

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/>

THOUSANDS LOBBY PARLIAMENT FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

ICN Editor Jo Siedlecka writes: More than 10,000 people demanding action over climate change descended on London on Wednesday 17 June, for a mass lobby of UK politicians organised by The Climate Coalition. They travelled from all over the country to Westminster to ask their local MPs to take a stand in the global fight against climate change. Hundreds more who couldn't make the rally emailed their MPs with similar requests.

The UK's biggest-ever climate change lobby brought together Britons from every walk of life - including anglers, beekeepers, snowboarders, surfers, doctors, wildlife enthusiasts, grandparents, nuns, priests and farmers.

The day began with ecumenical prayers. There were so many people that prayer services were held in two places - St Margaret's Church, Westminster and the Emmanuel Centre. Bishop Nicholas Holtam, Anglican Bishop of Salisbury, had to deliver his homily twice - travelling by rickshaw to reach the second service in time.* After the services, thousands of people queued to meet face-to-face with their constituency MPs along the Embankment outside Westminster, to explain why they want the new Parliament to support national and global efforts to hold back CO2 emissions and build a cleaner economy.

Together with the hundreds taking on-line action, the lobby was more than 10,000 strong, and by early afternoon the campaign hashtag #fortheloveof was trending at #2 on Twitter in UK.

The Climate Coalition wants politicians to work together across party lines to create a low-carbon infrastructure plan, covering energy and transport and the restoration of nature.

Those who attended included Double Olympic Gold Medallist and quadruple World Champion rower Andrew Triggs-Hodge who said: "Climate change threatens many aspects of human life - and changing water patterns is one of the main risks. In London, the population depends on a relatively small river basin, the Thames. If the stress to the Thames Basin becomes intolerable, it will be hard for my sport to continue in the UK. The risk is too great to ignore. That's why I'm speaking up for the love of rowing."

Dominican Sister Karen Marguerite d'Artois OP said: "I'm here today because I care passionately about our world and what is happening to it. The earth is God's creation which has been entrusted to us. We have an obligation to care for it. I've come with CAFOD to speak to my MP because climate change is having its greatest impact on the most vulnerable: it's pushing the poorest people in our world deeper into poverty. We have a responsibility towards those who are less privileged than we are, and we have to start thinking about how our lifestyles affect our brothers and sisters in developing countries."

Bee keeper Colin Hall said: "Beekeeping connects us with the greater whole of nature and agriculture. Climate change is a catastrophic threat to bees and is already happening. We must act with the greatest urgency to save the British countryside that we love and all the precious creatures who depend on it and give it life."

Surfers Against Sewage CEO Hugo Tagholm said: "The UK's amazing waves, oceans and beaches, and the surfers that use them are under threat from climate change. Increased rainfall could lead to more pollution as the UK's sewerage system is inundated, exposing surfers to more potentially harmful pathogens. Coastal erosion could be exacerbated by more severe storms, changing the face of UK surfing habitats as we know them. Surfers Against Sewage is mobilising surfers nationwide to take action on climate change, protect the beaches we all love, and Speak Up For The Love Of Waves!"

Bernard Llewelyn, a farmer from Carmarthenshire who also runs a tourism business: said "Climate change is a big issue for farmers. I'm joining this lobby because I'm concerned about the impact it will have on our family farms and the beauty of rural Wales. We must address this serious issue for the sake of our food supply and rural economy. If we act now, we can provide a positive future for Welsh family farms and farmers worldwide."

From *Independent Catholic News* <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27718>

Source: Christian Aid/ICN

* **Text:** Bishop Nicholas Holtam at Climate Change Lobby service <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27717>

THOUSANDS SPEAK UP FOR ALL THEY HOLD DEAR!

Christian Aid Campaigns Officer Luke Harman reflects on a powerful show of love and democracy at the climate lobby on 17 June. From all corners of the United Kingdom, people were arriving to speak up for the things, people and places they love. And there were an awful lot of them! Christians, in particular, were out in force. So many, in fact, that two simultaneous services were held to accommodate all those who wished to worship and pray ahead of their meetings with MPs later in the day.

Bishop Nicholas Holtam spoke up for our love of God's creation, reminding us that climate change is a concern of all faiths and all humanity: *'we all share one world as our common home'*. His words reminded me of our need to stand with the poorest on this Earth, who've done the least to cause climate change but are already suffering its effects. We are all one in God's image, and what is bad for our neighbours is bad for us.

Bishop Holtam spoke of many reasons for hope. Firstly, the Papal encyclical should be seen not just as a letter to Catholics, but rather a message to everyone about the care and stewardship of our common home. He also pointed to how the world has shifted on climate change. *'The science, economics and politics all point in the same direction. We need a new way of living, using the creativity of our intelligence and God's spirit.'*

In closing, the Bishop spoke of the hope he'd seen in Malawi; how the poorest of all the people he'd met were planting trees to address deforestation. They were not just thinking for the short term, but are making a long-term investment. The poor are often our teachers because they are less well protected, most vulnerable, forced to be realistic about what is happening to them in our world. These poor people were making the investment that is needed to turn things round, to turn our community round and care for our earthly home.

'If we stand with the poorest, there is hope we can address the issues of climate change when we speak up for the love of this world God made and loves.'

And so it was with hope in my heart that I stepped out into the sunshine and into the lobby line. The area around Parliament was awash with bright colours, messages of hope and powerful slogans written on beautiful bunting created by campaigners. The crowds curved from one side of the Thames to the other and there was an almost palpable optimism in the air as people prepared to meet their MPs, brought out to meet constituents by rickshaw. Vicars, surfers, cyclists, mothers, school groups - it seemed people from all walks of life were here to make a difference.

MPs themselves were no doubt surprised and impressed at the number of people who'd given up their Wednesday afternoons to talk to them about climate change. The discussions carried on long into the afternoon, often positive, heated and passionate. In total well over 300 MPs were lobbied and not one of them can claim they're unaware of the strength of their constituents' feeling on the need to tackle climate change.

Seeing so many amazing, committed people in one place reminds me how powerful we are when we come together. It renews my hope that we can win the climate fight. And it fills me with love for God's creation and all the people in it.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk>

RESPONSE: Amber Rudd, the UK government minister responsible for climate change, has already responded to the campaign. "Politicians can't deliver on the ambition [to tackle climate change] without the public saying 'We need you to do this.' So I really welcomed the campaigning today... It engaged more politicians on this really important issue."

CARDINAL NICHOLS INTRODUCES LAUDATO SI'

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, together with Fr Augusto Zampini, a moral theologian from Argentina and adviser to CAFOD, launched Pope Francis' first Encyclical *Laudato Si'* at a press conference on Thursday 18 June at Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Poplar, East London.

The setting could not have been more symbolic. The newly-built school with state of the art eco features, lies under the shadow of Canary Wharf with its many banks and corporations. The Encyclical was presented at an assembly in the school hall with the children. While images of creation were projected onto a screen, the children sang and read the story of Creation from the book of Genesis. After prayers and a blessing the children filed out, singing *Christ Be Our Light*, and the reporters moved onto the roof for the press conference.

Cardinal Vincent said it had been decided to hold the presentation at the school, because the encyclical dealt with the fundamental question of what kind of world do we want to leave future generations; because the school is new and has been built with great attention to the ecology and environment - "so is an example of can be done in building for the future" and, he pointed out, because of its location near the centre of trade and business - Pope Francis has often said the "enterprise and business structure of the world always needs fresh scrutiny."

