

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

CLIMATE CHANGE: NOW IS THE TIME TO LIVE *LAUDATO SI'*

One of Pope Francis' most inspirational actions came almost exactly a year ago when he delivered his Encyclical on Ecology, entitled *Laudato Si'*, **writes Cardinal John Onaiyek, Archbishop of Abuja:**

Pope Francis is truly inspirational. From his ubiquitous presence as he travels around the world to his words both spoken and written, there is perhaps no one more widely respected than our Pontiff. In *Laudato Si'*, Francis emphasized that we all have a role to play when it comes to caring for our common home - our planet. Francis reiterates that humans are both a part of creation and set apart by God who calls humanity to "cultivate and care for" the gift of creation (Genesis 2:15).

A year after the Pope inspired us with *Laudato Si'*, it is especially vital to now focus on finding ways to live *Laudato Si'* - after all, it is action, not words that are the true test of the Pontiff's message.

As the Roman Catholic Cardinal Archbishop of Abuja, I am keenly aware of what caring for this planet, and taking on climate change means. Hardly a day passes when we don't feel the impact of climate change.

Changes in our rainy seasons, crop disruptions and dangerous diseases are facts of life that are only exacerbated by our collective addiction to fossil fuels and the emissions they spew into our sky. We feel the impact also on the socio political plane. As desert encroachment dries up traditional grazing grounds in the North, itinerant cattle herdsmen invade the South seeking better pastures, thus leading often to bloody clashes with farmers in their villages. This is often perceived as Muslim-Christian conflict.

There is another side to the story. Nigeria depends a lot on proceeds from the sale of oil. It seems that our government has not been able to resist the temptation to allow the oil companies to employ criminally careless production methods that maximize profit but destroy the environment. The ecological degradation of the oil producing area of the Niger Delta has led to serious security challenges from armed militants.

And while we can share our worries about the changes we are seeing in our climate here in Nigeria, I find true inspiration in the solutions we are embracing across Africa, particularly since Pope Francis delivered *Laudato Si'*.

Maybe I am biased, but I find the Encyclical to be an Encyclical for Africa. While it's well known that Africa does little to cause climate change, it hasn't stopped us from being leaders for climate solutions.

Morocco, which will be hosting this year's UN Climate Negotiations in November, is already poised to host the largest solar plant in the world. When it is completed in 2020, the Moroccan super-solar plant will power one million homes with over 500 megawatts of clean electricity.

In Cape Verde, a wind farm provides 20 percent of the West African country's current electricity needs. Last year at the UN climate negotiations in Paris, the African Renewable Energy Initiative took flight, and once it is fully supported with a total of 20 billion dollars in the coming years, Africa will be able to develop as it reduces emissions. For the more than 620 million people who live in Africa without electricity, this is good news.

Of course, not everyone can take so-called, "big actions," to tackle on climate change, but that certainly doesn't mean small actions don't add up. They do. Actions come in many forms, and speaking up is one of the actions we can all take. We cannot be silent when it comes to impacts we are seeing at home.

We must pressure leaders at home and abroad, to wake up and see that climate change is not some far off thing that will appear in a few decades. It is here now. We know it. We see it. We live it. We need to make sure the global transition to renewable energy is a just transition that includes Africa. Across our beautiful continent, we have had great examples to follow when it comes to speaking up.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has long been a champion for caring for our environment, speaking against pollution and for a healthy Africa. Just recently, Archbishop Tutu, along with many other leaders from a number of faiths, including the Muslim community, urged churches to divest their investments from fossil fuels, just the same way Nelson Mandela urged the world to divest itself from interests supporting apartheid.

Across Africa, you will see that the ways people live *Laudato Si'* knows no single region, no single country or religion - it is something all Africans have been doing. I urge you all to keep it up. Together, we can take good care of creation for future generations. I urge everyone to not just listen to the words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*, but to keep finding ways to live them. You will find that you will be in good company, and the results will be a planet that we will all be proud to share.

Read the original article on [Theafricareport.com](http://www.theafricareport.com) : [Climate Change: Now is the Time to Live Laudato Si | North Africa](#)

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<http://www.theafricareport.com/North-Africa/climate-change-now-is-the-time-to-live-laudato-si.html>

REFLECTIONS OF A CURLEW: THE FOUR RELATIONSHIPS

The devastating news about the number of breeding curlews in Ireland has been difficult to take. 120 pairs left in the whole of the country. This year there is only one pair breeding in County Sligo, a rugged county of 2000 sq km of mountains, bogs and wet meadows. It should be curlew heaven. There may be two pairs in the adjacent County Roscommon. Ireland is a country that used to have many thousands of breeding birds. And it is not just curlews that are slipping over the edge into oblivion. Corncrakes have already gone apart from some remote outposts in the west. Lapwings are in freefall. There is a decline in birds throughout Europe, but Ireland seems to fare the worst. We are watching the extinction of a beautiful, elegant bird for no other reason than a western lifestyle that is all about consumption. Our desire for lots of cheap everything is satiated by economic and farming systems based on bigger, better, faster all the time.

So here we go again - the system is screwed so what can we do? Well, we can try to do the right thing for ourselves.

It seems to me that there are four relationships we must have in balance to live full, healthy, flourishing lives, and to allow other life on earth to thrive alongside us. They are (1) our relationship with ourselves, (2) with God (whatever that term means to you), (3) with each other and (4) with the earth. As individuals, it seems to me that we are like the circle of a Celtic cross. The circle represents the essence of who we are, and it is kept in shape by four arms pulling with equal tension - the four relationships

No one relationship should be allowed to distort the roundness - if one relationship becomes dominant then the circle will go out of shape and become contorted. Keeping these four relationships in balance is essential. If they are not balanced we see religious extremism as the relationship with God becomes all consuming. We wage war/fight/hurt when the relationship with each other is weak. We become greedy or self harming when we neglect ourselves. And the earth - what about that forgotten, neglected relationship with the earth? The one relationship that is so often taken for granted? Well, ecosystems are damaged, biodiversity thinned, animals treated with cruelty and other forms of life are viewed as merely a means to an end, namely food or products.

Four relationships - four essential bonds that keep the world and ourselves in harmony. Easy to preach isn't it - hard to do when families need feeding, money is tight, we need to get around and we want a high standard of life with a rich diversity of food and abundant energy. Keeping the relationship with the earth in balance is as hard, if not harder, as maintaining the balance of the others.

The problem is all of them require sacrifice - a word that is so neglected today when we are told we can have it all - as long as we can pay for it, or borrow the money. If the world's religions have one huge job to do it is to remind us that life involves self-sacrifice. All of them have times of abstinence built into their teachings, often on a yearly cycle. These are times when we are asked to be restrained and to contemplate. These times of less are then interspersed with festivals and times of abundance. Somehow that seems a balanced and healthy approach.

I don't want Christmas to start in September or Easter in January. I don't want organic mangoes all year round. I don't want cheap meat at the cost of suffering for millions of animals.

And what about curlews? They are disappearing as land is converted into intensive agriculture to provide cheap food, and 50% of it is thrown away. So curlews are the collateral damage of a society that has become distorted. We don't leave them, and so many other creatures, room to live and just be. All of the land is for us and our "needs" though it is hard to believe that this is the only way for humanity to survive.

I leave with the wisest of farmers - Wendell Berry - The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.

Mary Colwell 7 August 2016

Mary Colwell is a producer, writer and conservationist, she recently walked 500 miles for curlew conservation.

<http://marycolwell.blogspot.co.uk/2016/08/the-four-relationships.html?spref=fb>

FAITH FOR THE CLIMATE SYMPOSIUM

Ellen Teague writes: Faith for the Climate, a network of faith-based organisations committed to acting on climate change, has organised a day on climate campaigning in September.

Event details: Date: Wednesday 21 September 2016, 5-9pm. Venue: St John's Church, Waterloo Rd, London SE1 8TY. Cost: £5 entry, includes supper. **Speakers:** Bishop Nicholas Holtam - Leading Church of England voice on climate; Dr Husna Ahmad - Director, Global One; Sir David King - Former UK Special Representative for Climate Change; George Marshall - Climate Outreach Information Network. **Co-Chairs:** Rabbi Natan Levy, Maiya Rahman (Islamic Relief), Canon Giles Goddard (Operation Noah).

