

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

THE PARIS ATTACKS

The attacks in Paris on 13 November have generated enormous media coverage and outrage and sadness among so many people. In a spirit of encouraging people to look under the surface of the problems, here are a couple of places to start:

Paul Rogers, Professor in the Peace Studies Dept. at Bradford University, and speaker at this year's NJPN Annual Conference, describes the attacks as a 'blowback war'. Read the full article on the *Open Democracy* website:

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/paris-atrocity-and-after> and in the *Guardian* on 16 November there was a thoughtful piece by **Scott Atran** – which raises some question marks about the more hysterical rhetoric coming from some quarters of the media. <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/nov/15/terrorists-isis>

It's also important to get these tragic events in perspective. An infographic from the *Independent* of a year ago gives a very different impression to what we see and read normally: http://i100.independent.co.uk/article/the-10-countries-where-terrorist-attacks-kill-the-most-people--ekK-zVZI_q

The 2015 Global Terrorism Index highlights the fact that terrorism continues to rise. The total number of deaths from terrorism in 2014 reached 32,685, constituting an 80 per cent increase from the previous year. This is the highest level ever recorded.

The significant majority of these deaths, over 78 per cent, occurred in just five countries; **Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria**. Thirteen times as many people are killed globally by homicides than die in terrorist attacks.

Source: <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2015.pdf>

BATACLAN VICTIM'S HUSBAND TELLS KILLERS: 'YOU WILL NOT HAVE MY HATRED'

Antoine Leiris, whose wife *Hélène Muyal* was killed in the Paris attacks, has written an open letter to terrorists vowing not to give them "the satisfaction of hating you". The bereaved husband has pledged that he and the couple's baby son will never live in fear of terrorists.

In an emotional note on **Facebook** titled "**You will not have my hatred**", Leiris wrote: "On Friday evening you stole the life of an exceptional person, the love of my life, the mother of my son, but you will not have my hatred. I don't know who you are and I don't want to know, you are dead souls. If this God for whom you kill blindly made us in his image, every bullet in the body of my wife is a wound in his heart. So no, I will not give you the satisfaction of hating you. You want it, but to respond to hatred with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that made you what you are."

Muyal, a makeup artist, was among the 89 people killed when gunmen opened fire at the Bataclan during a gig by the US rock band Eagles of Death Metal.

The letter continued: "You would like me to be scared, for me to look at my fellow citizens with a suspicious eye, for me to sacrifice my liberty for my security. You have lost. I saw her this morning at last, after nights and days of waiting. She was as beautiful as when she left on Friday evening, as beautiful as when I fell head over heels in love with her more than 12 years ago. Of course I am devastated with grief, I grant you this small victory, but it will be short-lived. I know she will be with us every day and we will find each other in heaven with free souls which you will never have. Us two, my son and I, we will be stronger than every army in the world. I cannot waste any more time on you as I must go back to [my son] who has just woken from his sleep. He is only just 17 months old, he is going to eat his snack just like every other day, then we are going to play like every other day and all his life this little boy will be happy and free. Because you will never have his hatred either."

The open letter, which had been shared more than 100,000 times by Tuesday evening, is one of several extraordinary acts of defiance and bravery that have emerged in the aftermath of the murderous attacks.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/17/bataclan-paris-victim-helene-muyal-husband-antoine-leiris-killers-open-letter>

OVERCOMING HATE

Kemal Pervanic is a survivor of the notorious Omarska concentration camp, which was set up by Bosnian Serb forces in the early days of the Bosnian War. The camp, nominally an 'investigation centre', was uncovered by British journalists in 1992, leading to international outrage and condemnation. Kemal now lives in England. He is the founder of Most Mira charity and is the author of *The Killing Days: My Journey Through the Bosnian War*. He says: "I didn't decide not to hate because I'm a good person. I decided not to hate because hating would have finished the job they'd started so successfully."

Source: <http://theforgivenessproject.com/stories/kemal-pervanic-bosnia/>

The Forgiveness Project is an award-winning, secular organisation that collects and shares real stories of forgiveness to build understanding, encourage reflection and enable people to reconcile with the pain and move forward from the trauma in their own lives. Our exhibitions, events, and programmes use narrative learning techniques to present alternatives to cycles of conflict, violence, crime and injustice.

Read more inspiring testimonies at: <http://theforgivenessproject.com/>

LET'S PRAY FOR BEIRUT THE SAME WAY WE'RE PRAYING FOR PARIS

Elyane Youssef 14 November 2015

As a writer, my introductions are normally hard. I need a line that can introduce my body of words in a catchy, yet narrowed way. But for the first time ever, my introduction isn't as arduous as I thought. "*I am from Lebanon.*" Lebanon is that tiny country that stands between Syria and Israel. We're only 10,452 kilometres square, hence, hard to spot on a map.

To start off, we sincerely express our solidarity with Paris after yesterday's terror attacks. Everybody knows what happened in Paris and the death toll from the series of orchestrated attacks.

On the contrast, allow me to tell you what half of the world "doesn't" know, or perhaps chooses to ignore. Two suicide bombings took place yesterday in Southern Beirut. Forty individuals were killed and 200 were injured. Shops were damaged, families were killed. We were left speechless. I watched the news of yesterday's attacks in Beirut as if I was seeing a news program that keeps running on repeat. The insecurity we have constantly felt in Beirut has now returned stronger than ever. We thought that the series of bombings that were occurring in our country for the past six years finally came to an end. But they haven't stopped.

Putting Paris' attack and Beirut's together leaves me with one startling question: *How is the world reacting to each?* Opening Facebook shortly after yesterday's events in Paris to see a safety check option for those residing in Paris left me tongue-tied. Facebook also gave me the option of supporting France by changing my profile picture to its flag. Presidents from countries around the world went insane with tweets and posts about the attack in France.

But where do other nations that have been suffering for ages stand? Why are they forgotten? Why are people in the Middle East not having the chance to mark themselves safe when an attack or a bombing occurs? Why isn't there an option of changing your profile picture to your country's flag during an attack? The world might claim that we're used to it. Others believe that the Middle East is where "terror" lives. But we still go to our jobs - most of which are in the heart of Beirut, Lebanon's capital. We still party hard, go out for dinners and hit pubs in Beirut. Although we are living in the midst of what people call "terror," we're living it courageously and pretty well.

Media coverage leads people to believe that the Middle East, especially Lebanon, is in a constant hazardous state. That's why when an attack takes place, it's "pretty normal." The media describes the normal state of other countries as peaceful and violence free. I want to remind you that all countries in the world are facing daily attacks and unfair deaths but we just don't always know it. We don't know about them because they don't show them to us. Thus, when a big attack takes place, it therefore leaves people in shock and leaves us asking: *How come such a peaceful country face this tragedy?*

The truth is, there is peace in the Middle East as much as there is in Europe. But the media paints it differently. It is about time to stop this duality that the media has created. Mass media has shed the light on certain countries thoroughly demolishing others.

It is not an attack against Paris. It is not an attack against Beirut. It is an attack against humanity. This is how we should see it. Every day, somewhere on this vast earth, thousands are unfairly being killed. And still, we divide attacks as if peoples' lives in Europe are more pronounced than peoples' lives in the Middle East.

World leaders should understand that the innocent people who lost their souls in Paris are the same ones who are losing their souls every single day in any another country facing terror and violence. But no one is mourning them. No one is supporting them. This one single night attack in Paris has been a constant norm in Lebanon for the past 30 years. Who supported us? No one.

When will we understand that all lives on this earth count? Every country that faces a tragedy must have an "*I am Safe*" option on Facebook. Every soul that is being unfairly killed should earn a hashtag. People, politicians and especially the media shouldn't be indifferent to any unfair death. We should mourn every human dying in an attack, no exception, no excuses.

Let's pray for Beirut as much as we're praying for Paris. Let's pray for the whole wide world, in fact. Let's see each other as equal human beings; not as different countries. Let's stop dualities. Let's be one in our view on death.

