

# Shrewsbury Diocese JP&SR E-Bulletin – August 2013

[www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](http://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk)

Vision: *A diocese fully engaged with the call of God to be a people of justice and peace*

## Revised contact details:

- Correspondence to Maura Garside, Secretary, Shrewsbury Diocese Commission for the Promotion of Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility, 93 Chapel Road, Sale, M33 7DH [mauragarside@hotmail.com](mailto:mauragarside@hotmail.com)
- Donations or contributions for *MouthPeace* to Ged Cliffe, Treasurer SDJPSR, Fern Villa, Four Crosses, Llanymynech, SY22 6PR [ged.cliffe@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ged.cliffe@tiscali.co.uk)

## Contents:

1. **Changes to the Commission**
2. **National Justice and Peace Network News**
3. **Lend with Care**
4. **Racial Justice Sunday 8 September 2013**
5. **Doreen Lawrence awarded a Labour peerage**
6. **When silence is evil: praying and protesting against the arms fair**
7. **Peace One Day Resource**
8. **Remember World War 1 in the name of peace not war**
9. **Ideal World Exhibition: THE FUTUREWORLDS PROJECT**
10. **Book Review**
11. **CAFOD News Update**
12. **Forthcoming Events**

### 1. Changes to the Commission

The new Commission is due to be in place from 1 September. This bulletin has been delayed in the hopes of including details but to date there has been no information from the diocese as to its composition or aims.

### 2. National Justice and Peace Network News

**NETWORKING DAY - OPEN MEETING Hosted jointly by Shrewsbury and Wrexham Dioceses**

Saturday 14 September 2013 10.30am-4pm at St Columba, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH12 1SA.

**Please put this date in your diaries and encourage others to come.** This is a great opportunity for local groups from the two dioceses, both now adjusting to life without a Worker, to get together and hear about justice and peace activities around the country. Representatives of Catholic/Christian Agencies will report on their work and suggest practical ways of becoming involved in campaigning for social justice.

**Key Speaker (12.00 noon): Vijay Mehta *The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels Wars and Poverty in the Developing World.*** Vijay Mehta is a renowned author, international speaker and global activist for peace, development and human rights. He is the chair of Uniting for Peace [www.unitingforpeace.org](http://www.unitingforpeace.org) and Founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity [www.fortuneforum.org](http://www.fortuneforum.org)

Vijay will explore the legacy of Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth)*, a landmark document which represents an important step towards the advancement of peace in our world, looking at how we can build a safer, violence free world. In his talk, Vijay will also draw on the premise of his groundbreaking book *The Economics of Killing*: that today's world has become more violent, dangerously militarised and unequal. He believes a different peaceful world is possible, based on policies of disarmament, demilitarisation and sustainable development.

Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring your own lunch. All welcome.

### 3. Lend with Care

**[lendwithcare.org](http://lendwithcare.org)** in association with The Co-operative is a revolutionary way for you to help people throughout the developing world transform their future. Set up by one of the world's leading aid and development

organisations, CARE International, [lendwithcare.org](http://lendwithcare.org) enables families to find their own route out of poverty. And it allows you to have a direct impact on their lives. Instead of just giving a donation you can invest any amount, starting from £15, in the fledgling business of one of the many entrepreneurs recommended by [lendwithcare.org](http://lendwithcare.org). Once the business begins to grow the loan is paid back to you and then you can invest in another entrepreneur, withdraw your money or donate it to CARE International.

[www.lendwithcare.org](http://www.lendwithcare.org)

#### **4. Racial Justice Sunday 8 September 2013 *Dreams of the 'Beloved Community'***

28 August 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of Dr Martin Luther King Jr's monumental '*I have a dream*' speech which spoke about all God's people living in freedom and peace in a world governed by truth and justice.

Dr King was in Washington to argue that the freedoms promised by President Lincoln to the newly-emancipated African-Americans never really materialised, and the March on Washington was an attempt to encourage all Americans to re-commit themselves to the Emancipation Proclamation's original promise. Dr King's speech still remains an inspirational call for us to work for an equitable world and is at the heart of this year's **Racial Justice** campaign, entitled *Dreams of the 'Beloved Community'*.

