

The new 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://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/newsletter.html>

LIVERPOOL WELCOMES NEW ARCHBISHOP

More than 2,000 people gathered at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King for the Installation of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon as Ninth Archbishop of Liverpool, on 1 May - among them three cardinals, five archbishops and 25 bishops. The Papal Nuncio to Great Britain, Archbishop Antonio Mennini, speaking on behalf of Pope Francis, said: "It gives me great joy to be here today for the installation of your new Archbishop, especially as you have chosen this particular day of St Joseph the Worker. This marks a new beginning for you all."

Following the Gospel, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon gave an inspiring homily during which he highlighted the Hillsborough inquests as a shining example of the search for truth. Archbishop McMahon said that justice will be done for the 96 people who lost their lives and for their relatives. He said the families of the victims had shown a dignity over the last quarter century, which was an example to everybody. "God has endowed the people of Liverpool, Lancashire and the Isle of Man with many great gifts, not least constancy in our Catholic faith," he said. "The Martyrs of Lancashire testify to their love of Jesus' name and their fidelity to the truth. That search for truth continues in the Hillsborough inquest, as at long last a true picture of the causes of this terrible tragedy become clear and responsibility is taken for it. It is our hope and expectation that the inquest will uncover and explain the truth of what happened so that justice will be done for the 96 and for their families, whose dignity over these last 25 years has been an example to us all."

After the Mass, Archbishop McMahon met with members of the congregation and told them: "It's been a brilliant day with a most wonderful service. We are one family and I hope to get to know you and visit you in your churches, parishes and schools, carrying Christ in all that we do."

Read Archbishop McMahon's homily text here: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=24654>

CALL TO BE A 'CHURCH OF THE POOR' AT NATIONAL J&P MEETING

Ellen Teague writes: The National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) underlined its mission to foster social justice, based on the Church's Social Teaching, at its quarterly meeting on 10 May at CAFOD's offices in South London. A talk by David McLaughlin, Senior lecturer in Theology at Newman University, titled "Our Response to Pope Francis' call to be 'a Church for the poor'", and based on the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, was enthusiastically received. He stressed that, "private charity can never be enough; the poor also need justice".

During the discussion following that talk, Julian Filochowski, Chair of the Archbishop Romero Trust, called the papal document, "the most exciting thing to happen to the Church since Vatican II." The meeting was uplifted by the steady encouragement of Pope Francis to undertake work for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

McLaughlin pointed to the Virtual Plater website as an excellent resource for exploring the Church's Social Teaching, from there links can be made to other places, such as the Catholic Social Teaching website, which is a livesimply initiative. It picks up on the themes of Human Dignity, Community & Participation, Care for Creation, Dignity at Work, Peace & Reconciliation and Solidarity & Subsidiarity.

Anne Peacey of Hallam Diocese stepped down as NJPN Chair at the meeting after six years and she was warmly applauded for her service. There was a sharing by around 20 diocesan representatives and another 20 representatives of religious orders and Catholic agencies who were present covering work in the areas of justice, peace and care for creation.

Alison Gelder of Housing Justice invited support for a series of Housing Justice Roadshows, taking place in May and June in Liverpool, Birmingham and Rayleigh in Essex. They will demonstrate how churches can engage with the housing crisis.

Pat Gaffney, Director of Pax Christi, announced an event for 15 May to commemorate the WW1 centenary in which descendants of 50 First World War conscientious objectors would join in this year's International Conscientious Objectors' Day commemoration in Tavistock Square, London.

Patricia and Michael Pulham of Christian CND spoke about the 'No Faith in Trident' lobby of parliament on 11 June. They also shared its new resource 'Nuclear Weapons: What can Christians do?' which groups are encouraged to discuss as dialogue continues about the renewal of Trident, which is Britain's nuclear weapons system.

Maria Elena Arana of CAFOD Campaigns outlined plans for CAFOD's new Climate Change and Sustainable Energy campaign, which will be launched in September. CAFOD will be highlighting how climate change is linked to severe weather and humanitarian disasters and says "it will be crucial to campaign on this important issue in the run up to the General Election in May 2015." She also reminded those present about the Live Simply Parish Award which encourages parishes to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, reporting that 11 parishes have achieved the award over recent years.