Source: <http://www.elephantjournal.com/2015/11/lets-pray-for-beirut-the-same-way-were-praying-for-paris/>

PAX CHRISTI: NO TO AIR STRIKES IN SYRIA – ACTION AND PRAYER

Following the debate in Parliament on 26 November it is likely that there will be vote proposing military action in Syria. Many Pax Christi members contacted their MPs in 2013 when a similar vote took place. We urge you to do the same again. Try to ensure that prayers are said in your parish community that nonviolent responses will be pursued in facing crimes of terrorism and extremism.

Contact your MP: <http://www.parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-your-mp/>

More info: go to a post on our website where you can find a guide to prayer and action at this time.
<http://paxchristi.org.uk/2015/11/27/no-to-airstrikes-against-syria/>

JEW, MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN UNITED IN CALL FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Posted on Independent Catholic News Wednesday, 25 November <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28884>

Jewish, Muslim and Christian organisations will march together calling for action to address climate change this Sunday, 29 November 2015, united by a shared concern for protection of the earth and all who live on it. The march, backed by more than 60 faith-based and secular organisations, will take place on the eve of the Paris climate change summit and call on the UK government for better investment in renewable energy, green infrastructure and new clean jobs.

On behalf of the faith-based organising team, Tim Gee of Christian Aid said: "At times like these when both human lives and the earth itself are threatened, it is vital that we are united and not divided. Our unity on November 29th is one way of showing this. Likewise, in order to address a truly global problem we need to see governments working together at the Paris summit."

At the final rally, Rabbi Laura Janner-Klausner (Senior Rabbi to Reform Judaism), Dr Ruth Valerio (Churches and Theology Director, Arocha UK) and Shanza Ali (Director of Muslim Climate Action) will speak together in a public statement of interfaith unity. The march will be preceded by an interfaith event at Westminster Synagogue at which Rabbi Jonathan Whittenberg, Dr Ruth Valerio and Sheikh Talat will all speak on behalf of the Abrahamic faiths.

The marchers will be joined by Voltaire Alferez of Christian Aid's partner organisation in the Philippines, which has recently experienced the devastating effects of extreme weather. He said: "In the Philippines, we no longer debate or deny the impacts of climate change because we experience them every year. Particularly, our country saw the impact of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 which killed more than 6,000 people, separated families and communities and devastated livelihoods. Nevertheless, our compatriots with our government continue to strive to rise above the devastation. We are also very grateful to the governments and peoples who donated money to help us in our time of need. But we cannot carry on under this kind of new normal. Hence, we demand fair and ambitious action from the leaders of the world, particularly from those historically responsible countries, to reduce carbon emissions and sufficiently support vulnerable countries."

People of faith will meet on 29 November 2015 at 11.45 at Westminster Synagogue for the interfaith event, and then at 12.30 on Park Lane with others in The Climate Coalition who are taking part in the march. The event is supported by Christian Aid, CAFOD, Quakers in Britain, Islamic Relief, MADE in Europe, World Jewish Relief and Oil Vay amongst many others.

Prayer for the earth

*God of love, teach us to care for this world our common home.
Inspire government leaders as they gather in Paris:
to listen to and heed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor;
to be united in heart and mind in responding courageously;
to seek the common good and protect the beautiful earthly garden you have created for us,
for all our brothers and sisters, for all generations to come. Amen.*

This prayer is offered by Bishops from around the world ahead of the UN climate talks in Paris. It is reproduced with kind permission from Vatican Radio, and it was originally published here: <http://en.radiovaticana.va>

'ECONOMICS OF HOPE' GREEN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

Ellen Teague writes:

Around 200 people attended the **Joy in Enough 'Economics of Hope'** ecumenical conference in Bristol on 7 November 2015 at the brand new conference centre at St Michael's, Bristol. It was organised by Green Christian, with a big input from A Rocha - the two leading Christian "Care for the Earth" organisations in the UK. Conference goers felt that replacing light bulbs and other personal energy saving things are important - but changing our economics and encouraging global things have a far bigger effect, "so we need to grapple with that". The conference was described as opening a 'new chapter' in Christian economic witness.

Molly Scott Cato, formerly a professor of economics at Roehampton University and now MEP for South West England and speaker on finance for the Green Party, spoke about how churches might enable the shift to prosperity without growth in consumption and debt. She warned that national pledges tabled so far for the forthcoming Paris climate summit would still lead to warming of 2.7 degree Celsius. In the wake of the call by faith leaders on 19 October for zero emissions by mid-century, she argued that a growth-based economy cannot achieve the cuts in carbon emissions required. "Our future economy cannot have the same level of energy intensity" she said. Noting the growing disparity between rich and poor, she took the view that, "we need to stop using growth as a substitute for equality of income".

Paul Bodenham, the Catholic chair of Green Christian, said: "The churches have a centuries'-long tradition of standing up for economic justice, and have much to be proud of, but the environmental crisis changes everything, from social teaching to campaigning. At 'The Economics of Hope' we saw that change taking shape." He added that: "People instinctively understand that economic growth can't go on forever. But governments seem to be oblivious, and even Christian non-governmental organisations have yet to take its implications on board. There are serious economists offering a positive, sustainable model of prosperity beyond growth. We've got to start talking about the elephant in the room, and embolden our politicians to do so. The 200 people who gathered today are the founders of a spirited movement seeking economic change, and we plan to publish a declaration next year to reach out to Britain's churches and society at large."

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

Statement from religious leaders regarding the Paris Climate Conference:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/diakonia/climate-change/statement-from-religious-leaders-for-the-upcoming-cop21>

VATICAN CALLS FOR MORE EDUCATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Holy See has called for greater efforts to educate people, especially the young, about the impact of climate change, saying we need an ecological education. The appeal was made by the Holy See's Permanent Observer to UNESCO, Archbishop Francesco Follo, in an address this week to the UN agency. Referring to Pope Francis' recent encyclical where he issued "an urgent invitation for a new dialogue on the way in which we are building the future of our planet," Archbishop Follo explained that the Pope is inviting us to adopt "an ecological education" that must take into account the ethics of life and dialogue.

He stressed that the way in which "mankind treats the environment has a clear influence on the way in which it treats itself and vice-versa. For this reason, said Archbishop Follo, there is "an ethical dimension to ecology" and we must all take care of our planet, manage its resources and cultivate it wisely.

Turning to the issue of responsibility, Archbishop Follo said each generation has inherited a cultural and natural heritage and our task is to hand our planet over intact (or even enriched) to our successors. We also need to educate our children about the importance of this responsibility as they will become the citizens of tomorrow.

Archbishop Follo warned that "no cultural and natural heritage is possible if our common home, the planet where we live, ceases to become habitable." We all know what our goal is, he said, "to leave the earth habitable or to make it habitable again if we have pillaged it." In conclusion, Archbishop Follo reminded his listeners of Pope Francis' appeal for us to respect our common home because in so doing, we will show our love towards our neighbours, be they near or far, or not yet born.

Source: Vatican Radio/VIS

Taken from Independent Catholic News: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28781>

CHRISTIAN AID WELCOMES UK DECISION ON COAL

Christian Aid has welcomed Energy Secretary Amber Rudd's announcement that the UK will stop using coal and also notes a new OECD* agreement to tighten restrictions on exports of coal technology.

Responding to Ms Rudd, Alison Doig, Christian Aid's Principal Climate Change Advisor, said: "Coal is the largest single source of carbon emissions worldwide and accounts for a quarter of UK carbon emissions, so it was high time the UK took the decision to stop burning it. Britain became the world's first industrialised country on the back of coal, so ending hundreds of years of dependence is hugely symbolic. Ms Rudd's decision to phase out coal is especially timely and boosts momentums ahead of the UN climate talks in Paris. Where the UK leads, others must follow. The OECD's agreement to put tighter restrictions on coal technology is another nail in the coffin for climate-polluting coal."