Cardinal Vincent then outlined key themes in the encyclical, which, he pointed out, comes in a long line of Catholic teaching documents. Global free market capitalism has created what the Pope calls a 'globalisation of indifference'. "The voice of the poor comes through and through again" he said. Climate change is having a far greater impact on the poor. The Cardinal described a village in Kenya which has a river, but the water is so polluted it is undrinkable.

A major theme in the Encyclical is integral human development. Pope Francis welcomes the genius of enterprise, but says the purposes and motives of business need to be challenged over and over again. The profit motive alone is not enough.

"The document offers an ethical framework which is a real challenge to every one of us" Cardinal Vincent said. The assumption has been that perennial progress is forever possible - we have to have the latest phone - "but this is in the end a destructive ethical framework. With the creation of endless demands, and when other more fundamental demands not being met, we exceed the capacity of nature. We end up with nature being destroyed - "throwaway culture" and "throwaway people."

Cardinal Vincent he was reminded of his grandfather, who used to say: 'a man is rich according to the simplicity of his needs.' "That in a way encapsulates the ethical framework the Pope puts forward."

The Cardinal said each one of us has a part to play. In our daily examination of conscience we need to look at how we behave towards the environment; what we waste; what lifestyle we are engaged or aspire to. We must also ask ourselves how we encourage and support political initiatives that serve the community. "Yesterday we saw that in central London" he said - (referring to the Climate Lobby of Parliament). The Encyclical is clearly designed in an effort to influence the forthcoming meetings in Paris and UN.

In this Encyclical Pope Francis is calling for "ecological conversion" - placing God at the centre of our lives. 'They are yours, oh Lord, who love all living beings.' The more we usurp the power of God, the more we will continue to exhaust all that has been entrusted to us and betray those left out.

This is a challenging, timely and powerful document, the Cardinal concluded. In a wide ranging question and answer session the Cardinal mentioned new initiatives at diocesan level to encourage green audits of parishes. For example, the shrine at Walsingham is putting power back into the grid.

In response to one question Father Augusto said that for Catholics, "the care of our common home is not optional." Fr Augusto concluded with an anecdote: "Laudato si' is such an inspiring document," he said. "I was recently in Brussels with some theologians to study the Encyclical. Normally you look forward to the coffee - but the reading was so exciting- we didn't have a coffee break at all. This document lifts you up."

Listen to a full audio of the press conference here:

<http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/Featured/New-Papal-Encyclical-Letter/Press-Conference-Audio>

From *Independent Catholic News* <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27728>

A GUIDE TO LAUDATO SI'

Read a useful guide for an initial reading of the Encyclical. It will help you to grasp the overall development and identify the basic themes. The first two pages are an overview of Laudato si' (literally "Be praised" or better, "Praise be to you"). Then for each of the six chapters, there is a one-page summary that gives the argument or main points and some key passages.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27721>

To read the full text see: <https://vatican.va/oc/public.php?service=files&t=cb8ee4dccb40633fb293358c241d2e94>

RESPONSES TO LAUDATO SI'

CHRISTIAN AID has praised Pope Francis for his call for a radical rethinking of humanity's relationship with the earth and urged both people of faith in all walks of life, and, especially, politicians, to heed his appeal for action to address climate change.

Head of Advocacy and Policy, Sorley McCaughey, said the intervention was a natural extension for his ministry for those in poverty. He said: "The hallmark of Pope Francis' ministry has been his care for the poor. You can't claim to care for the poor and ignore climate change. Climate change is not just a scientific phenomenon, or a political football, it is a moral issue which demands an ethical response. To those suffering the effect of climate change and those who feel politicians are letting them down, this is a message of hope. People of faith must hear the call to stand alongside people of every nation and work together, not letting narrow self-interest or national politics block our common need. Even more than that the vision of faith calls everyone to recognise our dependence on the natural world and calls us to reassess all our actions that damage our fellow creatures."

"We've heard the scientists, and the economists and the politicians, it's now time for faith leaders to speak up. Not only is the Pope speaking to Catholics, he's addressing the whole world. My hope is that faith leaders of every kind will follow Pope Francis' example and recognise that they have a crucial role to play in putting humanity back on track towards a sustainable and prosperous planet.

"What is most welcome about the Pope's contribution is its timing. We are the first generation to feel the effects of climate change and the last that can do something to stop it. In a few months, nations meet in Paris to strike a global climate deal which will begin to put us on the road to a low carbon world. It is vital that leaders respond to this by reducing carbon emissions and delivering support for vulnerable communities already suffering. Hopefully the Pope's game changing intervention will light a rocket under politicians who need to show the same kind of urgency being demonstrated by the Vatican."

Mr McCaughey added that Pope Francis is joining a growing movement of people concerned about the impact humans are having on the environment. He said: "People from all walks of life, from all political and religious persuasions, all around the world are raising these concerns. We need politicians to shift public investments out of fossil fuels and into low carbon energy and to encourage private investments to follow suit."

CAFOD says Pope Francis is challenging us to act on the greatest threats facing the human family: climate change, growing global inequality and the destruction of nature. These threats are, the Pope says, a result of a world which has put profit and the drive for relentless growth above all other considerations.

The Pope has consistently spoken about his concern for the world's poorest people who suffer most from the ruthless pursuit of wealth, which treats God's creation as a possession rather than a gift for us to care for and use for the benefit of all. Today's encyclical is further encouragement for our Catholic family to live a life of simplicity, sustainability and solidarity with the poor.

"Pope Francis is reading the signs of his times and telling us that the human and environmental costs of our current way of life are simply too high," said Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy at CAFOD. "Our political leaders need to think about how they want to be remembered, as they have an opportunity now, as do we all, to be remembered as the generation that stood up and took responsibility."

In the encyclical, Pope Francis urges society to move away from plundering the Earth's resources, and calls on us to recognise that development which fails to respect the Earth is a false economy. Far from telling us how we must live, he calls for an open dialogue in society about how best to tackle the global issues we face, including climate change, and a bottom up approach that puts care for the very poorest at the centre of the way we live our lives.

In the words of Pope Francis, "Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years... All is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start."

OPERATION NOAH, an ecumenical Christian charity that campaigns on climate change, has long been calling on the Church to see the environment and climate change as an urgent theological priority. It welcomes Pope Francis' 'bold stance on climate change ahead of the critical COP21 UN climate negotiations this December.'

Responding to the encyclical, Nicky Bull, Chair of Operation Noah, said: "The climate crisis offers us a unique opportunity to change the way we do things on a global scale - to create a fairer, safer and more sustainable world for all. We hope that the Pope's moral guidance will catalyse the faith community around the world to speak out and take urgent, radical action on one of the most pressing social justice issues of our time. His call for a "new and universal solidarity" to work together as one human family cannot come at a more important moment for the protection of the Earth, its creatures and future generations to come."

Operation Noah's **Bright Now Campaign** urges the Church to align its investment policies with the duty to care for God's creation and act on climate change. Ellie Roberts, divestment campaigner, said: "We hope the Pope's call for climate justice will inspire Catholic communities around the world to look at how their own investments might be financing climate change, and to commit to disinvesting from fossil fuels as a matter of faith. This is essential for building the political will we need for governments to produce a strong climate deal in Paris at the end of this year."