The NJPN Environment Working Group, chaired by Ashley Ralston of Arundel and Brighton Diocese, announced Christian Ecology Link's 'Joy in enough' project and Operation Noah's 'Fossil free churches' work. The group is also pushing Creation Time, which runs from 1 September – 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. Columban JPIC urged everyone to view and use the new DVD resource and booklet 'Conflict and Climate Change' which is suitable for adult groups and older schools' groups. One of the speakers on the DVD, Mary Colwell, is to be a speaker at this year's NJPN conference in Derbyshire 18-20 July, where the theme is 'Called to life in all its fullness: accepting the implications of our baptism'. More than 300 people are expected to attend. There are still a few places available – go to www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

PAX CHRISTI AGM

Pat Gaffney writes: "To be as wise as serpents and gentle as doves" in our communication and campaigning for peace and nonviolence was the challenge set out by Symon Hill, guest speaker at Pax Christi's Annual General Meeting in Liverpool on Saturday, 24 May. Symon, an activist and writer (Digital Revolutions Activism in the Internet Age) spoke of the power of creativity and surprise in the nonviolent challenge to power and systems of violence and injustice: from the First World War COs who subverted the military communication system to convey to the world that they were being moved to France for execution to the Israelis and Iranians who used Facebook to tell their governments that 'Israel loves Iran and Iran loves Israel' - giving voice to thousands of ordinary citizens. The use of social media and the internet does not replace traditional forms of campaigning, dissent or witness but can add value to it and reach new people with the peace challenge of the Gospel.

Around 80 people attended the meeting, held in the Catholic Chaplaincy and co-hosted by Pax Christi Liverpool. Also attending were Liverpool's newly elected Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, President of Pax Christi, who celebrated Mass and Jose Henrique, International Secretary of Pax Christi from Brussels.

Opening the meeting Pax Christi Chair Anne Dodd stated that the teaching from the Sermon on the Mount to Pope Francis is clear and consistent and Pax Christi's work is to do all that is possible to build that peace, involving everyone we can, wherever we can. Reports from staff illustrated how this is happening. In the first four months of the year Pax Christi had recruited 35 new members and donations for Peace Sunday has exceeded those of 2013. There is great demand for publications and resources, not just among members but from other organisations and networks. The office and members around the country have organised imaginative events to mark the Global Day of Action on Military Spending and took a lead in co-ordinating the No Faith in Trident speaking tour with Bruce Kent which will culminate in a Lobby of Parliament on 11 June. Most recently Pax Christi played a key role in bringing families of 70 First World War COs to London for International Conscientious Objector Day which attracted huge national and regional press interest.

Anne Dodd reminded members that we cannot be complacent. While we still have a nuclear weapons policy, while we are still engaged in the arms trade we need to work to encourage our church leaders to be clear in speaking out, reflecting Gospel values and church teaching.

Three new people were elected to the Executive Committee, Chris Cole from Oxford, Helen Gilbert from Birmingham and Holly Ball from London. Thanks were given to those standing down: Treasurer John Dowbekin, and Michael Mitchell and Sr Christine Charlwood.

ELECTION SUCCESS FOR UKIP

Following the May Local Government elections and European Parliament elections in which UKIP gained a record number of seats the lobbying group HOPE not Hate has pledged to continue to scrutinise UKIP and shine a spotlight on their anti-immigrant policies. They intend to expand their research team to monitor the performance of these new UKIP councillors and to dedicate their efforts to explaining why UKIP's simple solutions are not the answer to the problems people face.

www.hopenothate.org.uk

DEBT TRAP CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The Children's Society in partnership with StepChange has launched a national campaign entitled The Debt Trap. It has three aims: to expose the impact problem debt is having on families and children, to understand how and why debt can escalate out of control, and to put pressure on decision-makers to put steps in place to prevent financial difficulty turning into severe debt.

The Right Reverend Terence Brain, Chair of Trustees of Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) and Bishop of Salford, joined with leading figures from the Church of England, the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Methodist Church to add his voice of support to the campaign: "Families across the country are struggling: they face incredibly difficult choices between heating their homes and putting food on the table, often parents themselves are going without in order to provide for their children. It is all too easy for families in this situation to think that they have no option but to borrow money, just so they can provide the basics for their children. Yet, for many, debt can quickly spiral out of control and just makes their situation impossible to escape. Helping families in problem debt has to be part of the Church's mission to tackle poverty in our own communities."

