

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin – January 2015

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/>

PLAYING FOR PEACE

The story of the 1914 Christmas Truce, or the Christmas Football Truce, is well-known, highlighting a moment of hope in a dark war. Across Europe, a number of countries have organised events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Truce. To bring the message of the Christmas Truce to the world outside Europe, British consulates in 25 countries around the world held soccer matches. The counterparts at the German embassies sometimes joined in the games at consulates in Tunisia, Japan, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Cyprus, and the United States, among others.

In Israel, a youth soccer competition captured the true spirit of the Christmas Truce as Matthew Gould, the British ambassador to Israel, oversaw a tournament of more than 200 Arab and Jewish students from the Haifa region of northern Israel on 15 December. This soccer tournament was especially poignant, coming on the heels of the summer war in Gaza and the ongoing violence and terror attacks concentrated in Jerusalem. Relationships between Jews and Arabs are at one of the lowest points in the past decade and show little signs of improving in the near future. "Right now, we're not just in a crisis situation, we are in a total and utter collapse," said Zouheir Bahloul, a well-known Arab-Israeli soccer announcer on Israel Radio. "Here, we have an island of equality, and we need to develop projects like this ... especially at this age. This is when we can change the next generation."

A number of professional soccer players from Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv teams also joined the tournament in support of the concept of peace and tolerance through sport. "In the current situation, I think sport can unite anew the different populations in Israel," said Mahran Radi, an Arab-Israeli who plays centrefield with Maccabi Tel Aviv. "There is no easy or correct way to do this, but soccer is the most popular thing in the world."

The kids from northern Israel agreed. "I came to play soccer, because on the field it doesn't matter if you're black or white, we play soccer together," said Oren Rafaeliov, 11, from the Israeli Jewish suburb of Tirat HaCarmel.

"I learned that it doesn't matter if someone is Arab or not, you need to give them respect," added his teammate, goalkeeper Liran Agronov, 10.

"I came because I wanted to play and have fun and make new friends, and meet people from other schools," said an 11-year-old Druze named Siraj Nassar al-Din. He is the goalkeeper for the opposing team from Dalat al Karmel, a Druze-Muslim village 15 miles to the east.

"I'm really happy to be here because we get to meet new people ... We're all in this together, holding hands," added Said Fahmoni, a 10-year-old Muslim also from Dalat al Karmel.

Maccabi Haifa player Dekel Keinan said he was not surprised that soccer was used in Europe 100 years ago between soldiers at war and today to encourage dialogue between Jews and Arabs. "Soccer, then and now, is a really good way to communicate," he said. "It's an international language." "Peace will not happen with a signature on an agreement," Bahloul, the soccer announcer, said as he watched a game. "The most important thing that can happen is that enemies can meet each other, here, on the playing field." <http://ncronline.org/news/global/jewish-arab-childrens-soccer-tournament-honors-wwi-christmas-truce>

[abridged from an article by Melanie Lidman, Middle East and Africa correspondent for Global Sisters Report, a project of National Catholic Reporter. She is based in Israel.]

18 January Liverpool J&P Annual Memorial Lecture *Together for the Common Good*

at LACE Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool. L17 1AA. 2pm - 4pm (doors open 1.30pm).

Speaker: **Jenny Sinclair** from T4CG on Catholic social thought and a shared understanding among Christians.

Jenny Sinclair is the daughter of David and Grace Sheppard (of Sheppard and Worlock fame) and the Together for the Common Good initiative is one of the best hopes of an ecumenical presence in the longed for reform of our political discourse.

Her work is especially relevant and useful in this election year. Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

MAJOR CHANGES TO CAFOD

In a letter to supporters dated 6/11/14 Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD wrote:

"Dear friends, we have been reflecting in recent months on how CAFOD plays its part in bringing about the Church's mission to achieve a just and fair world. This has meant listening carefully to our international partners, supporters and staff, Church networks globally and the wider development sector. Pope Francis's call to "recover the original freshness of the Gospel," finding "new avenues" and "new paths of creativity" has also encouraged such reflection throughout the Church.

Looking to the future, we will be prioritising the values of stewardship, partnership, humility and sustainability in our day to day work. This means:

- Working wherever possible to enable the Catholic community in England and Wales to play a greater role in participating in its agency. Recognising that the common good cannot be achieved without the contribution of every person and the particular gifts they bring, we will put a stronger focus on opportunities to volunteer.

- Not assuming that we have the right answers to problems and ensuring that we do more to strengthen the expertise and capabilities of our international partners and the communities they serve. We believe that we should be even more focused on how the poorest in our world are more able to access and influence the resources and decisions which affect their lives, and therefore we should give greater emphasis to this in our allocation of funds. We have been listening to our partners, the majority of whom are part of the Church. They have asked that we trust and respect their expertise, and work alongside them to shape their own future within a local context where they are the experts in their own development.

- Being more proactive in supporting the global Catholic family and its networks to work together to challenge the 'globalisation of indifference' to which Pope Francis has referred. We have heard time and again from fellow agencies and public decision makers on the important role the Church has in influencing the policies and practices which affect the poorest and most disadvantaged. We will continue to be faithful to the spirit of the Catholic lay women who first organised a Family Fast Day more than 50 years ago, and remain rooted in the Catholic community from which we take our mandate.

Guided by principles of stewardship and the challenge of how best to support long term change, we are making the difficult decision to reduce our core organisational costs by £3m to enable us to focus more resources directly towards our emergency response and our long term development programmes and the partnerships needed to deliver them. This will help build a more sustainable, long term way of working which can respond better to an increasingly changing and unpredictable environment in the knowledge that real change for the poorest is our long-term vision and commitment."