Topics: *What next after Paris? Working across faiths. Divest/Invest. Building a political voice. Eco Church. Sharing best practice.*

For all concerned people, activists, NGOs and faith-based organisations. Come and join these renowned speakers for an evening of positive action!

Booking form on the St John's website: <http://www.stjohnswaterloo.org/climatechange>

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30576>

COLUMBAN SOCIETY JPIC STATEMENT: ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Ellen Teague writes: The Columban Missionary Society has produced a statement of policy on Economic Justice. It can be read alongside existing statements on the other Columban JPIC priorities of Climate Change, Water, Extractive Industries, Peace, and Migration. It is based on nearly 100 years of Columban experience, listening to the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth. The Columbans hope that this statement will contribute to advocacy and education efforts with many different audiences committed to Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation (JPIC).

Pope Francis regularly highlights the rootedness of many of the world's social and ecological crises in economics. He says in *Laudato Si'*: "Economic powers continue to justify the current global system where priority tends to be given to speculation and the pursuit of financial gain, which fail to take the context into account, let alone the effects on human dignity and the natural environment. Here we see how environmental deterioration and human and ethical degradation are closely linked." *Laudato Si'*, para 56

Concerns are expressed in the statement under the headings: *Global Trade and Investment Policies, International Debt, Poverty and Migration, Food and Industrial Agriculture, Environmental and Cultural Destruction and Growing Militarism.*

The Columban response is to call for fair trade, to do advocacy work tackling free trade agreements such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), to support Jubilee campaigns calling for debt cancellation, to commit to socially and environmentally responsible investing, and to support national and international networks and partnerships that address Justice and Peace issues.

Read the Columban JPIC statements at: <http://www.columbans.co.uk/what-we-do/mission-in-britain/justice-peace-jpic/>
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30590>

ROMY TIONGCO REFLECTS ON HIS TIME AS MAYOR OF DAMULOG IN THE PHILIPPINES

Was It Worth It? was the title of a talk given by Romy Tiongco in Chester in July in which he reflected on his nine years as mayor in Damulog, a municipality of nearly thirty thousand people in the province of Bukidnon on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. Some readers will know Romy and his wife Linda from the many years they worked for Christian Aid in the North West and their close involvement with Justice and Peace.

After he finished working for Christian Aid, Romy returned to his native Philippines in order to plant some trees and unexpectedly became mayor of Damulog, the poor municipality, beset by armed conflict, in which he had been mayor for nine months in 1986, and before that the parish priest.

Romy recognised a continuity in his mission. He had preached 'the good news that God's reign is here' as parish priest, and now, as mayor, he was determined to realise God's reign: to bring peace and stability to Damulog. He described how delivering services to rebel areas had stopped armed raids. At the start of his time as mayor, he had alarmed people by dismissing the military from the municipality, but during the nine years there had been no military attacks and no cattle rustling.

The four programmes at the heart of his plan were: to feed the hungry; to heal the sick; to educate the illiterate; and to provide an infrastructure to make these possible and all had produced remarkable results. Rather than creating a culture of handouts, Romy had encouraged community involvement. He cited the example of the schools building programme. A South Korean Buddhist organisation had provided the materials, local government had undertaken the engineering work, the communities had provided the labour and the department of education had agreed to provide teachers. Improved roads enabled farmers better access to market and ambulances are able to pick up the sick.

Back on his visit to England Romy is concerned about how his successor will continue the work and is discerning what form his own mission will take next when he and Linda travel back to the Philippines in the Autumn.

There seems no doubt that the answer to the question posed by Romy at the beginning of his talk: 'was it worth it?' is yes. But, listening to him and to Linda leaves no doubt that such service requires sacrificial self-giving - a challenge and inspiration to us all.

Joan Sharples

FAIR TRADE NEWS

Argos has become the first high street retailer to offer Fairtrade gold rings. This is a huge success, meaning Fairtrade gold is accessible to more consumers and offering more miners a fair price for their hard day's work. Gold mining is a dangerous job and the lives of miners are incredibly difficult. Fairtrade is making a difference to miners, their families and communities by ensuring decent working conditions, protection of workers' rights and environmental protections in addition to the fair price at the heart of Fairtrade. We'll be launching new resources to help you make Fairtrade gold a choice in your communities - more info soon.

To hear first-hand from a gold miner, sign up for a regional Fairtrade conference in your area. They are taking place in London, the South West, North England and the East Midlands. The conferences are also an opportunity for you to take part in collaborative workshops to get tips for your campaign, hear the first news about Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 and network with fellow campaigners from your area.

- **17 September - North of England, Cumbria (10-4pm)**

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/in-your-community/regional-supporter-conferences>

REFLECTION: PRAYING ABOUT SPORT

Fr David Stewart SJ writes: This month [August], Pope Francis has asked us to join him in a prayer for, and about, sports - that sports may be an opportunity for friendly encounters between peoples and may contribute to peace in the world. Do we ever think about sports as a topic for our prayer? Maybe, only when our favourite team is about to participate in a big match or prestigious tournament!

Maybe the only time we ever might link our prayer and whatever sport we follow, or play, is at that moment, and it's commonplace to spot a player making the Sign of the Cross or raising his arms heavenwards at that point. Leaving aside the awkward question of what happens if an equal number of players and supporters for each team prays to God before a game, yet only one side can win, suggesting that God favours one side over another, we can reflect on whether sports and prayer are totally separate concerns. The Universal Intention this month offers us just that opportunity.

One journalist, active some years ago, famously wrote of the "magnificent triviality" of sport. He captured a core truth and, perhaps inadvertently, points us towards a very good reason for not excluding sports from our prayer. It is, indeed, frequently magnificent and each of us, unless we have no sporting interest at all, will have our own idea of that magnificence - a sweetly-struck bending free kick in football, a sweeping three-quarter attack and try scored in rugby, a hole-in-one in golf. We can readily think of many more examples and we can conjure them up in the imagination.

To read on see: <http://www.pathwaystogod.org/my-prayer-life/praying-pope/praying-pope-august>
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30648>

PEACE ONE DAY SPORTS INITIATIVES

Sport has the power to bring people together **writes Jeremy Gilley**, Founder, **Peace One Day**.

Last year over 5,300 sporting activities took place all over the world to mark Peace Day, 21 September, with many more thousands of people participating and attending. Our *One Day One Goal* and *Try for Peace* campaigns were a huge success, drawing on the global popularity of football and rugby to bring communities, faiths, schools and many others together to play in the name of peace. Learn more about both initiatives here: <http://www.peaceday.org/campaigns-overview> Have a look at this film too – it will get you going! <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=bR1U5CXwfLY>

Lots of other sports based activities are planned for Peace Day 2016 too, including netball, cycling, peace marathons, yoga and many more. There is something for everyone! Why not organize your own sports event for Peace Day? Contact the Peace One Day Team info@peaceday.org who will be happy to assist you. If sports are not for you, there are many other ways to get involved. Click here to see how: <http://www.peaceday.org/campaigns/individuals>

There is still plenty of time to get involved! Peace Day unites the entire world in a celebration of peace and non-violence on a single day, and we want you to be a part of that. Peace Day is your day to create action. Get involved. Make peace a reality!

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

The IOC announced in June that a group of 10 refugee athletes would compete in an Olympic Games for the first time. The team of swimmers, judokas and runners competed under the flag of the IOC.

"We are equal now," said marathon runner Yonas Kinde, who is originally from Ethiopia. "We compete like human beings, like the others."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/olympics/rio-2016-runners-abbey-dagostino-and-nikki-hamblin-embodiment-olympic-spirit-by-helping-each-other-a7194651.html>

SPECIAL AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

The New Zealand athlete who gave up her chance of a medal to help a stricken rival who fell in the 5000 metres heats has won the Pierre de Coubertin medal for demonstrating the Olympic spirit. She is only the 18th recipient since the award was set up in 1964.