Download resources including a service for all ages plus a range of ideas and activities based around the theme of dreams, visions and the 'Beloved Community' from [www.ctbi.org.uk/648](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/648)

#### **5. Doreen Lawrence awarded a Labour peerage**

The mother of the murdered London teenager Stephen Lawrence has become a Labour peer. A Labour source said leader Ed Miliband felt Mrs Lawrence was a "hero of modern Britain" and "voices like hers" should be heard in Parliament.

Doreen Lawrence has led a long campaign to find out what happened to her son, who was killed in a racially aggravated attack in 1993. Two men were eventually convicted of his murder in 2011. Eighteen-year-old Stephen Lawrence was stabbed by a gang of white youths as he waited for a bus in south London. An inquiry following the murder led the Metropolitan Police to be accused of institutional racism and found failings in how the force had investigated the crime. Speaking earlier this month, in the wake of fresh allegations that officers had carried out a smear campaign against her family during the investigation, Mrs Lawrence said there were "still elements of racism within the police". Mrs Lawrence, a special needs teacher, founded the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust to promote a positive community legacy in her son's name. A Labour source said: "The strength and courage she has shown in her fight for justice for her son Stephen has had a profound impact on attitudes to racism and policing. Her campaigning has changed, and will continue to change, our country for the better."

#### **6. When silence is evil: praying and protesting against the arms fair**

**Symon Hill**, **Ekklesia** associate, co-founder of Christianity Uncut and a member of the **Campaign Against Arms Trade** steering committee, writes:

"At the beginning of September, some of the world's most oppressive regimes will be sending representatives to London. They will be there to meet arms dealers, ready to profit from war and oppression. Their meetings will not be illegal. They will be actively encouraged by the Prime Minister, the Defence Secretary and the Mayor of London.

**The London arms fair**, which runs from **10-13 September**, marks a key date in the calendar of arms-dealing corporations such as BAE Systems and Lockheed Martin. It regularly welcomes oppressive and aggressive regimes such as Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Israel and Bahrain.

Christians from across the UK and beyond will join with people of many religions and none to take nonviolent action against the arms fair. An important date is **8 September**, the Sunday before the fair, which will be **Stop the Arms Trade Day of Prayer**.

The London arms fair is one of the largest in the world. It is subsidised with taxpayers' money and the regimes that turn up are invited by the UK government. It is euphemistically entitled **Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEi)**. This is misleading. The arms trade is not about defence and security. David Cameron and his allies like to promote the arms industry by arguing that democratic countries have a right to defend themselves. But there are no arms companies that sell weapons only to democracies to use for self-defence.

Arms trade apologists also speak of the number of British jobs that arms exports supposedly provide. This argument was also central to supporters of the slave trade over 200 years ago. Not only are the figures generally exaggerated, but arms companies have themselves been rapidly moving jobs out of the UK in recent years. Engineering skills could be put to better use through government investment in socially useful projects such as renewable energy.

The sins of war and economic injustice are brought together in a trade that ensures that war is profitable for a few. Every UK minister who signs off on an arms deal to a dictator is weakening anything the government might say in defence of human rights. Every pound spent on bombs and bullets is a pound less for vaccines and school books. The arms trade kills before a gun has been fired or an aeroplane left the ground. And it thrives on the lie that violence is the answer to conflict.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil." Let's speak up, pray and protest in the week beginning on Sunday 8 September. We will pray - at church, at home, in the street, outside the arms fair. We will protest - in our communities, in universities, at the headquarters of local arms firms and of course at the arms fair. We will speak out - to our friends, our neighbours, our colleagues, our politicians, the media and the arms dealers.

Prayer and action cannot be separated. Let's pray that we will speak out sincerely, in love and not in hate, acknowledging our own collusion with injustice, celebrating what's already been achieved and seeking transformation for ourselves, others and society. May God guide us to take effective and radical action so that we are - as Jesus put it - "wise as serpents and innocent as doves." The prayers and actions will continue throughout the week of DSEi and beyond.

There are many people resisting DSEi. Most of the groups involved, including the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), have a firm commitment to active nonviolence. Of course, we are all different. We can speak out in different ways. Not everyone can, or should, travel to the arms fair to pray and protest in person. Below are a few suggested actions. Your choice may depend on your time, personality or other considerations. Please feel free to suggest others.