However Christian Aid also cautioned that the UK's reputation as a climate leader required continued, rapid reduction of the country's emissions. Ms Doig added: "The UK has lead climate negotiations for 20 years but that reputation relies on walking the talk. This year, 155 countries have made new climate pledges, including historic moves from the USA and China. Now is the time to speed up the UK's decarbonisation ambitions, not slow them down. The most cost-effective route for the UK is to commit to a virtually carbon-free power sector within the next fifteen years. Phasing out coal clears the way for new investment in low-carbon energy but the Government must send consistent signals to investors and industry: they need clarity and certainty if they are to invest in the renewable energy the UK needs. Replacing coal with gas will only buy a little time. A dash for gas is simply incompatible with tackling climate change and leading by example."

Archbishop Thabo of Cape Town, who is Chair of the Anglican Eco Bishops for Ecojustice, said: "The announcement that a country which pioneered industrial development is taking the first steps towards phasing out the world's most polluting fossil fuel is welcome news indeed. As the Paris climate talks approach, it is time for middle-income and developing countries to leapfrog dirty coal altogether by using clean technologies to fuel our development."

On Tuesday, 17 November OECD countries finally agreed much tougher restrictions on how they use export guarantees to promote coal power overseas. Coal exporters such as Australia and South Korea strongly opposed such moves but a compromise was reached.

Alison Doig added: "Coal is climate enemy number one and the OECD's tighter restrictions on coal exports will cut funding to 80 per cent of planned coal projects – but they should have been much tougher. Sadly these new export rules are incompatible with keeping global warming below 2 degrees. The UK and USA helped to reach a reasonable compromise, winning over opposition from Australia and South Korea. These coal exporters need to see that the writing is on the wall for the coal industry – coal belongs in the past, not the future." Ms Doig said: "More than 50,000 people have signed a petition calling on Amber Rudd to end coal burning, shift to clean, renewable energy, and ensure our export strategy goes low carbon. Today's announcement is a victory for campaigners."

* OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development www.oecd.org

Source: <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/22330>

Christian Aid has been campaigning for a swift end to coal use at home and abroad.

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

HERE'S WHAT RESPONSIBLE TAX LOOKS LIKE, CHARITIES ADVISE MULTINATIONALS

Posted on Independent Catholic News Saturday, 21 November <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28847>

There are many steps multinationals can take towards more responsible tax practices, three charities say in a new report out this week. Rather than highlighting what companies should stop doing, ActionAid, Christian Aid and Oxfam draw attention to how firms can act more responsibly in areas including transfer pricing, use of tax incentives and lobbying. Within each of these areas, the charities' new report: *'Getting To Good'* gives detailed examples of what more responsible tax decisions would look like, in order to bring about positive impacts for developing countries and the realisation of human rights.

For example, companies can:

- Publish country-by-country reports before being legally required to do so.
- Publish the outcome of any significant settlement with revenue authorities.
- Assess and begin to address the human rights impacts of their tax behaviour.
- Audit their use of tax incentives and reliefs on a regular basis, to ensure they are delivering investment, employment or other benefits.

In addition, the report suggests the need for a change of culture within multinationals, towards an acceptance that they can go above and beyond being legally compliant on tax, in recognition of the huge impact that their tax decisions have on the rest of society.

Christian Aid, ActionAid and Oxfam believe that domestic and international tax law reforms remain critically important, but they also recognise that such changes are painfully slow and imperfect, and that multinationals will always have multi-million dollar choices about where and how they pay tax. The charities also highlight that responsible tax is good for businesses, helping them to mitigate reputational and other risks.

Barry Johnston, Director of Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns at ActionAid, said: "Businesses must recognise that paying a fair amount of tax is both the smart thing and the right thing to do. At its heart, the question of corporate tax avoidance is one of fairness and justice. Corporate tax avoidance is now scarcely out of the news, and many companies have faced huge reputational damage for playing fast and loose with the rules. But the real losers in this global game are those living in poverty, whose rights are denied by a lack of revenue for services like hospitals and schools while huge profits are shifted elsewhere. Alongside the urgent reforms to regulation that are required, good businesses should recognise that they too must play their part."

Matti Kohonen, Principal Adviser on the Private Sector at Christian Aid, said: "Christian Aid knows it takes courage for companies to go beyond the law, for instance by making financial details public in every country where they operate. We hope that this report will encourage them to move in the right direction. Such a shift will be welcomed as vital for tackling poverty and growing inequality in the developing world. Public opinion is changing rapidly and companies are increasingly expected to take positive action on this issue."

Penny Fowler, Head of Private Sector at Oxfam, said: "Companies and investors need to recognise that paying their fair share of tax is a human rights issue for which corporations must take responsibility, alongside such issues as labour and land rights. Until businesses adopt a more responsible approach to paying tax that goes beyond a focus on compliance and instead ensures they contribute fairly to the societies that their operations rely on, millions of vulnerable people in developing countries will continue to be deprived of the jobs, hospitals and schools which that tax revenue could help fund."

Read the report here: <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/policy-and-research/research-and-publications>

SOUTH LAKELAND CREDIT UNION

A Credit Union is a community bank, run to help members save, borrow & share profits. Savings are used to fund loans to other members at reasonable rates of interest, and the interest charged on loans is used to pay a return (dividend) to members on savings.

South Lakeland Credit Union was launched on 12 November, and now all areas of Cumbria are covered by a credit union. The new Credit Union will take deposits and standing orders from November for savings and aims to offer loans to members from January. Services will be available on-line and through access points open a few hours each week; initially in Kendal at Sandylands Methodist Church and Parish Halls. Other venues to be added once volunteers have been trained.

This is an exciting opportunity to provide an alternative to doorstep lenders and high street banks, and **more volunteers are needed** to help get these services to all communities of South Lakeland. Whether you have an hour or two to spare, or can commit more time, there is a role for you; an informal chat will help you and the Credit Union decide where your skills can be used most beneficially. Email: volunteering@southlakelandcu.org.uk.

Other credit unions in Cumbria would welcome more volunteers. Please consider supporting your local credit union by becoming a member.

For more information about the new South Lakeland Credit Union telephone 01539 727212 or check out the website after the launch date: www.southlakelandcu.org.uk

CSAN ON SPENDING REVIEW: 'CONDITIONS FOR PERFECT STORM'

Posted on Independent Catholic News Wednesday, 25 November <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28882>

Commenting on today's **Comprehensive Spending Review**, released by Chancellor George Osborne today, Helen O'Brien, Chief Executive of CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network), said: "As CSAN found in '*Caritas Reports: The Impact of Welfare Changes*', it is not the changes to individual aspects of the welfare system, but the multiplicity of the cuts which has made life more difficult for vulnerable families, young people and those earning less than the Living Wage.

"We are pleased that the planned cuts to Tax Credits, which offer some protection to working families, have been reversed. We do remain concerned, however, about the two-child limit for Child Tax Credits. We fear that the most vulnerable children from larger families, who face urgent problems such as bereavement or job loss causing financial difficulties, will be most seriously affected."

Martin Houghton-Brown, CEO of youth homelessness charity and CSAN member, Depaul UK, said: "I fear that the conditions for a "perfect storm" are continuing to grow as cuts to Local Authority funding, especially in youth services, cuts to Housing Benefit for under 21's and an increasingly weak social housing sector combine. This could be particularly pertinent for local authorities in less affluent areas, who may not benefit as much from the devolution of business rates and whose council taxes cannot offset central government cuts. Young people facing homelessness may soon have no shelter in the storm.

"As the Joseph Rowntree's annual picture of poverty in the UK published this week signals, young people today are now facing a worse set of circumstances in which to live, work and raise a family than the previous generation. I fear today's announcement will only make their life all the more difficult and our work at Depaul more vital."

For more information on CSAN see: www.csan.org.uk **Read more about Depaul UK here:** <http://www.depauluk.org/>

Caritas Reports: the Impact of Welfare Changes report, which includes stories from Nugent Care in Liverpool, Brushstrokes Centre in Birmingham and Caritas Anchor House in east London, found that the welfare changes of the past five years and the delivery of those changes are pushing vulnerable people and support staff to the edge of their capacity.