Nikki Hamblin stopped to help Abbey D'Agostino after the US runner fell when the pair tangled on the track. D'Agostino urged Hamblin to carry on without her but Hamblin refused to leave the American's side until medical help arrived.

<http://sports.yahoo.com/news/american-runner-receives-special-olympic-medal-for-sportsmanship-233139236.html>

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

A group of international chefs has launched an effort to tackle the widespread hunger problem in Rio de Janeiro by cooking surplus food donated from the Olympic Village and serving it to impoverished residents. The 31st Olympic Games in the Brazilian city have faced major criticism as the country struggles through a massive economic crisis. However, the catering company contracted to the Olympic Village - and 11,000 competitors - says it is doing its bit by providing meals for the hungry.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/olympics/rio-olympics-2016-massimo-bottura-chefs-surplus-food-hunger-gastromotiva-a7185941.html>

CSAN'S RESPONSE TO THE NAREY REVIEW

At present, residential care accounts for 12% of all children care placements in England. There are a variety of reasons why children are placed in residential care but over 60% of children are in care due to abuse or neglect. Children living in homes have specific mental, emotional and social needs which need to be addressed. In 2013, 62% had clinically significant mental health difficulties.

Commenting on the Review, Dr Phil McCarthy, CEO of CSAN said: "We welcome Sir Martin Narey's conclusion that the majority of children living in children's homes in England are treated overwhelmingly well. Children's homes can serve as great places of stability and personal growth for children who come from dysfunctional family backgrounds. Catholic charities play an important role in providing a safe and secure environment for children. CSAN member, Catholic Care (Diocese of Leeds) has provided residential care for children and young people since 1863. Their children's home has been rated outstanding by Ofsted, having a high rate of success in school attendance with young people moving on to further education and some to university. One young person described his experience of living in their children's home as: "it is a home not a unit". We must do all we can to place collaboration, information sharing and partnership working at the core of our work to ensure children in care are given the best start in life".

Normandie Wragg, CEO of Nugent Care, said: "Nugent Care was one of the twenty charities visited by the review. We provide high quality residential care for children with behavioural and emotional difficulties. We pride ourselves upon providing a personalised and holistic service to the children we serve. The review tackles many of the misconceptions relating to secure care. I strongly support Narey's judgement that secure care has the capacity to keep children safe and the evidence highlights secure homes achieve both educational and health outcomes for children. Also, I support Narey's view that smaller children's homes doesn't necessarily mean better. Nugent Care will continue to work to support the welfare of children in the North West region and I hope the recommendations put forth in the Narey review can build upon the current successes of the care system to ensure every child in care has an opportunity build a better life".

To read the full review please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childrens-residential-care-in-england>
<http://www.csan.org.uk/newsarticle/csan-welcomes-narey-review-recommendations-childrens-residential-care/#.V6HTIYGkqK1>

GOVERNMENT BACKTRACKS ON ASSURANCES ON WAR CRIMES

Sarah Waldron Campaign Against Arms Trade writes:

As we wait for our legal challenge to UK arms sales to Saudi Arabia to be heard, you might think the government would look again at the £3.3 billion of weapons the UK has sold to Saudi Arabia since it started bombing Yemen. In one sense it has. In the final hours of the last Parliamentary session, the government quietly backtracked on assurances it had given about war crimes committed in Yemen. But despite this, on the same day that Human Rights Watch exposed more evidence of UK-made weapons being used in attacks on civilians, David Cameron was at an Arms Fair in Farnborough to help push for more arms sales to Saudi Arabia. That's why it's vital we keep the pressure on – and why activists got in the way of business at the Farnborough arms fair.

Pledge now to take action against the huge arms fair planned in 2017 and get involved in **September's month of action "One Year to Stop the Arms Fair"**.

The key networking event of Farnborough's arms fair, its "welcome reception", was held at the London Science Museum but together we turned tens of arms dealers away. Activists occupied the museum after closing hours. This led to ten catering staff walking off the job when they found out they were going to be serving arms dealers all night. Upon seeing the protest, many arms dealers simply turned away. Police told others that the doors had been closed. It is understood some of arms company BAE's delegation – one of Saudi Arabia's main suppliers - didn't make it inside to network at all.

All of this on the same day that we delivered nearly 8000 signatures to Downing Street calling on the government to Stop Arming Saudi and shut the Business Department's doors for an hour to protest its role in weapons sales. Read more about how we challenged the Farnborough arms fair and take part in September's month of action, "One Year to Stop the Arms Fair".
<https://www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs/dsei/events-protests>

Next on the agenda is DSEI, one of the world's largest arms fairs, due to return to London in September 2017. When this arms fair took place in 2015, its setup was disrupted by six consecutive days of creative blockades; the London transport system was subverted with spoof ads which were seen by hundreds of thousands of people and over 10,000 people signed a petition calling on David Cameron to 'welcome refugees, not arms dealers'. Next time, we want to shut it down - but to do so we need to start taking action now. Take part in September's international month of action: [One Year to #StopDSEI](#)

- One Year to [#StopDSEI](#) launch event in London 1 September
- Plan action at your local arms company site - we can help with props, leaflets and publicity – contact outreach@caat.org.uk
- Join and share the Facebook events <https://www.facebook.com/campaignagainstarmstrade/events>
- Throughout September, keep your eye on our events list and [#StopDSEI](#) for details of further action
- Sign the pledge to take action to [#StopDSEI](#) <https://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/act-now/petition/stop-dsei>

WHITE HELMETS NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

This extraordinary group of carpenters, tailors, teachers and other everyday heroes banded together to save lives in 2013 and now they've rescued more than 60,000 people. In several short weeks when the Nobel Peace Prize is announced, the whole world could know their name. Sign here if you think they should be awarded the prize: <https://nobelpeaceprize.whitehelmets.org/en>

The volunteers are so busy some of them don't even know they've been nominated. This is one of their busiest months ever. They've been running from one bombing to the next digging people out from under the rubble, putting out fires, and cleaning the remnants of cluster bombs. In Aleppo they responded to dozens of hospital bombings. In Idlib it was phosphorus and chemical attacks. In Daraya napalm was dropped on residential neighbourhoods. In Damascus sniper fire and rocket-propelled grenades. In Homs artillery bombardment rained down on homes.

Across Syria, the White Helmets are carrying children away from these dangers. We've often seen these miracles captured on video: a volunteer in a white helmet carefully cradles a child's head to protect them from the sharp edges of the rubble they're trapped under. A few other pairs of hands swiftly pull the child out into shouts of joy. The hero perhaps most famous for this type of scene was a volunteer named Khaled Omar Harah. His colleagues called him the rescuer of children. He was killed last week (11/8) in Aleppo <http://europe.newsweek.com/white-helmets-khaled-omar-harah-syria-miracle-baby-489782?rm=eu>

Eight volunteers have been killed in the last month saving lives. White Helmet centres are deliberately attacked because they wake up every day to save the lives others are trying to take. After they arrive running to a bomb site to look for buried families, the warplanes circle back to bomb all the helpers who have congregated at the scene.

Many of us feel powerless when it comes to taking action for Syria, but there is something we can do. We can support these amazing volunteers. If they haven't given up hope then neither should we. The White Helmets receiving the Nobel Peace Prize will show the entire world that Syria is full of incredible heroes who deserve our love and support. It will shine a spotlight on the daily massacre of civilians who dared to ask for their freedom. It will push us collectively to demand an immediate end to the violence. It will help protect these impartial heroes of peace from being targeted.

The men and women of the White Helmets aren't just helping Syrians. Where governments and their expensive warplanes unleash unbearable cruelty, the volunteers are on the front lines defending hope and humanity for all of us. They are doing this without a single weapon, armed only with the belief in their motto borrowed from the Quran: "To save one life is to save all of humanity".

<https://thesyriacampaign.org>

- The White Helmets is one of the charity's supported by the Jo Cox memorial fund, as is Hope not Hate (see p 11)

MUSLIMS ATTEND MASSES AND VIGILS IN SHOW OF SOLIDARITY

British, French and Italian Muslims attended Mass and vigils in several countries across Europe on Sunday to express their solidarity with Christians after the murder of Fr Jacques Hamel in France last week. At Westminster Cathedral in London, rabbis, imams, and priests gathered for an interfaith prayer vigil.