Launched on 8 May at a reception in Parliament hosted by Paul Blomfield MP, the campaign focuses on the results of a new report which reveals that two and a half million children in the UK are in families living with problem debt. Whereas previous research has investigated the effect of debt on adults or upon mental health, this report is the first of its kind as it examines the impact of debt on children. From suffering a lack of basic necessities, to enduring family breakdown and bullying at school, children are often the innocent victims of problem debt. Research conducted by The Children's Society found that around a third of families living with debt said they had cut back on food within the last month, with a similar proportion saying they had done the same with heating, just so they could keep up with repayments.

Responding to the findings of The Debt Trap report, Helen O'Brien, Chief Executive of CSAN said: "CSAN supports the recommendations of The Children's Society report. We call on decision-makers to change the future for the next generation through proper financial education for young people; better access to affordable loans; and the end to an advertising culture that promotes quick-fix credit solutions."

Commenting on The Debt Trap campaign, Kathleen Pitt, Chief Executive of Nugent Care which provides support to families across the Archdiocese of Liverpool, said: "This campaign from The Children's Society highlights many of the issues facing the families with whom we work who are struggling to make ends meet. Problem debt is like a game of Snakes and Ladders. It only takes a period of unemployment, a bout of illness, or an increase in rent to throw budgets off-kilter. The more families struggle, the more they feel the need to borrow and the greater the level of emotional stress, social pressure, and even guilt, that children experience. For some reason, a stereotype has developed that people in debt are to blame for their circumstances, caused by foolhardiness and frivolity. This could not be further from the truth. Problem debt can happen to anyone at any time – and we strongly support the work The Children's Society is undertaking to stop this trend."

CSAN comprises 40 member charities working with children living in poverty, older people, the homeless, travellers, disabled people, and others on the margins of society. More information about CSAN projects: <http://www.csan.org.uk/ptmember/>

The Debt Trap campaign: <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-you-can-do/campaign-join/debt-trap-end-damage-children>

ROWAN WILLIAMS: REDISTRIBUTING POWER IS CRUCIAL TO TACKLE VIOLENCE AND POVERTY

In an inaugural parliamentary lecture on 9 May, to launch Christian Aid Week, Dr Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, highlighted the role that inequality plays in provoking violence. Dr Williams, who is Chair of Christian Aid, told an invited audience at Westminster that redistributing power is crucial if violence, one of the key drivers of global poverty, is to be tackled successfully. His speech reflected the theme of this year's Christian Aid Week (11-17 May) which focuses on the work done in countries beset by conflict.

Dr Williams' address added to a chorus of voices including Barack Obama and French economist Thomas Piketty, increasingly concerned at the threat of growing inequality on social cohesion, prosperity and democracy. Dr Williams argued that this threat must be countered not just by redistributing wealth, but by governments and financial institutions having the courage to redistribute power. He said: "Inequalities of power, in the form of radically unequal levels of access to decision-making, process of law, education and civic freedoms, are often described as forms of 'structural' violence. And this should help us see why inequalities in these areas are so often generators of other sorts of violence. The truth is that poverty and a sense of powerlessness are regularly among the major drivers of violence; while violence in turn is a major driver of poverty. So what we must do is recognise the vicious circle here, and ask where and how we break it."

In his talk, Dr Williams highlighted the role women around the world play in peace-building while at the same time suffering disproportionate levels of violence. He said: "One of the most powerful and troubling elements of trying to resolve conflict is the

prevalence of violence and discrimination against women in so many situations of conflict or deprivation or both, which robs half the human race of its freedom to nurture, educate and develop its own capacity and that of the next generation. If – as all experience currently suggests – women are likely to be the key agents in health care, nutritional education, micro-finance operations and the rehabilitation and care of the traumatized wherever they have the chance, gender-based violence clearly becomes not simply a question of unacceptable individual behaviour but a matter of intense social damage. The dehumanizing treatment of women often reflects attempts by economically or socially disempowered males to assert authority; it signals a contempt towards what women do to sustain social goods; it limits or even destroys an immensely significant capacity for transmitting to a new generation the values and possibilities of human culture."