- Ask your church if they will mark the Day of Prayer. They can include the arms fair and the protests in their prayers of intercession - or go further and have a special service or themed sermon. CAAT's Christian Network has produced some suggested resources: <http://www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/christian/day-of-prayer-2013>.
- Pray for all those involved in the arms fair and all those resisting it.
- Tell at least one friend or colleague about the arms fair and why you're against it. You can find out more about DSEi at <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs/dsei>.
- Find out whether there will be any actions in your local area at the time of the arms fair. If not, how about organising one? See <http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk>.
- Write to your local paper, national paper or Christian publication about the arms fair. You can find out more about DSEi at <http://www.caat.org.uk/issues/arms-fairs/dsei>.
- Write to your MP, MEP, MSP or AM, challenging him/her to oppose the arms fair in public.
- Come along to DSEi. There will be a massive protest on Sunday 8th September, two days before the arms fair begins. A strong Christian presence, in solidarity with people of other religions and none, will be great. See <http://www.caat.org.uk>.
- Join in the multifaith vigil at the arms fair on the evening of Monday 9th September. See <http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk>.
- Read more at the Campaign Against Arms Trade (<http://www.caat.org.uk>), Stop the Arms Fair coalition (<http://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk>) or Christianity Uncut (<http://www.christianityuncut.wordpress.com>).

The power of love, the power of justice, the power of the crucified God is a subtler, stranger but ultimately stronger power than the power of money, markets and military might. As the apostle Paul said, God's power is made perfect in weakness. Focused on that power, let's pray and protest against the arms fair. The arms industry, like all sinful structures, will one day be defeated. This is an important step along the way. "

**Reprinted from Ekklesia with permission** <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/18755>

## 7. Peace One Day Resource

Jeremy Gilley, Founder Peace One Day shares news of the latest resource: "With only one month to go until Peace Day 2013 we are excited to share our newest update! Our Primary Education Resource – kindly

underwritten by Ocado – now has several new lesson plans. The lesson plans, the activities within them, and the supporting resources have been designed to engage all primary ages to provide every child with the opportunity to become active in the build up to Peace Day, 21 September.

New additions include a hands-on activity for pupils around our 2013 theme *Who Will You Make Peace With?* and a *Poem for Peace* lesson plan, for which Ocado have just launched a competition especially for UK primary schools. The Poem for Peace lesson was featured as 'Resource of the week' in a recent edition of the *Times Educational Supplement*, the UK's most subscribed teaching journal. Access our newly updated Primary Education Resource now and inspire your peace-making poets! We look forward to reading their best Poems for Peace and hearing your school's plans to mark Peace Day this year!"

[www.peaceday.org/resources](http://www.peaceday.org/resources)

## 8. Remember World War 1 in the name of peace not war

A letter published in *The Guardian* Tuesday 21 May 2013 (<http://bit.ly/14v45Oh>) launched a campaign to oppose David Cameron's plans for commemorations of World War 1 in 2014 that stress 'our national spirit'. Among those organising the commemorations are former generals and defence ministers. The letter calls for a different approach to the anniversary to ensure that it is used to promote peace and international co-operation. The campaign already has the support of Jude Law, Michael Morpurgo, Carol Ann Duffy, Anthony Gormley, Sir Patrick Stewart, Vanessa Redgrave, Simon Callow, Brian Eno, Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Ken Livingstone and many, many more. The text of the letter follows:

*Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War. Far from being a "war to end all wars" or a "victory for democracy", this was a military disaster and a human catastrophe. We are disturbed, therefore, that David Cameron plans to spend £55m on a "truly national commemoration" to mark this anniversary. Mr Cameron quite inappropriately compared these events to the "diamond jubilee celebrations" and stated that their aim will be to stress our "national spirit". That they will be run at least in part by former generals and ex-defence secretaries reveals just how misconceived these plans are. Instead we believe it is important to remember that this was a war that was driven by big powers' competition for influence around the globe, and caused a degree of suffering all too clear in the statistical record of 16 million people dead and 20 million wounded.*

*In 2014, we and others across the world will be organising cultural, political and educational activities to mark the courage of many involved in the war but also to remember the almost unimaginable devastation caused. In a time of international tension, we call on all those who agree with us to join us – by adding their names to ours at [ww1.stopwar.org.uk](http://ww1.stopwar.org.uk) – to ensure that this anniversary is used to promote peace and international co-operation.*

The campaign, bringing together Stop the War and other anti-war groups and individuals, will involve a series of events and actions next year to underline the horror and devastation of a war that led to the death of 16 million people. Go to <http://ww1.stopwar.org.uk/> to add your name to the letter and check the site for regular updates.

