

# Shrewsbury Diocese JP&SR E-Bulletin – October 2012

[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*

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### 1. Open Commission Meeting '*The Way Forward*'

Forty people from J&P groups across the diocese met on 6 October to discuss ways of supporting one another and continuing our work. Facilitated by Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi, we looked at our strengths and achievements and made plans for the future. We were delighted that Joan was able to join us for the final session when she was presented with a gift in token of our appreciation of her 19 years as Co-ordinator. A presentation was also made to Ann Gill, former J&P Worker and a previous Treasurer of the Commission in recognition of her many years' service. A full report will be sent out shortly to all participants.

### 2. J&P Calendar for the Year of Faith October 11 2012 – 24 November 2013

As our contribution to the Year of Faith the Commission for Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility has produced a J&P Calendar. Special days or weeks of prayer and/or action are listed, complete with links for further information. Each date is supported by a scripture verse, quote from Catholic Social Teaching or other eminent source. The calendar will be subject to regular revisions and additions – please check the website [www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk](http://www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk)

### 3. New CDF head on 'My experiences with liberation theology'

Since the appointment of Bishop Gerhard Ludwig Müller of Regensburg, Germany, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, there has been renewed interest in a speech Bishop Müller gave about his experiences with liberation theology in 2008, upon receiving an honorary doctorate from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Below are some extracts from a lengthy discourse:

*For me, liberation theology is linked to the face of Gustavo Gutierrez. ... A seminar led by Gustavo Gutierrez turned me from academic reflection on a new theological concept to experience with the men and women for whom this theology had been developed. This reversal in focus from the priority of theory before practice to the three step "see, judge, act" process, has been decisive in my own theological development.*

*... How one can speak of God in the face of human suffering, of the poor who don't have sustenance for their children, or the right to medical assistance, or access to education, who are excluded from social and cultural life, marginalized and considered a burden and a threat to the lifestyle of the wealthy few. These poor are not an anonymous mass. Each one of them has a face.*

... A brief reading of the book "We Drink From Our Own Wells" by Gustavo Gutierrez shows that liberation theology is based on deep spirituality. Its substratum is the following of Christ, the encounter with God through prayer, participation in the life of the poor and oppressed, the willingness to listen to their cry for freedom and the splendour of the children of God. It's joining in their struggle to put an end to exploitation and oppression, in their yearning for respect of human rights and their demand for fair participation in the cultural and political life in democracy.

... This is the path to liberation as Jesus teaches in the Gospel: "No one can serve two masters, God and mammon", and elsewhere it is specified, "the love of money is the root of all evil." (1 Timothy 6:10) The fundamental choice between the option for money and power on the one hand, and God and love on the other, presents itself today too to every individual person, and both to all communities and societies and to nations and alliances. ... Entire continents such as Africa and South America, are now being marginalized. A fraction of the world's population divides the resources among themselves, thereby contributing to the premature death of millions of children and to most of the world's population living in disastrous circumstances.

Full text from <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21095>

#### **4. CAFOD calls on review of World Bank rankings to put needs of poorest first**

In the build up to the World Bank's release of its tenth annual Doing Business report, aid agency CAFOD is calling on the organisation to remember its only remit is helping poor countries reduce poverty. Doing Business is a World Bank tool ranking the business-friendliness of different governments according to a checklist of primarily deregulatory reforms. Regardless of the realities facing poor countries, Doing Business follows a regime of one size fits all, which can undermine progress on development as governments are encouraged to implement policies which can favour business but not their own population and economy.

CAFOD's economist Christina Chang said: "The rankings skew vital resources away from small and micro-enterprises which account for the majority of jobs and are critical in reducing poverty. It is not just that some reforms promoted by the Doing Business rankings might be irrelevant for the majority of businesses in developing countries – in some instances they are harmful to poor men and women."