PROPOSED NEW WAYS OF WORKING

At a meeting with Tom O'Connor, Director Communities and Supporters, CAFOD and Jo Kitterick, Head of Development Education, CAFOD at St Vincent's, Altrincham 8/11/14 a nine page document was handed out outlining CAFOD's proposed 'new ways of working' which focus on recruiting a greater number of volunteers and replacing the current structure of CAFOD diocesan managers. Under the new proposals England and Wales would be divided into four massive chunks with four regional centres (Leeds, Birmingham, London and Bristol) overseeing mobile teams who could be co-opted to help in any part of their region as required. Concern was expressed that this was a step backwards from the current diocesan support structure and that the plans seems well fleshed out with little or no opportunity for consultation with CAFOD supporters and local groups. It is not yet clear whether current diocesan managers will face redundancy but Tom O'Connor has said that there will be some job losses, both at CAFOD HQ in Romero House and in the regions.

The deadline for comments and feedback has been extended to 23 January. Many supporters have already contacted CAFOD to express their concerns. Do please add your voice if you wish. More info from Anne: anneoc980@hotmail.com

VICTORY FOR UK AID PROMISES

More than 100 MPs were in Westminster on Friday 12/12 to protect the UK's aid promises. The vote, when it was finally taken at 2pm, was emphatic. 146 MPs voted for the bill to protect our promises in law, just 5 against. Yet this result was far from a foregone conclusion. If less than 100 supportive MPs had been in Parliament, a vote could not have been called and the bill would not have survived attempts by a handful of MPs to block it. As MPs usually spend Fridays in their constituencies it was only thanks to lobbying from constituents that so many were there to prevent this from happening.

The few MPs against the bill frequently tried to refer to public opposition to UK aid, and it is only thanks to your emails that other MPs were able to point to the support for international development in their own local constituencies. MPs won't need to vote on the bill again. Against all odds, it has made it through the House of Commons and is a giant step closer to becoming law. It now goes forward to be debated in the Lords.

NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORKING

Ellen Teague reports: The National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales (NJPN) held its quarterly meeting at CAFOD's London offices on 22 November. Nearly 40 representatives of dioceses, religious orders and Catholic agencies shared their work in the areas of justice, peace and care for creation. This followed a talk by Oliver McCernon of Forward Thinking on 'Peace is a Fruit of Remembrance'.

They heard that the NJPN has sent suggestions re: Pope Francis' forthcoming Encyclical on the Environment to Cardinal Peter Turkson of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. It was copied to Pope Francis, Cardinal George Pell of the Secretariat for the Economy and Bishop Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, following concern that issues important to NJPN appear in the Encyclical. NJPN hopes that points to be addressed prophetically could include the link between natural resources exploitation and conflict; the role of women in managing natural resources globally; and the putting in place of Church structures to achieve the necessary degree of education of Catholics in faith, worship and witness regarding the environment and creation theology.

The NJPN Environment Working Group highlighted work on Fracking by Lancaster Diocese Faith and Justice Commission. Their discussion paper and questions for groups follows a big increase in fracking activity in the North-West which has alarmed many communities. At least 281 parish councils have rejected fracking.

Poverty and social exclusion in Britain was explored at a recent study day organised by Westminster Justice and Peace Commission, particularly exploding the myth that Britain is divided into 'skivers' and 'strivers'.

Middlesbrough Diocesan J&P has been working with local World Development Movement members to raise awareness of the TTIP, or Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. This trade agreement is about reducing the regulatory barriers to trade for big business, affecting areas like food safety law, environmental legislation, banking regulations and the sovereign powers of individual nations. The Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) is also focusing on TTIP, particularly in relation to the countries of Africa whose raw materials are highly coveted.

Patricia and Michael Pulham of Christian CND reported forthcoming Advent vigils at Aldermaston on the 4th, 11th and 18th December. Bruce Kent will be speaking at their forthcoming AGM about effective campaigning in churches about stopping the renewal of Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system. Pat Gaffney, Director of Pax Christi, thanked NJPN for signing up to the Rethink Trident statement, which one archbishop and six bishops have also signed, and urged diocesan commissions to sign too. She felt the petition is a good tool for pre-election work on nuclear issues. Pax Christi's popular annual Advent Peace Service will be held on the evening of 8th December at St. Aloysius Church in Euston.

Maria Elena Arana of CAFOD Campaigns reported that there have been 17 launch events since September, involving over 800 supporters of the new campaign, 'One World One Climate', which will run for three years. Peruvian partners spoke at some of them, particularly highlighting the impact of the loss of mountain glaciers on water supply. A number of MPs and bishops have signed up to support. All political parties are being called upon to promise in their manifestos to reduce climate impacts on the poor and to push sustainable energy. Education packs for schools will be available from January 2015. She also reminded us about the Live Simply Parish Award which encourages parishes to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, reporting that 12 parishes have now achieved the award and five others are on the verge of getting it.

Louise Zanré of the Jesuit Refugee Service said JRS is campaigning to stop the use of Immigration Detention. She said that the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Refugees and on Migration are conducting a parliamentary inquiry into the use of immigration detention in the UK. The inquiry, which she will be chairing, will examine the use of detention in the UK immigration and asylum systems, with a particular focus on the conditions within detention centres, the impact on individual detainees and their families, the wider financial and social consequences, how detention is used in other countries, and the future role of detention within the immigration system. Following the receipt of evidence between July and October 2014, and a series of oral evidence sessions, the inquiry aims to publish a report in early 2015.

Election issues are currently being prepared by NJPN members in readiness for next May's General Election. And an important date for the diary is 17-19 July 2015 – the next annual Justice and Peace Conference at Swanwick, Derbyshire with the title, 'The things that make for peace'. Speakers include Prof Paul Rogers, School of Social and International Studies, Peace Studies, University of Bradford; a Progressio Partner from the Yemen Women in Fragile States project; and Fr Edu Gariguez, General Secretary of the Philippine bishops' social justice department and a winner of the 2012 Goldman prize for the environment who has been on hunger strikes to save water and land from mining on Mindoro Island.

