

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin – January 2014

NEW E-BULLETIN LAUNCHED

The New Year heralds an exciting new initiative: a monthly e-bulletin for the North West linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) to provide information and support for J&P groups in Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham dioceses. The editorial team comprises: Ann Kelly, NJPN Administrator; Maggie McSherry, Lancaster; Steve Atherton, Liverpool; Jean Raymond, Salford; Marian Thompson, Shrewsbury (*MouthPeace* Editor); Tony McNicholl, Wrexham and Anne O'Connor, former e-bulletin editor for Shrewsbury diocese and now on NJPN's Media and Marketing Group. NJPN has a wealth of resources and is the only independent umbrella organisation for England and Wales to cover the whole spectrum of J&P issues. Do consider joining, either individually or as a parish group. Go to www.justice-and-peace.org.uk to sign up for NJPN's free weekly e-bulletins. The new NW e-bulletin will focus on current campaigns, follow the J&P calendar and publicise local events. Please send diary dates to Anne O'Connor anneoc980@hotmail.com

RECENT EVENTS

STOP THE ARMS FAIR 2013

In September 2013 the DSEi Arms Fair returned to London's ExCeL Centre. Several people were arrested while peacefully protesting during the week and appeared in court in London on Monday 4 November. One of them pleaded guilty with the following statement:

"With all respect to the court, I have to say that today I feel sad. Because, by the standards of this upside down world, which prioritises the rights of subsidized corporations to profit from death, destruction and terror over the rights to life and quality of life of the civilians who are killed, displaced, and separated from loved ones by war, or of the planet's ecosystems – and all those whose health relies on the health of these ecosystems, i.e. all of us – to thrive, yes, I suppose I am guilty. Guilty of slowing the setting up of an arms fair where millionaires, subsidized by public money at a time when the NHS is being cut to the bone and sold off, buy and sell tools of death for profit. Guilty of creating a space for peace and freedom and joy. Guilty of acting in solidarity with those struggling against oppression and facing brutal repression for doing so in Bahrain, Turkey and other countries. Yes, I'm guilty of believing that surely at this point in human evolution we can find another way to deal with conflict and to live together, and I'm guilty of hoping that at some point soon, we will. So yes, I'm guilty."

She was given a conditional discharge and fined £100. The judge commented on her dignity and passion. The others pleaded not guilty and will return to court in February. Around 30 people were arrested over the course of the Arms Fair and most are returning to court early in the New Year. www.caat.org.uk

GREATER MANCHESTER CHURCHES TOGETHER LAUNCH LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

A campaign to persuade employers across Greater Manchester to use the living wage - now £7.65 - as their minimum pay was launched at GMCT's annual assembly at the Salford Cathedral Centre on 28 October 2013. In his keynote address, Niall Cooper, from Church Action on Poverty (CAP), highlighted the decision by Salford City Council to implement the living wage. Ian Stewart, Salford's first elected Mayor, pledged his support. Church leaders at the assembly signed a giant pledge in support of the campaign, which encourages churches to give a lead by paying all their employees no less than the living wage. In a briefing paper for those who attended the assembly, the Living Wage Foundation - which sets the figure - and CAP pointed out that the Bible "abounds in passages that address issues of money, wealth and economic justice."

www.gmct.org.uk www.church-poverty.org.uk

WORLD MIGRANT DAY 18 DECEMBER 2013 was marked with vigils, meetings and films around the globe. In a demonstration of solidarity, in London, a group of two bishops, three MPs, a nun, a priest and an artist sailed past the Houses of Parliament in TO6411, a tiny migrant boat, which previously sailed from North Africa to Italy. When the boat reached Lampedusa 18 months ago, it was crammed with 36 passengers, among them children and a heavily pregnant woman, who had to be rescued by the Italian coast guard. By contrast the London river authorities wouldn't allow more than 7 passengers on the Thames journey.