See: <http://www.csan.org.uk/newsarticle/caritas-reports-impact-welfare-changes/#.VIMf0tLhCUK>

CSAN have prepared briefings on the impact the two child limit will have on larger families. These can be read at the following links: <http://www.csan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Joint-faith-group-briefing-on-two-child-limit-FINAL5.pdf> & <http://www.csan.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/CSAN-House-of-Lords-Welfare-Reform-and-Work-Bill-briefing1.pdf>

The Institute for Fiscal Studies warned the cuts between 2010 and 2020 will be the deepest ever seen and will reduce the overall size of state spending to its lowest level since the War. **See more at:** <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/spending-review/12009574/Spending-Review-IFS-warns-of-deepest-cuts-in-history.html>

Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Monitoring Poverty and Exclusion Report can be read here:

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/monitoring-poverty-and-social-exclusion-scotland-2015>

ENOUGH: NEW RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES CONCERNED ABOUT OUR SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Liam Purcell, Communications Manager, Church Action on Poverty writes:

3/11/15

We're pleased to share this announcement from our friends at the Joint Public Issues Team, who have been campaigning alongside Church Action on Poverty this year for a rethink of benefit sanctions:

You may have seen that the House of Lords has asked the Government to think again on its proposals for radical reductions to tax credits next April. The Churches informed the debate with briefings and careful reflections from the Bishops. The role of Churches and churches members in ensuring that the circumstances of poorest are at the forefront of lawmakers' minds continues to be vital.

Last week's vote was about short-term cuts. The Welfare Reform and Work Bill going through Parliament contains much larger cuts, as well as important changes to the core principles of the benefits system. Benefits were intended to provide families that need support with enough to have a basic standard of living. The Bill proposes that for many – mainly families with children – this link between their basic needs and the support offered is broken. We know that children raised in families without enough money are more likely to die as infants, do worse at school, experience more disease and illness, and go on to die younger.

Together with our partner Churches, we will be asking the Government to reconsider its proposals and we'd like to invite you to join us. <http://d3cg33ic2z5tr7.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/600x206xjpit-enough-banner.jpg.pagespeed.ic.jg82TOGP1b.jpg>

The campaign and report will be launching very soon, but in the meantime we have created a set of resources for church use, which are available to view and download here. These include: an introduction to the campaign and information about how you can help; a short video explaining why this matters right now; a Bible reflection on the theme of 'enough'; a prayer and a specially written hymn. Please check out the resources, share them and use them as widely as you can. We'll let you know as soon as the campaign and report are launched!

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

Contact details: Church Action on Poverty, Dale House, 35 Dale Street, Manchester M1 2HF Tel: 0161 236 9321

'A REVOLUTION OF THE HEART' – REMEMBERING DOROTHY DAY

Posted on November 29, 2015 *by Jon Kuhrt* on *Resistance & Renewal*

Today is the 35th anniversary of the death of the radical catholic activist, Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker movement in the 1930s. She was a journalist who, after converting to Catholicism, worked in New York, running a house of hospitality for homeless people and working for peace through her writing, protest and civil disobedience. She edited the *Catholic Worker* paper from 1933 up to her death in 1980. She was arrested many times for protesting against war and for refusing to pay federal tax because of its use to pay for nuclear weapons. Her unflinching commitment and passionate faith has inspired many others. Recently in a high-profile speech to US Congress, Pope Francis mentioned four Americans who inspired him: Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King and Thomas Merton. The fourth was Dorothy Day:

"In these times when social concerns are so important, I cannot fail to mention the Servant of God Dorothy Day, who founded the Catholic Worker Movement. Her social activism, her passion for justice and for the cause of the oppressed, were inspired by the Gospel, her faith, and the example of the saints."

Like all truly radical Christians, Dorothy Day brought together a deeply personal commitment to faith in Jesus Christ and service in his name, along with a fully fledged commitment to living this faith out politically. This means some of her views are uncomfortable for people on both sides of the political spectrum. On economics, she was an unflinching socialist; but she was equally adamant in her opposition to abortion.

One of her most famous quotes summed up this fusion of the personal and political:

"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?"

As with all 'famous' activists, we should remember that it is only in hindsight that their work becomes glamorous. For those who feel they are struggling day by day to make a difference in small ways, when the problems of the world seem so overwhelming, her words are particularly helpful:

"People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do."

- **Watch** a 10 minute TV interview with Dorothy Day from 1973 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzOOWZTaFNA>
 - **See the website of the London Catholic Worker** <http://www.londoncatholicworker.org/www.php>
- Resistance & Renewal:** <http://resistanceandrenewal.net/2015/11/29/a-revolution-of-the-heart-remembering-dorothy-day/>

JOIN THE AMAZON-FREE CHALLENGE

Christmas is Amazon's busiest time of year – so it's our best chance to disrupt their business. Last year 40,000 of us went Amazon Free for Christmas, taking over £5m away from them. As a result they agreed to pay more tax in the UK. But it's still pitiful compared to the profits they squirrel away in tax havens.

Shopping at Amazon might be convenient, but it comes at a price. They don't pay their workers a Living Wage. They don't pay their tax. They take huge government hand-outs. They take money away from our local shops. This year, let's take our money away from them. So: are you up for a challenge? Can you buy your Christmas presents somewhere better than Amazon this Christmas? Going cold turkey can be hard – but you'll have support to help you shop somewhere better. Add your name to thousands of us pledging to avoid shopping Amazon from 1-25 December:

[https://www.amazonanonymous.org/?utm_source=Amazon+Anonymous&utm_campaign=21dd437857-Email Amazon 18 11 2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_607bc1ff75-21dd437857-238639621](https://www.amazonanonymous.org/?utm_source=Amazon+Anonymous&utm_campaign=21dd437857-Email+Amazon+18+11+2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_607bc1ff75-21dd437857-238639621)

#ADVENTCHALLENGE 2015

#AdventChallenge is an online Advent calendar from the Bible Society packed with daily challenges for you to choose from and share goodwill with those around you. Last year over 34,000 challenges were accepted! There were thousands who received an unexpected gift, over 2,000 donations made to charity shops, hundreds of contributions to local foodbanks and nearly 700 people who offered to babysit for a parent/guardian – #AdventChallenge 2014 had a real impact on the lives of others!

Once you've signed up and #AdventChallenge starts, we'll send you a daily email with a selection of challenges for you to choose from. Take on a challenge by clicking through to the Advent Calendar where you can 'accept' it and share it with others on Facebook, Twitter or by email. From holding a door open for someone to helping those sleeping rough, there's something for everyone. Sign up below, be a part of something inspirational and challenge your family and friends to do the same and join us in making this Advent a time where we can positively impact the lives of thousands more.

https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/adventchallenge/?source_code=50252_invite

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Reflections for the four weeks of Advent by Anne O'Connor 1-page A4 sheet: <https://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/resources/> or go to <http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/prayer-and-seasonal/>

WE NEED MORE SILENCE IN OUR LIVES – a Christmas Pre-tox

Posted on December 1, 2015 by Jon Kuhrt

"In modern culture, it almost seems like silence is extinct. We have given noise our consent to fill every moment of life. And it's not just sonic noise, but even the mental noise that comes from constant entertainment. Through our smartphones, our tablets and our laptops, we always have access to a virtual world that demands our attention. We have created sources of sound and distraction for every situation. As a result, silence has become fantasy, a neverland we choose to not visit. And why bother? To be socially accepted, we must be culturally connected. To be culturally connected, we have to listen to the roar."

Louis Spivak, *Relevant Magazine* <http://www.relevantmagazine.com/life/we-need-more-silence-our-lives#05FLO6KqIKGJc4Eo.99>

Today marks the start of *Resistance & Renewal's Christmas Pre-tox*. Join us on 24 days of intentional silence, reading and reflection. 15 minutes a day that will be good for your soul.