More information and booking forms available in February 2015 at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk, or contact the Administrator at admin@justice-and-peace

QUAKERS PROTEST AT UK'S £5M PLAN TO PROMOTE MILITARY ETHOS IN SCHOOLS

Quakers in Britain have responded to the Department for Education announcement of £4.8 million 'Character Innovation Fund' for schools with an Open Letter to Education Secretary, Nicky Morgan. They write:

Quakers in Britain were dismayed to learn this week (11/12/14) that almost all of the recently announced £5 million 'Character Innovation Fund' for schools has been allocated to providers of a 'Military Ethos' such as Challenger Troop and Commando Joe's. Quakers believe that a military ethos is not what young people need. While it claims to engender altruism, aspiration and teamwork, these are not the exclusive preserve of the military. A military culture is one of blind obedience, not the critical thinking learners need, and is founded on the normalisation of violence.

Quakers have worked for peace for over 350 years. Therefore we understand that helping young people facing life difficulties is undoubtedly crucial for healthy communities. There are many successful programmes in which young people develop character outside a military ethos. Innovative organisations such as Leap Confronting Conflict and Peacemakers effectively support young people to develop essential life skills and resolve conflict without violence. Why therefore have you increased funding primarily for providers of a military ethos? The evidence is at best ambiguous; troubled by "methodological issues", your department's own report does not show a military-ethos is more effective than any other alternative provision. The exemplary Outwood Academy, which you cite in your press release of 8 December 2014 offers only one 'military ethos' session among over 100 enrichment activities including the Green Power Challenge, Philosophy and Ethics and Rollicking Reads. Will these activities receive additional funding and be eligible for the new 'Character Awards'?

Quakers have carefully observed the context in which this fund has been announced. We are aware the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were unpopular and the armed forces are struggling to reach recruitment targets. We are called therefore to question the agenda behind this initiative and to ask about its real purpose. Quakers believe that this allocation of funding represents ongoing militarisation of education. It is our view that militarism has no place in the classroom.

* *The new tide of militarisation:* Quaker report which reveals the government strategy to increase public support for the military.
<http://www.quaker.org.uk/militarism>

FURTHER £8.7 MILLION FOR TROOPS TO TEACHERS SCHEME

14/11/2014 ACADEMIES WEEK

Forces Watch reports that The Department for Education is giving a further £8.7 million to the Troops to Teachers scheme between February 2015 and September 2018, despite the fact that only 41 veterans started in the first cohort in January 2014, and only 54 in the second cohort in September. The move has been criticised by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. Schools employing a teacher through the scheme are 'entitled to a £2000 incentive payment'.

<http://www.forceswatch.net/issues/military-in-schools-colleges>

YOUNG PEOPLE CRITICISE MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

FORCESWATCH PRESS RELEASE 23/06/2014:

A week after the government pledged a further £1 million for more cadet forces in state secondary schools, a new film is launched which shows that many young people are critical of the promotion of military activities in their schools. The film, 'Engage: the military and young people' explores the opinions of British teenagers on the military's 'youth engagement' activities - particularly the cadets - and the government's 'Military Ethos in Schools' policy.

On 18 June the Department for Education announced that it will give £1 million (with additional match funding) from the Labor banking fines towards the expansion of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) in state schools, as part of the Department for Education's 'Military Ethos in Schools' programme. This is on top of the almost £11 million already allocated to establish 100 new CCF units by 2015 and nearly £5 million for military-led activities for 'disengaged pupils'. ForcesWatch, who commissioned the film, are concerned that the expansion of cadet units, and other military-led activities, in schools serves as a soft recruitment tool and training programme for the armed forces and question whether the promotion of military activities within education is appropriate.

Emma Sangster from ForcesWatch, said, "A great deal of money is being spent promoting the military in schools when other education and youth resources are being cut. This film suggests that many young people are critical of military activities in their schools and the motivations behind it. It also shows that, while participation in cadet activities may benefit some young people, it also makes them more likely to be recruited into the armed forces. As the cadets are clearly a recruitment tool, we do not believe that they should be promoted in schools."

Emma Sangster, ForcesWatch office@forceswatch.net

Watch the film trailer and see more details at <http://www.forceswatch.net/young-people-military>

ARMS MEAL AT THE TOWER

The Tower of London has been accused of “crass insensitivity” by hosting a £240-a-head networking dinner for arms manufacturers attended by 175 people days after its hugely popular sea of poppies made it the focus of the First World War commemorations. Nearly 200 representatives of Britain’s arms’ industry, along with senior Ministry of Defence officials and foreign defence attachés, attended the unpublicised London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI). The annual dinner, described by organisers as “acclaimed and influential” and a chance to “make new business connections”, was co-sponsored by Lockheed Martin, the world’s largest defence company. The Chief of the Defence Staff, General Sir Nicholas Houghton, was the guest of honour. In an apparent attempt to prevent the gathering becoming a focus for protests, the venue for the LCCI Defence and Security Dinner was kept quiet. Corporate guests paying up to £3,000 per table were told they would be advised of the location “upon registration”.

Campaigners criticised Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), the independent charity which runs the Tower along with other venues including Hampton Court and Kensington Palace, for hosting an event designed to boost arms sales with memory still fresh of its Blood Swept Lands installation of 888,246 ceramic poppies to commemorate each of the British and Commonwealth fallen in the war. Andrew Smith, of Campaign Against the Arms Trade, said: “On Remembrance Day, the Tower of London was a focus for remembering the horrendous loss of life in the First World War. It is disturbing that just weeks later it can play host to the very arms companies which profit from perpetuating war and conflict today. It is crassly insensitive and in extremely bad taste that this historic monument would do this so soon after providing such a high-profile focal point for Remembrance Day.”