In Zambia, an inter-ministerial committee has been set up to work exclusively on moving Zambia up the Doing Business rankings. Despite the majority of jobs in poorer countries being in small businesses, Zambia's small business programme receives under £1 million a year in funding. When Zambia has succeeded in hitting 6th place globally on the Bank's ranking for getting credit, why would it feel the need to help the 98% of small business owners who report lack of credit as their biggest problem?

Under pressure from civil society groups and disgruntled governments, new World bank President Jim Yong Kim has ordered a timely review of the Doing Business project on the eve of its tenth anniversary. In a new briefing paper, CAFOD highlights the anti-development priorities of the Doing Business rankings and calls on the review to be an independent and comprehensive overhaul that puts poor men and women first. The briefing can be found here: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Policy-and-Research/Economic-justice> (first on the list) or direct link: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/content/download/6779/56946/file/DOING%20BUSINESS%20REVIEW%20BRIEF%200CT2012.pdf>

#### **5. CAAT Wins 'alternative Nobel Peace Prize'**

The **Campaign Against the Arms Trade** has won a major award for their 'innovative and effective campaigning against the global trade in arms'...Pat Gaffney from Pax Christi said: "This is a wonderful recognition of the years of research and campaigning by the CAAT team and supporters all around the country. CAAT's work in challenging the UK's arms trade has been consistent and thorough - exposing in a public way the horrors of the arms trade and taking political and commercial actions to oppose this trade.

The 2012 Right Livelihood Awards were announced in Stockholm by Ole von Uexkull, Executive Director, and Monika Griefahn, Co-Chair and Jury member of the Right Livelihood Award Foundation. Other winners are environment campaigner Hayrettin Karaca from Turkey; Sima Samar from Afghanistan for her work with women's rights; and American Gene Sharp for his work on the promotion of non-violent resistance in conflict areas around the world. Ole von Uexkull said: "This year's group of four Laureates highlights the essential

conditions for global peace and security: effective nonviolent resistance, a recognition that the arms industry is part of the problem, human and women's rights, and the preservation of our precious ecological resources."

The Awards will be presented at a ceremony in the Swedish Parliament on 7 December. Founded in 1980, the Right Livelihood Awards are presented annually in the Swedish Parliament and are often referred to as 'Alternative Nobel Prizes'. They were introduced "to honour and support those offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today".

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=21133>

For more information see: [www.rightlivelihood.org](http://www.rightlivelihood.org) and <http://www.caat.org.uk/>

## 6. It's time to Close the Gap between Rich and Poor

**Church Action on Poverty's** annual conference this year will celebrate the work of the last 30 years.

Share our vision for building partnerships of hope and transformation in the future:

- Hear **stories of hope and transformation** from our grassroots supporters
- Debate how to build a **movement for change** with our national partners
- Learn all about our new **partnership with Christian Aid**, with a keynote address from their director, Loretta Minghella
- Learn how you can partner with us, at a range of **training workshops**
- Help launch our **new vision** for the next 10 years
- Celebrate our 30th anniversary with a **special service**, a keynote address by Revd Giles Fraser, and a birthday cake

The conference is at **Cross Street Chapel** in **Manchester** on **10 November**. To book your place, visit our website [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk) or call 0161 236 9321

## 5. 11 November Remembrance Sunday

**The Movement for the Abolition of War** aims to spread the belief that the abolition of war is both desirable and possible; raise awareness of the alternatives to war for resolving national and international disputes and develop materials and strategies to educate us all from school children to those in government. Resources include **Remember War, Make Peace** - services, reflections, prayers and readings for Remembrance Sunday with a free CD and also a DVD and accompanying booklet **War No More** with ideas for discussion.

**Movement for the Abolition of War** [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk)

Resource also available from: **Pax Christi** [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) **Peace Pledge Union** [www.ppu.org.uk](http://www.ppu.org.uk)

## 6. 18 November Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependents

On the 18th November, the Church will mark Prisoners' Sunday, a day of prayer, reflection and action for prisoners, ex-offenders, their children and families. It marks the start of Prisons Week which this year runs until 24th November. The theme for this year is **'Taking the Path to Life'** – a hope rooted in the Christian belief that the divine spark is in all people, that no-one is beyond redemption, and that change can and does take place.