Operation Noah anticipates that the immense impact of this papal encyclical on broader society and governments during the build-up to the COP21 will help to anchor our hopes for a fair and meaningful outcome. It will add enormous gravitas to faith communities' planned activities including the People's Pilgrimage, the Pilgrimage to Paris and people's mobilisations across the globe.

For more information on Operation Noah see: <http://www.operationnoah.org>

THE TRUE COST: WHO PAYS THE PRICE FOR OUR CLOTHING?

The price of clothing has been decreasing for decades, while the human and environmental costs have grown dramatically.

The True Cost is a groundbreaking documentary film that pulls back the curtain on the untold story and asks us to consider, who really pays the price for our clothing?

Filmed in countries all over the world, from the brightest runways to the darkest slums, and featuring interviews with the world's leading influencers including Stella McCartney, Livia Firth and Vandana Shiva, *The True Cost* takes us on an eye opening journey around the world into the lives of the many people and places behind our clothes. Globally, it is estimated that one in six people work directly or indirectly in the fashion industry, and many of the lowest paid and most exploited are women. Shot just after the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh in 2013, in which 1,129 workers died, the film tells the story of seamstresses who are separated from their children because they can't afford to look after them, women who are beaten for asking for better pay and working conditions, and cotton growers suffering cancer and birth defects because of the pesticides used to get higher yields.

Essential viewing – released 29 May and shown world-wide. **Buy or stream from:** www.truecostmovie.com/watch-now/

Livia Firth, an Executive Producer on *The True Cost* says: "Take two very simple actions that we perform every single day: getting dressed and eating. Now start a journey backwards – to where your food and your clothes come from. At the other end, you will rarely find happy people, treated with dignity and respect. Human beings working at the bottom of any supply chain – whether is strawberry picking, prawn fishing, cotton farming, garment workers – are often treated like slaves, without reference to our common humanity. So "fashion" – i.e. what we wear every single day, has huge relevance and huge consequences on human, social and environmental capital."

Livia adds: "I went to Bangladesh in 2009 with Lucy Siegle [who has written a weekly ethical living column for *The Observer* since 2004] and for the first time in my life I saw the impact of what I was wearing was having miles away from me. When you get back you can't pretend it is 'business as usual'. It's the same when you witness an accident on the other side of the street, you run and offer your help. But how far away does that accident have to happen for you not to care anymore, for it not to be your business anymore? Today, as Lucy puts it, 'brands, retailers and consumers have all become fantastically adept at divorcing fashion from the very fact that it is been made by an army of living, breathing, human beings with resources which are depleting the environment'"

Read more at: <http://truecostmovie.com/interview-livia-firth/>

FAIR TRADE FASHION

For ethically sound Fair Trade fashion go to **People Tree**, founded in 1991 by **Safia Minney** who initiated **World Fair Trade Day** over ten years ago (the second Saturday of May each year). Safia is also featured in *The True Cost* film. In her interview she says: "We started the first Fair Trade and organic cotton supply chain nearly 20 years ago and are the first company to have certified clothing made in the developing world. We are deeply committed to empowering the poor, protecting the environment and changing the kind of world we live in." She continues: "Good business and economic practice can pull people out of poverty, innovate and generate new environmentally benign production methods and supply chains."

Read more at: <http://truecostmovie.com/safia-minney-interview/>

Find out more from **People Tree** at: www.peopletree.co.uk

Observed annually on **5 June**, this year's **World Environment Day** took **Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care** for its theme. **People Tree** supports the environment by using organic cotton produced by the Indian Fair Cotton Growers' Association **Agrocel**, formed in 2005. Agrocel's 20,000 plus farmers work in harmony with their land, from sowing seeds to harvesting. Protecting the land and water ways is labour-intensive, but provides jobs for more people and protects their health in the long term.

The farmers grow crops including tomatoes, aubergines and millet alongside their organic cotton, providing a secondary source of income and food. At Agrocel, women are paid the same as men and given paid maternity leave. Farmers receive a pension, health insurance and good medical facilities. They are paid a premium for the quality and provenance of organic and Fairtrade cotton. These premiums make a huge difference, funding clean water for drinking and bathing and improving local schools. The premiums also support a savings scheme for female farmers that trains women in financial independence, helping them save and plan for the future. Farmers have used organic and Fairtrade cotton as a way to help them escape from money lenders, set up organic cotton seed banks, rebuild their lives and strengthen their communities.

Organic farming is also good for the environment. It protects the planet by sequestering 1.5 tons of CO₂ into the soil each year per acre. Agrocel farmers have developed natural farming methods and use natural pesticides made from chili, neem, garlic and soap to control pests, instead of expensive and harmful chemicals. Using natural pesticides protects both people and the environment from chemicals, and also saves the farmers up to 3000 rupees per acre.

FARESHARE FOODCLOUD IN TESCO STORES

FareShare and the Irish social enterprise **FoodCloud** have announced a collaborative partnership designed to help UK retailers address the issue of edible surplus food they may have within their stores. This innovative partnership, known as **FareShare FoodCloud**, brings together the technology platform developed by FoodCloud in Ireland and FareShare's knowledge of the UK charity food redistribution market. The scheme will initially be piloted and tested in partnership with Tesco and will lead to edible surplus food at store level being redistributed directly to frontline organisations.

FareShare FoodCloud is the latest innovation in FareShare's three-year partnership with Tesco. This includes activity to access surplus food from their supply chain, distribution centres and dotcoms centres. This has contributed towards 4.5 million meals. The scheme is currently being piloted in Tesco Extra Surrey Quays following which there will be a wider trial in four UK cities involving more stores. The project will work using an app that Tesco store managers will use to alert charities about the surplus food they have at the end of each day. The charity will then confirm it wants the food and will pick it up free of charge from the store.

In this first stage, benefiting charities and community organisations are those already in receipt of surplus food from FareShare who have been checked to ensure that they can use it safely and appropriately. Beneficiaries of the scheme will come from the wide range of charities including homeless hostels, women's refuges and breakfast clubs for disadvantaged children as well as projects supporting the elderly and people struggling with addiction. Once the scheme has been trialled in Tesco stores, FareShare will work to roll it out to other supermarkets with the potential to create networks for charities and community groups across the country to help play a transformative role in addressing food waste and hunger in the UK.

Read an interview with Tesco CEO Dave Lewis: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2015/06/03/tesco-leftover-food-waste-charity-ceo-dave-lewis_n_7502092.html

Find out more: <http://www.fareshare.org.uk/>
and <http://www.fareshare.org.uk/fareshare-foodcloud-in-tesco-stores/>

Local distribution centres: <http://www.fareshare.org.uk/regional-centres/greater-manchester/>
and <http://www.fareshare.org.uk/regional-centres/merseyside/>

HELP RESTORE FAITH IN THE SAFETY NET - TAKE ACTION NOW!

Niall Cooper, Church Action on Poverty writes: In a world of growing insecurity, a compassionate society is one which provides a bedrock of social security: the security of knowing that becoming sick, disabled or unemployed, or suffering a financial shock or crisis (be it a bereavement or a broken cooker), will not leave anyone penniless, hungry or at risk of destitution.

For those in the UK who find themselves unemployed or unable to work – whether through sickness, disability, caring responsibilities or insecure work – the social security system is designed to provide a safety net; an essential guarantee of a minimum income, enabling people to live free from fear of destitution or the stigma of poverty.