In Italy, churches welcomed Muslims to Sunday Mass; three imams attended a service in Rome at the Church of St Maria in Trastevere.

French TV news broadcast scenes of interfaith solidarity from all around France, with Muslim women in headscarves and Jewish men in kippot crowding the front rows of Catholic cathedrals in Lille, Calais, and the Basilica of St Denis outside Paris.

More than 100 Muslims also joined 350 Catholics at a vigil in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray's second church on Saturday night. Mohammed Karabila, President of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray Mosque, told the BBC in Rouen on Sunday: "for me, it is very important to be here today. It should be shown physically, because until now the Muslim community did a lot of things that were not seen. Today we wanted to show physically, by kissing the family of Jacques Hamel, by kissing His Grace Lebrun in front of everybody, so they know that the two communities are united."

Archbishop of Rouen, Dominique Lebrun, told the French news channel BFMTV said he felt very touched. "It's an important gesture of fraternity. They've told us, and I think they're sincere, that it's not Islam which killed Jacques Hamel."

Speaking on the flight back from World Youth Day in Krakow, Pope Francis said Islam should never be equated with terrorism. He said: "I do not like to speak of Islamic violence because every day when I look through the papers, I see violence here in Italy. And they are baptised Catholics. There are violent Catholics. If I speak of Islamic violence, I also have to speak of Catholic violence."

Jo Siedlecka, Editor ICN 2 August 2016 <http://indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30642>

See also: <https://cruxnow.com/ap/2016/07/31/muslims-join-catholics-mass-across-france-show-solidarity/>

STAND AS ONE: 'REFUGEES ARE WELCOME HERE' 2016 MARCH on 17 SEPTEMBER

A year ago, 100,000 people marched in London in solidarity with people forced to flee conflict and disaster worldwide to tell the government that refugees are welcome here. Last year, the UK Government committed to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees. But progress has been far too slow with only 1,854 people welcomed so far, according to Home Office statistics. It's a huge injustice.

A year since the image of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi's body on a beach in Turkey horrified the world, so little has changed for refugees. More than 65 million people have been driven from their homes by conflict and violence, and millions more by poverty and natural disaster.

The global refugee crisis is not going away. We all need to play our part to make sure the basic rights of people on the move are protected - from the millions of people who have been forced to flee conflict, poverty or disaster, to those who have made the UK their home.

The London march takes place just before the UN and Barack Obama hold summits to get world leaders to take action on the crisis - so there's never been a better time to stand with those forced to flee. The march in London will also show the UK government that refugees are welcome here too. Forget the headlines, we know the UK is a welcoming, inclusive society at its heart. March with us on 17 September so politicians don't forget it.

<http://oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/our-campaigns/inequality-and-poverty/march>

A PAINFUL LESSON FROM BREXIT

The democracy in Europe movement needs a simpler message, *say Brian Eno & Yanis Varoufakis.*

For years the signs have been on the wall. The Tea Party in the United States. Golden Dawn in Greece. The Alternativ für Deutschland. UKIP's inexorable rise in the UK. Etc. etc. We saw these signs. We analysed their historic and political causes. We developed a cosmopolitan narrative of how 'another' Europe, 'another' world is possible. But, unforgivably, we missed the most important thing about all this: that those on the bottom of the social heap are consumed by Deep Discontent that leaves them in no mood for complexity – they have no time for sophisticated, complicated analyses, or for lofty political agendas.

Where we failed, the Right succeeded: Right-wingers found a way to exploit the Deep Discontent. And their solution was simple: Simplicity! What the nationalist, nativist Right offer is exactly this: *Simplicity.*

Millions of working Americans feel they are destined for the scrapheap, discarded, despised, neglected. We saw how they need nothing more than a big Trumpian wave of the hand to imagine it is possible to get rid of all that is pressing them down and once again hope for the future. It's so totally understandable that they want that hope, and that they flock to anybody who says they can restore it with a simple sentence: *Take back control of your country! Make America great again!*

The facts are simple but have never really been stated simply: for the past three decades, 80% of the people are taken to the cleaners 95% of the time by the top 20% of society.

Since the mid-1970s, once the first post-war capitalist phase ended (with the collapse of the New Deal-inspired Bretton Woods system), those relying on wage income to live have fallen off the escalator. Most of the gains from technology, productivity, globalisation, have gone to the top 1% and none to the bottom 80%.

People can put up with poverty, but not with humiliation – not with having their noses rubbed in their poverty by people in yachts, golf clubs and Mercedes Benzes, telling them that their poverty is self-inflicted. Worse still, all conventional parties are offering slight variants of the system that has failed this 80% of the people. We need to be much more radical than that to entice them back, away from the sirens of the xenophobic Right.

What can we do to reach those people? They are the foot-soldiers and we need their energy and anger. But they've been corralled by lethal buffoons of the Right, like Boris Johnson, Marine Le Pen, Nigel Farage and Donald Trump, who directed their righteous anger at the wrong targets.

How can WE re-engage those people? For now, this is an open question. Not one to be answered lightly or in haste. Brexit should give us pause.

One thing that is clear is that DiEM25 is now more important than ever. Our message from the beginning was simple: The EU will either be democratised or it will disintegrate! Brexit has confirmed our point. But our message needs to be simplified further. We need to explain exactly what we mean by democratisation.

We need to explain to those drawn by Trumpian/Brexiterian simplicity why democratising Europe matters to them. We need to counter the Trumpian/Brexiterian simplicity with a simple (but not oversimplified) message of our own. In short, we need to pitch progressive simplicity versus regressive oversimplification. But, as we all know, simplicity requires lots of (often complicated) work. Let's get down to it.

Read in full: <http://www.prruk.org/a-painful-lesson-from-brexit-the-democracy-in-europe-movement-needs-a-simpler-message/>

MAKE AMERICANS GOOD AGAIN

From the moment his campaign began, Donald Trump has promised to "*Make America Great Again*". I'm not all that sure what he means (and to be honest it's increasingly clear that neither does he) but it apparently involves domination, toughness, bombing, roughing-up, wall building, and winning—lots and lots of winning. This grand march toward national greatness has been noticeably accompanied by a startling lack of decency, compassion, dignity, or class, which all underscores the painful truth:

Goodness isn't part of the platform. Sadder still is that Trump and many of his supporters want all of this while still claiming Christ. They want to steamroll the world into greatness and they want Jesus to endorse it.

The only problem is Jesus. He apparently had very little interest in such greatness. He talked of the last being first, of becoming servant of all, of laying down one's life for one's friends, of denying oneself, of healing the hurting, of caring for the poor, of elevating the marginalised, of freeing the oppressed, of seeing the overlooked, of being peacemakers, foot washers, cheek turners, mercy givers, least-lovers.

His life was and is a beautifully subversive manifesto of smallness and kindness and goodness; continually reiterating the sacredness of sacrifice, the dignity in humility, the redemptive nature of forgiveness.

But sacrifice, humility, and forgiveness don't make for effective campaign slogans do they? They don't leverage the hidden fear in people's hearts. They don't poke the tender places of anxiety and hatred. They don't stoke the fires of latent racism and homophobia. They don't manufacture easy urgency. They don't resonate when screamed from behind a podium. They don't fire up the anxious everyman. They don't appeal to the lowest common denominator. And sadly, they don't rally the Bible Belt, garner the support of popular Evangelists, or reach into the souls of most Christians anymore either—which for a person of faith is the bigger story; the growing irrelevance of Jesus in the faith tradition that bears his name.

Apparently these days it's simply not politically sound or theologically necessary to elevate character, champion dignity, or celebrate integrity. We've grown pretty lousy as a society of lifting up such goodness as something for our children to strive for and as a result less and less of them seem to have any desire for it.

From the moment they are born, our kids are pushed and cheered and driven to the pinnacle by parents, coaches, and teachers, and by nearly every adult voice in their lives. They're taught to excel, to achieve, to be the best, the fastest, the prettiest, the thinnest, to do the most, to reach the top. They are furiously, unrelentingly, unapologetically propelled — to win.