"All men need enough silence and solitude in their lives to enable the deep inner voice of their own true self to be heard at least occasionally...for he cannot go on happily for long unless he is in contact with the springs of spiritual life which are hidden in the depths of his own soul."

Thomas Merton, *The Silent Life* (1957)

Download the introduction and daily readings

<https://jonkuhrt.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/rrs-christmas-pretox-introduction-and-daily-readings2.pdf>

What is the point of the Christmas Pre-tox?

I don't make enough time for the important things. I rush around too much. I get stressed. I feel sorry for myself. I put myself at the centre of my universe. And at Christmas, I do all these things more than ever. So the point of the Christmas Pre-tox is to help me to slow down, to help me focus on the right things. To re-dress the balance of a Christmas season which sees us spend more, eat more, drink more and get stressed more than any other time of year.

Focus on what?

Christmas is a celebration which marks the birth of Jesus Christ, so I have used the book of Luke, which tells the story of Jesus as a basis for 24 daily readings. Luke was a doctor, who explains at the start of his book that he has 'carefully investigated everything from the beginning' and 'decided to write an orderly account'.

The daily readings take you on a journey backwards from Jesus' life. So they start with the accounts of his resurrection and death and take you through many of the key events and teachings of his short life. It means that the first few readings are a bit heavy as they deal with his arrest and death but don't let that put you off. As you go on you'll cover some of the most famous stories and incidents in his life and in the last few days, you will cover the traditional 'Christmas stories' relating to his birth.

How it works

Each day, you are asked to set aside *at least* 10-15 minutes each day. Make sure you have a quiet space where you will not be interrupted. It would be worth setting aside a regular time each day if that is possible. There are 5 steps and there really is no rocket science to this - it is *very* simple:

1. **A time of silence**
2. **A reading** from Luke's gospel
3. **Reflection** - on a question related to the reading
4. **A second time of silence**
5. **Prayer/Focus** for the day ahead

- I have intentionally used contemporary versions of Luke's gospel and have re-produced them on a separate sheet. I hope this helps readers encounter the text in a fresher way than using traditional translations.
- Try to read slowly, reflectively and to come to the text with fresh eyes. What strikes you about what you are reading? What parts are moving or confusing? What do they say to you?
- I have supplied a simple question at the end of each reading to provoke thinking which connects the reading to our lives today
- You might find it helpful to have a notepad to jot down thoughts based on where your thinking takes you.
- Depending on what you are comfortable with, offer prayers to God about anything on your heart. This may be thoughts provoked by the reading, reflection and silence but may be about something you are grateful for or for your concerns about the day ahead.

All the best and I hope you have a very Happy Christmas! Jon Kuhrt, November 2015 www.resistanceandrenewal.net

UK CINEMA CHAINS BAN OUR FATHER

The UK's 3 largest cinema chains: Odeon, Cineworld and Vue have banned a short ad which shows people from different walks of life, reciting the Our Father on the grounds that it could cause offence to non-Christians. The *Just Pray* clip had received clearance from the Cinema Advertising Authority and British Board of Film Classification. It was due to be shown to audiences before the pre-Christmas launch of the new Star Wars film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Post by Bishop Steven Croft based on a sermon given in Peterhouse, Cambridge on Sunday 22 November

Britain woke up this morning to the news that the Lord's Prayer has been banned from cinemas. The Church of England has produced a sixty second commercial. The only words are the words of the Lord's Prayer, said by children, the bereaved, people at work and so on. It's a beautiful film, Certificate U. The ad is to promote a new website, www.justpray.uk. The plan was (and is) to show the film before Christmas at screenings of the new Star Wars film to help everyone think about prayer and to pray. What could be more simple? The distributors have declared the Lord's Prayer unsuitable for screening. They believe it carries the risk of upsetting or offending audiences. Cue indignation from the press, fury from the Archbishop (according to the Mail anyway) debates about free speech, a possible challenge in the courts and a storm on social media.

But wait just a moment. Suppose the cinema chains got this one right? I disagree with their decision and I disagree with the reasons they have given. I hope it's reversed. I don't believe the film will offend or upset audiences, in the way they mean, and I don't believe it creates a new precedent. But from the point of view of global corporations and consumer culture, from the perspective of the gods and spirits of the age, there are very good reasons indeed to ban the Lord's Prayer from cinemas and from culture and from public life. This is a prayer said by billions of people every day in every language on the planet. In every single moment in time, someone is praying these words. They are the first words of prayer we learn as children and the last words we say at the moment of death. The Lord's Prayer is powerful for a reason. These words shape lives and families and communities and whole societies. There are real reasons why the Lord's Prayer has been banned by the demigods of consumer culture, in the boardrooms of the cinema chains. Here are seven, one for every line.

First, this prayer gives to those who pray it an identity and a place in the world and a countercultural community. "*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name*". It opposes the myth that we are random specks of matter floating through space and time. It opposes the myth that our lives do not matter. It opposes the myth of fragmented humanity. We are created and loved and called into friendship with God who is our father and into community with our fellow human beings who are therefore our sisters and brothers. Only someone who has found this new identity can stand against the advertising culture which night and day seduces us to define who we are by what we spend.

Second, this prayer gives us the courage to live in an imperfect world. "*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*". The world is not as it was meant to be. It is distorted from its true purpose. But God is at work to redeem and transform this world, to establish his kingdom. The Lord's Prayer invites us not to retreat from the world in fear and pain, to anaesthetise or indulge ourselves. The Lord's Prayer invites us to join the struggle to see justice and peace prevail.

Third, and most powerfully, the Lord's Prayer teaches us to live with just enough. This is the most dangerous reason why it cannot be shown with the adverts at the cinema. It teaches us not to want more. It teaches contentment, the most subversive virtue of them all. "*Give us this day our daily bread*". This is not a prayer for more. This is a prayer only for what we need. Every other advert in the cinema is there to encourage us to spend money in pursuit of happiness. This one restrains our greed.

Fourth, the Lord's Prayer teaches me to live with my imperfections and the imperfections of others. There is a way to deal with the rubbish in our lives. "*Forgive us our sins*". Consumer culture holds before us the image of perfection. We cannot be happy until we look like this person, live like that one. Each image is a lie. The Lord's Prayer acknowledges human imperfection and sin, daily. The Lord's Prayer offers a pathway to forgiveness, daily. The way of forgiveness cannot be bought. It is a gift. Grace. Grace subverts the whole culture of advertising.

Fifth, the Lord's Prayer offers a way of reconciliation. "*Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us*". We are not meant to feud or live in hostility or rivalry. We are meant to forgive and be forgiven, to be reconciled to each other. That reconciliation happens without expensive presents, without going into debt, without credit. People are not made happy by more things, another consumer lie. The greatest happiness comes from relationships. The key to great relationships is reconciliation and forgiveness.

Sixth, the Lord's Prayer builds resilience in the human spirit. When you say this prayer each day you are prepared for the bad days. "*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*." When we say this prayer we remind ourselves that we are not living in a Disney fairy tale, a saccharine creation of film makers where every story has a happy ending. We are living in a real world of cancer and violence and difficulty, where we are tested, where bad things happen for no clear reason. We live in that world confident in God's love and goodness and help even in the midst of the most challenging moments of our lives. Faith is for the deep valleys as much as the green pastures. We may not have the answers but we know that God dwells with us and in us.

And seventh, the Lord's Prayer tells us how the story ends, how this life is to be lived and lived well. "*For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen*". The prayer returns as it begins to the praise and glory of the living God. Our hearts return to their origin and source, the one who created us. Life is to be lived to God's praise and glory, not to satisfy our own small desires. We are beings with a higher calling and a greater purpose.

There are only 63 words in the Lord's Prayer. It takes less than a minute to say them. Yet these words shape our identity, give purpose to our lives, check our greed, remind us of our imperfections, offer a way of reconciliation, build resilience in our spirits and call us to live to the glory of our creator. No wonder they have been banned in the boardrooms of consumer culture. **+Steven**

View the Lord's Prayer film: <https://youtu.be/vlUXh4mx4qI> **View the Just Prayer website:** justpray.uk

REFUGEE SUPPORT/CALAIS ACTION CARLISLE

Funding is still required to cover transport costs of food, clothing, shelter items and volunteers to Calais at the end of this month.