But - like many others in the churches - we are hearing more and more stories of real hardship caused by failures in the benefits system, often leaving people penniless and hungry. There is an increasing number of holes in the safety net – undue delays, errors, or excessive sanctions, many of which are leaving large numbers of people without income for days, weeks or even months at a time. Too many people, including children, are being left at risk of hunger or destitution as a result.

Restoring Faith in the Safety Net, a new report published today by Church Action on Poverty, explains the many holes that have appeared in our safety net. It restates why that safety net is so crucial to a civilised society, and why Christians should stand up in its defence.

Read or download the report here: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/safetynet/report/download/>

As the new Government plans a further £12 billion of benefit cuts and the roll-out of the new Universal Credit, it is essential that people are able to rely on receiving the money due to them, and are not put at risk of destitution by being left without any income for extended periods – especially where it is for reasons beyond their control.

A new chair has just been elected to the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee. We have an opportunity to make sure that one of the Committee's first acts is to launch an urgent inquiry into tackling the holes in the safety net - so we need as many MPs as possible to talk to the chair about this soon.

Action: Ask your MP to call for an urgent Parliamentary Inquiry to repair the holes that have appeared in our welfare safety net. <http://action.church-poverty.org.uk/ea-action/action?ea.client.id=128&ea.campaign.id=39490&ea.url.id=419482>

Source: Church Action on Poverty 2015, www.church-poverty.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID URGES CHANCELLOR TO TACKLE CORPORATE TAX DODGING

Christian Aid has expressed its disappointment that a Tax Dodging Bill was not included in the Queen's Speech - and its hope that strong action against corporate tax dodging in the UK and globally will be included in July's Budget. However the charity did welcome the acknowledgement in the Speech of the vital importance of a strong outcome at the United Nations climate talks in Paris later this year.

"We are glad to see the Government's commitment to the UK playing its part in tackling climate change, which most affects the world's poorest people," said Christine Allen, Director of Policy and Public Affairs at Christian Aid. But she said more action was needed against corporate tax dodging. "More than 70,000 people have supported the campaign for a Bill, which we estimate would raise around £3.6 billion in the UK, and billions for developing countries. We're disappointed that the Bill has not been included in the Government's priority legislation this year and we ask the Government to act on our policy recommendations in July's Budget."

Christian Aid campaigned with more than 20 other organisations before the election for the new Government to introduce a Tax Dodging Bill within 100 days of the election. Ms Allen added: "Corporate tax dodging costs developing countries an estimated \$160 billion every year. We welcome the Conservative manifesto commitment to consider the case for revealing multinational companies' tax payments in every country in which they operate. This would enable women and men in developing countries to see what taxes companies have paid their governments. It would also help shine a light on corporate tax dodging in the poorest communities in the world. We ask the Chancellor to consider further action to ensure this vital information is made public as part of his Budget in July. Doing so would build on the successful reforms that he has already introduced and ensure that the UK remains a leading voice for corporate tax transparency across the world."

Christian Aid <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/index.aspx>

From **Ekklesia** <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/21742>

CHRISTIAN AID WELCOMES CALL FOR A GLOBAL TAX SYSTEM

Christian Aid has applauded a new report which demands fresh solutions to tax dodging by multinational companies - a problem IMF researchers say could be costing developing countries \$212 billion a year. The report, from the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT), warns that existing global tax rules are 'obsolete and ineffective in preventing tax abuse by multinational corporations', because they are based on the legal 'fiction' that multinationals' subsidiaries are separate entities. It also argues that tax reform efforts by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development are 'a step in the right direction but fundamentally inadequate' - and that the OECD does not reflect the priorities of poor countries. The report comes days after International Monetary Fund researchers suggested that poor countries are losing as much as \$212 billion a year to tax avoidance by multinationals - and considerably more than rich OECD countries, relative to the size of their economies.

Toby Quantrill, Principal Economic Justice Adviser at Christian Aid, said: "This is a staggering sum, which represents untold damage to the public services needed by people living in poverty in developing countries." He added: "ICRICT's diagnosis is spot on, as is its argument that rich countries' efforts to stop multinationals dodging tax are a step in the right direction but fundamentally inadequate. It is becoming ever clearer that the OECD's work will be ineffective even for the richer and more powerful countries and do little or nothing for the poorest. It's time for developing countries to start adopting their own reforms now, and for truly inclusive international co-operation that tackles tax reform from the perspective of the public interest."

Examples of reforms that developing countries could adopt now are the imposition of withholding tax regimes to tax dividends before they can be paid to shareholders and the creation of bilateral or multilateral agreements to enable jurisdictions to apportion between them the revenues and costs attributable to multinationals operating within their borders. In the longer term, the report suggests fundamental reform to the global institutions and rules by which multinational companies are taxed.

Christian Aid is part of the coalition of organisations that set up and supported ICRICT, along with Oxfam, ActionAid, the World Council of Churches, the Tax Justice Network, the Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Public Services International, Alliance Sud, CCFD-Terre Solidaire, the Council for Global Unions and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

ICRICT is chaired by Jose Antonio Ocampo, a former United Nations Under-Secretary General and former Minister of Finance in Colombia, and includes a range of other tax and economics experts. The Commission aims to consider international corporate tax reforms from the perspective of the public interest, rather than national advantage, and to seek fair, effective and sustainable tax solutions for development.

Read the report in full on the ICRICT website: www.icrict.org

From **Independent Catholic News** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27586>

PAX CHRISTI AGM: 'POPE FRANCIS CONTINUES TO INSPIRE OUR WORK FOR PEACE'

Ellen Teague writes: Pat Gaffney was thanked for her 25 years as General Secretary of Pax Christi UK at the AGM in London on 6 June. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool, the National President, presented her with a special bowl and flowers to a standing ovation from all present. "I get more out of Pax Christi than I could ever give", she responded to around 100 members at the annual gathering.

Awards also went to three women who were recognised as grassroots peacemakers - Sheila Gallagher from Westminster Diocese, Sue Scott from Birmingham Diocese and Anna Kobayashi from Brentwood Diocese. They each received a beautiful medal which reflects the work of Neve Shalom-Wahat al Salaam village in Israel where Israelis and Arabs live together. In her words of thanks Anna talked about her work with nuclear catastrophe survivors in Japan - firstly in 1967 in Hiroshima with people who had been terribly injured and could not have children after being victims of the Hiroshima bomb, and secondly in 2011 in a relief camp near Fukushima full of families who had to flee their homes in the aftermath of the radiation leak from a nuclear power station. "There was no sound of young people in the exclusion zone" she said and, "the whole pattern of life had been destroyed". Anna also prayed with the women of Dale Farm Travellers community in Essex, during "a pointless and costly eviction process" and watched them raise funds for Syria from their camps on roadsides, saying "at least they're not throwing bombs at us".

"Pope Francis continues to inspire our work for peace" said Pax Christi Chair Ann Dodd. She particularly highlighted Pope Francis's words to the December 2014 conference in Vienna on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons where he said: "Nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutually assured destruction cannot be the basis for an ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence among peoples and states". Pax Christi's annual anti-nuclear weapons witness at London's Ministry of Defence on Ash Wednesday was spotlighted, along with the Hiroshima/Nagasaki remembrance in August and the annual Franz Jägerstätter service at Westminster on 9 August.