Combatting this, he added is not simply "a matter of rectifying some small malfunctions in a male-dominated system. Building peace here too means redistributing power (and yes, I'm aware of how deep a question this poses for the churches); looking for the kinds of forum that genuinely make women's voices audible worldwide, looking for the ways in which attitudes can be changed and looking too for the ways in which all this can be experienced as good news for men – often, as we have seen, men who are themselves humiliated and disempowered in other settings and whose fear and confusion equally needs addressing along with their behaviour."

Dr Williams also highlighted the risk to peace and security posed by climate change: "The sense of helplessness in the face of environmental danger can lead either to apathy or to savage conflict over limited resources." *Source: Christian Aid*

ACTION REQUEST: NUTRITION FOR GROWTH PLEDGED FUNDS

June 8th will mark the first anniversary of the pledging of nutrition for growth funds. We're asking Secretary of State Justine Greening for an update on the UK's plans to spend its pledge #JustineTime for the anniversary. Your MP can help – ask them to tweet Justine Greening to get an update. We'll be tweeting up until the June 8th anniversary, and hope you will join us in the #JustineTime twitter campaign over the next few weeks. Thanks for your support, Francesca Fryer Parliamentary & Campaigns Officer, Concern Worldwide (UK) <https://www.concern.net/>

CATHOLIC AND MUSLIM CHARITIES WARN OF CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FOOD CRISIS

Catholic and Muslim aid agencies have joined forces to warn that more than half the population of the Central African Republic risk going hungry as a result of instability and violence across the country. The aid agencies - CAFOD, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid and the Muslim Charities Forum - say that 2.5 million people - 54 per cent of the population - are directly affected by the crisis. Over a third of people - 35 per cent - are in urgent need of food. The warning comes after a joint mission by the agencies to assess the scale of the humanitarian crisis.

CAFOD's Emergency Coordinator, Catherine Mahony, said: "We saw shocking levels of destitution among families, who had exhausted all means of coping with this crisis. As a result, our agencies are going to provide immediate help to communities in Bossangoa. Our support will enable 10,000 families to get the food they need so that they can provide for their families in the difficult months to follow. CAFOD's partner Catholic Relief Services will be working with the UN Food Programme, WFP, to ensure that these families receive emergency food aid."

CAFOD will be working alongside the British Muslim charities to support the immediate distribution of seeds and tools so, where appropriate, communities can take advantage of the current rainy season. Imran Madden, Head of Islamic Relief's Humanitarian Department, said: "We were humbled by the many brave and courageous people we met, who are deeply committed to helping those caught up in the violence. Churches and mosques throughout CAR are providing vital refuge for displaced people, often at considerable risk to their own safety. They are working to deliver much needed humanitarian aid, as well as building bridges between people caught up in a worrying cycle of distrust, fear and vengeance."

A survey led by CAFOD's sister agency Catholic Relief Services shows that on average 74 per cent of households in Bossangoa, in the north-west of the country, have had their homes destroyed as a result of looting or fires, leading in many cases to the loss of all their stocks of seeds and agricultural tools. Dr. Hany El-Banna, Chair of the Muslim Charities Forum concluded: "Our visit strengthened our resolve that by working together as Catholic and Muslim charities, we can be of immediate practical help and also send out a strong message of unity and hope."

Since December 2013, the Central African Republic has witnessed increasing violence that has killed tens of thousands of people, leaving over 600,000 people homeless inside the country, and 350,000 more fleeing into neighbouring countries.

The country has been engulfed in violence since a coalition of rebel groups known as Seleka seized power in March 2013. In December, militias known as 'Anti-balaka' launched counterattacks, often targeting the minority Muslim population.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=24698>

LEADER OF WEST PAPUAN EXILES IN THE UK HIGHLIGHTS THEIR CURRENT PLIGHT

Benny Wenda is the leader of the West Papuans in exile in the UK. He was introduced to J&P by Fr Neles Tebay, a priest who was sent to the UK by his bishop to keep him safe from the Indonesian army in West Papua, which is one of the forgotten conflicts of our times. Benny has spoken to J&P groups in Crosby, Aigburth, Widnes, Preston and Wigan.