Donate here: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/carlisleoneworldcentre>

More information online: <http://www.cowc.co.uk/>

CAFOD World Gifts are a great way of rediscovering what it really means to share the love, peace and joy of Christmas. Each gift you buy will make a real difference. If you choose one of our two newest gifts, Food for a Family or Winter Survival Kit, you could make this Christmas a happier one for refugees from the war in Syria, who are facing a terrible winter in Europe and the Middle East
<http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL – SEND MESSAGES OF PEACE AND SOLIDARITY TO BETHLEHEM

Advent begins on Sunday 29 November. During this time, as we prepare for the arrival of the Prince of Peace, Pax Christi International member organisation Arab Educational Institute / Youth Media House, which hosted Pax Christi's 70th anniversary gathering in May 2015, will receive emails of peace and solidarity and share them with others in Bethlehem and the West Bank.

Take a moment to send a message to our friends in Palestine who live each day under a military occupation, with border checks and severely restricted movement.

<http://www.paxchristi.net/news/during-advent-and-christmas-send-messages-peace-and-hope-bethlehem/5170#sthash.NuTe89xs.dpbs>

CARDS FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Send a greetings card to show your support - for many prisoners a religious card can cause problems so be sure to follow the guidelines. Names and addresses available from Liverpool J&P Office tel: 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

SEND A CARD FOR CHRISTMAS

Action of Christians against Torture was formed in 1984. It seeks to increase awareness in the Churches and among Christians of the widespread and evil use of torture and the need, for reasons of Christian faith, to campaign for its abolition. Victims of torture, human rights groups and individuals under threat, and persecuted Christians need our support and our prayers. At Christmas we can all take the opportunity to let them know that they are not forgotten. A card can mean so much to them. Cards also tell the authorities that prisoners are not forgotten and can result in improved prison conditions, in a new investigation leading to a retrial and, on occasion, to freedom. Cards of support, encouragement and thanks for their work can also give an important boost to human rights organisations under threat of arrest, imprisonment and death. A reply is occasionally received, but this should not be expected.

If you would like to send a card personally and encourage your church members to do the same you can download this year's list of groups or individuals who would welcome your support.

Download the list here: <http://www.acatuk.org.uk>

RESOURCES AND LINKS FROM NJPN ENVIRONMENT GROUP

New pamphlet from CTS titled '*Catholics and our Common Home*', written by Sr Margaret Atkins.

<http://www.ctsbooks.org/catholics-and-our-common-home/>

The London Mining Network is a good source of information on mining company activity and its impact on local communities globally. <http://londonminingnetwork>

Global Catholic Climate Movement <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

Catholic Climate Covenant (US-based) <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Green Christian website <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk>
magazine at <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/publications/green-christian>

'Climate Change and Conflict' DVD

A *Climate Change and Conflict* film has been produced by the Movement for the Abolition of War and Kevin Mayhew Publications.

<http://www.kevinmayhew.com/conflict-and-climate-change-book-and-dvd.html#.VTDB28t0yM8>

Link to the Catholic Bishops' website Environmental section: <http://www.cbcew.org.uk/environment.html>

Read more about climate change, theology, ethics, spirituality and advocacy on the website of **ECEN, the European Christian Environmental Network**. <http://www.ecen.org/content/climate-change-and-climate-justice-ecumenical-ethical-approach>

The **Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale** is at <http://fore.research.yale.edu/> You can sign up to receive their excellent monthly newsletters by e-mail.

Ecojesuit - Ecology and Jesuits in Communication

Ecojesuit is an online newsletter that promotes global collaboration and networking on ecology. To subscribe Ecojesuit and obtain access to articles and stories twice a month, visit: <http://www.ecojesusuit.com/>

FILM: *HE NAMED ME MALALA*

Review by Judy Dixey:

This is a film which should be compulsory viewing for anyone who loves - or hates - school and education. We all think we know the story of Malala, the teenager in the Swat Valley in Pakistan; we know she defied the Taliban restrictions of girls' education and we may remember that she was shot, brought to the UK, recovered and last year was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. That is indeed a harrowing story. But there is so much more to her story and to her as a person, of which this film gives us some stunning insights.

Malala, in legend, was a Joan of Arc figure for the Pathans, a young woman who urged her compatriots to fight the British, saying it is better to live a day in freedom than a hundred years a slave. She was killed during the fighting. Did our contemporary Malala's father anticipate that his beloved daughter might become a heroic figure? Early on in the film, her father expresses concern about what his daughter must feel and think of him, about him having allowed her to be exposed to such danger? But she stresses that is not the case, and, asked if she has anger about what happened, she tells us she has none, not an atom, not a neutron, not even a quark of anger.

We learn so much about those few short years in Pakistan. Malala was born in 1997, the first-born of parents who had met once, before their marriage; as her father says, in the US and Pakistan, love is very different. He saw she was beautiful, but uneducated, he considered himself dark (and therefore not handsome) but educated; and both of them felt they would complete each other.

The whole family is now in Birmingham, and we are shown her mother learning about living here, and learning English and regretting that because she wanted to play with her cousins and friends and not join the boys at school, she was not educated. Perhaps it was that that gave Malala her burning desire for schooling? Or else it was the passion of her father, who founded a school. We also learn about his struggles with a stammer, and learning to speak in public. He clearly inspires a deep-seated belief in equality between men and women, and Malala echoes him with her own conviction that Islam champions such equality as well as humanity. She is unbelievably passionate about school and learning; she believes that educating girls can transform their lives, but can transform our lives too. Didn't our Catholic Religious Orders strive for education for girls hundreds of years ago, showing how important it is?

The film shows elements of the story in animation, easing our understanding of a very different culture. It also shows their home town, both as a normal Swat Valley city before, and then after, when it was devastated by the destructive bombing, caused both by Taliban and later by Pakistan forces, trying to force the Taliban out. Pictures of their happy home life in their community, Malala with her two younger brothers before they were forced to live in fear, contrast vividly with such images. The family spent three months as refugees in their own country. Then you see them all in Birmingham, enjoying home life there, teasing and ribbing each other. They would like to go home, but they can't because she would be killed.

The shooting and attempted murder - by an ideology, not a person, her father stresses - is shown by diagram; Grievously wounded, Malala was rushed to a military hospital and ultimately to Birmingham, where the extent of damage to her brain caused them to fear that if she lived, she would be severely disabled. We then see film of her struggles to learn to walk, balance, coordinate, speak. She not only survived but she has retained her humour, her courage, her passion, her fearlessness, all strengthened by what she endured. And "despite being a world leader, she still has to take her GCSEs", as one person warned, as she introduced her to a media scrum.

Malala has become a global ambassador for girls' education; she is shown offering support to Syrian refugees, or addressing the UN, or challenging Goodluck Jonathan, the President of Nigeria, about the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram. We see her inspiring girls in Kenya, none of whose parents had received any education. We see her struggling with a science question but still pointing out that one of her favourite books is Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*, which she had to read a few times to get it! And the other current favourite is Paul Coelho's *The Alchemist*.

What an unbelievably inspirational person, supported by an amazing family - in particular her remarkable father, who is content to stay supportive and out of the limelight. This is one hell of a story and it's a real story. Go see.

Watch the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cug1-eTOVSk>

Source: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=28830>

NEW GAME: *CORPORATE MONOPOLY*

Corin Pearce writes: Many of the things that we cherish the most are under threat from big corporations: our NHS, our schools, our democracy, the environment. Global Justice (formerly World Development Movement) has developed a new game called **Corporate Monopoly** which demonstrates how corporates are able to grab power through dodgy deals like TTIP or getting their hands on UK aid money.

In this game you can play as one of two characters – as the privileged Hat with big business on its side, or as the Boot that represents the 99% paying the price for the mistakes of a tiny minority. You both start off with £1000, but you'll soon see that life isn't as fair as that sounds. Please play the game, share with your friends and let us know what you think. Have fun!