It's not surprising that our kids now see celebrity, wealth, fame, and notoriety as the things most worth possessing, regardless of the cost. More than being loving, decent, kind, or helpful — now they'd simply rather be known, to have their name in lights or maybe on a building.

This is perhaps America's gravest shared sin: whether we're religious or not we have all conspired together to sacrifice goodness on the altar of greatness, which is perhaps why Donald Trump is the perfect candidate to represent us right now. Maybe he really is the best reflection of what our nation values, desires, and seeks to be anymore. Maybe he is what we want for our children.

As a person of faith and as a father, I can only strain to keep my eyes fixed on the life and example of Jesus and allow that to be the measurement of my success. I can endeavour as best I can to emulate his life; one lived with an open hand and not a closed fist, one where the real win is found in wanting for my neighbour all that I desire for myself—and fighting for them to have it.

While speaking to a large crowd mixed with the curious, the devoted, and the sceptical (not unlike the kind Donald Trump will continue to address this Fall) Jesus asked this question: "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" I'm going to keep asking this question of myself, of the global Church I belong to, and of the nation I gratefully call home, because how we answer it will define us. It will show our children what we value. It will mark out the life they should seek and the people they should aspire to become. It will shape our future. It will be the shared legacy we leave the world.

I'm not at all interested in making America great. I'd rather see us make Americans good. Hold on to your soul.

John Pavlovitz 5 August 2016 <http://johnpavlovitz.com/2016/08/05/make-americans-good-again/>

John Pavlovitz is a pastor in the Raleigh area of North Carolina who posts regular blogs at *Stuff That Needs To Be Said* and is also involved in *TheTable*, an online spiritual community dedicated to lifting up the intrinsic value of all people.' <http://johnpavlovitz.com>

JIMMY MIZEN PEACE AWARD

Congratulations to Emma Atherton, Pax Christ member and board member for receiving the Jimmy Mizen Peace Award at the recent Celebrating Young Peoples Awards in London.

Read more here: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/members-news-2016/>

COURAGEOUS OUTLOOK NEEDED TO TACKLE THE CLERGY SHORTAGE CRISIS

Much has been written in recent months regarding the current state of vocations and our understanding of priestly ministry. The shortage of priests is becoming more noticeable as the age profile of those already serving in parishes increases. This crisis – for that is not too strong a word – affects both the Church in the UK and the Church in Ireland. The age profile issue has been compounded by the consequences of the scandal of child abuse and the number who have left active ministry to marry.

We are continually asked to pray for vocations. We might ask what has happened to the vocations already given by the Lord but which we have in our carelessness neglected. Careless, that is, in the way we have nurtured vocations in seminaries, the demands we have made of our priests in parishes and our expectation that the vocation to priesthood is exclusive to the vocation of marriage.

Let's consider first the nurturing of vocation. We have to recognise the change in our societal culture since Vatican II. Family structures have been under great strain and children growing up in families do not necessarily get the nurturing in faith that we might have had in previous years. Their experience of parish is very different now, the creation of community is much harder with a population that ebbs and flows with the mobility of modern life. So how will young people acquire the experience that might lead to vocation?

A model of vocational experience has recently been established at Lambeth Palace in London with the foundation of the Community of St Anselm, a gathering of men and women who for a year live in community together for prayer and encouragement yet who continue with their daily work. Back in 2005 a television programme screened by the BBC followed the experience of five men at Worth Abbey, followed by a similar experience for a group of women in 2006 with the Poor Clares at Arundel. It showed through the dialogue between participants the fascination and attraction that the idea of a community enclosure, founded in faith, still holds for many: men and women of faith, and those of none.

For priests, who with ordination have accepted the discipline of celibacy, their life journey in ministry is an arduous but, at the same time, a deeply rewarding path. It need not be a lifetime of loneliness without the sustenance of a wife and family. After all, celibacy is only a discipline of the Church since 1139, not a matter of faith or doctrinal acceptance. Of course, widespread marriage for priests would demand a radical re-examination of the role of the priest in community and the role of the laity who form that community. Pope Francis has recently made very clear that the clericalism of the top-down model of Church is not a functional one.

Clearly change would demand radical examination of how the Christian community thrives and functions in the 21st century. Rather than the people 'doing what Father says' the culture of 'let's work together and live out our mission of the Gospel' has to be developed and encouraged. There is now a clear necessity for commissions to be set up both in the UK and Ireland by the respective bishops' conferences to examine the whole issue before the model we are currently struggling to manage breaks and we are left to pick up the pieces. Such a commission – already set up by the Brazilian Bishops' Conference after Bishop Erwin Kraütler met with Francis to discuss the plight of his diocesan numbers and a lack of priests – would be a good way forward. It would be the forum for exchange of views between laity, priests and bishops to examine our circumstances and so seek solutions to a real problem. It would give transparency to the exchange that is so often lacking, when decisions are made behind closed doors and we only find out what is proposed in a fine trickle of leaks and unofficial disclosures.

Such reflection will demand personal honesty as we seek to find new patterns in our lives, not totally disconnected from the mainspring of past experience, but developing from it in the light of changed times. Maturity is not just measured by age, the wise man knowing more than the bright young up-start. Maturity is reflective, thoughtful, emotionally tested and leads often to untried ways for the mature person has the courage to walk new paths.

Fr Daniel O'Leary, in his address to the ACTA Conference – 'A Call to Action', a renewal group in the UK - entitled his words *Courageous Conversations*. An apt title, for it does take courage to question the status quo, to ask if structures are still fit for purpose and if not, why not? Courage for priests who may well (and often have been) sanctioned by their bishop for speaking out with views that are honestly held. Courage for bishops whose cautious approach to diocesan problems is the result of looking over their shoulder to Rome and courage of laity, who for far too long have been the top-down recipients of decisions made by others when, in fact they have a significant and faith-filled point of view to contribute.

Married or not, priests will be relinquishing a great deal – the demands of their priesthood, their love for their wife and children, will not be an easy ride. Given the financial implications of a married clergy, it is very likely that they will be non-stipendiary.

Where new tracks are taken after older walkways appear to have come to an end, the reason for the alternative choice, whether it is life-long or short-term, is to seek and experience the love of God. Only then can the patterns of life be determined and new ground broken.

Chris McDonnell – taken from a longer article in *Catholic Times* 22 July 2016 chris@mcdonnell83.freeseerve.co.uk
Chris McDonnell is Secretary of the Movement for Married Clergy and a retired teacher. <http://www.marriedclergy.co.uk>

POPE INSTITUTES COMMISSION TO STUDY DIACONATE OF WOMEN

Fulfilling a promise he made last May to an assembly of nuns, Pope Francis on Tuesday instituted a commission to study the possibility of female deacons in the Catholic Church, including a prominent American scholar who's long been advocating for women to have this role. The "*Commission to Study the Women's Diaconate*," will include 13 members, headed by Spanish Archbishop Luis Francisco Ladaria Ferrer, currently the secretary, meaning the number two official, of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Six of the remaining members are women: American professor Phyllis Zagano, Spanish Sister Nuria Calduch-Benages of the Missionary Daughters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Italian professors Francesca Coccini and Michelina Tenaci, Italian Sister Mary Malone of the Franciscan Sisters of Blessed Angela of Foligno, and German professor Marianne Schlosser.

The inclusion of Zagano, who writes a regular column for the *National Catholic Reporter*, suggests the Pope is at least open to considering the arguments for ordaining female deacons, as she's a long-time advocate on this issue, convinced it'd be a way of including women in the church's governance and ministry. Writing for Harvard's Divinity school last year, she said that the current practice of not ordaining women deacons is a "merely ecclesiastical law," meaning it's a regulation, not a doctrine. In an article titled "*Ordain Catholic Women as Deacons*" for the school's summer edition of their biannual publication, Zagano also wrote that "given the many evidences of women deacons throughout history, the restoration of women to the diaconate seems to be something Francis could do easily."