Artist Lucy Wood, who has specialised in documenting the lives of migrants in several countries, visited Lampedusa in 2010 and was struck by the contrast between the lively tourist boats arriving in the harbour and the desolate, silent scene as little vessels from Africa, crammed with silent, tired, thirsty people were met on the dock by ambulance and police. She obtained permission from Italian president Berlusconi to take the boat to England and also wrote to Pope Francis asking him to bless it. After taking a short navigation course and getting the boat repaired, she set off on 20 June and arrived in England on 5 October. "Apart from replacing the engine, I've kept the boat in the same condition it was when I got it. There were bits of food and clothing, and two lifejackets." Lucy says

she wants people to see the boat to help them understand the conditions in which the refugees travel. "Each person paid £1,000 to travel on this" she said. "It's a very unstable vessel with no washing or toilet facilities."

After the boat trip, there was a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees, at Portcullis House, introduced by chair Sarah Teather MP. Bishop John Arnold, lead bishop for CAFOD, said it was very significant that Pope Francis had made his first public journey to Lampedusa, to meet survivors of a refugee boat which sank and the islanders who were helping them. Pope Francis began his papacy by saying he wants 'a poor church for the poor'. Bishop John pointed out that there were other issues forcing people to leave their homelands, such as religious persecution; conflicts and natural disasters. www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=23842

AWARD FOR BARRY AND MARGARET MIZEN

The parents of Jimmy Mizen who was killed in a knife attack in 2008 have been awarded MBEs after setting up a foundation in their son's name to increase young people's awareness of the consequences of violent crime. Jimmy was killed in May 2008, one day after his 16th birthday, in an attack in a south-east London bakery. Their CitySafe campaign, which encourages young people to provide places of safety for others who are fleeing violence, has been in operation across London and Liverpool. THE JIMMY MIZEN FOUNDATION: <http://www.jimmymizen.org/>

ACTION

PROGRESSIO LAUNCH *UNBREAKABLE* CAMPAIGN

Against some of the worst odds in the world, women in 'fragile states' like Somalia, Zimbabwe and Yemen are organising to improve women's lives by tackling the political, economic and social structures that keep them poor and marginalised. And they're making powerful progress. We know that women must be at the heart of nation building. As a new development agenda takes shape from 2015, these unbreakable women's voices must be heard. We must stand with them. Join us in Manchester or London to hear more and discover how to take action with Suad Abdi, Progressio's programme head in Somaliland.

- Manchester activists' day and launch: Saturday 18 January, 2-6pm Central Manchester, venue TBC.
- London launch: Tuesday 21 January, 7-9pm St Mary Moorfields Church, 4-5 Eldon Road, London, EC2M 7LS www.progressio.org.uk

GO GREEN AND SUPPORT CAFOD

A new partnership has been announced between CAFOD and Britain's first green electricity company Ecotricity, which this week pledged to freeze its fuel bills until April 2014. For every new customer who switches to their electricity via the special link on their website, www.ecotricity.co.uk/cafod Ecotricity will donate £40 to support CAFOD's work, and £60 if they switch both gas and electricity. Ecotricity is a UK-based company, launched in 1996, hoping to realise its vision of a Green Britain in which everyone lives more sustainable lives and where ethical businesses are the norm. It is a not-for-dividend company and all profits go towards funding its mission. Energy supplied by Ecotricity is sourced from 100% renewable energy sources and not fossil fuels. In addition 66% of all the money that supporters spend on their energy bills is invested in developing green energy technology in the UK. Ecotricity's donations to CAFOD can only be paid if new customers sign-up via the link: www.ecotricity.co.uk/cafod or by calling 08000 302302 quoting CAFOD1.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

- Pax Christi is supporting the CND Scrap Trident Tour - with Bruce Kent as speaker - which is being launched on 31 March. Please contact Pat Gaffney coordinator@paxchristi.org.uk if you can host/arrange a meeting.
- Mexico Conference in February on nuclear disarmament/humanitarian impact of nuclear war. This is a second conference on the topic - the first was held in Oslo. The UK government did not participate and they have not responded to the invitation to the Mexico Conference. Please contact your MP to urge that our Government take part in this important process. CND has asked MPs to urge the Government to attend the conference - you can ask your MP to sign a statement to this effect. <http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/72>

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

18 – 25 JANUARY CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK: *Is Christ divided?*

Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to; a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. The Churches of French Canada have used a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement (1 Corinthians 1) to compile this year's resources which help us consider what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith. They suggest that we use the Millennium Goals as a focus for our prayers for the world. Resource material available from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk/658