Steve Atherton has passed on a plea from Benny: *"I want to express my concerns over current events within West Papua. I want to tell the world that now is a time when our people are in incredibly grave danger, especially those who have become refugees. We desperately need international attention and support during this time of increased Indonesian military violence in our country.*

The Indonesian Government is extremely worried. They will therefore likely send their military across the border into Papua New Guinea to look for West Papuans to punish and persecute. They will look for West Papuan refugees near the border and deport them to Indonesia where they will be killed. As a former refugee myself, I am deeply worried and concerned about these threats that many of my people are now facing. Before something terrible happens, we need to tell the world about this situation.

In the last few years, the Indonesian government has been trying to find and persecute Papuan refugees, in attacks that regularly involve burning villages and West Papuan refugee camps, forced deportation and even armed attacks on refugees. Incidents like this have happened many times in the past and continue today.

We urgently need the United Nations and the world to see what is really happening to our people. Sometimes it feels like everyone has forgotten that 100,000 West Papuans have been killed in the last 50 years and that more than 10,000 West Papuan refugees suffer daily in Papua New Guinea. My people are urgently asking for UN intervention to stop the Indonesian military from killing more of our people. People still face massive food shortages, have little or no education and fear the constant threat of Indonesian military violence. Please hear our voice; we need to act now to stop Indonesia from killing more innocent Papuans." For more info visit <http://freewestpapua.org>

REFLECTION: STEPHEN SUTTON - JOY AND SORROW TRANSFORMED BY LOVE

Fr Robin Gibbons writes: So many of us will have been touched by the news that Stephen Sutton, the 'fund raising teenager for cancer' died peacefully in his sleep on 14 May. His face smiling from his hospital bed, thumbs up with thanks for all the generous giving to teenage cancer sufferers, is a picture that will remain fixed in the minds of those he loved but also the many people who were caught up in his story even for a moment. I hope, as I am sure so many of you do, that his legacy of courage, dignity, zest for life and care for others will inspire us, especially the young (and the young at heart!). Those of us who are praying people will join together in asking that Stephen may rest in peace, his journey ended, but also that the comfort and consolation of the Risen Lord may wrap around his family and friends.

Stories like Stephen's bring out the best in the human family. This Easter-time we have been surrounded by the cycle of new life in spring, but the story of Mother Earth is also littered with unresolved and painful moments: Boko Haram and the kidnapped girls; Syria; the miners and their loved ones in Turkey; so many other tragedies, but into this the life and death of one of us, a young man of 19, has reached out through the muddle and pain to inspire and move and remind us all of what it means to be a true human being! This is a story of love transforming pain, suffering and the darker side of life, the love a young man for life, the love he so obviously got from those around him who helped him become that amazing icon of human care and compassion for others.

This is in real terms the Easter Story being preached by one of Christ's little ones. We hold that life is precious and important and that the life and death of each one of us matters. Stephen's story illustrates this so powerfully. It reminds those of us with harder cynical hearts and minds, how love transforms, how as Philip Larkin reminds us in his poem *An Arundel tomb*: 'what will survive of us is love.'

* **Editor's note:** *Fr Robin emailed me the following comments when I sought permission to re-print his reflection:*

"Of course, please use the reflection. I feel very strongly that Stephen is one of those little ones of the world who transcends the barriers. It doesn't matter if he was a faith person or not, he certainly encapsulates the beatitudes for me and he is a valuable antidote to those who see death as a termination rather than fulfilment, mystery and something on-going."

He continued: "I've written to my MP, Prime Minister David Cameron, saying that the honours system is discreditable as it stands and dominated by those who don't deserve to be there. I have asked him: please could we start something new - instead of giving Stephen a posthumous award could the country not start another award in his name for those who selflessly give. If others can join the song, it will sound louder. Please carry on the story ..."

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY'S HAPPY LIST 2014

The seventh annual Independent on Sunday Happy List has just been published – 100 people who, without thought of personal gain, give back and help others, rather than themselves. Founded as an antidote to all those rich lists and celebrity lists, it celebrates a different set of values, embracing those who start charities, help troubled young people, give huge amounts of time to volunteering and raising money, foster children, care for wildlife, and much more.