The Vatican's Tuesday statement said the setting of the commission was in response to Francis' expressed intention of creating such a body on May 12, when he said it'd be good to do so, especially to study the role "in the early times of the Church." Although the Bible speaks only of male priests - Jesus' 12 apostles - there's a female deacon mentioned, Phoebe, and for a long time it was an accepted practice, although there's debate about whether those female deacons played the same roles as deacons do today, and also whether they were considered clergy. When the permanent diaconate was instituted again in the 1960s by the Second Vatican Council, however, it was only applied for men.

The last time the Vatican issued a document on the female diaconate was in 2002, by its International Theological Commission. The document was inconclusive, stating that male and female deacons had different roles in the early church, that priesthood and the diaconate are separate ministries, and that the issue of admitting women to the diaconate was something for the church's "ministry of discernment" to decide.

Zagano is not the only voice on the commission in favor of female deacons. Although less open about it, Italian Sister Mary Malone of the Franciscan Sisters of Blessed Angelina and rector of Rome's Pontifical University Antonianum, has long spoken of the role of women in the Church, saying it's unfair to dismiss the request for the diaconate because it might lead to female priesthood.

On his way back from Armenia last June, Francis was asked about the creation of this commission. He denied that his recent agreement to create a study body on the issue means the Church has "opened the door" to the idea, and said that more important than the "functions" women hold is the Church's determination to hear their voice. At the time, Francis expressed surprise at the magnitude of the reaction to his decision to create a commission to study the question after a recent meeting with the superiors of women's religious orders from around the world. "The next day, it was as if the Church had opened the door to women deacons, but that's not true," he said, saying its primary role will be to ascertain the role of female deacons in the early Church. "I believe this theme has been studied a lot, and it won't be difficult to shed light," the Pope said. More important, Francis said, is making sure the voices of women are heard in the decision-making process. "Women think in a different way than us men, and you can't make a good or correct decision without hearing women," he said.

The pontiff said he's committed to trying to boost the role of women in the Vatican, but that effort is to some extent on hold awaiting the absorption of the Pontifical Council for the Laity into a new, larger department dedicated to laity, the family and life. Francis did, however, recently appoint a woman, veteran Spanish journalist Paloma Garcia Ovejero as his deputy press chief. In its present form, deacons are allowed to administer two sacraments: baptism and marriage. They're also able to preach homilies at Mass, deliver Communion, and impart many but not all the blessings in accord with the liturgical books.

Inés San Martín Vatican Correspondent CRUX 2 August 2016

<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2016/08/02/pope-taps-pro-women-deacon-advocates-new-commission/>

See also: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30645>

PAPYRUS HOPEWalk 2016

PAPYRUS annual national HOPEWalk is back again in October 2016 for the fifth year running. Last year HOPEWalk raised a fantastic £11,000 - together HOPEWalkers walked 250km, taking a total of half a million strides to shatter the stigma surrounding young suicide. This helped extend the hours of our national helpline, HOPELineUK, as well as train more people across the country as suicide first-aiders. This October we're hoping to double last year's total. The cost of Host entry is £7.50, which includes entry for your group and a HOPEWalk Host pack with lots useful fundraising materials to help you make the most of your walk. We will send you: a t-shirt; literature; 10 balloons, a pen; a wristband; sponsorship forms and detailed information about organising your HOPEWalk. <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/get-involved/fundraise-for-papyrus/papyrus-hopewalk-2016>

To find out more, contact our fundraising team at fundraising@papyrus-uk.org or take a look at our HOPEWalk FAQs.

Download a registration form: [https://www.papyrus-](https://www.papyrus-uk.org/repository/documents/editorfiles/hopewalk_2016_registration_form.doc)

[uk.org/repository/documents/editorfiles/hopewalk_2016_registration_form.doc](https://www.papyrus-uk.org/repository/documents/editorfiles/hopewalk_2016_registration_form.doc) and email it to fundraising@papyrus-uk.org.

THE CALAIS SESSIONS

Music made in the Calais 'jungle' by the talented musicians there, facilitated by **The Calais Sessions** music project.

The Calais Sessions is a collective of creatives from the UK who use the universal language of music to empower and entertain Europe's refugees. Our team travel armed with a colourful array of instruments, and on arrival at camp we connect with the local musicians, hear their stories and see where we can collaborate. Meanwhile, a makeshift studio is set up on site in which to capture these tracks by day, as is a venue to host performances by night. Excited news of our arrival travels fast; just under the surface is a deep and heavy yearning for self-expression. From the raw Syrian folk song to the nectar-sweet Ethiopian gospel lullaby, and the clannish Sudanese drum circle to the most infectious Afghan pop, it is clear that Europe has been bestowed a treasure chest of rich and exotic cultural heritage. Let's embrace it we say. These are the people behind the headlines. Will you listen to them?

All people involved in **The Calais Sessions** are volunteers. All tracks recorded by Damien Barriere-Constantin of Cooz's Records Oxford. Massive thanks to Kevin Cousineau, manager of Cooz's for his generosity, time and expertise.

Money raised from sales goes to the charity Citizens UK, working to reunite unaccompanied refugee children with family members in the UK and as donations to the refugee musicians playing on the album. www.thecalaisessions.com

Available to buy now from Bandcamp: <https://thecalaisessions.bandcamp.com/releases>

THEATRE

The LOWRY Salford Quays Theatre Studio presents **Tanja**

Hannah Butterfield (Director), Rosie MacPherson (Writer), Emily Ntshangase-Wood (Lead Actor), John Tomlinson (Producer)

Fri 16 September - Sat 17 September

Locked up. Shipped around. Sold as sex. In the black of night "Tanja" fled to safety on the shores of England. Another asylum seeker now held at Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre; Britain's best kept secret. Refuge lies just beyond the barbed wire fence, but at what cost? With immigration issues reaching fever pitch, this is the story of one woman's bravery in the midst of prejudice and abuse. This is what she would have said, if only we'd let her...

Suitable for ages 14+

Post Show Talk Fri 16 September

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/tanja#pOLL7KbMSTGoIbxr.99>

The LOWRY Salford Quays

A Bench On The Road The Studio Sat 8 October

Based on real testimonies, **A Bench on the Road** is a rich piece of musical and visual storytelling which explores women's experience of immigration through the lens of Scottish-Italian immigrants from 1850-1950. The play tells stories of Scottish and Italian women divided, yet united, in battle for identity and belonging. Spanning a century of unprecedented radical change, the diverse experiences of women from both cultures intertwine. Based on hundreds of interviews collected over thirty years, this play brings to life stories of our mothers, unlocking the past and asking pertinent questions about our future. Weaving together folk music from the Scottish and Italian traditions, the piece employs bold Kantoreque visuals and an innovative and experimental merging of language and dialect. Whilst coming from a particular bi-cultural perspective, the piece strikes at the heart of the public debate around immigration and changing notions of identity in Europe.

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/a-bench-on-the-road#su2PDACRSEYrBygI.99>

The LOWRY Salford Quays

E15 in The Studio Fri 18 November - Sat 19 November. Post show talk Friday 18 November.

Lung | Associate Artist Developed with The Lowry and Barnsley Civic. Commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre

'We want social housing, not social cleansing.'

Facing skyrocketing rent and forced relocation out of London, 29 single mothers united to confront Newham Council's gentrification of their hometown. From the streets of Newham to the Houses of Parliament, this bold and pertinent piece of documentary theatre is adapted from the real-life testimonies of the most under-represented and prominent voices on the political spectrum – providing a truthful retelling of the Focus E15 Campaign, Britain's housing crisis and how one group of women refused to be marginalised. This is the beginning of the end of the housing crisis.

Suitable for age 13+

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/e15#Tm2CtpIMziTsofuf.99>

The LOWRY Salford Quays

Who Cares? Commissioned by The Lowry & Salford Young Carers

Tue 22 November

A gripping verbatim theatre production based on a year of interviews that offers a rare insight into a year in the lives of three young carers from Salford.

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/who-cares#McYt0P23T5iffXDq.99>

Liverpool EVERYMAN PLAYHOUSE STUDIO

Just an ordinary lawyer A play, with songs written and performed by Tayo Aluko

Tues 4 October – Sat 8 October

"The British Empire was trying desperately to hold on to its colonial possessions by any means ... and the foul, it became clear to me, would often override the fair."