19 JANUARY PEACE SUNDAY: *Living as one family is the foundation and pathway to peace*

Every year the Bishops of England and Wales invite us to keep this Sunday as a day of prayer for world peace. This year we are asked to reflect on the theme Pope Francis has chosen for the 47th World Peace Day: *Living as*

one family is the foundation and pathway to peace. As we begin our celebration that title invites us to examine our relationships: how far do we really live as brothers and sisters? How do we treat our brothers and sisters? Peace begins in the family, in the home, in the here and now. Pax Christi has sent resource material to every parish in England and Wales including prayer-action cards and a booklet full of ideas for liturgy on the day, including homily notes - [email: info@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:info@paxchristi.org.uk) or download from: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

19 JANUARY WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The theme chosen by Pope Francis to celebrate this event is *Migrants and Refugees: Towards a Better World.* <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-francis-message-for-world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees>

19 JANUARY WORLD RELIGION DAY

World Religion Day (third Sunday of January each year) aims to promote inter-faith understanding and harmony. Through a variety of events held around the globe, followers of every religion are encouraged to acknowledge the similarities that different faiths have. www.worldreligionday.org

27 JANUARY HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: *Journeys*

...on the following day the Jews would be leaving. All the Jews, without exception. Even the children, even the old, even the ill. Our destination? Nobody knew.

Primo Levi, Holocaust survivor and author

This year's theme looks at journeys: journeys of persecution; journeys of escape; journeys of return. We can also learn about the journeys that brought survivors to the UK and how, in many instances, journeys of return have been part of the experience of rebuilding. www.hmd.org.uk

25 JANUARY -2 FEBRUARY POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS ACTION WEEK:

Standing alongside people in crisis

Homelessness Sunday 26 January and Poverty Action Sunday 2 February

Throughout the scriptures, we see that God is always on the side of people who are poor, oppressed, homeless or marginalised. In this time of economic crisis, people experiencing poverty and homelessness are being hit harder than anybody else by the recession and spending cuts. Churches are called to show God's bias by standing alongside these people. Church Action on Poverty, Housing Justice and Scottish Churches Housing Action respond to that call through practical action and campaigns. We are invited to give, act and pray with them during Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2014: www.actionweek.org

CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY www.church-poverty.org.uk

HOUSING JUSTICE www.housingjustice.org.uk

8 FEBRUARY DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Catholics in England and Wales are invited to pray for all victims of human trafficking on the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita, the Sudanese Saint who was kidnapped at the age of nine and sold into slavery. Human trafficking now ranks as the second most profitable worldwide criminal enterprise after the illegal arms trade. The practical response of the Church and its charities, led in the main by Women Religious, is to raise awareness of this horrendous crime and to provide help and support for the most vulnerable victims. The Office for Migration Policy (OMP) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is working in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Service to raise awareness of the impact of human trafficking in the UK and the rest of the world. www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/2014/Ordo-2014.pdf

8 FEBRUARY AUTISM SUNDAY

This special Sunday, also known as the International Day of Prayer for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, is observed annually on the second Sunday of February. There are over 60 million people with autism around the world. Many suffer without proper public services especially since the credit crunch and recession. www.autismsunday.co.uk

11 FEBRUARY WORLD DAY FOR THE SICK: *Faith and Charity*

Pope Francis in 2014 is commending the 22nd World Day of the Sick to the intercession of Mary, so that she will help sick people to live their own suffering in communion with Jesus Christ. This year's theme is *Faith and Charity*. The true test of faith in Christ, the Pope says, is the gift of oneself to spread the love for one's neighbour, especially for those who do not deserve it, for those who suffer, and for those who are marginalized. Pope Francis says we should approach those who are in need of care with tenderness and charity, taking Mary as our model. Concluding his message Pope Francis turns to the figure of St. John, the disciple who was with Mary at the foot of the Cross. It is this Saint, he stresses, who takes us back to the source of faith and charity, to the heart of God who "is love" and he reminds us that we cannot love God if we do not love our neighbour.

Go to <http://www.nacc.org/resources/Wds/> for prayer resources and full text of the message.