<http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/contact-us>

You can find the game at: <http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/infographics/corporatemonopoly/>

EXHIBITION BROKEN LIVES: *Slavery in modern India*

International Slavery Museum Albert Dock, Liverpool Waterfront, Liverpool, L3 4AX 17 26 June 2015 to 24 April 2016 Free entry

Slavery still exists. Even though it is illegal throughout the world today, contemporary forms of slavery can be found in almost every country. Up to half of the victims of modern slavery globally are in India, most of these are 'Dalits'. The word 'Dalit' means broken, crushed or oppressed. Dalits used to be known as 'untouchables', indicating how many others avoided physical contact for fear of tainting their religious purity or social superiority. Many still experience marginalisation and prejudice, live in extreme poverty and are vulnerable to human trafficking and bonded labour.

Broken Lives: slavery in modern India provides a window into the experiences of Dalits and others who are being exploited and abused through modern slavery in India. Delivered in partnership with the Dalit Freedom Network, this powerful and moving exhibition reveals stories of hardship, survival and hope for broken lives mended.

<http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/ism/exhibitions/broken-lives/>

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

18 December International Migrants Day

The United Nations' (UN) International Migrants Day is held annually on December 18 to recognise the efforts, contributions and rights of migrants worldwide. Issues include human trafficking, modern-day slavery, the lives of migrant workers' children, the plight of refugees and ways of combating racism. www.un.org/en/events/migrants-day/

17 January Peace Sunday *Overcome indifference and win Peace*

"In his World Peace Day message 2016 Pope Francis invites us to reflect on how we can hope for peace without working to challenge the causes of violence and injustice in our world today. Time and again Pope Francis has spoken of our 'throw-away culture' which dehumanises and destroys the human person, whether through war and conflict or economic injustice. On Peace Sunday we have an opportunity to learn from this message and put our faith into action.

"In Pax Christi we know that peace is to be worked at, and we are greatly heartened by the outpouring of empathy and action that surrounds the current crisis we face of refugees fleeing war and conflict. But unless we combine this with work to stop the causes of war – the global arms trade and our part within it; the billions spent annually on war and war preparations – we will not win peace."

Extract from the letter which Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, National President of Pax Christi British Section sent to all parishes in the UK. Resources include a Liturgy booklet (with ideas for bidding prayers, homilies and hymns to be used at masses on that day), a prayer card and a short video introducing the theme.

Download or order from Pax Christi: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

17 January World Day of Migrants and Refugees

Migrants and Refugees challenge us: the response of the Gospel of Mercy

Pope Francis links the plight of migrants and refugees to the 'Year of Mercy' for his 2016 theme. In his prepared address he says; "Migration movements are now a structural reality, and our primary issue must be to deal with the present emergency phase by providing programmes which address the causes of migration and the changes it entails, including its effect on the makeup of societies and peoples. The tragic stories of millions of men and women daily confront the international community as a result of the outbreak of unacceptable humanitarian crises in different parts of the world. Indifference and silence lead to complicity whenever we stand by as people are dying of suffocation, starvation, violence and shipwreck. Whether large or small in scale, these are always tragedies, even when a single human life is lost. Migrants are our brothers and sisters in search of a better life, far away from poverty, hunger, exploitation and the unjust distribution of the planet's resources which are meant to be equitably shared by all."

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20150912_world-migrants-day-2016.html

18 – 25 January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity *Salt of the Earth*

The 2016 material was prepared for worldwide use by the Christians of Latvia, and adapted by the Britain and Ireland writers group, based around the verses 1 Peter 2:9-10. Peter's first letter is an encouragement to the newly baptised to live holy lives and to answer the calling shared by all the baptised to proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord.

Today, Latvia is a crossroads where Roman Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox regions meet. Because of this unique location, it is home to Christians of many different traditions, but no single one of them is dominant. Gathered together by the Archbishop of Riga, members of a variety of church communities and projects in Latvia were asked to reflect on the chosen theme and the experience of their work.

The main service is inspired by the verses from Peter's letter and Jesus' metaphors of salt and light which are important cultural themes for Latvia. Each of the days has been prepared by one of the diverse Church communities. The resources for 2016 are available as downloads. The *Salt of the Earth* pamphlet includes an order of service, daily reflections plus background info.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2016#resources>

24 January Homeless Sunday

Homeless Sunday is an annual opportunity to listen to what God has to say about homelessness. With the three themes of *Connect*, *Challenge*, and *Commit*, we invite churches across Great Britain to reflect on, and address the problems of, homelessness. Rising rents and house prices, acute shortages of affordable homes, cuts in benefits and services are seeing thousands of people becoming homeless. Free downloadable resources are ready now, and will help you organise your dedicated service and any additional activities you wish to engage in. http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/data/_resources/660/HS2016-RESOURCES.pdf

In addition, you can also:

- invite a speaker to your Homeless Sunday service on 24 January - simply email us! info@homeless-sunday.uk
- find out what your local authority is doing to combat homelessness - visit their website and look up the housing section
- encourage your congregation to commit to tackling homelessness - visit a local project, write to local politicians, raise funds

27 January Holocaust Memorial Day: *Don't stand by*

The Holocaust and subsequent genocides took place because the local populations allowed insidious persecution to take root. Whilst some actively supported or facilitated state policies of persecution, the vast majority stood by silently – at best, afraid to speak out; at worst, indifferent. Bystanders enabled the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides.

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel (Nobel Peace Prize 1986) has written powerfully about the impact of bystanders: *"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."*

Our previous theme for HMD 2015 was reflective, looking back over the 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, and the 20 years since the Genocide in Srebrenica. To build on the legacy of HMD 2015, our theme this year will be forward-looking with a clear call to action in the present: focusing on the contemporary relevance of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, and considering our individual responsibilities not to be bystanders to hate crime and prejudice, nor to international threats of genocide. We must ensure that the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and subsequent genocides are not forgotten, trivialised or denied.

Survivors, victims and refugees will remain at the centre of HMD; for many survivors, influencing behaviour today and relationships with others in our communities are crucial reasons for their commitment to speaking about their experiences. For some, the focus needs to be on individual acts of kindness that signify we will not turn a blind eye when those around us face prejudice or victimisation: *"We need to take into account the lives of other people who live around us. We need to look after each other."*

Kemal Pervanić, survivor of the Omarska concentration camp, Bosnia (read Kemal's story on page 1 of this issue)

Info and resources: <http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2016-dont-stand#sthash.4QXCGBtv.dpuf>

7 February Church Action on Poverty Sunday *Bread Broken for All*

Food is a gift from God. But in the UK today, thousands of people are denied access to that gift by injustices that leave them destitute. Churches play a vital role in sharing food with those who need it – and speaking out to ensure that nobody goes without.

Break bread with us on Church Action on Poverty Sunday!

Give: hold a collection or soup lunch to raise funds for our work.

Act: speak out for the right to food.

Pray: use free resources to plan a worship service that gives thanks for the gift of food, and celebrates the work being done to tackle hunger and poverty in the UK.

Church Action on Poverty Sunday takes place each year on the last Sunday before Lent and was part of Poverty & Homelessness Action Week until 2014. **Resources and info:** <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday>

29 February –13 March Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 *Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!*

As Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of a Fairtrade breakfast. When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

During Fairtrade Fortnight, we will be encouraging campaigners to inspire a multitude of Fairtrade breakfasts in their community – and wake others up to the challenges facing farmers and workers. Will you help us get as many people as possible to eat a Fairtrade breakfast in your community during Fairtrade Fortnight?

