

The new 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 Download earlier bulletins at: <http://jpschrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/njpn-north-west-justice-and-peace-e-bulletin-january-2014.pdf>
<http://jpschrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/njpn-north-west-justice-and-peace-e-bulletin-february-2014.pdf>

UNBREAKABLE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

On Saturday 18 January, 25 activists gathered at the Manchester Chaplaincy on Oxford Road to learn how to increase women's participation and representation in politics. Gary Hart from the UK Parliament Outreach Team offered advice on how and why more women need to get involved in national decision-making processes in the UK saying: "In the UK, nearly 80% of MPs and members of the House of Lords are men, nearly 70% of Local Councillors are men, and over 80% of Cabinet Ministers are men, but over half of the adult UK population are women."

In recognition that the struggle for women's participation is a global issue, Suad Abdi, visiting from Somaliland, spoke about the struggles that she and other women have endured to gain political representation. Her story of how, in 1997, she worked with others to create a network to serve as a collective voice for women who wanted to see their rights as equal citizens respected in Somaliland, provided an inspiring example of the level of resilience and determination required for women's empowerment to become a reality.

Progressio Campaigner Charlee Bennett said: "Without women's involvement, how can we expect decision-makers not just here in the UK, but also in more fragile new democracies to make informed decisions that truly benefit their populations, half of whom are women?"

The workshop was held in support of a new campaign called UNBREAKABLE led by Progressio. "Women living in so-called 'fragile states' are among the most marginalised in the world and yet stories such as Suad's demonstrate the powerful progress being made to overcome the structural problems that keep them poor," said Progressio's Campaigns and Communications Manager, Daniel Hale.

<http://www.progressio.org.uk/blog/news/activists-gather-manchester-unbreakable-launch>

The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place in New York from 10-22 March 2014, an international gathering of governments and civil society which meets to discuss the issues faced by women and girls around the world. Against some of the worst odds in the world, women in 'fragile states' like Somalia, Zimbabwe and Yemen are organising to improve women's lives by tackling the structures that keep them poor and marginalised.

Ask International Development Secretary Justine Greening to show commitment to women's political and social participation in fragile states and raise these issues at the CSW in March 2014.

<http://www.progressio.org.uk/content/write-justine-greening>

2.2 MILLION CHILDREN LIVING IN FUEL POVERTY IN ENGLAND

Over two million children are 'growing up cold' in England, according to new figures released on 30 January 2014, as a poll suggests that UK parents are sacrificing buying family essentials in order to heat their homes. The shocking figures from ACE Research for the Energy Bill Revolution show the number of children living in fuel poverty in England has increased by 225,000 since 2011, an 11% rise. The sky high fuel poverty figures are a result of high energy bills, cuts to Government support for the fuel poor and the woeful standards of insulation of Britain's homes. The figures are based on a new definition of fuel poverty for England, which has been officially adopted by the Government. It classifies someone as 'fuel poor' if they live below the poverty line and have an energy bill higher than the median. Under this new definition, there are almost 7 million people living in fuel poverty in England.

A poll released 30/1/2014 by the Energy Bill Revolution, the world's largest fuel poverty campaign, shows that one in five (19%) of Britons have switched off the heating this winter to save money, despite being cold at home. And half of people (48%) said they have cut back on other spending in order to pay to heat their homes, with sacrifices including school equipment and clothing, or food for the family. The figures come ahead of COLD HOMES WEEK (3-7 February), a week of action coordinated by the Energy Bill Revolution, during which some of Britain's biggest charities and businesses will pile pressure on the Government to invest in home insulation as the only way to solve the fuel poverty problem once and for all.

<http://www.energybillrevolution.org/>

<http://www.energybillrevolution.org/media/increasing-no-of-children-living-in-fuel-poverty/>

'LET US SWITCH' TAKING A STAND AGAINST FUEL POVERTY

Energy companies are trapping thousands of people in a cycle of debt and poverty, by charging over the odds for gas and electricity. People on low incomes often pay the most for fuel, forced to use prepayment meters which charge the highest rates. In a new report 'LET US SWITCH!' (co-published with the not-for-profit energy supplier Ebico), Church Action on Poverty exposes how energy companies use these meters to collect debts from customers - and then block them from switching to cheaper tariffs which would help them pay their debts and escape poverty. At the end of 2012, almost 7 million people were using prepayment meters – an increase of around 5% on the previous year. Over 80% of these new prepayment meters were installed to recover debt. But paradoxically, paying prepay -ment tariffs makes it harder to pay off debt, leaving less money for other essentials, including food and other bills. Many people facing the 'heat or eat' dilemma are forced to turn to food banks or payday loans to cover their costs. Fuel-poor households spend a much greater proportion of their income on fuel, with some paying up to 30%, compared to non-fuel-poor households that pay as little as 3%. Please read the report, and email Ofgem to support the call for action. www.church-poverty.org.uk/switch