It is the second year in a row that the defence dinner has been hosted at the Tower by HRP, which does not receive any public money and must rely on income from entrance fees and other sources to cover its costs. Last year it raised £5.4m (7 per cent of its £80m total income) from hosting events and receptions. Following last year’s event, which was addressed by former GCHQ director Sir Iain Lobban, the charity said it would consider drawing up an ethical policy for hosting corporate events but it was unclear yesterday whether such guidelines had been formulated. HRP is the latest museum or heritage organisation to be criticised for hosting corporate events for defence manufacturers. The London Transport Museum, the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum have previously been accused of putting finances ahead of ethical considerations by accepting sponsorship or hosting events linked to arms companies.

JORDAN’S QUEEN RANIA CALLS FOR THE ARAB WORLD TO UNITE AGAINST ISIS

Jordan’s Queen Rania has made a powerful attack on ISIS for ‘hijacking’ the Arab world with horror beheadings on social media that ‘drag us back to the Dark Ages.’ During a powerful address to the Abu Dhabi Media Summit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), she spoke out against the horror videos of decapitated prisoners being promoted by ISIS on Twitter and Facebook. ‘A minority of irreligious extremists is using social media to rewrite our narrative and hijack our identity,’ she said. Referring specifically to the videos of beheadings, the Queen said: ‘These images don’t represent me anymore than they represent you. ‘They’re alien and abhorrent to the vast majority of Arabs – Muslims and Christians. And they should make every Arab across this region seethe. ‘Because they’re an attack on our values as a people and on our collective story. This is their version of the Arab world’s story, their plot, their narrative, their heroes, and the rest of the world is listening and watching.’

Queen Rania also said the ‘silence’ of moderate Arabs made them complicit in ISIS’ success, adding: ‘At the heart of the assault is an ideology. And if you think you can defeat an ideology with a bullet, think of what happened when Osama Bin Laden was killed.’ Queen Rania explained: ‘Sure he died, but his legacy is an even stronger, more twisted extremist movement. We must create a new narrative and broadcast it to the world. Because if we don’t decide what our identity is and what our legacy will be, the extremists will do it for us.’ Queen Rania urged people in the region to post their own positive ‘profile picture of our Arab world’ on social media sites. She also highlighted education and job creation as being the key to thwarting the extremists and concluded: ‘We either develop our region, or we let others dismantle it – find solutions to the challenges, or watch the challenges avalanche; harness the tools to drive the Arab world forward in the 21st century, or let others use those tools to drag us back to the Dark Ages.’ More than 600 people attended the 5th Abu Dhabi Media Summit to discuss the future of the media in the Arab world and beyond.

Steve Atherton writes: Harry Hagopian’s Epektasis website www.epektasis.net is always informative. The following excerpt keeps us up to date with terminology:

“...the sudden emergence of Daesh in our midst. This offshoot of Al-Qaeda was imported violently into the lives of many peoples in early summer when it overran Mosul (captured is far too strong a verb given that the Iraqi army simply upped and scarpereed without even any token resistance). It first became prominent with the acronym of ISIS, and then shifted to IS in our Western media vernacular before morphing into a so-called caliphate headed by the self-styled emir Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. It took the world a while to call them by their Arabic name of Daesh. But this nomenclature is quite appropriate: it disinvests them of the sobriquets of ‘Islamic’ or ‘State’ and highlights the fact that ‘dawaesh’ (plural of Daesh in Arabic) denotes ‘bigots’.”

CAFOD COMMENTS ON LIMA CLIMATE CONFERENCE

CAFOD says it is pleased that some progress was made at the Lima climate talks, but has sounded a note of concern that the needs of the vulnerable people who are hit first and worst by climate change are still being overlooked as negotiators wrangle on the detail (Posted 23 December).

Countries agreed to issue national pledges next year detailing what action they will take to cut their carbon emissions - known as Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). It is hoped countries will take ownership of these pledges and use them to set out their plans for a transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon future – urgently needed to help build new models of development that are both climate compatible and bring people out of poverty. However, there are significant limitations to the text that was agreed in Lima, including countries not being compelled to give this information and governments having stepped back from plans for a robust assessment of their commitments before the climate talks in Paris next December. This means there is still a significant amount of work to be done before next year to ensure the kind of global deal that is needed. The Lima agreement also failed to reflect the momentum going into the talks on both a political level, with governments having pledged US \$10 billion to the Green Climate Fund ahead of the talks, or from civil society, with large numbers joining the People's Marches in September and 15,000 people marching in Lima last week, the largest peaceful protest in Latin America on climate change.

The Catholic Church had a stronger voice than ever before in this year's climate talks. A statement from a global group of Bishops calling for an end to the fossil fuel era and "for all Catholics to engage on the road to Paris", received widespread media coverage, while Pope Francis sent a message to the conference's President, Peruvian Environment Minister, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, reminding him that there is a clear, definitive and urgent ethical imperative to act on climate change. "We can find solutions only if we act together," the Pope's letter read.

With over 400 million people most vulnerable to the effects of climate change already surviving on less than \$1.50 a day, as CAFOD's 'Pushing People over the Edge' <http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/UK-News/CAFOD-report-climate-poorest> report shows, we believe it is crucial that next year we see an increased urgency to move forward decisions which will help those vulnerable communities. Sign CAFOD's petition to stop climate change pushing people deeper into poverty here: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Take-action-today/Email-party-leaders>

PRAY AND FAST FOR OUR PLANET

A growing number of people around the world have followed Filipino climate delegate Yeb Sano's example, fasting on the first day of each month in the lead up to the Paris climate talks which began on 1 December, to persuade world leaders to set a radical limit on our carbon emissions. A growing number of people in faith, youth and environmental groups go without food to show their solidarity with people already affected by climate change.

Fasting demonstrates our commitment: the path towards a better future might not always be as smooth or as short as we'd like, but that's why taking time at the beginning of every month to focus our attention on solidarity and action is so important. The fast will continue throughout 2015, until world leaders gather again in Paris to finalise the agreement.