Other areas of work have included Education outreach. Pax Christi's Schools and Youth outreach Worker Matt Jeziorski reported that there was high demand for Pax Christi's schools workshop to support GCSE Religious Education, and more schools are joining Pax Christi. The Peace Sunday assembly has been well used. Pax Christi is a member of the flourishing Peace Education Network and collaborates on inset days in schools with other groups.

Valerie Flessati reported on commemorations surrounding the centenary of World War One, suggesting that it has brought Pax Christi's work to new audiences. "It has been a great opportunity to tell the stories of peacemakers and conscientious objectors and to raise questions about how we remember war and how we sanctify war" she said. Pax Christi will be calling on the bishops of England and Wales to produce a Pastoral Letter on Peace for 2017.

Pat Gaffney reported on UK involvement in the recent Pax Christi International Assembly in Bethlehem and urged people to support the 23 June lobby on Palestine, and the 20-26 September Week of Prayer for Israel and Palestine. She reported on campaigning to halt the renewal of Britain's Trident weapons at a cost of £100 billion, and to halt arms sales to the Middle East. Pax Christi will be marking the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings in August. Pax Christi vice-president Bruce Kent regretted that the recent election statement from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales failed to mention nuclear weapons.

José Henríquez, the Pax Christi General Secretary who is from El Salvador and is now based in Brussels, pointed Pax Christi members towards the Bethlehem Commitment which is a statement of the common values in Pax Christi produced during last month's Pax Christi International Assembly in Bethlehem. He said that "in the coming five years Pax Christi will strengthen the network for connecting women's peacemaking and peacebuilding experience in our movement; we will listen to and learn from that experience; we will support the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and other efforts to create a gender inclusive route to peace". Southwark and Brentwood Dioceses were singled out for their generous support of Pax Christi collections at Peace Sunday in January.

During the gathering Fr Ziad Hilal SJ spoke about his work in the Syrian city of Homs and said he appreciated the engagement between Pax Christi and the Jesuit Refugee Service to raise awareness of the terrible violence and refugee situation.

From **Independent Catholic News** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27619>

For more information on the work of the JRS in Syria see: http://en.jrs.net/campaigns_focus?tn=promo-20120718025148

FORCESWATCH VACANCY: PARLIAMENTARY AND MEDIA WORKER (PART TIME, LONDON-BASED)

The Parliamentary and Media Worker will play a leading role in developing our liaison with parliamentarians and the media, and our media strategy (including social media). This is an opportunity to be part of a small, friendly and dynamic team raising awareness and campaigning in a human rights context with a network of partner organisations. See more information here. <http://www.forceswatch.net/content/vacancy-parliamentary-and-media-worker> Closing date: 6pm, Monday 13 July 2015. Please circulate to anyone who may be interested.

HOW MANY LIVES COULD YOU CHANGE THIS SUMMER?

This summer, **The Leprosy Mission** is asking you to join us in helping to transform the lives of 4,000 ultra-poor people in Mozambique as part of a very special campaign - **Feet First**. By getting on board, you'll be helping to providing foot care, specialist sandals, agricultural training and microcredit to people affected by leprosy in Mozambique. Together, this will break down stigma, prevent disability and create enough work to sustain them and their families for the rest of their lives.

Could your church or youth group hold a *Feet First* summer picnic and ramble and invite each of the adults taking part to donate £10 to help people affected by leprosy in Mozambique? A pair of special sandals that protect the feet of someone affected by leprosy costs just £10. We're delighted that **the UK government is matching public donations to the Feet First campaign, so from 1 June - 31 August, donations will be doubled** – buying sandals for two people instead of just one!

We've produced a **church resource pack** containing everything you'll need to organise your own *Feet First* picnic and ramble. Follow the link to our website to request your free pack and get started. The pack includes a special film featuring singer-songwriter Philippa Hanna on her recent trip to Mozambique with us. We hope you'll take this opportunity to do something very special for people affected by leprosy this summer.

Peter Walker, National Director

The Leprosy Mission <http://www.leprosymission.org.uk/get-involved/feet-first.aspx>

THE BIG IFTAR - SHARE A MEAL WITH YOUR MUSLIM NEIGHBOURS

Bernadette Meaden writes: The need for greater understanding and friendship between people of all faiths becomes clearer every day. As Ramadan approaches, **The Big Iftar** provides an enjoyable opportunity for Muslims and non-Muslim neighbours to get to know each other. Iftar is the meal Muslims enjoy at sunset every day during Ramadan, having fasted since dawn. It is often shared with friends and neighbours, and The Big Iftar is about mosques, community centres, and other places of worship coming together for the iftar meal, inviting friends and neighbours from different faiths and ethnicities.

Last year the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby held an Iftar meal at Lambeth Palace. Speaking of the need for people of different faiths to stand together against the backdrop of violence and suffering, particularly in the Middle East, he said, "There is much that we need to talk about, and much that we can work on together; but tonight is about celebrating the importance of our friendships."

In North West London, Alyth Synagogue hosted an Iftar meal. An account by Christian Muslim Forum reported, 'Rabbi Maurice mentioned that he had received messages asking whether he thought people would attend the 'Big Iftar' given what was happening in certain parts of the world! Rabbi Maurice said that he had replied that it was even more important to have such a meeting and that what goes on in certain parts of the world should not affect relationships between Muslims and Jews in this county. The reoccurring theme through the evening was of peace and commonality and how blessed we are in Britain that Jews and Muslims work together and have good relationships.'

There will be Big Iftar events held all over the country during Ramadan, which this year is from 29 June to 29 July. You can find out if there is one near you, or how to organise your own, via the website www.thebigiftar.org.uk For Muslims there is a strong emphasis on acts of charity during Ramadan, so some events will be aimed at helping the homeless and those in food poverty, as well as bringing communities together. **Follow** @TheBig Iftar on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/thebigiftar>

© Bernadette Meaden has written about political, religious and social issues for some years, and is strongly influenced by Christian Socialism, liberation theology and the Catholic Worker movement. She is an Ekklesia associate and regular contributor. **Follow Bernadette** on Twitter: @BernaMeaden

From **Ekklesia** <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/21763>

HELP ENSURE THE BUDGET DOESN'T HIT CHILDREN WITH SIGHT LOSS

The charity **Blind Children UK** has sent the following message:

On 8 July the Chancellor will set out his Budget which will start to tell us how the Government plans on saving £12 billion from the welfare bill. We have joined forces with the National Deaf Children Society, Sense and the Royal National Institute of Blind People to campaign to ensure the Budget leaves families with children with a sensory impairment no worse off.

We are really worried because the Prime Minister was recently asked if he would 'confirm the commitment he made during the election that there will be no cuts in the benefits paid to disabled people.' The Prime Minister did not renew his commitment. Please take action and write to your MP asking them to contact the Chancellor to ensure that families with a child with a sensory impairment are no financially worse off.

www.blindchildreuk.org

MANCHESTER: SHARING THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE AT SAINT PAUL'S

Pupils from St Paul's Catholic High School in Wythenshawe took part in a series of events organised by **The Message Trust**, a worldwide movement who work with young people to share the Christian message through a range of media including music and dance. There were a number of performances from a group called **'Respect ME'** about topics including healthy relationships, abuse and sexting. They shared their own personal stories to communicate lessons on sexuality and self-image and were able to discuss their personal journeys with God and how this affected their decision-making. "Respect Me didn't come about because we thought it would be a good idea - it came about because teachers are asking for it," says group member Emma Owen. "These issues have always been there, but there has never been such a need to address them frankly as there is today."