## WW1 RESOURCES

1. **Opposing World War One: *Courage and Conscience*** An excellent 15-page information briefing about conscientious objection and peace activism in the First World War compiled by Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi, Peace Pledge Union, Quaker Peace and Social Witness, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, packed with facts and moving personal stories. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/documents/Opposing%20World%20War%20One.pdf>
2. Action ideas from the **Imperial War Museum's Centenary Partnership** <http://www.1914.org/partners/>
3. **CHOICES ! A new alternative WW1 commemorative education project** - coming on stream in September for schools and colleges. Working closely with Teacher Education professionals and students at Bradford College, this project will explore choices then and choices now, asking young people to reflect on events of the past, what is happening now and how responses and actions to both might influence the future. A teacher's pack to support this work for trainee teachers and those already in post will be available from the Bradford Peace Museum from November 2013. <http://www.peacemuseum.org.uk/>
4. **The Peace Challenge and Sport, Courage, Peace and Friendship (SCPF)** has continued to be popular with

schools and is now in its third print run. It can be purchased from the Bradford Peace Museum or Fred Wade Booksellers (book and CD ROM) £12.50. Find this and other excellent resources at <http://www.peacemuseum.org.uk/category/education/>

## 5. Pax Christi Youth

Matt Jeziorski Schools and Youth Outreach Worker <[education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk)> writes: The diary is already filling up for school visits during the Autumn term. I will be in the North West/North Wales during the week beginning 7 October and in the West Midlands during the week of 18 November. I still have a couple of spaces during those weeks if any schools want to take advantage of them. Please book our peace education workshops early so as not to miss out. <http://bit.ly/IIv8tE>

## 9. Ideal World Exhibition: THE FUTUREWORLDS PROJECT 14 November 2013 - 17 November 2013

IDEAL WORLDS is being presented as part of the Truth about Youth programme at the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester which will culminate in November 2013 with The FutureWorlds Project. For five days The Studio will become a big blue box, filled to the brim with ideas: it's a gallery and an installation, a performance space and a living library providing a vivid snapshot from the youth of today for the society of tomorrow.

During 2013, teams of young people from across the North West have been working with artists, theatre-makers, teachers, activists and elders, to imagine their vision for a future society; the place they believe young people should occupy in a future world. Supported by visual artist Caroline Daly and writer Louise Wallwein, IDEAL WORLDS has been created by two community groups - the Pankhurst Centre (a women's centre in Manchester) and Phoenix Futures (an organisation for people in recovery from drugs or alcohol) - to explore what the future might look like for them, you and us.

The Truth about Youth initiative, in partnership with the Co-operative Foundation, aims to challenge and change negative perceptions of young people in the UK. <http://www.royalexchange.co.uk/event.aspx?id=715>

## 10. BOOK REVIEW

### ***Letters from Apartheid Street: A Christian Peacemaker in Occupied Palestine***

In the winter of 2012, Michael McRay interned for two months with the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron and then travelled to Nablus, Ramallah, Qalqilyah, and other locations in the West Bank. His time in Hebron coincided with the arrival of a particularly brutal battalion of the Golani Brigade and McRay helped put a report together about its abuses that was widely distributed by the United Nations and other international groups. He kept an extensive journal about his experiences that became his new book, *Letters from Apartheid Street: A Christian Peacemaker in Occupied Palestine*.