This year, the Happy List includes a 93-year-old woman who has raised more than £100,000 for Age UK by dressing as a bee; a teacher who donated a kidney to one of his pupils; the world's oldest barmaid; a limbless Plymouth man who founded a charity to help other amputees; a London woman who founded a pop-up restaurant that employs only refugees and migrants; and a couple who set up a bereavement service for parents who have lost a baby. Previous nominees include Pax Christi's Pat Gaffney. And this year, for only the second time, it includes a posthumous entry - Stephen Sutton who was on the list but died just as it was being finalised.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/news/independent-on-sundays-happy-list-2014-not-the-rich-list-the-full-list-of-people-who-make-life-better-for-others-9423410.html>

PAX CHRISTI YOUTH NEWS

Peace Education Workshop: Inspiring a New Generation of Activists. There's lots of great stuff going on to try to engage people with big issues: war & peace, ecology, poverty, but also lots of debate about how to inspire a new generation. So what actually gets people to take action and stay with it? This workshop, led by James Trewby the Columban Justice and Peace Education Worker, explores this question from a fresh perspective.

Tuesday 24 June at Friends House, Euston. More details and to book a place see <http://peace-education.org.uk/>

Young People's Congress for World Citizenship, 10-12 July

To celebrate their 30th anniversary CARJ (the Catholic Association for Racial Justice) are hosting a Youth Congress at Liverpool Hope University 10-12th July. The congress aims to empower young people to make a difference in their schools, parishes and local communities. More details at <http://carj.org.uk>

Schools Workshops: We are currently taking bookings for June and July. The autumn term is gradually filling up too - book early to avoid disappointment <http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/school-workshops/>

Pax Christi at Greenbelt

Preparations underway for the Greenbelt Festival, this year taking place near Kettering on the August Bank holiday weekend, and are looking for volunteers to be part of our team. A great opportunity for people aged 18-30(ish) to get more involved in the work of Pax Christi. Contact Matt for more information education@paxchristi.org.uk

Find out more about Greenbelt on their website <http://greenbelt.org.uk>

In peace, Matt Jeziorski <education@paxchristi.org.uk> Schools and Youth Outreach Worker, Pax Christi. Tel: 020 8203 4884
<http://www.paxchristi.org.uk> <http://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiYouth> <http://www.twitter.com/PaxChristiYouth>

PAX CHRISTI LEAFLET

Pax Christi has produced a new leaflet about *The Catholic Church and Nuclear Weapons* you can download copies here http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2Catholic-Church_Nuclear-Weapons2014.pdf
or order paper copies to distribute to others from orders@paxchristi.org.uk

THE LOWRY SIGNS UP TO BECOME 'DEMENTIA FRIENDLY'

Salford's Lowry Theatre has pledged to make more of its visual and performing arts programme more accessible to people with dementia. It has joined the Salford Dementia Action Alliance (DAA), the local arm of a national organisation committed to transforming the lives of people with dementia and those that care for them. Plans include 'dementia friendly' visiting productions – which will take a number of factors into consideration, such as lighting, sound effects and seat allocation. Tailored tours of the Lowry Favourites exhibition are also being created for gallery visitors with the condition.

Together, The Lowry and Salford DAA, hosted an open day on 21 May at the arts venue to provide an opportunity for those living with dementia to hear more about The Lowry's plans and to provide feedback to the venue regarding additional actions it could take. The event included a performance by Salford University students and a preview Galleries tour alongside a workshop with Salford Art Gallery using their new reminiscence boxes.

Julia Fawcett OBE, chief executive of The Lowry, said: "Since we opened in 2000, it has been our mission to bring the very best of the arts to Salford and the North West. In doing so, we welcome a whole range of audiences to the building - all of which have slightly different access requirements. When we were approached by the Salford Dementia Action Alliance about joining the scheme, it was something we agreed without hesitation. We already have a range of policies in place to cater for people with access needs – including complimentary theatre tickets to essential carers - and working to become an official 'Dementia Friendly' venue is another step we can take on that path. I look forward to meeting with some of our patrons at the open day and hearing from them suggestions of how we can improve the visitor experience for those living with dementia."