Throughout the week, the band **Twelve24**, three amazing people (from the US, Ghana and Manchester) with three very powerful stories to tell, led a series of assemblies and RE lessons for the pupils who couldn't help but be inspired by their passion and ambition to spread the word of Jesus. **Square1** dance crew, a team with a vision to reach young people through dance, led the school drama lessons with fantastic effect. They say that their goal is to tell young people that it's never too late to start again - they can always go back to square one with God.' The week culminated with an awesome concert at the school which started with a staff flash mob! Pupils were taken completely by surprise as staff joined in the musical celebration.

Mrs Lisa Baillie, Assistant Headteacher, said: "What makes The Message Trust's lessons so powerful is the connection they are able to make with the pupils. Their own life stories, together with illustrations from popular culture, bring alive the Bible's clear teaching in identity, beauty and value. Their method of sharing the gospel of Jesus through music, dance and theatre was very effective with our pupils making a great impact and providing much food for thought."

"The Message Trust addressed a number of key issues with our pupils," explained Mrs Fiona Minshall, Head Teacher at St Paul's. "They were able to deal with these issues in a sensitive way relating well to the pupils and their lives. They showed how their faith has made a real difference to the decisions they've made and the lives they lead.

Read more about St Paul's here: www.st-paulshigh.net

From **Independent Catholic News** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27591>

CAFOD STAFF CHANGES IN THE NW

Anne O'Connor writes: CAFOD is making sweeping changes to its current structure of staffing around the regions, taking out the Diocesan Manager role and replacing it with the new position of 'Community Participation Co-ordinators'. CPCs will focus on working with and supporting new and existing volunteers. This is an important distinction as CAFOD wants to be working much more closely with communities, get out and about more to build upon what has been achieved in the dioceses so far and empower volunteers (existing and new) to work for justice via CAFOD in partnership with others in the Church.

There will be a CPC based in every diocese and an additional post to work with education volunteers in Salford and Liverpool for the next two years full-time. The person undertaking this role, Ann Hayes, will take up the post in August. There will be 1.5 other staff in Liverpool too (Ged Edwards is moving from Salford to take up the full time position and there is a part time vacancy).

Ged says: "having a hands-on manager based in the region will be a great improvement and something we have missed in recent years." Patrick Gardner has been appointed CPC for Lancaster diocese. The five dioceses in the North West will work closely together under the direction of a team manager.

Across the region several staff members are leaving with the result that some full time and also part time vacancies have arisen in Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Those of us who have worked alongside the present staff will be sad to see them go and we thank them for their dedication to serving the poor and marginalised. A great many of us in parishes and schools have benefitted from their expertise and have enjoyed the warm working relationship and support they have offered. They will be sorely missed and we wish them well in whatever path they now take. Ged adds: "while we will miss our colleagues, we will need the support and prayers of our friends to help CAFOD's mission move forward successfully especially in the next few months. The exciting new vacancies are a key part in that! Let's hope for the future!"

Concern has been expressed by many CAFOD supporters regarding these changes. It is uncertain at present how the proposed roles will work, with new relationships needing to be established with local supporter groups. In regional meetings with supporters the CAFOD leadership team has acknowledged that there may be teething problems as the new structure beds in.

I have been asked to circulate the following job adverts for the remaining roles:

Community Participation Co-ordinators 1 x full time permanent, 1 x 17.5 hours per week permanent working with volunteers in parish and school communities helping to inspire and resource Catholics to participate in the Church's mission to overcome poverty and injustice overseas in partnership with CAFOD. Closing date 10 July 2015.

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us/UK-Jobs/CPC>

Community Participation Manager for North West: 1 x full time permanent. Closing date 10 July 2015.

<http://www.cafod.org.uk/Work-with-us/UK-Jobs/CPM>

PEACE GROUPS SAY: 'WAR IS NOT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT'

Peace groups gathered at the Armed Forces Day 'family fun' extravaganza in Colwyn Bay on Saturday 20 June to protest at the glorification of war. The event was held a week before the official Armed Forces Day on 27 June and was attended by Secretary of State for Wales Stephen Crabb, and Wrexham MP Ian Lucas. Attractions included a climbing wall, assault course and zip wire and face painting. There were recruitment trailers for the different regiments, a chance to try out a sniper rifle, flight simulator, field hospital, some old military kit, and a tank for kids to play on. The day included a helicopter display, a Spitfire fly-past and a synchronised parachute display.

One of the peace campaigners wrote: "Billed as 'fun for all the family' and free to boot, the event is a thinly disguised recruiting exercise. We know that military recruiters target children as young as seven, aiming to spark interest at events like this and then build on it gradually thereafter through a process described by the head of army recruitment as 'drip, drip, drip', with school visits, websites and products aimed at children, cadet forces and adverts promising excitement and adventure. Claims by the military that their child-focused activities have nothing to do with recruitment don't stand up to scrutiny."

"A trio of items in the programme caught my eye. Punters were invited to have a go at blind veterans archery, wheelchair rugby and wheelchair basketball. What a great idea to let youngsters try out these fun sports before they sign up to be blinded and have their legs blown off. They might usefully have added mock up prison cell, psychiatric ward, cardboard box (for rough sleeping) and detox clinic to the activities on offer.

"It wasn't clear to me why there were a couple of US flags flying in the 'military village' area. Was the idea to emphasise the 'special' and subservient relationship our military and government enjoys with the United States?"

He said: "The responsibility for organising Armed Forces Day moves around north Wales each year from county to county. AFD 2014, held in Wrexham, cost £40,000 and swallowed up most of the county's events budget for the year. This left funds so depleted that the council couldn't even, so it claimed, run to a few flyers or posters for the completely unfunded Peace Day event in September. By all accounts, this year's AFD looked like it will have cost still more. "

Throughout the day, the peace campaigners stood outside the main entrance with a large banner saying: WAR IS NOT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT . Other placards read: 'NO NUKES, NO TRIDENT' and 'PEACE, JUSTICE, EQUALITY.' Before the day, the following letter from groups and individuals representing Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum & WISE Up Action, Conwy County Peace Group, CND Cymru, Wales Green Party, Movement for the Abolition of War, Trident Ploughshares, Veterans for Peace and Kingston Peace Council was sent to the media:

At North Wales Armed Forces Day held in Wrexham last June, young children were encouraged by soldiers from the Royal Welsh regiment to play with guns, some of which were set up to point into the crowd. In September 2014, UNICEF reported that children are the main victims of war and that one billion children live in areas affected by conflict, suffering both physical and psychological trauma. If we are to have any hope of changing this desperate situation, we need to move away from any pretence that warfare is fun.

We know that the forces' recruitment strategy is to draw young children in by a process of 'drip, drip, drip' . This is done by presenting an unrealistic picture of the military to impressionable young people. It is unacceptable for the military to bring its weapons into civilian areas as playthings and we urge that such behaviour is not repeated at this year's Armed Forces Day on Saturday in Colwyn Bay. War is NOT family entertainment.

From **Independent Catholic News** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27763>

QUAKER FILM QUESTIONS MILITARISATION OF EDUCATION

This week, Quakers in Britain have released a ground-breaking film in the build-up to Armed Forces Day (27 June). **The Unseen March** questions the increasing, and largely unseen, militarisation of schools in Britain. In the film, former paratrooper Ben Griffin, school principal Chris Gabbett and activist Mark Thomas speak out about the strategy that has seen the Ministry of Defence and Department for Education working in close partnership on 'military ethos' projects.