In 'Welcoming the Enemy', he writes of the first time he monitored soldiers with automatic weapons while they swept through Hebron's Old City, detaining men and checking their IDs:

*'As they approached the end of the Old City, one of the soldiers in the back turned and quickly pointed the barrel of his weapon into an elderly man's shop. The storeowner sat out in front, his head just beneath the level of the gun's barrel. He simply looked up at the soldiers passing his shop, bowed his head, lifted up his hand, palm upwards, and said, "Ahlan wasahlan (you are most welcome)." His response so caught me off guard I laughed out loud. Here was an Israeli soldier, a member of the military occupying this Palestinian man's land, who walked the streets of Hebron to protect the Jewish settlers who were illegally taking more and more land from this man and his people. In short, there walked his enemy.'*

Michael McRay is donating 20% the profits of *Letters from Apartheid Street* to Christian Peacemaker Teams. Paperback: 168 pages. Publisher: Cascade Books (27 April 2013) ISBN-10: 1620326256, ISBN-13: 978-1620326251

## 11. CAFOD News Update

### NEW RESOURCE

The latest resource for the **Enough Food for Everyone IF Campaign** is a pocket-sized booklet ***The Fair Food Guide*** that suggests three simple ways for you, your family, friends and community to make changes in your lives every day to make sure there's enough food for everyone. Order copies by calling 020 7095 5692 or email [campaigns@cafod.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk)

## HUNGRY FOR CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Building on the success of **Enough Food for Everyone IF** CAFOD is continuing to take action for **Hungry for Change** until Lent 2014 to provide more opportunities to call for a fairer food system. Why not share your hunger for change? Get together with friends for a fair trade picnic or get involved with local food fairs and community allotments. Ask your friends and family to make a personal pledge to act for a fairer food system and write your messages on loaves and fish action cards - order from CAFOD Campaigns 020 7095 5692 [campaigns@cafod.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@cafod.org.uk)

## WANTED

SEWING MACHINES THAT WORK, WITH A HANDLE OR ELECTRIC, WANTED FOR MALAWI

If you can deliver to 1 St Christopher's Close, Chester, CH2 1EJ this would be appreciated. Otherwise please ring 01244 381490 or email [sflynn@waitrose.com](mailto:sflynn@waitrose.com) and we will try to collect.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

**1 September – 4 October Climate Time** [www.greenchristian.org.uk](http://www.greenchristian.org.uk)

**8 Racial Justice Sunday** [www.ctbi.org.uk/648](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/648) Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) [www.carj.org.uk](http://www.carj.org.uk)

**8 Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer** [www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/christian](http://www.caat.org.uk/getinvolved/christian)

**9 Chester World Development Forum (CWF) meeting** 6.45 for 7pm – venue to be announced. Talk on the work of the World Development Movement (to be confirmed) Contact 01244 350323

**21 Truth and Lies about Poverty** A Question Time debate chaired by the Bishop of Birkenhead, panel comprising political and church leaders. Arranged by Chester & Ellesmere Port Foodbank 6.30 for 7pm at UCAE Academy, Whitby Rd Ellesmere Port, CH65 6EA. All welcome, no need to book. To submit a question in advance, email: [info@chesterellesmereport.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@chesterellesmereport.foodbank.org.uk) by 14th September

**21 VSO Barn Dance** Chester Details from Linda Shuttleworth 01244 679791

**21 Peace One Day** - An annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence [www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org)

### OCTOBER

**15 Drone Wars** Talk by Chris Cole of Drone Wars UK, arranged by Chester CND 7.30pm at Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street Chester. Further information from Allison Challen, [alli8586son@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alli8586son@hotmail.co.uk) [NB: please contact Allison if you know of someone with family connections in any of the affected countries and who may be able to speak for a short while at this meeting] See [www.dronewars.net](http://www.dronewars.net)

**20-27 One World Week *More than Enough?*** This year's theme for OWW builds on the "IF" campaigns slogan "Enough Food for Everyone IF ..." It asks us to consider whether we have more than enough: *of consumer culture; of being defined by what we possess; of seeing our planet consumed; whether we take more than enough ourselves?* [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

### NOVEMBER

**7 Annual Christian and Jewish Holocaust Study Day 2013** Menorah Synagogue, Sharston (morning only). To be added to the invitation list, please send your name and email address to Eric Roth [eric@roth.me.uk](mailto:eric@roth.me.uk)

**16 Food Matters** One day conference Chester University organised by CWDF in association with the University's Department of Geography and Development Studies looking at various aspects of the vital topic of food security. Keynote speakers and workshop sessions led by major NGO's. 10am – 4pm Best Building, University of Chester. For further info call: 01244 400906 [www.chesterwdf.org.uk](http://www.chesterwdf.org.uk)