Find out more: <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

3 Winter Concert at St Werburgh's Church, Chorlton, M21 0UH 7.30-9.30pm. Music from the Classical and contemporary repertoire as well as blues, show tunes, world music, and a few Christmas tunes! Tickets £5 purchased from our website or on the door. more info: Alice on 0161 236 5744 or anicolay@freedomfromtorture.org Website: <http://www.freedomfromtorture.org/events/6820>

5 'Red Flag Over Bermondsey—The Ada Salter Story' a play 7-8.30pm Quaker Meeting House, Union Walk, Frodsham Street, Chester, CH1 3LF - the story of a courageous, determined woman who, together with her GP husband Alfred Salter, dedicated her life to bettering the conditions of poverty stricken people living in the squalid backstreets of dockside Bermondsey, at the beginning of the 20th century. The Red Flag symbolises the Independent Labour Party of which they were both founders. Further information from Cheron & Roger rocheron@tiscali.co.uk

6 Opening of the Holy Door for the start of the Year of Mercy, Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool

6 Christmas is Coming Music and readings for Advent and Christmas with the choir of Salford Cathedral and *Notability* at 7.30pm (followed by light refreshments) at Salford Cathedral (M3 5LL) Proceeds in support of Salford Loaves and Fishes (Drop-in Centre for homeless people). Tickets (£5) are available from Salford Loaves & Fishes 0161 737 8775 or Caritas Diocese of Salford 0161 817 2250 or from the following link: <http://www.ticketline.co.uk/christmas-is-coming#bio>

6 Advent Reflection Shrewsbury Commission. led by Terry Gorman from Aid to the Church in Need 4.30-6.30pm Wistaston Hall, 89 Broughton Lane, Crewe CW2 8JS. Everyone welcome. Please bring some food for a shared table.

6 VSO Christmas Concert 7-9.30pm Chester Town Hall, Northgate Street Chester, CH1 2HJ with *Handbag of Harmonies* and visiting Italian choir *Coro Calycanthus*, tickets will be available at £10.

9 A Night of Hope – Standing against Injustice - an evening of music, drama, prayer, reflection and celebration in response to the refugee crisis led by Christian Aid in partnership with Greater Manchester Churches Together at Manchester Cathedral, Victorial St, M3 1SX at 7.15pm. **Tickets:** £20 Adult and £12 Concessions (The ticket will include a copy of the Charity single *Echoes of Love*). Tickets to be purchased in ADVANCE – limited availability on the door www.gmct.net Details: Bex, CA Regional Coordinator, Greater Manchester rturner@christian-aid.org Tel: 01925 582817

10 The Current Refugee Crisis Free Open Forum event with Tim Farron MP St Mary's Church, Ambleside, 7.30pm. Tea & coffee; all welcome – no need to book. Further details: 015394 36069 Nick.Hallam@uwclub.net

10 Hunger and Malnutrition in an Affluent Society: Influencing Public Health Policy and Practice Inaugural Lecture by Professor Lynne Kennedy 6.30pm Beswick Lecture Theatre CBE017, University of Chester. Tea and coffee from 6-6.30 pm in Beswick Foyer. A complimentary drink will be available after the lecture. Tickets are free of charge and can be obtained from Jenni Westcott, T Corporate Communications: Ext 1344; Email j.westcott@chester.ac.uk

12 Hope for Christmas II - Former Beautiful South duo Paul Heaton and Jacqui Abbott are playing a special gig "as a way of saying thank you to a number of people and organisations who have inspired us all by their commitment to create change and fight injustice." Sponsored by the GMB, the pair will perform at Manchester Academy 2 on Dec 12, and like last year will be collecting provisions for two foodbanks - in Bury and Oldham - (last year's concert collection raised over 4000 food items) and donating monies to a number of good causes whilst playing a back catalogue from the Housemartins to the current day. Doors open at 7pm. Tickets are limited www.manchesteracademy.net More info: <http://paulheaton.co.uk/latest-news/127-hope-for-christmas-ii>

13 Carols In The City An Advent service for all those who are interested in the asylum seeker and refugee situation. Stories from ALM Music led by Tongues of Fire, St Agnes 82 Huyton Hey Rd L36 5SQ 4-5pm. Hospitality afterwards in the parish rooms.

17 CAFOD Carols 7.30-9pm St Teresa's, 23 College Rd, Upholland, nr Wigan. WN8 0PY

18 United Nations' (UN) International Migrants Day www.un.org/en/events/migrants-day/

JANUARY

8-10 Christians Aware Annual Conference The Middle East Conflict Transformation Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU Tel: 01773 526000. Speakers include: Jeff Halper Director and co-founder of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, Jeremy Moodey CEO of Embrace the Middle East and Simon Marchant and Becky Viney-Wood who work for EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel).

Full details of conference including booking form to download: www.christiansaware.co.uk/Jan_2016.html

11 -16 A retreat and holiday for healthcare professionals Boarbank Hall, Grange over Sands, LA11 7NH. *Talks, discussions and workshops on themes including:* Religious and medical traditions; Cognitive Behaviour Therapy principles and good health; Solution-focused approaches; the science of biological energy; Drugs and alternatives; Complementary medicine in practice. Daily Mass, Morning, Evening and Night Prayer plus use of the chapel, oratory and gardens for private prayer and quiet reflection. Info/booking: Sr Margaret Atkins on margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk or 01539 532288. www.boarbankhall.org.uk

17 Archdiocese of Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission Annual Memorial Lecture Refugees Louise Zanré from JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) 2-4pm. Doors open 1.30 pm LACE Conference Centre, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AA

17 Peace Sunday Overcome indifference and win Peace Resources: Pax Christi: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Salt of the Earth <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2016/>

19 Uganda: Rural Transformation Talk by Sarah Cooper 5-6pm, Best Building, University of Chester, Chester Campus, Chester CH1 4BQ Open to all. 01244 512190.

24 Homeless Sunday Info and resources: Housing Justice <http://www.homeless-sunday.uk/>

27 Holocaust Memorial Day: *Don't stand by* Info and resources:

<http://hmd.org.uk/resources/theme-papers/hmd-2016-dont-stand#sthash.4QXCGBtv.dpuf>

28 *Live Below The Line* Can YOU live on £1 a day for 5 days? The Archdiocese of Liverpool and PROGRESSIO are offering this challenge for Lent 2016. **Campaign Launch with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon 6.30-7.30pm** at LACE Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool. L17 1AA. Introduction to campaign plus video of LACE chef making cheap 50p meals.

30 *Sharing Visions of a Good Society* Church Action on Poverty's annual conference. Stoke-on-Trent Civic Hall in Stoke city centre. The building is fully accessible, and well connected to public transport links. Maps and directions on booking. Churches and communities across the UK are taking part in Good Society conversations – exploring what must be done to build a Good Society, listening especially to voices from poor and excluded communities. At the conference, participants from those conversations will join Church Action on Poverty's supporters to share our visions of the Good Society – and discuss how we can work together to make those visions real. Book online at <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/conference> or call 0161 236 9321

FEBRUARY

2 *Climate: Reflections On The Paris Conference Negotiations And Outcomes* Talk by Rob Elsworth, Climate and Policy Analyst at CAFOD. Jointly arranged by CWDF and the Department of Geography and Development Studies. 7-9pm University of Chester, Chester Campus, Chester CH1 4BQ

7 Church Action on Poverty Sunday *Bread Broken for All* <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday>

13 Central Manchester (venue tbc): NJPN Open Networking Day with Church Action on Poverty. Contact The Administrator, NJPN 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, Tel 020 7901 4864 Email admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

29 February - 13 March Fairtrade Fortnight 2016 *Sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers!*
<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight-2016>

CAFOD QUIZ NIGHTS

January 15, February 12, March 11 at 7.30 pm.

Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre.
Entrance: £3.00 (children £1) Quizmaster Mr. Mike Ives
All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fund raising project. Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval.

For further details contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.
Arranged by Ellesmere Port LPA J & P group

TIME OUT ON TUESDAYS

December 10, January 12, February 9, March 10

An ecumenical quiet day for everyone

10am - 4pm at The Convent of our Lady of the Cenacle,
Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW
Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection.
Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. Cost £10

For more information or to book :
Tel 0151 7222271 email: winniecenacle@mail.com

- 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 for comprehensive 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