24 FEBRUARY – 9 MARCH FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: *Abolish the Unfair Banana*

Fairtrade bananas appeared in our shops 13 years ago. Due to intense campaigning by the Fairtrade Foundation, over 1.2bn Fairtrade bananas are now sold in the UK each year. But this is still only 1 in 3 of all the bananas sold in British shops, so there is still a long way to go. Despite our achievements, there remains a serious problem at the heart of the banana business. That's why Fairtrade Fortnight 2014 marks the launch of a special campaign that aims to transform the banana industry to ensure those at the sharp end of the supply chain, the millions of struggling banana farmers and workers, get a fair deal. It's a campaign to 'Abolish the Unfair Banana' and is the next part of our three year initiative to Make Food Fair.

www.fairtrade.org.uk/get_involved/campaigns/fairtrade_fortnight_2014.aspx

FAIRTRADE FOUNDATION www.fairtrade.org.uk TRAIDCRAFT www.traidcraft.co.uk

RESOURCES

POPE FRANCIS' 1st PUBLICATION CHALLENGES UNFETTERED CAPITALISM

Pope Francis has published his first Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (the Joy of the Gospel) in which he calls unfettered capitalism "a new tyranny", urging global leaders to fight poverty and growing inequality:

"Just as the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say 'thou shalt not' to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality, no solution will be found for the world's problems."

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Evangelii-Gaudium>

HOW SHOULD WE REMEMBER WORLD WAR I IN 2014?

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. Far from being a "victory for democracy" or a "war to end all wars", this was a military disaster and a human catastrophe, driven by big powers' competition for influence around the globe. The aftermath left 16 million people dead and 20 million wounded. Many peace activists feel uneasy that the occasion may be seen as glorifying war. Writers, actors, musicians, teachers and campaigners have come together to channel the commemoration of this anniversary into promoting peace and international co-operation. In 2014, they will be organising cultural, political and educational activities to mark the courage of many involved in the war but also to remember the almost unimaginable devastation caused. Articles, events and multimedia presentations at <http://noglory.org/>

- The Pax Christi publication "*Opposing World War One: Courage and Conscience*" can be downloaded at: <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/documents/Opposing%20World%20War%20One.pdf> or is available as a paper copy from Pax Christi, St Joseph's Way, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY. Tel: 0208 203 4884 and Pax Christi's film *Give Peace a Budget: 7 ways to spend \$1.7 Trillion* suggests ways to invest in people and their needs rather than in war and conflict. Watch on youtube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBGeBlisiSMU>
- Liverpool J&P Commission's sub-group plans include the Memorial Lecture on Sunday 19 Jan, a series of films beginning on Wednesday 19 Feb, a talk 'CST teaching on War' on Tuesday 10 April and the Annual Assembly on Saturday 12 June.

CONFLICT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

An 18 minute DVD for use in schools and with adults such as in J&P groups with an accompanying resource booklet highlights the danger of climate change leading to more conflict both regionally and globally. It explains how civil unrest in Syria started with food price hikes linked to water scarcity and an intensifying and increasingly regular drought cycle. Similarly the conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur, which broke out in 2003, was stoked by drought and the advancing desert. It calls for sustainable development and an understanding of security to include good stewardship of the natural world for the common good. Prominent political leaders, scientists and academics stress the need to tackle climate change as we all experience more extreme weather events and rising sea levels. The DVD is produced by Bob Walters and executive producers Valerie Flessati and Ellen Teague. The booklet is written by Ellen Teague with an introduction by MAW (Movement for the Abolition of War) Vice President Bruce Kent. £8.99 from: www.kevinmayhew.com/conflict-and-climate-change-book-and-dvd.html

BREAKING NEWS

US PEACE CAMPAIGNER FR JOHN DEAR, DISMISSED FROM JESUITS

American Catholic peace campaigner Fr John Dear has been dismissed from the international Jesuit order, which says he was "obstinately disobedient" to its directives. He has been known for protesting over a wide range of issues, including US policies on Latin America, nuclear weapons development, and the cooperation of Jesuit educational institutions with American military recruiting programs. Many J&P activists in the UK will have been inspired by his talks and writings. Read the full report here: <http://ncronline.org/news/peace-justice/john-dear-jesuit-known-peace-witness-dismissed-order>