CARDINAL NICHOLS DECLARES CONCERN FOR THE POOR A MAJOR PRIORITY

Speaking about his new role, Cardinal Nichols said a major priority is a concern for the poor. One of his first tasks will be to chair the second international conference on human trafficking which takes place in Rome on 9-10 April. He said: "This is a very important initiative to counter the scourge of trafficking around the world." The head of Interpol and representatives from at least 14 police forces around the world will be taking part," he said. The Catholic Church in England, particularly women's religious orders have been working closely with victims of human trafficking offering them support, safe refuges and help with re-integration or support if they wish to return to their home countries. In order to raise awareness there is now a Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking (8 Feb) and a patron saint of victims of human trafficking - St Josephine Bakhita who experienced slavery herself. (see diary for details of Study Day in Frodsham 29 March)

- Full interview: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=24226>

CARDINAL SPEAKS OUT AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S AUSTERITY MEASURES

Newly-appointed Cardinal Vincent Nichols has condemned the UK Government's austerity programme as a 'disgrace', leaving increasing numbers of people to face "hunger and destitution". In a hard-hitting interview published in *The Telegraph* (24/02/14), the Archbishop of Westminster said that while the need to reduce spending on benefits is widely accepted, the Government's reforms have now destroyed even the "basic safety net". The welfare system, he said, had become increasingly "punitive", often leaving people with nothing for days on end if they fail even to fill a form in correctly. Archbishop Nichols said it was "a disgrace" that this was possible in a country as rich as Britain. "People do understand that we need to tighten our belts and be much more responsible and careful in public expenditure," he said. "But I think what is happening is two things: one is that the basic safety net that was there to guarantee that people would not be left in hunger or in destitution has actually been torn apart. It no longer exists and that is a real, real dramatic crisis. And the second is that, in this context, the administration of social assistance, I am told, has become more and more punitive. So if applicants don't get it right then they have to wait for 10 days, for two weeks with nothing - with nothing. For a country of our affluence, that quite frankly is a disgrace."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10639015/New-Cardinal-Vincent-Nichols-welfare-cuts-frankly-a-disgrace.html>

SENIOR CHURCH LEADERS CRITICISE THE GOVERNMENT'S WELFARE POLICIES

In an open letter to *The Daily Mirror* (19/02/14) forty-three Christian leaders, including 27 Anglican bishops say "Britain is the world's seventh largest economy and yet people are going hungry." The letter continues: "We must, as a society, face up to the fact that over half of people using foodbanks have been put in that situation by cut backs to and failures in the benefit system, whether it be payment delays or punitive sanctions." They challenge David Cameron's claim that his reforms are part of a "moral mission." "We often hear talk of hard choices. Surely few can be harder than that faced by the tens of thousands of older people who must 'heat or eat' each winter, harder than those faced by families whose wages have stayed flat while food prices have gone up 30% in just five years. Yet beyond even this we must, as a society, face up to the fact that over half of people using foodbanks have been put in that situation by cut backs to and failures in the benefit system, whether it be payment delays or punitive sanctions." <http://endhungerfast.co.uk/open-letter-bishops/>

END HUNGER FAST CAMPAIGN

- A grassroots ecumenical Lenten campaign calling for immediate action to End Hunger Fast
- Led by food bank volunteers, grassroots activists and senior faith leaders
- Fast in sympathy this Lent with the half a million now estimated to be going hungry in Britain
- Challenge individuals, society and government to play their part to make sure no one goes hungry

www.endhungerfast.co.uk

CHURCHES WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE – report by Ellen Teague

St John's Church in Waterloo hosted an afternoon meeting on 25 February to explore: 'Where is the voice of the churches on climate change?' Chaired by retired Anglican Bishop Peter Price, it brought together Christian organisations working on the issue of climate change in order to build up a faith movement which could play a significant role in tackling its worst impacts. After various organisations shared their plans for 2014, the groups agreed to work together to develop clear asks from politicians, spotlight Church investments regarding energy, develop a mass movement along the lines of the Jubilee 2000 campaign, organise an ecumenical Day of Prayer, and challenge the media for giving a platform to climate sceptics despite the lack of a scientific basis for their views.