For more information about access at The Lowry, visit: www.thelowry.com/access

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

18 -20 July NATIONAL J&P CONFERENCE for 2014 *Called to life in all its fullness*

Organised by NJPN Executive Committee with Christians Aware and Vincentians in Partnership. A conference to: empower lay people to accept the responsibility of their baptism; provide an opportunity to bring our life experiences and relate them to our baptismal call; be a celebration of life and a renewal of vision. Speakers Sarah Teather MP; Mary Colwell; Gemma Simmonds CJ; Clare Dixon; Chair: Rev Ruth Gee. The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Places still available. Booking forms now available to download from the NJPN website www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

23-28 July World Youth Day *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

Pope Francis has chosen the beatitudes from the fifth chapter of the Gospel of St Matthew as the themes for World Youth Day 2014-2016. This year and next, World Youth Day will be celebrated on a local level – on Palm Sunday by the Vatican – and in 2016 it will be an international gathering in Krakow, Poland.

To be poor in spirit, the Pope told young people, they must learn to be free or detached from material things, living simply, being concerned about the essentials, but "learning to do without all those unneeded extras." Poverty in spirit also requires "a conversion in the way we see the poor," which means meeting them, listening to them, caring for them and offering them both material and spiritual assistance, he said. Living according to the beatitude also means recognising that the poor "have much to offer us and to teach us," particularly that "people's value is not measured by their possessions or how much money they have in the bank." <http://www.laici.va/content/laici/en/media/notizie/comunicato-messaggio-gmq-2014.html>

21 September Peace One Day

Jeremy Gilley writes: Following the tremendous responses from our recent Schools' Network survey, we are now more aware of our successes in supporting you with Peace Education in your school - and most importantly – the areas where we can further improve. I want to share with you briefly some of our key learning's, and welcome any suggestions you may have:

Areas for improvement:

- Nearly a third of schools that responded indicated that parents were not engaged with peace activities in the school. This is an area we would like to build on with you towards Peace Day 2014, and beyond.
- We also learnt that half of the teachers who use the Peace One Day Education Resources, do so on Peace Day only, whereas our goal is to encourage year-round Peace Education activities – building up to full engagement on Peace Day.

Area of success:

- 80% of educators who responded told us that their relationship with Peace One Day is 'very valuable'. We find this truly inspiring and hope we can continue to add value to your work.
- Two-thirds stated that pupils act more peacefully on 21 September as a result of Peace Day activities! This is incredible news, and we hope it motivates you to start planning how you might engage your pupils in the build up to, and on Peace Day this year.

For Peace Day, Sunday 21 September 2014, we want to build on the incredible achievements of 2013, reducing violence around the theme: ***Who Will You Make Peace With?***

Find out more about Peace One Day's 2014 campaign here: www.peaceday.org/global-campaigns

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

2 "The day that shook the world – the Christmas Truce" 1.30-3.30pm at Brothers of Charity, Thingwall Hall, Broadgreen Liverpool L17 7NY Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

5 World Environment Day. This year's theme is Think.Eat.Save. - an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages us to reduce our footprint. Find out more at www.greeningtheblue.org

6 An evening of food and conversation about justice issues from 6.30pm. at St Mary's Church, 119 Wellington Road, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 1LE with Fr Willy Slavin. Bring some food for a shared table. Fr Willy Slavin is a retired priest of the

Archdiocese of Glasgow. He served for fifty years, in parishes, as chaplain to two Glasgow Hospitals and later to Barlinnie Prison for 10 years. Fr Willy chaired the Archdiocesan Justice and Peace commission for five years and also founded the Emmaus Glasgow homelessness project and the Scottish Drugs Forum. He is a chartered educational psychologist and a consultant on drugs and alcohol to various bodies.