The film reveals the evidence for this policy: £45 million of new programmes with "a military ethos" committed since 2011. At the same time, the government has slashed Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) and mental health services for young people.

Former Education Secretary Michael Gove has stated that "every child in Britain could benefit from a military ethos", an agenda pursued by his successor Nicky Morgan and allocated to Edward Timpson, Minister for Children and Families.

Quakers, who oppose all war, are asking the British government to reconsider its policy to militarise the nation's classrooms. Quakers are not the only ones alarmed. The film offers critiques from a range of educators including Brian Lightman of the Association of School and College Leaders. He says "A 'military ethos' is not a learning ethos". Education requires the ability to question and evaluate different perspectives.

Each new 'military ethos' programme is presented as in children's best interests, boosting self-discipline, building character, developing 'grit'. The agenda has led to military-led activities being integrated into national education policy, aggressive plans to spread cadet forces to state schools (550 by 2020); arms companies and the military sponsoring new academies and influencing what they teach; military personnel being fed into classrooms as speakers, recruiters and teachers, and all of this is taking place with virtually no public debate or wider scrutiny.

Ben Griffin, founder of Veterans for Peace UK says that the military is selling this idea of the military ethos in order to gain access to schools. He says 'military ethos' is actually about instilling obedience without question, developing a gang mentality and removing the innate psychological barrier to killing.

The Unseen March seeks to awaken a national debate highlighting the dangers of an increasing role of the military in education, and the normalisation of war. Ultimately, militarism in schools leads to two kinds of recruitment: the recruitment of teenagers into the armed forces, and the recruitment of wider society to be war ready.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, Quakers in Britain, says: "So-called 'military values', such as leadership, discipline and motivation should no doubt play their part in today's schools but not at the expense of listening skills, non-violent resolution of conflict, mediation and respect for difference," he says. "Since the 17th century, Quakers in Britain have felt called to live 'in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars', and are alarmed at the increasing role of the military in our schools. War represents our failure to resolve our differences by peaceful and amicable means; any ethos which supports it has no place in our society."

Quakers are asking parents and pupils, governors and teachers, to question militarisation in education.

Watch *The Unseen March* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OgJ83yYIR1g>

From ***Independent Catholic News*** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=27781>

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE ASKS UK GOVERNMENT TO END ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

As the death toll in Yemen passes 2000 and the punishment of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi is upheld, Campaign Against Arms Trade has reiterated its call for the UK to end arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Badawi has been sentenced to ten years in prison and 1000 lashes for blogging. Unfortunately this is only the latest reminder of the Saudi regime's brutality, says CAAT. Last March saw the introduction of a new 'terrorism' law which treats all atheists and political dissidents as enemies of the state, and this year has seen the doubling of executions.

Andrew Smith of Campaign Against arms Trade said: "The human rights situation in Saudi Arabia is dire. The fact that it is also the world's largest buyer of UK weapons is a sign of the real hypocrisy at the heart of UK foreign policy. What right does the UK have to talk about human rights and democracy when it's ministers are directly promoting arms sales to a regime that tortures bloggers?"

During its first four years, the Coalition government continued the UK's long standing policy by licensing £3.8 billion worth of arms to the regime. This included licences for combat aircraft, components for bombs, weapon sights and tear gas. There is no suggestion that this will change under the new government.

The UK government has not just authorised these sales, says CAAT, it has also promoted them. Ministers have enjoyed a politically intimate relationship with the Saudi rulers, and members of the royal family have been co-opted into promoting arms sales. This was evident last year when Prince Charles used a visit to Saudi Arabia to promote Eurofighter sales for BAE Systems. "The government is working hand in glove with arms companies like BAE Systems that are profiting from the oppression taking place." said Andrew Smith. He continued, "With the intensification of the crackdown on dissent, and with the humanitarian catastrophe being unleashed on Yemen, we have to ask, what would it take for the UK to finally stop selling arms to this terrible regime?"

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is deteriorating. As in all wars, civilians are suffering, says CAAT, with the World Health Organisation emphasising that 8.6 million are "in urgent need of medical aid."

<https://www.caat.org.uk/>

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

12 July Sea Sunday

Sea Sunday is an opportunity to remember and pray for seafarers, their families and all who support them. On Sea Sunday Catholic Churches around the UK take up a second collection with all funds raised going to the Apostleship of the Sea to support our work. It is a day of remembrance, prayer and celebration, and an opportunity to think about and thank those seafarers who work tirelessly throughout the year bringing us goods we often take for granted. We rely on your help to ensure that Sea Sunday is recognised in UK Parishes. More information: johngreen@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk, 07505 653 801
<http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/about-sea-sunday>

17-19 July National J&P Conference for 2015 *The Things That Make For Peace*

This year's conference hopes to identify the real threats to human security and examine how we can work together to create a world without war. Speakers include Professor Paul Rodgers & Fr Edu Gariguez with theological reflections from Rev Dr Martin Poulson SDB. Activities for children and young people, and a Just Fair with information and resources from many organisations. 020 7901 486 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

23-28 July World Youth Day

We continue our spiritual pilgrimage toward Krakow, where in July 2016 the next international World Youth Day will be held. As our guide for the journey we have chosen the Beatitudes. Last year we reflected on the beatitude of the poor in spirit, within the greater context of the Sermon on the Mount. Together we discovered the revolutionary meaning of the Beatitudes and the powerful summons of Jesus to embark courageously upon the exciting quest for happiness. This year we will reflect on the sixth beatitude: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (*Mt* 5:8).

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/youth/documents/papa-francesco_20150131_messaggio-giovani_2015.html

6&9 August Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

paxchristi.org.uk ccnd.gn.apc.org

9 August International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

The UN organises International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples annually. The theme of the 2015 event is, 'Indigenous Peoples as Custodians of the Land and its Ecosystems'.

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

23 August International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

Materials from the Human Rights Education Association <http://www.hrea.org/> and Stop the Traffik <http://www.stopthetraffik.org/>

30 August International Day of the Disappeared

The International Day of the Disappeared is a reminder that a great number of people are missing as a result of conflicts around the world. Each year, the Red Cross marks the day by commemorating those who have gone missing in armed conflicts or other situations of violence – and remembers the plight of their families.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Finding-missing-family/International-Day-of-the-Disappeared>

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE SUMMER SCHOOL 2015

Summer School 1: July 20 - July 23 *A Call to Personal & Global Transformation*

In the midst of our violent and hurting world we will explore how God as lover and healer ever invites us to new possibilities and to believe in our potential to make a difference. Through scripture and contemporary stories we will be stretched and challenged to believe in our call to become mystics, saints and prophets. We will laugh, cry and celebrate as we recognize more deeply the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Summer School 2: July 24 - July 26 *Standing on their Shoulders*

We will look at some contemporary prophets, mystics and rebels for justice. We will be inspired and affirmed as we listen to stories and poetic readings of the lives of these extraordinary people who have made a difference in our world. Their struggles and passion will inspire and encourage on our own journeys of faith.

Venue: Wistaston Hall, Oblate Retreat Centre 89, Broughton Lane, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 8JS. You may choose to attend both events. Please choose your preferred dates and if places are available you will be allocated a place on your second choice.