Sano, opened the UN climate talks last November with an impassioned plea for urgent action, and announcing a hunger strike in solidarity for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. See his speech here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SSXLIZkM3E>

JUST WATER CHALLENGE 2015

DECEMBER PRESS RELEASE: In just a few days, we'll be raising a glass to the New Year! And while we can't wait to celebrate, we know that after countless cups of tea and the odd tittle too many, January is the best time to ring in the changes with a healthier lifestyle. That's why we'll only be drinking water for the whole month of January - and we'd love you to join us in the Just Water challenge.

More than just a detox. Safe water is a human right, yet one in ten people are living without it - which can mean illness and even death. This January, let's change things. Ready to take the challenge? Here's how you can get started: Get fundraising! Set up your fundraising page here:

https://www.wahoo.wateraid.org/uk/fundraiser?utm_source=warm_supporters&utm_medium=email&utm_content=just_water&utm_campaign=cmt_y_just_water&dm_i=28HF,3RPN,TV49,84VI,1 and don't stop sharing the link until all your friends and family are supporting you.

Pledge your allegiance. Add a pint of water selfie to your Facebook and Twitter profiles and share it with us too – use [#justwater](#) to let us know you're in! Umzing and ahing about whether to take part, or just want to talk things through? Get in touch at events@wateraid.org

FIRST WOMAN BISHOP FOR CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PRESS RELEASE 17 December 2014

Downing Street have today announced that the new Bishop of Stockport - and the first woman bishop in the Church of England - will be Rev Libby Lane, currently Vicar of St Peter's, Hale, and St Elizabeth's, Ashley. As Bishop of Stockport she will serve as a suffragan (assistant) bishop in the Diocese of Chester. She will be consecrated as the 8th Bishop of Stockport at a ceremony at York Minster on Monday 26 January 2015.

Libby Lane was ordained as a priest in 1994 and has served a number of parish and chaplaincy roles in the North of England in the Dioceses of Blackburn, York and Chester. For the past 8 years she has served as Vicar of St. Peter's Hale and St. Elizabeth's Ashley. She is one of eight clergy women from the Church of England elected as Participant Observers in the House of Bishops, as the representative from the dioceses of the North West.

Speaking at Stockport town hall where she was announced as the new Bishop of Stockport Libby Lane said: "I am grateful for, though somewhat daunted by, the confidence placed in me by the Diocese of Chester. This is unexpected and very exciting. On this historic day as the Church of England announces the first woman nominated to be Bishop, I am very conscious of all those who have gone before me, women and men, who for decades have looked forward to this moment. But most of all I am thankful to God. The church faces wonderful opportunities, to proclaim afresh, in this generation, the Good News of Jesus and to build His Kingdom. The Church of England is called to serve all the people of this country, and being present in every community, we communicate our faith best when our lives build up the lives of others, especially the most vulnerable. I am excited by the possibilities and challenges ahead."

Responding to news of the announcement the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, said: "It is with great joy that on January 26, 2015 - the feast of Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul - I will be in York Minster, presiding over the consecration of the Revd Libby Lane as Bishop Suffragan of Stockport. Libby brings a wealth of experience in parish ministry, in hospital and FE chaplaincy, in vocations work and the nurture of ordinands. I am delighted that she will exercise her episcopal ministry with joy, prayerfulness, and trust in God."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said: ""I am absolutely delighted that Libby has been appointed to succeed Bishop Robert Atwell as Bishop of Stockport. Her Christ-centred life, calmness and clear determination to serve the church and the community make her a wonderful choice. She will be bishop in a diocese that has been outstanding in its development of people, and she will make a major contribution. She and her family will be in my prayers during the initial excitement, and the pressures of moving".

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, said: "Libby has had a varied and distinguished ministry, and is currently a first-rate parish priest. She has already demonstrated her ability to contribute nationally through her representative role in the House of Bishops, on behalf of the north-west England dioceses. As the first woman bishop in the Church of England she will face many challenges as well as enjoying many opportunities to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. I have no doubt that she has the gifts and determination to be an outstanding bishop. I am delighted at her designation as Bishop of Stockport after a lengthy process of discernment across the Church of England and beyond."

The nomination of Libby as the new Bishop of Stockport was approved by the Queen and announced today (Wednesday 17 December 2014). Libby succeeds the Rt Revd Robert Atwell, who is now the Bishop of Exeter. END OF PRESS RELEASE.

Following the announcement of the Church of England's first woman bishop on 17 December 2014, a spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales said they would not be issuing any comment and referred back to the Bishops' statement issued in July this year.

STATEMENT – WOMEN BISHOPS

"The Catholic Church remains fully committed to its dialogue with the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. For the Catholic Church, the goal of ecumenical dialogue continues to be full visible ecclesial communion. Such full ecclesial communion embraces full communion in the episcopal office. The decision of the Church of England to admit women to the episcopate therefore sadly places a further obstacle on the path to this unity between us. Nevertheless we are committed to continuing our ecumenical dialogue, seeking deeper mutual understanding and practical cooperation wherever possible. We note and appreciate the arrangement of pastoral provision, incorporated into the House of Bishops' Declaration and the amending Canon passed by the General Synod, for those members of the Church of England who continue to hold to the historic understanding of the episcopate shared by the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. At this difficult moment we affirm again the significant ecumenical progress which has been made in the decades since the Second Vatican Council and the development of firm and lasting friendships between our communities. We rejoice in these bonds of affection and will do all we can to strengthen them and seek together to witness to the Gospel in our society."

RELIGIOUS LEADERS PLEDGE TO WORK TOGETHER TO END SLAVERY BY 2020

Pope Francis and leaders of other churches and religions signed a declaration pledging to work together to help end modern slavery in the world by 2020. He urged governments, businesses and all people of good will to join forces against this "crime against humanity." Tens of millions of people are "in chains" because of human trafficking and forced labour, and it is leading to their "dehumanisation and humiliation," the Pope said at the ceremony on 2 December, the U.N. Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Every human person is born with the same dignity and freedom, and any form of discrimination that does not respect this truth "is a crime and very often an abhorrent crime," the Pope said.