In addition to joint initiatives, CAFOD will be launching a three year campaign in September 2014, focusing on climate and sustainable energy access. There will be living sustainably/ lifestyle asks, and work to encourage the Catholic community to demonstrate deep concern about climate change and its impacts. The Livesimply Parish Award will continue to be promoted. <http://livesimplyaward.org.uk/>

Columban JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) was recently involved in the production of an educational DVD and Resource Booklet 'Conflict and Climate Change' and a two-minute trailer can be viewed on the internet at <http://www.columbans.co.uk/news/dvd-conflict-and-climate-change/>

Young environmental and peace activists show what they are doing to build a more sustainable and peaceful world. The Columbans have also been involved in producing 'Between the Flood and the Rainbow', a study programme linking Climate Change with Catholic Social Teaching. <http://www.operationnoah.org/node/87>

Christian Aid is launching a new campaign in June 2014, focusing on linking local supporter actions to the global movement to tackle climate change with a weekend of prayer and action on climate change in October 2014 seeking to engage MPs across the UK. Tearfund is encouraging its supporters to contact their MPs to ask them to tackle climate change, linking flooding disasters in the global south with those parts of England enduring severe flooding.

The 'Joy in Enough' campaign of Christian Ecology Link will be launched at a major conference in Birmingham on 29 March - <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/joy> Its ecocell programme encourages sustainable living and a reduction of the ecological footprint, supported by ecocell groups. In early 2015, there will be a public ecocell workshop on Energy: <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/ecocell/ecocell-2>

The 'Bright Now' campaign of Operation Noah calls on churches to disinvest from fossil fuels and support the development of clean alternatives to fossil fuels through their investment policies. In autumn 2013 Operation Noah took part in the Fossil Free UK Tour with Bill McKibben of 350.org that visited Edinburgh, Birmingham and London. The events had a strong Christian voice regarding the role of the Church on disinvestment, which was well received by the general public. http://www.operationnoah.org/bright_now

The Church of England representatives highlighted the positioning of Environmental Officers in nearly all Anglican dioceses who can promote such initiatives as Eco-congregation and Eco-Schools, as well as the 'Shrinking the Footprint' project. They also care for around 10,000 churchyards which host a rich biodiversity. Other organisations involved in the meeting included Christian Concern for One World, the Environmental Issues Network, and representatives of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches. All underlined their belief that climate change is happening and that the churches must be involved in responding to it.

BISHOPS SIDELINE THE ENVIRONMENT

'The Church of England synod has voted overwhelmingly to support the motion that its investment policies should be aligned with its policies on climate change and to establish a working group to monitor this and other environmental matters. It reaffirmed its commitment to play a leading role in the efforts to tackle dangerous climate change. One wonders what the position is of the Catholic Church in this country in respect of climate change and other key environmental issues. Despite the urgency for a moral lead on action on climate change, there appears to be no leadership from the hierarchy. The bishops' conference established a Catholic Environmental Justice Group (CEJG) in October 2009 but this has not been convened since October 2011. We ask that the bishops' conference discusses as a matter of priority at its next meeting how the Catholic Church in this country can more effectively respond to the environmental crisis. Specifically, we ask for the advisory group to be re-established, and that consideration is given to aligning of the Church's investment policies with its commitment to environmental justice. Isn't it about time we had an environment agency of the Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales to focus seriously on Creation care, a key dimension of the Church's social teaching?'

Mary Colwell, Mike Monaghan, Ellen Teague, former members of the CEJG, letter to *The Tablet* 22 February 2014

US NUN, 84, JAILED FOR THREE YEARS FOR ANTI-NUCLEAR PROTEST

Sister Megan Rice, an 84-year-old US nun who broke into a nuclear weapons facility in July 2012 - the same facility that once provided the enriched uranium for the world's first bomb on Hiroshima - in a peace protest, has been sentenced to 35 months in federal prison. In the courtroom Sr Megan told the judge: "Please have no leniency with me. To remain in prison for the rest of my life would be the greatest gift you could give me." Paul Magno, a friend of Sr Megan said she felt that a longer prison sentence would give her more time to serve women in prison who are victims of a system that gives them few choices - a system which neglects the poor but spends billions on defence.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=22508>