There are now over 87,000 people in prison in the UK, meaning that prisoners and their families need our help more than ever. Tragically, more children are now affected by the imprisonment of a parent than by divorce. Prisoners need the support of parishes to move away from a life of crime and take the path to life – they need our hope, faith, love and support in order to do this. We can in surprising ways disarm even the most hardened offender.

During the Church's forthcoming Year of Faith, it is particularly fitting that we keep faith with those whom our society typically overlooks or ignores. Please encourage your parish to keep prisoners and their families in their thoughts and prayers, by speaking to your parish priest about remembering Prisoners' Sunday at your church.

<http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prisonerssunday>

## 7. 18-25 November Inter-Faith Week

In Britain today, people of many different backgrounds live side by side as part of a shared society. Inter Faith Week is an opportunity to discuss and debate how we 'live well together' and to celebrate the distinctive contributions that faith communities bring to the wellbeing of our shared society, both in Britain and globally.

The aims of the Week are:

- Strengthening good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK
- Celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increasing understanding between people

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

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER

**14-20 National Ethical Investment Week** – focus on green and ethical savings, investments and other financial products. Now in its fifth year, NEIW's 2012 Churches' Action Guide offers practical information to help raise awareness and worship materials [www.neiw.org/church-guide](http://www.neiw.org/church-guide)

**16 World Food Day** [www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/](http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en/)

**18 Anti-Slavery Day** [www.antislavery.org.uk/english/](http://www.antislavery.org.uk/english/)

**19 CAFOD Quiz Night in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port**, starting at **7.30pm**. All money raised will go towards CAFOD's fund raising projects to provide basic facilities in developing countries. As usual there will be a Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments. For further information contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.

**21-28 One World Week** *Sharing Destiny – Moving Towards One World* [www.oneworldweek.org](http://www.oneworldweek.org)

**21-28 Week of Prayer for World Peace** [www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com](http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com)

### NOVEMBER

**2 Charity Cabaret Night** at The Guildhall, Chester 7.30 for 8pm Tickets £12 for 'Butterflies' working with Street and Working Children in Delhi, India. Contact Sara Clegg 01244 377 302 [saralclegg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:saralclegg@hotmail.co.uk)

**3 Presentations on planning visits to the Holy Land** 10am-4pm at St Thera's Social Club, College Rd, Upholland WN8 0PY. Cost £5. Drinks provided but bring packed lunch. Organised by Friends of Sabeel UK in the North West. To register email [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com)

**8 Menorah Synagogue's Christian and Jewish Holocaust Study Day 2012** 9.30am-1pm. All welcome. Advanced booking required. Contact Eric Roth, Menorah Synagogue, Sharston 0161 485 6051 [eric@roth.me.uk](mailto:eric@roth.me.uk)

**9 & 10 Annual National Peace History Conference** *From Local to Global: The north's role in peace and co-operation* Pre-conference events on the evening of **Friday 9 November** at the **Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS** followed by Conference on **Saturday 10 November** 9.30am-5pm **The People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER** Organised by the Movement for the Abolition of War – for full programme see [www.gmdcnd.org.uk](http://www.gmdcnd.org.uk)

**12 Chester World Development Forum meeting** 6.45 for 7pm at St Peter's Centre, The Cross, Chester. Speaker: Ann Herson about life and work in the favelas of Sao Paulo.

**16 CAFOD Quiz Night in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port**, starting at **7.30pm** (see 19 October above)

**17 Stockport Annual Fairtrade Fair** 10 – 3 Stockport College, Wellington Road South, Stockport SK1 3UQ

**23 Talk by Stephen O'Brien MP**, formerly Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for International Development. 7.30pm in Best Building, University of Chester.

### DECEMBER

**9 J&P Advent reflection, 4pm Wistaston Hall, Crewe** with Clare Dixon, Head of CAFOD's Latin America & Caribbean team