Inspired by their religious beliefs and a desire "to take practical action," the Pope and 11 leaders representing the Muslim, Jewish, Orthodox, Anglican, Buddhist and Hindu faiths made a united commitment to help eradicate slavery worldwide. The leaders signed the joint declaration at the headquarters of Pontifical Academy of Sciences in the Vatican Gardens. The signatories included: Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury; Rabbi David Rosen, international director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee; Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi al-Modarresi, an influential Shiite scholar; and representatives signing on behalf of Ahmad el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Al-Azhar University - a leading Sunni Muslim institution in Cairo - and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

The declaration recognised that any action that fails to respect every person's freedom and dignity "is a crime against humanity." "We pledge ourselves here today to do all in our power, within our faith communities and beyond, to work together for the freedom of all those who are enslaved and trafficked so that their future may be restored," it said. "Today we have the opportunity, awareness, wisdom, innovation and technology to achieve this human and moral imperative," said the joint declaration, which was read aloud in English by a man from Ghana and in Spanish a woman from Mexico, both of whom had been victims of human trafficking and forced labor.

The initiative was organized by the faith-based Global Freedom Network, which was launched in March after a joint agreement by the Vatican, Al-Azhar University and the Anglican Communion. According to the 2014 Global Slavery Index, almost 36 million people are currently caught in some form of modern slavery; the International Labour Organisation estimates that organised crime networks reap about 150 billion dollars a year from trafficking in persons, about 80% of that from prostitution.

<http://ncronline.org/news/global/pope-religious-leaders-pledge-work-together-end-slavery-2020>

Watch a short clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnns_ct5c7c

Sign the declaration: <http://www.globalfreedomnetwork.org/declaration/>

CAP URGES POLITICIANS TO MAKE 'SERIOUS' RESPONSE TO UK HUNGER CRISIS

Church Action on Poverty (CAP) has welcomed the report of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Food Poverty and Hunger launched on 8 December. Director of CAP Niall Cooper said: "Frank Field, Bishop Tim Thornton and the Inquiry team are to be congratulated for a serious and thorough examination of the underlying reasons for the huge growth in food poverty and hunger in recent years. It is no longer possible to deny the scale of the problem, nor the many and complex reasons for it - including chronic low pay, benefit problems and benefit sanctions. Our call for a Parliamentary Inquiry in the 'Walking the Breadline' report back in May 2013 has been vindicated. The Inquiry's report confirms what people have been telling us for the past 18 months: there is a very real crisis of food poverty and hunger across the UK, the like of which we have not seen in most of our lifetimes, and never expected to see in what is still one of the wealthiest countries on the planet.

This issue of ensuring all our citizens are fed transcends party politics. It is not an issue of left or right, but of basic humanity. It is now time for both Government and Opposition to go beyond scoring political points, and to take seriously the question of how we as a nation ensure that no one need go to bed hungry. The Parliamentary Inquiry makes many serious recommendations, and it is incumbent on politicians to come up with a serious response."

Read 'Walking the Breadline' here: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/walkingthebreadline/info/report/walkingthebreadlinefile>

RESOURCES

JOIN THE LENTEN FAST

Show your solidarity with people facing destitution. Raise funds through sponsorship to help us tackle food poverty. Get your Fast pack from Church Action on Poverty at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/fast or call 0161 236 9321

PAX CHRISTI RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE

Matt Jeziorski Pax Christi's schools and youth education officer has produced a great new General RE Resource. This scheme of work is designed to slot into any Catholic Sixth Form College's General RE programme. It is all on-line to make it easy for teachers to use... please do pass on the link and take a look at it yourself... lots of good ideas for groups to use too!

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/general-re/>

NEW STUDY HIGHLIGHTS WORK OF SVP VOLUNTEERS IN UK

Changing Lives, a book of real-life stories showing how volunteers have made a difference to vulnerable people and families, is being released by the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) this month (December 2014). The 120 page book contains over 100 case studies demonstrating how the charity has brought practical and emotional assistance to people in various circumstances of need. The studies cover the spectrum of poverty and disadvantage and are structured within themes of isolation, deprivation, food poverty, crime, asylum, homelessness and addiction, amongst others.

Changing Lives was put together over a period of two years to highlight the work done across England and Wales by the SVP's 10,000 members in their local communities. Stories are inspiring, concise, and offer an abundance of warmth and wisdom in showing what happens when volunteers organise themselves to help people in their local community. Available for a suggested donation of £5 plus postage and packaging. All proceeds will go towards the valuable charitable work of the SVP, helping alleviate the suffering of people in need. Order from the SVP National Office 020 7703 3030.

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

18 January Peace Sunday: *Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters*

The Press Notice from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace states: "Many people think that slavery is a thing of the past. In fact, this social plague remains all too real in today's world. Being children of God gives all human beings equal dignity as brothers and sisters."

Please do all you can to promote this day in your parish and encourage support for Pax Christi! Contact your parish priest and those involved in liturgy/children's activity in the parish. Peace Sunday is the main opportunity that Pax Christi has to raise income for its on-going work. Invite your parish to have a second collection for Pax Christi or to make a donation to Pax Christi. Without this income our work cannot continue. All the materials are on our website <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/> Why not make a link to your own parish website? We have lots of leaflets and prayer cards to help you promote the day - send your order to the office. Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London NW4 4TY 0208203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

18 January World Day of Migrants and Refugees: *Church without Frontiers*

The theme chosen by Pope Francis to celebrate this event is *Church without Frontiers*. When allowing or not allowing people to cross the frontiers into our countries, or to enter our cultures, communities, or personal lives, do we effectively judge some people to be useless, out of place or disposable? People are not things to be used. Everyone has a place in the human family that cannot be filled by anyone else.