Nigerian **Tunji Sowande** quietly breaks through multiple barriers to become Britain's first Black judge in 1978. Also a fine concert singer and keen cricket lover, he muses on international politics and history as they affect the Black world from Africa to the USA and Britain, from the point of view of one who would rather watch sports, and spread love and peace through the medium of song. Recalling heroic sporting achievements alongside epoch-defining political events, former Everyman & Playhouse Writer in Residence **Tayo Aluko** offers another "brilliantly put together history lesson delivered as art" (*Dirt & Candy*).

<http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/just-an-ordinary-lawyer>

Liverpool EVERYMAN PLAYHOUSE STUDIO

Spine

From fast-rising Channel 4 playwright **Clara Brennan**, comes the Fringe First and Herald Angel award winning ***Spine***, a hilarious and heart-breaking call to arms for our modern age.

Spine charts the explosive friendship between a ferocious, wise-cracking teenager and an elderly East End widow. Mischievous activist pensioner Glenda is hell-bent on leaving a political legacy and saving Amy from the Tory scrapheap because *'there's nothing more terrifying than a teenager with something to say'*.

In this era of damaging coalition cuts and disillusionment, has politics forgotten people? Can we really take the power back? Amy is about to be forced to find out.

Running Time 1h 5m.

Suitable for 16 years +. £5 YEP tickets at all performances

Afterwords Thu 13 Oct, 5:30 pm

<http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/spine>

Liverpool EVERYMAN PLAYHOUSE STUDIO

YEP Presents ***The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning***

Wed 2 Nov - Sat 5 Nov

In 2013 Chelsea Manning (formerly Bradley) was sentenced after nearly two years in prison without charge. She was accused of releasing 250,000 secret embassy cables and military logs from Iraq and Afghan wars.

"When I chose to disclose classified information... I did so out of love for our country and a sense of duty for others. If you deny my request for a pardon I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society."

But before any of this, Chelsea Manning was just a teenager in west Wales.

YEP tackles one of the most controversial political stories of modern times. Carrying on from the sell-out success of *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* YEP take this epic story in to the intimate settings of the Playhouse Studio.

<http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/the-radicalisation-of-bradley-manning>

POEM

"i want to apologize to all the women i have called beautiful
before i've called them intelligent or brave
i am sorry i made it sound as though
something as simple as what you're born with
is all you have to be proud of
when you have broken mountains with your wit
from now on i will say things like
you are resilient, or you are extraordinary
not because i don't think you're beautiful
but because i need you to know
you are more than that"
— **Rupi Kaur**

Rupi Kaur is a contemporary Canadian feminist poet and writer. She published a book of poetry entitled *"milk and honey"* in 2015.

PILGRIM CROSS VÉZELAY PEACE PILGRIMAGE

In 1946 Pax Christi took part in a pilgrimage for peace, which involved carrying crosses, from different parts of France and other countries in Europe, to Vézelay in Northern Burgundy as a sign of peace and reconciliation. This initiative inspired others and in 1948 the Student Cross pilgrimages began. To mark the 70th anniversary of this peace march, a small group of British are walking from Auxerre to Vézelay, starting on 26 August. The need for peace and reconciliation has not diminished in the years that have passed and the prayers and reflections of pilgrims are still need for our troubled world.

Read more about Pax Christi's history and Vézelay here: <http://bit.ly/1YUSJ1g>

HOPE NOT HATE #MOREINCOMMON WEEKEND

HOPE not hate is going to formally launch its [#MoreInCommon](#) weekend on 3-4 September. There will be dozens of community events across the country, all designed to bring people together from different backgrounds to celebrate what they have in common. Some of the events we are organising are large and will attract thousands of people but most, however, will be much smaller and more community-focused.

To get involved and organise a community picnic in your area: <http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/organise-a-local-community-picnic>
The community picnic is simple. You simply choose a local park, communal area or building and invite the people who live in surrounding area. You can share food, chat and play some games. What better way to get to know your neighbours and meet people who live locally who you might not know. To help make the event a success, we will provide you with a [#MoreInCommon](#) community picnic pack. This will include a step-by-step guide to holding a community picnic, picnic rug, HOPE not hate Frisbee, rounders set, badges, balloons and a few 'sharing' recipes donated by celebrity chefs.

After a summer which has seen Britain seemingly more divided than ever, what better way to start healing our divisions than by bringing people together around food and games. Let's not forget, stronger communities mean more resilient communities.

FRIENDS OF SABEL UK, NW GROUP PROGRAMME FOR THE AUTUMN SESSION

Here is an outline of the programme for autumn 2016. In some cases details are not confirmed or there may be booking forms to follow after the summer break, but please put the date of anything which interests you into your diary so you don't 'double book'!

1 Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine/Israel 18-24 September 2016 is an initiative by the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum of the World Council of Churches. We are having a '**Quiet Day**' at **Roby Mill** near Upholland.

2 We would be happy to provide a programme on the '**Dismantling Barriers**' theme to any church/group within a 40 mile radius of Wigan, but please make contact with us as soon as possible if you would like to invite us to help resource your own event or for one or two of us to come to present a programme during this particular week.

3 The Balfour Project has been formed to reflect on the historical significance of the Balfour Declaration 1917, in preparation for the centenary of that event in 2017. They are organising a **North West conference at Hope University, Liverpool, on Saturday 1 October**. Here is the page of their website which you can access, although booking details are not yet available. It would be good to have a reasonable representation from FoSUK NW Group.
<http://www.balfourproject.org/towards-appropriate-commemoration/>

4 The Christian Aid Gaza Art Exhibition has been booked for our area again, and will be hosted by **Marple Methodist Church** from 10-14 September. If you were not able to see it on its previous visit to the NW in June/July, please try to get along during those four days.

5 There will be two linked events in November when **Garth Hewitt will be visiting to do a Concert** on Wednesday 23 at 7.30pm followed by leading our **Advent Reflection Day** on Thursday 24 from 10.30 - 3.30. Both these events will be at Altrincham United Reformed Church, Trinity Hale Church site, which was one of our Gaza Art venues, and has a beautifully modernised worship space. Details of both these events will be sent out again, with booking forms by mid September, but please put these dates in your diary. Each will be bookable separately, but there will be a discount for booking to come to both.

6 As usual I will be happy to come with **Palestinian crafts** and **Zaytoun products** to significant local events, or to provide you with a sale or return selection for you to run a stall as one of a number at your Christmas fair, etc. Please contact me asap if you would like me to supply your event, as I will need to order sufficient stocks, especially if there are clashes of dates. (incidentally, have you tried the Zaytoun dates?!)

7 Advance notice: We are hoping to arrange a **day conference on the Balfour Declaration** on Saturday 8 April 2017 with Prof. Mary Grey as (one of) the speaker(s).

The NW Planning Group will meet again on Thursday 8 September. Please let us have any comments/queries about this programme before then. Please reply to this e-mail address if you would like to join us and be more involved. At the moment the meeting is planned for 10 - 3pm in Wigan, which we find quite central, but we could meet elsewhere if the balance of the group changed with new membership.

John Logan logan-j@btconnect.com

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/World-Day-of-Prayer>

1 Anniversary of the tragic death of Aylan Kurdi

1 Launch of month of action "**One Year to Stop the Arms Fair**" <https://www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs/dsei/events-protests>

3-4 HOPE not hate #MoreInCommon Weekend <http://action.hopenothate.org.uk/organise-a-local-community-picnic>

7 First anniversary of Syrian resettlement scheme

8 Housing Justice Roadshow Wrexham, St Giles church. Our roadshows are meant to show local churches how, using any of our three projects, and working in partnership with various stakeholders in the region, they can make a significant contribution towards addressing the housing crisis. Partnering with us for this event will be Gweini which serves the Christian voluntary sector in Wales, as well as Wales & West housing association. View the flyer and programme of the event here:

http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/data/_resources/673/WREXHAM-ROADSHOW-PROVISIONAL-FLYER-PROGRAMME.pdf

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/housing-justice-roadshow-wrexham-homelessness-housing-need-and-the-role-of-the-church-tickets-26327447103>

8-10 Threading Dreams Liverpool Town Hall 10am-4pm daily, an exhibition of textiles and embroidery from Sreepur Village Bangladesh. Handmade cards, silk scarves and other gifts for sale – proceeds to the 600 children and 150 destitute mothers who live at Sreepur and to the street children project in the slums of Dhaka. Free entry. Rubina Porter rubina44@btinternet.com

8 Money Talks? Christian action on money and debt in local communities public lecture 5-6.30pm by Prof John Barclay 'Debt, Gift And Reciprocity: from Charity to Co-Interest in the New Testament'. St John's College, Durham University (see below)

9 Money Talks? day conference 9.30am-4pm St John's College, Durham University. The conference will include findings from participatory research with local churches and groups across the North East of England and London between 2015 and 2016.

