

Shrewsbury Diocese JP&SR E-Bulletin – September 2013

<http://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/>

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

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1. New Commission

After more than fifteen months of uncertainty following the end of Joan Sharples' post as J&P Co-ordinator Bishop Mark has dissolved the old Shrewsbury Diocese Commission for the Promotion of Justice, Peace and Social Responsibility and is forming a new Commission. In line with the current diocesan move away from lay leadership it will be chaired by a senior member of the clergy, Vicar General Canon Phil Moor. As reported in the July e-bulletin, the previous Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary have decided to step down. The current Secretary; Treasurer; Diocesan CAFOD Manager; Fr Ned Wall, who served for 10 years in Peru and now has three parishes in the diocese; and one other recent member have been reappointed for a three year term. Five women, including myself, have received letters to say we are no longer required. So this is my final e-bulletin. I do not know whether the monthly news e-bulletin will continue but you can receive regular updates on current issues from the free news services provided by Independent Catholic News (ICN) www.indcatholicnews.com Ekklesia www.ekklesia.co.uk and the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

The fate of the J&P quarterly *MouthPeace* (beyond the current Autumn edition) is unclear as a shock decision has been the removal of its highly regarded editor, Marian Thompson, who was informed in a brief letter that she will not be part of the new Commission. *MouthPeace* became a joint publication for Shrewsbury and Liverpool dioceses in 1993 in what has been a very successful partnership. I was the first editor until 2009 when Marian took over. However my period of service for Shrewsbury diocese goes back much further, to 1986 when I was appointed editor of the newsletter *The Daily Pressure*, at that time consisting of only one page of A4.

When the role of J&P Co-ordinator was cut Commission members parcelled out the work, determined to keep Justice and Peace alive in the diocese. I offered to take on the e-bulletin, compiled the Year of Faith Calendar and wrote a series of Advent and Lent resources plus a pack to introduce J&P themes to young people - all still available to download from <http://jpshrewsbury.wordpress.com/> It's exciting to know that the Young People's Stations of the Cross has not only been used locally but has travelled as far afield as Chicago and China!

It's disappointing that my work for Shrewsbury diocese has ended in this way, but on a more affirmative note a request for resources last week has led to a fruitful collaboration with Terry Brown, Worker for the Southwark Archdiocese Commission for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, resulting in a Youth Resources Page – go to www.southwarkjandp.co.uk/youth. I am delighted to have been invited by the National Justice and Peace Network to join their Media Group and help provide resources. Part of my role will be to develop a Youth Resources Page for the NJPN website: an exciting new challenge working alongside supportive activists from all over the country.

Over the years I have met some truly inspiring and dedicated people and made lasting friendships, especially within the Commission, which has worked together in harmony and solidarity, achieving much. I wish you all well in your continued commitment to Justice and Peace.

Anne O'Connor anneoc980@hotmail.com

PERSONAL PEACEMAKING by Joy Mead ©

Today I shall try to make peace in practice and poetry.

I shall choose words and images carefully,

avoiding all that proscribes, restricts, oppresses, destroys, humiliates, patronises, enslaves.

I shall fight no fights, not even 'good' ones.

I shall not stand up for Jesus or be a soldier of anything - not even the cross.

I shall not wave any flaming swords;

I shall address no-one as Lord or mighty conqueror;

I shall not put on any sort of armour, not even the armour of Christ or the dressings of power.

I shall not march for Jesus or anyone else.

I shall parade no nationalistic flags, nor bang any triumphalist drums.

I shall be a pilgrim and try to walk lightly for the sake of the earth, and the life it sustains;

I shall try to use words that open minds and stretch imaginations;

words that show an alternative to famine, war, racism, torture, unjust structures,

unjust trading systems, violence, war, all that denies life.

I may write about sex or about violence but I will resist the media urge to conflate the two.

*I shall ask questions that stir the heart, motivate the will, stretch the imagination, widen the moral vision,
so that life in all its fulness, diversity and wonder will be cherished on this fragile and finite planet.*

I shall make this day, and every day a holy day;

I shall work, share, play and touch within a circle of wholeness.

I shall resist violence and destruction creatively by:

dancing and laughing,

planting trees and sowing seeds,

making and sharing bread ... and ice cream!

lighting candles,

allowing my body to absorb the peace of artists like Chagall, Vermeer, Winifred Nicholson,

being alive to story, song and symbol, touch and scent.

I shall not abandon reason but I shall know its limits and resist the relentless course of logic.

I shall value imagination.

I shall try to understand compassion and feel another's pain as if it were my own.

I shall develop my own understanding of prayer,

share it with others and enable them to explore their own understandings.

I shall look more and listen more. I shall live more moments as given moments.

I shall make mistakes and admit to them humbly.

Today I shall dream - of people together, loving, sharing, eating, dancing.

And at the end of the day, when things are much the same, I shall continue to hope.

I shall remember that the personal is always political;

that inner peace cannot be separated from wholeness and health in community;

that small acts of beauty by small groups of people still carry the potential to change the world.

(thanks to Diana Mills for sending this inspirational poem and for obtaining the author's permission to print)

2. A Call to Action Group Meeting for Shrewsbury Diocese

Saturday 7 September 2013 starting at 2pm St Mary's Hooton CH66 1QJ. There has been great interest in this national initiative. All are most welcome to attend this diocesan gathering to share ideas for the best way forward to foster greater collaboration between clergy and laity.

There will be a National Conference for groups in Birmingham on 26 October 2013 - details and booking forms www.acalltoaction.org

Mission statement A Call To Action:

We are a group of Catholics, some of whom are ordained, brought together by our love of Christ's church and our anxiety about its future. Still inspired by the Second Vatican Council we want to contribute fully to the life of our church so that we may be a more effective sign of the Kingdom of God. To do this, we believe that an atmosphere of openness and dialogue both with each other and with our bishops needs developing. We desire to help create a climate of trust and respect for all where this dialogue may be fostered.

3. National Justice and Peace Network Meeting

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 and Founding Trustee of Fortune Forum Charity 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. In the light of the current situation in Syria Vijay's viewpoint will be of special interest to those who strive for peace.

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

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 sflyn@waitrose.com and we will try to collect.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

1 September – 4 October Climate Time www.greenchristian.org.uk

7 A Call to Action Group Meeting for Shrewsbury Diocese starting at 2pm St Mary's Hooton CH66 1QJ. All welcome.

14 National Justice and Peace Network NETWORKING DAY - OPEN MEETING Hosted jointly by Shrewsbury and Wrexham Dioceses 10.30am-4pm at St Columba, Plas Newton Lane, Chester CH12 1SA. Key Speaker: **Vijay Mehta** author of *The Economics of Killing: How the West Fuels Wars and Poverty in the Developing World*. All welcome. Details admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

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 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

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 [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

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

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

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