The Church without frontiers, Mother to all, spreads throughout the world a culture of acceptance and solidarity, in which no one is seen as useless, out of place or disposable.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20140903_world-migrants-day-2015.html

18 January Homeless Sunday

Homeless Sunday brings together thousands of churches. It has the support of all the main denominations and is celebrated in a wide range of congregations. Homeless Sunday has been marked since the mid-1990s. It's a way for the churches to demonstrate solidarity with people experiencing homelessness in the UK, to challenge the conditions that give rise to high levels of homelessness, and to celebrate the work of the churches and others in tackling homelessness, at all levels, particularly locally.

The purpose of Homeless Sunday is threefold:

- showing our concern for individuals affected by homelessness
- challenging the conditions that create it
- celebrating work that tackles the problem

Churches mark the day through a wide variety of activities:

- including homeless people in prayer
- a full weekend of activities such as sleep outs
- profile raising events to highlight the problem locally
- services that link with local housing and homelessness projects and build bridges into the local community
- joint services with other local churches
- fundraising for national and local action.

All events raise the profile of homelessness in the church. Whatever level of engagement a congregation has with homelessness, Homeless Sunday is an opportunity to take it a step higher.

<http://www.homeless-sunday.uk/>

18 – 25 January Christian Unity Week: *The Well is Deep*

This year's theme comes to us from the churches of Brazil. Brazilians, who have traditionally been tolerant of their various social classes and ethnic groups, are now living through a time of growing intolerance made manifest in high levels of violence, especially against minorities and the vulnerable. Increasingly, in Brazil, some Christian groups compete with one another for a place on the mass media, for new members and for public funds. The Brazilian churches have begun to recognise that intolerance should be dealt with in a positive way - respecting diversity and promoting dialogue as a permanent path of reconciliation and peace in fidelity to the gospel. We can share this recognition. Although the competition between churches is less obvious in our islands, we are well aware that competition and violent discrimination lie beneath the surface of our lives together. Jesus challenges us to acknowledge that diversity is part of God's design, to approach one another in trust and to see the face of God in the face of all men and women. Resources from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk/682

25 January World Religion Day

World Religion Day (third Sunday of January each year) aims to promote inter-faith understanding and harmony.

27 January Holocaust Memorial Day: *Keep the Memory Alive*

27 January 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. 2015 will also be the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia. Therefore it is particularly appropriate that the theme for this major anniversary year focuses on memory. See more at: <http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2015-keep-memory-alive#sthash.kWfLGTmh.dpuf>

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/2015/Ordo-2015.pdf www.stophetraffik.org

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

Pope Francis has said autistic disorders are nothing to be ashamed of, as he encouraged everyone to build solidarity to ensure that autistic persons are not isolated. "Everyone should be committed to promoting acceptance, encounter and solidarity through concrete support and by encouraging renewed hope," he told participants in his November 22 audience with autistic persons and their families. Through this support, he said, "we can contribute to breaking down the isolation and, in many cases, the stigma burdening people with autism spectrum disorders, and just as often their families." The Pope stressed the importance of accompanying autistic persons and their families in a personal way by listening to their needs, which "arise from the depths of a pathology which, all too often, struggles to be properly diagnosed and accepted without shame or withdrawing into solitude." <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/pope-break-down-the-stigma-burdening-those-with-autism-32815/>

11 February World Day for the Sick: *Faith and Charity*

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains has developed resources to help with the planning and celebration of World Day of the Sick. The resources include suggestions and prayers that can be used by individuals as well as by dioceses, parishes, health care institutions, and other organizations. Go to <http://www.nacc.org/resources/Wds/>

15 February Church Action on Poverty Sunday

Church Action on Poverty believes in the unique value of every human being, created in the image of God. We know that if we work together, we can Close the Gap between rich and poor, and build a society which will be happier, healthier, safer and fairer. On 15 February 2015, hundreds of churches will share visions of the Good Society, and raise vital funds for our work to make those visions a reality. [Worship materials and fundraising resources: http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/resources](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/resources)

We've just uploaded some extra resources to help you tell stories and share visions at your event. Use a video clip to share some visions of the Good Society from church projects across the UK. Or use our *PowerPoint* presentation or speaking notes to give a short talk: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/extras>

We also have a template newsletter article and other resources you can use to promote your Church Action on Poverty Sunday event locally. Click here for help with promoting your event: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/word>

Download our free resources to plan a worship service at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

15 February Day for the Unemployed

20 February UN World Day of Social Justice

Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of our global mission to promote development and human dignity. Observance of World Day of Social Justice should support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday/>

23 February - 8 March Fairtrade Fortnight

We've come so far since the first Fairtrade Fortnight in 1995, educating the public on why to choose Fairtrade and increasing sales on Fairtrade terms for marginalised producers. Over the past 20 years, together we've made the Fairtrade mark the biggest and best known ethical label in the UK.

78% of the UK public recognise the FAIRTRADE Mark. From UK sales alone, £26m of Fairtrade Premium was invested by producers in 2013. But we know there is still a long way to go to make all trade fair – just 1.2% of cocoa and less than 10% of tea globally is traded on Fairtrade terms. So for Fairtrade Fortnight 2015, we're going to celebrate the impact of Fairtrade and ask you to turn a spotlight on the producers who grow the products we love. By sharing their stories in a fresh and compelling way, we can remind the UK of the dramatic difference choosing Fairtrade makes and how much it is still needed.

We're focusing on a few core commodities – cocoa, sugar, and tea – in new materials, case studies and a brand new 15 minute film that will be available for Fairtrade Fortnight. Whether you're an individual or part of a Fairtrade group, there will be opportunities to take action – including asking businesses directly to switch to Fairtrade in a stock it challenge.