7-15 Wonders Of Morcambe Bay Loaves & Fishes Project. More info: lfjc@talktalk.net or loavesfishes2014@yahoo.co.uk

9 Blessing on the Beach: Come and celebrate Community and Creation in a blessing of freshly caught fish and newly baked bread with local schoolchildren, people from near and far and leaders of Christian communities from the region on Arnside Promenade on Monday 9th June at 12 noon. Bring your own "Loaves and Fishes" picnic and lunch with your neighbours against the lovely backdrop of Morecambe Bay, Arnside LA5 (There is also a railway station in Arnside)

9 "The day that shook the world – the Christmas Truce" 1.30-3.30pm at St Ambrose Barlow, Manchester Rd, Astley, Manchester. M29 7DZ Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

10-12 Underwater Defence Technology Arms Fair, run by Clarion Events who also organise DSEi - the huge London arms fair. Protest action 10 June by Merseyside Peace Network, website launching soon: <http://www.merseysidepeacenetwork.com/> Contact: andy@liverpoolcnd.org

12 Alastair McIntosh on "Climate Change, Faith and the Human Condition" 7:30 pm at The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TH Booking is essential as demand is expected to exceed available places – the tickets are free and can be obtained from <http://treadinglightly.evenbrite.co.uk> or <http://tinyurl.com/ohr6k6u> It is being organised by the Lancaster Treading Lightly Network and Litfest and early booking recommended. Alastair McIntosh spoke at the NJPN Annual Conference in 2010 "Our Daily Bread: Food Security, People and Planet". Lancaster Diocese Faith & Justice Commission were part of the organizing group for the weekend conference and have CDs of the talks in the office, and texts & audio files of the talks available of the F&J website <http://lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk>

13 Congress: Liverpool, City of Sanctuary. This is an 'invitation only' event aimed at decision makers and service providers. Contact John Davis on john.davis@togetherliverpool.org.uk 10am-3pm LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, L17 1AA

13-15 Northern Catholic Conference Hope University, Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JD 5.30 Fri – 3.30 Sun

14 Concert for Malawi Education Fund 7.30pm at Christ Church, Port Sunlight CH62 5EF. with Weaver Accordion Band and Soundwall. Tickets £6, £3 for under-20s, from 01244 381490

16 Workshop: introduction to Evangelium Gaudii. Fr Tony Slingo & Steve Atherton 7-9pm St Anne's Prescott Rd, Ormskirk L39 4TG

17 Talk: "What counts as J&P?" Steve Atherton talks to UCM meeting 8-10pm. St Aidan's, Holmes House Avenue, Winstanley, Wigan WN6 3EE

22 Pennine Run for All: 10km. Burnley from 9.30am. The route starts at the Mechanic's Theatre and takes in Thompson Park and Towneley Hall. CAFOD is looking for sponsored runners. To register, go to www.cafod.org.uk/sponsoredevents

MARCAP meeting. This month's meeting is at St Dunstan's, Earle Rd, Liverpool. L7 6HD 10.30 – 12.30 It will feature the film

'Inequalities for All', followed by discussion. Lunch will be provided so please let us know if you're coming. s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

JULY

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

7 Film: "The day that shook the world – the Christmas truce" 7-9pm St Benedict's, Rhodes St, Warrington WA1 2NS Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

10-12 30th Anniversary Celebration Young People's Congress for World Citizenship: 'Working together for a more just, more equal, more cooperative society' at Liverpool Hope University This 3-day residential gathering will bring together young people from England and Wales (and beyond) to explore their major social, ethical and cultural concerns and ideas. This will be an active and engaged experience with the young people taking responsibility. Cost: £99 - including programme, accommodation and food. For more information please email carjcongress@hope.ac.uk

12 Liverpool J&P Commission Annual Assembly: "Dwelling in God with No Boundaries" How do we commemorate the centenary of WW1? 10am-4pm at LACE L17 1AA Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

15 MARCAP monthly meeting 10.30-11.30am SFX, Salisbury St, Liverpool L3 8DR

18-20 NATIONAL J&P CONFERENCE *Called to life in all its fullness* The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire – places still available www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

21-25 Living Theology Week: "Understanding your everyday beliefs." Registration 9.45am, first talk 10am - 3.30pm daily. The main speaker is Brian O'Leary SJ "Open to the Divine: from Ignatius the Pilgrim to Ignatian Spirituality Today." Liverpool Hope University Everton Campus L3 8BR. Info from Debbie Reynolds on 0151 298 1911.

SEPTEMBER

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

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