National and regional organisations supporting responses to debt and financial issues will be present alongside local churches, charities and academics to share perspectives and consider collective actions. Funded by the William Leech Research Fellowship.

To book a free place on the public lecture and/or the day conference go to: <https://moneytalksdurham.eventbrite.co.uk>

10 Christian Aid Gaza Art Exhibition Marple Methodist Church from **10-14 September** with an opening meeting at 7pm on Saturday 10th – details logan-j@btconnect.com

10 "Jump for Jamie" 11am-4pm Halkyn Church, Halkyn, CH8 8BU. A sponsored abseil to raise money for the charity *Jamie's Fund* and their project to rebuild the Mental Health Unit in Kisiizi, Uganda (with which the Countess of Chester Hospital has links). Raise a minimum of £50 sponsorship and abseil 60ft down the tower of Halkyn Church! www.jamiesfund.org.uk 01352 741646.

10 Citizens planning a National Sanctuary Summit

11 Salford Diocesan Celebration of the Eucharist for Racial Justice 2pm St John's Cathedral. Chapel St, Salford M3 5LL. Choirs from different ethnic backgrounds. Please bring cold food from your own culture to share with others. All welcome!

13 CWDF Forum meeting 6.45-9pm Regular bi-monthly meeting at The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN.

An open meeting, for all our groups and individual members to discuss future campaigns. Contact 01244 350323

www.chesterwdf.org.uk

15 CAFOD Furness meeting St Mary's Parish Centre, Barrow 7-8.30pm

16 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £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. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.

17 Rooted and Grounded in Love: a prayer taster day St Mary's Church & Ambleside Church Centre, Ambleside, LA22 9DH 10am-4pm. Keynote Speaker: Roy Searle of the Northumbria Community, **Loving God and Loving Others - the Great Commandment and the Great Commission**. Roy will help us explore how love of God relates to living missionally; alone and together. **Workshops:** · Prayer Stations - Creative Reflective Spaces · Christian Meditation · Exploring and Experiencing Celtic Spirituality · Praying with Music · Emotion and Spirituality · Cumbria Church Leaders - A number of Cumbria's Church Leaders will share their own spiritual journeys in discussion groups, including the Anglican, Methodist, Orthodox and Salvation Army Leaders. Cost: £12 (please notify us if reduced rate needed) Book by email: lkctic@yahoo.com or call Helen on 07503 931196

17 NJPN Networking Day 10.30am-4pm at St John the Evangelist Church Hall, South Parade, Bath BA2 4AF. Speaker: Phil McCarthy, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) – **Refugees: some practical approaches to bringing divided communities together.** Plus opportunities for networking with justice and peace activists from around the country and updates from national agencies. Contact Ann Kelly admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk 020 7901 4864 or see www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/

17 National global action day in advance of the **UN Summit** (see below 19 September)

17 Stand as One: 'Refugees are Welcome Here' 2016 March in London <http://oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/our-campaigns/inequality-and-poverty/march>

17 Cumbria Fairtrade Conference for North of England 10am-4pm. For details and to register go to:

<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/get-involved/in-your-community/regional-supporter-conferences>

18-24 National World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel - theme: **Dismantling Barriers**. Resources on the Pax Christi website www.paxchristi.org.uk Let us know if you plan an event and we will post on the web page <http://tinyurl.com/UK-WWPPI> NW Friends of Sabeel UK are having a 'Quiet Day' at Roby Mill near Upholland – details logan-j@btconnect.com

19 UN Summit on refugees and migrants <https://refugeesandmigrants.un.org>

20 CAFOD Carlisle meeting New Waterton Hall, Carlisle 7-8.30pm

21 Peace One Day <http://www.peaceoneday.org>

23 Jeans for Genes Day Wear Jeans, Change Lives. One in five children is born with a genetic disorder. Sign up for your fund-raising pack and find out more at: www.jeansforgenes.org

26 CAFOD Preston meeting St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Preston 7-8.30pm

29 "Climate Change – Why should you care?" Macclesfield Library Jordangate, SK10 1EE 7.30 pm. A simple and compelling presentation of the facts about global warming, by Colin Fenwick Bsc, based on five years of research. This event is organised by St Alban's J&P Group and supported by HOPE (the grouping formerly known as Churches Together in Macclesfield). Details: Keith Taylor 01625-429915 SKeithTayl@aol.com.

OCTOBER

1 The Balfour Project NW conference Liverpool Hope University <http://www.balfourproject.org/towards-appropriate-commemoration/>

7 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day www.cafod.org.uk

7 Stephen Twigg MP, talk on the work of the Commons Select Committee on International Development 7-9pm Binks Building, University of Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ. This meeting is jointly arranged with the University of Chester's Department of Geography and International Development. This date is at a pivotal time, being the Friday before the return of MPs to Westminster following the recess for the annual party conferences.

8 Journeys to Justice – Walking in the light of the Gospel: A conference by Caritas, Salford, CAFOD and the Justice and Peace Association at Holy Cross College, Bury. Arrivals and registration 10.30 onwards for 11 am start. 4.30 pm finish. Speakers Susy Brouard (CAFOD) and Fr Chris Gorton (Salford). Workshops, stalls. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/journeys-to-justice-tickets-26720129627> Enquiries to comms@caritassalford.org.uk or phone 0161 817 2250

8-16 The Climate Coalition Week of Action. The Climate Coalition <http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/> is a group dedicated to action on climate change. It has 100 plus members (including Cafod, Christian Aid and Tearfund and many other faith and non-faith bodies). It is calling for action to influence MPs. St Alban's J&P Group is organising a petition to the Macclesfield MP with the support of HOPE (the grouping formerly known as Churches Together in Macclesfield). Details: Keith Taylor 01625-429915 SKeithTayl@aol.com.

11 ACN's (Aid to the Church in Need) Annual NW Event 7:30pm St Columba's Church, Chester CH2 1SA. Entrance free. Retiring collection for ACN's work with the Persecuted Church. Invited speakers include Archbishop Sebastian Shaw of Lahore, Pakistan and Sister Annie Demerjian from Aleppo, Syria. Please join us and Bishop Mark Davies for an evening of talks about the persecution of Christians around the world and ACN's work to help them. 07815 538425 caroline.hull@acnuk.org

14 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £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. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.

22 Autumn Craft Fair in aid of **Chifundo UK** empowering girls and women in Malawi. 10.30-3.30 Hoole URC, Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NT. Stalls including cards, woodcraft, jewellery, painted glass, Traidcraft, Chifundo fashion, free children's activities, refreshments. Admission adults £1, children free. Tables £10. Contact Susan Flynn 01244 381490 chair@chifundomalawi.org

22 Advance notice: Joint environmental event between **F&J Lancaster** and **J&P Liverpool** at Storey House, Lancaster.

NOVEMBER

10 Christian and Jewish Holocaust Study Day 2016 Menorah Synagogue Manchester M22 4RZ 9.30-1pm. All welcome but advanced booking required. If you wish to be added to the invitation list, please send a brief email to Eric Roth at hsd@menorah.org.uk including your name and email address. You will then receive a detailed invitation in September.

23 Garth Hewitt Concert 7.30pm Altrincham United Reformed Church – details logan-j@btconnect.com

24 Advent Reflection Day led by Garth Hewitt 10.30 - 3.30 – details logan-j@btconnect.com

25 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £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. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com or from Ekklesia www.ekklesia.co.uk both invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles. 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