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2015/fairtrade-fortnight-2015-resources>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

13 Chester World Development Forum Meeting 6.45- 9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. Our first bi-monthly Forum meeting of 2015, at The Unity Centre. Speaker Naomi Woodcock, who has recently been in South Africa on a joint DfID/ TearFund project, part of the International Citizen Service Programme. www.chesterwdf.org.uk

15 Fracking? As Christians should we have a view? Exploring our views as people of Faith. Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish Centre 63 St Albans Road, St Annes-on-the-Sea FY8 1XD 7pm All Welcome. More information: Ann annied6@btinternet.com 01253 728819 Maggie: lfjc@talktalk.net 01524 383081 Supported by Lancaster Diocesan Faith & Justice Commission

16 CAFOD Quiz for CAFOD's Connect 2 Ethiopia projects organised by Ellesmere Port LPA J&P Group 7.30pm Our Lady's Parish Centre. Fee £3 for adults £1 for children which includes interval refreshments. Teams are welcome or join a team on the night. Further quiz nights on 13 February & 13 March – details as for 16 January.

18 Peace Sunday: *Slaves no more, but brothers and sisters* Resource materials available from Pax Christi <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

18 Liverpool J&P Annual Memorial Lecture at LACE Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool. L17 1AA. *Together for the Common Good.* 2pm - 4pm (doors open 1.30pm). Speaker: Jenny Sinclair from T4CG on Catholic social thought and a shared understanding among Christians. Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

18 Homeless Sunday <http://www.homeless-sunday.uk/>

18 World Day of Migrants and Refugees: *Church without Frontiers*

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20140903_world-migrants-day-2015.html

18-25 Christian Unity Week: *The Well is Deep* Resources from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland www.ctbi.org.uk/682

19 "After the honeymoon? The next decade of South-South Development Corporation" 5-6pm, University of Chester, Chester Campus, Best Building, Chester, Cheshire CH1 4BQ. A talk by Dr Emma Mawdsley, covering themes covered in her recent book "*From recipients to donors – emerging powers and the changing development landscape*" published by Zed Books. Emma Mawdsley is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Geography and Cambridge University, and her sphere is human geography, with particular interest in the rising powers and the politics of development. Her talk is one of a series of talks by visiting speakers arranged by the Department of Geography and Development Studies at the University of Chester. Visitors welcome.

www.chesterwdf.org.uk

20 Initial meeting to gauge whether there is enough support to set up a local **Church Action on Poverty** group based in Kendal. 10.30am at the Quaker Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal. Would you be able to join us? Just want to find out more? If you hope to come please email timon@homecall.co.uk or phone 01539 740 605

20 Churches Together in Lancashire Forum & AGM 7-9pm in St Cuthbert's Church, Fulwood Lytham Road Preston PR2 3AR Tim Keightley, CEO of the Foxton Centre will speak about the social action work of the Centre. There will be a "market stall" for groups to share their work, opportunity for discussion & encouragement. The event will be attended by leaders of each denomination in the County and will be an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion and mutual encouragement. Worship together will be led by Churches Together in Fulwood and Broughton.

20 World Day of Social Justice un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlJustice/

21 Liverpool Archdiocese Justice & Peace Commission invite you to join them to consider *The Signs of the Times: Housing; Trident; Ebola; Unemployment; Bedroom Tax; NHS; Immigration*. An evening to name the issues that concern us and to consider how Catholic Social Teaching calls us to respond. 7-9pm at St Clare's Parish Centre, Rutland Avenue, Liverpool L17 2AU

24 Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace Day of Reflection for parish reps & anyone who is interested or involved in Justice & Peace work/issues 10.30am – 3pm St Columba's, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH2 1SA. Speakers to be confirmed. Everyone is warmly invited, Bishop Mark will join us for the beginning of the day. Tea & Coffee will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

25 World Religion Day

27 Holocaust Memorial Day *Keep the Memory Alive*

<http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2015-keep-memory-alive#sthash.kWfLGTmh.dpuf>

30 Concert in memory of Paul Goggins at St John's, Smith Square London SW1P 3HA: 7.30pm. Mozart Requiem and Beethoven Piano Concerto No 4. To raise funds for the Cardinal Hume Centre www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk Tickets from the Box Office 020 7222 1061 www.sjss.org.uk

FEBRUARY

1 Education Day Held three Sundays before first Sunday of Lent

8 Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking www.stophetraffik.org

8 Autism Sunday, also known as the International Day of Prayer for Autism and Asperger's Syndrome www.autismsunday.co.uk

11 February World Day for the Sick <http://www.nacc.org/resources/Wds/>

14 NJPN OPEN NETWORKING DAY 10.30am-4pm St David's RC College, Ty Gwyn Rd, Cardiff CF23 5QD. Speaker: Alison Jackson, Church Action on Poverty *Vision for the Common Good*

15 Church Action on Poverty Sunday. Free resources to plan a worship service at www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

15 Day for the Unemployed

20 UN World Day of Social Justice <http://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday/>

27 Lent Fast Day

23 February - 8 March Fairtrade Fortnight <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>

MARCH

6 Women's World Day of Prayer *Do you know what I have done to you?* prepared by the women of Egypt 01892 541411 wwdp-natcomm.org

8 International Women's Day Internationalwomensday.com

22 World Water Day unwater.org/worldwaterday

21 in the Cathedral Centre Lancaster **Gospels and Government will Catholic Social Teaching effect the way you vote** With inputs from John Battle on visions for the future, Helen Boothroyd on the Cumbria Welfare Commission and Simon Stewart on Catholic Social Teaching. For more information and to book a place contact Maggie: lfjc@talktalk.net 01524 383081

24 35th Anniversary of the Death of Archbishop Oscar Romero www.romerotrue.org.uk

MAY

16 NJPN AGM & OPEN NETWORKING DAY 10.30am-4pm CAFOD 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB

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

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