental disorders affect nearly 12 percent of the world's population – about 450 million or one out of every four people around the world – will experience a mental illness that would benefit from diagnosis and treatment. World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics for 2002 showed that 154 million people globally suffered from depression, which is a form of mental illness. According to WHO, mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which people realize their own potential, can cope with normal life stresses, can work productively, and can contribute to their community.

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_mental_health_day/en/index.html

If you know someone who's depressed please resolve never to ask them why. Depression isn't a straightforward response to a bad situation; depression just is, like the weather. Try to understand the blackness, lethargy, hopelessness and loneliness they're going through. Be there for them when they come through the other side. It's hard to be a friend to someone who's depressed, but it is one of the kindest, noblest and best things you will ever do.

— Stephen Fry

19-26 October One World Week *Living Differently*

The theme for 2014 *Living Differently* leads on from last year's theme about consumption to explore how we can increase the well being of humanity and secure a future environment that can maintain the health of the planet. This year, OWW invites you to organise or support activities in local communities that promote and involve active citizenship through:

- Sourcing food differently
- Reducing wastefulness
- Using money ethically to support the changes we want to see

These simple steps can help to break the chains of the current food supply systems, consumer habits and money markets that damage the environment and communities worldwide. The subtitle *Breaking Chains - Making Change* is inspired by Nelson Mandela's words: *'to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.'*

A good way to stimulate thinking and get started on planning for your OWW events would be to watch the latest video from "The Story of Stuff" project, *The Story of Solutions*: <http://storyofstuff.org/movies/>

Discussion ideas and resources available from: <http://www.oneworldweek.org/v2/alias-6.html>

Download the leaflet *Living Differently* at: <http://www.oneworldweek.org/v2/alias-6.html>

PAX CHRISTI ICON

REMINDER: The Pax Christi ICON is still in Shrewsbury Cathedral and is available to groups and parishes who may wish to use it. Contact us in the first instance: orders@paxchristi.org.uk Pat Gaffney General Secretary Pax Christi St Joseph's Watford Way London, NW4 4TY 0208 203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk <https://twitter.com/paxchristiuk>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

4-23 *Real Lives: Marple and the First World War* exhibition in Marple Library. It reveals how the people of Marple reacted to the start of the war (and it wasn't necessarily the way you might expect). One part contrasts the lives of two local men - one who volunteered and one who conscientiously objected - but which one was right? The viewer is invited to decide. Admission free. Put together by a member of Marple Churches Together J&P Group. Launch Event featuring poetry and music from the period Mon 4 August 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. More information: gerardcrawshaw@hotmail.com

4 *No more War - War never again*: Pax Christi is promoting silent vigils on this theme, the day that marks England's entry into the First World War. Why not consider hosting one yourself? See what is being organised and also resources that might be of help <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/first-world-war-peace-plans/>

6&9 69th Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries. Good message from Catholic Bishops' Conference Japan for their 10 days for peace http://www.cbj.catholic.jp/eng/edoc/140703_2.htm Download Pax Christi's Catholic Church and Nuclear Weapons sheet http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2Catholic-Church_Nuclear-Weapons2014.pdf and more statements on nuclear issues here: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns/security-disarmament/nuclear/>

9 Roll out of the 7-mile Wool Against Weapons scarf which will connect the nuclear bomb factories at Aldermaston – Burghfield. Details on CND website www.cnduk.org/wool

22-25 Greenbelt Festival Kettering, Northants. Pax Christi and other peace and justice groups will have a strong presence at Greenbelt this year. There will be a Pax Christi stall in the G-Zone, Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi will speak, NJPN will coordinate the Sunday Mass ... other speakers include Tina Beattie, John Bell, Alistair McIntosh, representative from Kairos Britain... and more. Music, drama, poetry, activities for young people and children too! <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>

SEPTEMBER

2 The Justice and Peace Association (Caritas, Diocese of Salford) working to promote justice and peace matters in the diocese of Salford, regular bi-monthly meeting at 7.00pm in the Servite Priory, 500 Bury New Road, Salford M7 4ND. New members always welcome. Enquiries phone Jean on 0161 792 9771. Email faithandjustice@ymail.com

14 Racial Justice Sunday: 020 8802 8080 www.carj.org.uk

19 Cafod Quiz organised by Ellesmere Port LPA J&P Group 7.30 pm in Our Lady's Parish Centre. As in recent years all the money raised will go towards Cafod's Connect 2 Ethiopia projects. The entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children which includes interval refreshments. Teams are welcome or you could join a team on the night.

20 NJPN Open Networking Day 10.30am - 4pm, St William of York, Forbury Road, Reading, Berks RG1 3HW including presentation by the CAFOD group, St John Bosco parish on Becoming a LiveSimply Parish www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

20 North West Kairos Training Day Stockton Heath Methodist Church. Approx times (to be confirmed):10:30am-4pm. For further info contact John Logan 01942 214656 logan-j@btconnect.com

20 Manchester Peace Conference Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS. Speaker John Westmoreland <http://stopwar.org.uk/events/manchester-peace-conference-peace-history-lecture-no-glory#.UxiKQo3iuUE>

20 *The Word of the Lord* - a diocesan day for readers and all involved in working with scripture 9.30-4.30 at LACE Croxteth Drive, Liverpool L17 1AA. Keynote talks and workshops led by Fr Denis McBride CSsR and Dr Marian Tolley with opportunities for prayer and worship. Booking is essential as places are limited. Bookings must be accompanied by a cheque (payable to 'RCAOL') or made online <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Courses-Events> Please book as soon as possible and no later than Wednesday 10 September. For more information please contact Jonathan Mercer: j.mercer@rcaol.co.uk 0151 522 1040

21 International Day of Prayer for Peace. Each year the World Council of Churches calls churches and parishes to observe the International Day of Prayer for Peace. 21 September is also the United Nations-sponsored International Day of Peace (next item) <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace>

21 Peace One Day - An annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence. Peace Day 2014 hopes to build on the achievements of 2013, reducing violence around the theme: *Who Will You Make Peace With?* www.peaceday.org/global-campaigns

21-27 World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel. The theme of the week in 2014 is: *Let my people go!* with a special focus on Child Prisoners – peace postcards available from Pax Christi www.paxchristi.org.uk/campaigns. Background info and resources from World Council of Churches: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/world-week-for-peace-in-palestine-israel>

OCTOBER

4 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day www.cafod.org.uk

11 Peace History Conference London: 020 3397 3019 abolishwar.org.uk/info.php?p=12

17 Cafod Quiz Night (see notice for 19 September)

17 International Day for Eradication of Poverty www.unmeditation.org/

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.

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

NOVEMBER

14 Cafod Quiz Night (see notice for 19 September)

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

DECEMBER

7 Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Commission Annual Advent Reflection Wistaston Hall Sunday afternoon – details nearer the time.

EDITOR'S NOTE

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. You might also like to sign up for the comprehensive weekly bulletins from the National J&P Network www.justice-and-peace.org or contact the Administrator (020 7901 4864, admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk).

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