DEATH OF POPULAR MP

Paul Goggins, Labour MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East has died after collapsing just over a week ago aged 60. The former Northern Ireland and Home Office Minister was widely respected by all. He entered parliament in 1997 having previously been director of Church Action on Poverty and served as a councillor in Salford.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

10-31 Pax Christ ICON "Christ is our Reconciliation" in Amnesty chapel at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

14 CWDF Forum meeting. Speaker Tony Ellis on the charity International China Concern, supporting orphanages for abandoned children in mainland China. 6.45 for 7pm at The Unity Centre, 17 Cuppin Street Chester CH1 2BN. Details: 01244 350323.

17 CAFOD Quiz Night Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30pm.

18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Theme *Is Christ divided?* www.ctbi.org.uk/CGEA/657

19 Peace Sunday www.paxchristi.org.uk

19 LACE Memorial Lecture for Peace Sunday with Pat Gaffney from Pax Christi "And what did we learn? The challenge to peacemakers commemorating WW1." 1.30 - 4pm LACE, Croxteth Drive Sefton Park Liverpool L17 1AA Details: 016 0151 522 1080

25 January-2 February Poverty and Homelessness Action Week www.actionweek.org.uk

30 7.30pm at St Mary and St Michael Parish Hall, Tilman Close, Settle *Changes in Welfare -how will they effect Craven* with the Manager of Craven CAB

31 January-2 February *The new universe story – recovering a sense of wonder.* A weekend of spiritual enquiry with input from Mark Rotheram and reflections on Thomas Berry with Sr June Raymond at the Friends Meeting House Lancaster. More information: www.newuniversestory.wordpress.com

FEBRUARY

9 *Let Your Light Shine:* Preparing for Lent - Children's Liturgy Leaders - led by Jo Boyce CJM Music 2-5 pm at LACE, Croxteth Drive Sefton Park Liverpool L17 1AA £10 to book send name and cheque to Mrs Julie Cassidy (cheque payable to RCAOL)

9 Preston & South Ribble Fairtrade Group Service of Celebration for 10th anniversary of Preston's Fairtrade City status. 2.30pm at Preston Minster, Church Street, Preston. Guest Speaker: Barbara Crowther, Director of Policy, Fairtrade Foundation. Light refreshments & Fairtrade stalls. All welcome. fairpreston@gmail.com 07813 870641

14-16 Conference *Peace, Power, and Protest: Prophets for a New World* jointly hosted by the Student Christian Movement and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Main speaker Rev Inderjit Bhogal OBE, leader of the Corrymeela Community and leading theologian. <http://movement.org.uk/events>

19 Film as part of WW1 commemoration Venue in Liverpool. Tbc - check for more info: 016 0151 522 1080

20 Newman Association *Food and Faith* talk by Steve Atherton at St Helens, Crosby 7pm.

20 *The UK Gold* Film screening at The Ucheldre Centre, Millbank, Holyhead, Anglesey, LL65 1TE, at 8pm

21 CAFOD Quiz Night (see notice for Jan 17)

27 *The UK Gold* Film. Chester's Fairtrade Steering Group is bringing it to St Mary's Centre Chester, (not the Grosvenor Museum as previously advertised) at 7.30pm with David Hardman of Christian Aid NW coming along to contribute to the after-film discussion. www.theukgold.co.uk

24 February-9 March Fairtrade Fortnight www.fairtrade.org.uk

MARCH

7 World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) *Streams in the Desert* prepared this year by the women of Egypt www.worlddayofprayer.net

8 Vigil 12 noon for 1 hour at Heysham Nuclear Power Station *No More Fukushimas, No More Nuclear Waste, No More Nuclear Weapons* Meeting at Friends Meeting House Lancaster at 10am for briefing and refreshments. Transport available from the Meeting House to Heysham. Further details: Mo Kelly 01524 389911

20 *A poor church for the poor: Romero's witness to the joy of the gospel* Martin Maier SJ at Hope University 7pm Liverpool J&P in association with the Romero Trust.

21 CAFOD Quiz Night (see notice for Jan 17)

23 Romero Memorial Mass at St Mary & St James Church, Snow Hill, Scorton, Preston PR3 1AY 10:30am