To book a place or for more information please contact: Mr. Kirk Jacob, Oblate Partners in Mission Office, Denis Hurley House 14 Quex Road, London NW6 4PL. 020 76247296 kirk.oblate.partners@gmail.com

Subsidised by Partners in Mission but further help is available if these costs will cause you any difficulty.

About EDWINA GATELEY

Edwina's life has been described as "fascinating – an exceptional blend of contemplation and action". She is a poet, theologian, artist, writer, lay minister, modern-day mystic and prophet who regularly gives talks, conferences and retreats internationally while continuing to reach out to women in recovery from drugs and prostitution.

Born in Lancaster, England, Edwina Gateley was a teacher and holds a Master's in Theology and is a HIV counsellor. From 1981 to 1982, Edwina lived for nine months in prayer and solitude in a hermitage in Illinois. In 1983, she spent over a year on the streets of Chicago walking with the homeless and women involved in prostitution. In the same year, Edwina founded Genesis House – a house of hospitality and nurturing for women involved in prostitution. Edwina founded the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM), which recruits volunteers to accompany the poor in countries around the world. The volunteers witness to God's action through Jesus Christ in our world today, and respond to the material and human needs of the poor and oppressed.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JULY

21 June – 10 July ONE THING A new exhibition from Pod Collective. Using photography and embroidery, this exhibition focuses on collective stories of the participants, in particular their relationship with their belongings and the memories they provoke. Pod Collective has worked with refugees, asylum seekers and non-refugees in grassroots organisations across Greater Manchester. Venue: People's History Museum, Left Bank, Manchester M3 3ER. Free entry. www.phm.org.uk/whatson/one-thing/

1 Pray & Fast for the Climate gatherings in Lancaster. 1pm Cumbria University Chapel, Lancaster Campus; 1.15pm Lancaster University Chaplaincy Centre; 7.30pm St Thomas' Church, Penny St. Each event lasts 20-30 mins. All welcome or pray at home!

1 CAFOD Preston Meeting 7.30-9pm St Clare's Parish Hall, Sharoe Green Lane North, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9HH with visiting speaker Monserrat Fernandez, CAFOD Programme Officer from Nicaragua. All welcome.

2 Catholic School Choirs Concert for local schools focusing on CAFOD's work 7-9pm at Blessed John Henry Newman College Broadway, Chadderton, Oldham, OL9 9QY. Contact bernie-slater@live.co.uk 01457 873490. All welcome. Free admission.

4 Domestic Violence Awareness Training Kendal. Enquiries: Helen Boothroyd 07503 931196 hbctic@tiscali.co.uk

6 July and 20 July – The Earth as our Neighbour responding to Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment and climate change, *Laudato Si'* published on 18 June. If you want to know more about climate change and how we can respond, Katherine House and CAFOD are running a series of three practical workshops here on Monday evenings at 7pm (the first was on 22 June). For further information or to book a place please contact: Katherine House, 26 Singleton Road, Salford, M7 4WL 0161 708 9744 khousefcj@hotmail.com

9 Workshops on Climate Change Lancaster University CAFOD, Christian Aid & Operation Noah

10-12 Care for the Earth - from Duty to Love National Assembly of Christian Life Community (CLC) Hope University, Liverpool L16 9JD. Speakers: Paul Kelly, member of the National Justice & Peace Network Environment Group and a member of the Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission and Fr Simon Bishop S.J. Director of Spirituality for the British Province of the Society of Jesus. Workshops and opportunities to pray and share with CLC members. Our starting point is the need for a 'change of heart' in our approach to the problems of climate change. Day time booking (Saturday 11 July) £55, including lunch. Information and Booking forms: Christian Life Community England and Wales <http://www.clcew.org.uk/index.php/news/12-national-assembly-2015-booking-and-reflective-material> Booking secretary: Betsy Jones: bqiblinjones@ntlworld.com Tel : 01706 845 164. Liverpool contact: kathrynlydon@hotmail.com 0151 733 2806

12 Sea Sunday apostleshipofthesea.org.uk 07505 653 801

12 Festival 31 Radical Liverpool Music Night 8-10.30pm. An evening of music and spoken word featuring Alun Parry, Michael Burns, Liverpool Socialist Singers and open mic spots. Venue: The Cross Keys, 13 Earle St, Liverpool L3 9NS. Free.

14 Rebuilding Justice. 7 for 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Parish Centre, 313 Preston New Road, Blackburn BB2 6PL What happens after an emergency? What does CAFOD do and what difference do we make after the cameras leave? Come and find out as the boss of Caritas Philippines in charge of the reconstruction of the country in the wake of Philippines Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013 is coming to the Diocese! Bishop John Arnold will be there, having visited the Philippines in person himself shortly after the Typhoon struck. To book your free place, see <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Events/Rebuilding-Justice-Blackburn> or contact CAFOD Salford 0161 705 0605 salford@cafod.org.uk To help us plan please book by Monday 6 July

14 CWDF Forum 6.45-9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN with an illustrated talk by Stephen Maund "Malawi: a hand UP not a hand OUT" on the work of the charity Ripple Africa. (See www.rippleafrica.org)

17-19 The Things That Make For Peace. NJPN annual conference at Swanwick to identify the real threats to human security and how we can work together to create a world without war. 020 7901 486 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk Speakers include Prof Paul Rodgers & Fr Edu Gariguez. Theological reflections from Rev Dr Martin Poulson SDB. Activities for children and young people, and a Just Fair with information and resources from many organisations.

23 Domestic Violence Awareness Training Whitehaven. Enquiries: Helen Boothroyd 07503 931196 hbctic@tiscali.co.uk Further sessions planned for 17 September (Cockermouth), 22 October (Ambleside), 12 November (Appleby) – enquiries to Helen

30 World Youth Day: www.worldyouthday.com

August

6&9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki paxchristi.org.uk ccnd.gn.apc.org

28-31 Greenbelt Festival Kettering www.greenbelt.org.uk

September

8 A look at "Sustainable Development Goals" 6.45 pm - 9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. At this Chester World Development Forum meeting we aim to "get a handle" on what might be happening at the UN Summit taking place in New York in late September. This is looking at "the Post-2015 Development Agenda", with the adoption of a series of Sustainable Development Goals taking over from the earlier Millennium Development Goals which expire at the end of this year. Gill Miller aims to bring some illumination! 01244 350323.

13 Racial Justice Sunday This year's theme is *Hospitality and Sanctuary for All* ctbi.org.uk/racial-justice-Sunday-2015

13 CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer www.caat.org.uk 020 7281 0297

15-18 DSEi Arms Fair London www.caat.org.uk 020 7281 0297

19 NJPN Open Networking Day: Warwick Rd URC, 10 Warwick Row, Coventry, CV1 1EX. Speaker: Paul Bodenham (Green Christian) on '*Francisconomics: The Saint, the Pope and the Economy of Enough.*' Contact: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk 020 7901 4864

20-26 World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel www.pief.oikoumene.org/en/world-week-for-peace/

21 Peace One Day 020 7456 9180 www.peaceday.org

26 Caritas Social Action Network Roadshow Ellesmere Port Catholic High School. Shrewsbury Commission for Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility will have a stall.

October

3-4 COME & SEE 2015 Conference at Southport. Keynote speaker **Sr Helen Prejean**. Sunday Mass with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP. Booking forms with sae: Irenaeus, 32 Great Georges Rd, Liverpool L22 1RD. 0151 949 1199 jenny@irenaeus.co.uk

- Many items 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 e-bulletins from National J&P Network 020 7901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

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