STOP THE ARMS FAIR COURT CASES (UK)

All those arrested for peacefully protesting during the week of the DSEi London Arms Fair in September 2013 have had their charges dismissed. A friend of one of those charged (whose statement was printed in the January NW E-Bulletin) says that Symon Hill and friends made such an impassioned defence that the feeling is that 'powerful people' don't want any more attention focused on the issue. So obviously the campaign is making a difference. She continues: 'I know that they are trying to spread news of dismissed cases as wide as possible so if you could pass on to anyone who might be interested that would be great especially in the light of the sentences handed down to the three Americans yesterday - what truly brave and amazing people.'

www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/on-trial/charges-dropped/

Read more about the campaign in the blog for Christianity Uncut, an informal network of Christians campaigning against the UK government's cuts agenda and the injustices of capitalism. 'We are inspired by Jesus, who took nonviolent direct action in the Jerusalem Temple in solidarity with people who are exploited and marginalised.' <http://christianityuncut.wordpress.com/news/>

Petition to sign and promote: Cancel Trident spending - help flood victims

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/petition/UK_Government_Cancel_Trident_spending_help_flood_victims/

NEW PERSPECTIVES IN LATIN AMERICA

Fr John Boles CSC, a missionary and parish priest in Lima Peru gave a presentation on 'the Church and its mission in South America' to members of local J&P groups and parishioners from Our Lady Mother of God LPA in Stockport on 13 February. He described how the Church's role changed, from the mid-1960s to the present day, in the light of shifting political, social and economic contexts and in response to changes of emphasis within the Church itself. Explaining some of the core messages from liberation theology as promotion of the ministry of the laity, development of parishes as 'communities of communities' and the importance of proclaiming the gospel from an understanding of the local context, he emphasised the importance of vibrant and lively Christian communities in proclaiming and developing the faith. We heard how the inequality gap is widening through the unfair trade in intellectual property rights. For example, multi-national companies take out patents on plants with healing properties in the Amazon basin, turn them into medicine and sell them back to the very local communities that have used the plants as healing agents for generations, at massively inflated prices. The talk, attended by about 60 people, was arranged by Our Lady and the Apostles Justice and Peace Group and was held at the Evron Centre, Stockport.

CUTS IN SERVICE

Sad news: austerity measures by UK Jesuits mean that JVC will not recruit next year, ending 26 years of service to young people and the marginalised in our society.

ETHICAL BANKING: CAFOD'S PARTNERSHIP WITH TRIODOS BANK

CAFOD has partnered with Triodos Bank so that our supporters can help the world's poorest people as they bank, safe in the knowledge that the money is being responsibly invested where it is most needed. Triodos is one of Britain's leading ethical financial institutions, and for every new savings account opened via the link below, once the balance of the savings account reaches at least £100, Triodos will donate £40 to support CAFOD's work.

www.triodos.co.uk/CAFOD

NATIONAL J&P CONFERENCE *CALLED TO LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS* 18-20 JULY 2014

Organised by NJPN Executive Committee with Christians Aware and Vincentians in Partnership. A conference to: empower lay people to accept the responsibility of their baptism; provide an opportunity to bring our life experiences and relate them to our baptismal call; be a celebration of life and a renewal of vision. Speakers Sarah Teather MP; Mary Colwell; Gemma Simmonds CJ; Clare Dixon; Chair: Rev Ruth Gee. The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Booking forms now available from: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX. Tel 020 7901 4864 email admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

JUSTICE AND PEACE CALENDAR

24 MARCH ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO

Before becoming Archbishop of El Salvador in 1977 there were few signs that the conservative Bishop Romero would challenge the status quo and speak out on behalf of the poor. But seeing his friends and colleagues murdered and their killers protected transformed his views. He became a prophetic 'voice for the voiceless,' ceaselessly calling for an end to the repression. On 24 March 1980 he was shot dead whilst saying Mass. More than 30 years on, Romero's voice continues to be strong – an inspiration not just to the people of El Salvador but to all those who seek justice. www.romerotrue.org.uk

- *Oscar Romero and the Nonviolent Struggle for Justice* by John Dear SJ, price £2.50 www.paxchristi.org.uk

29 MARCH EARTH HOUR 8.30pm: *UNITING PEOPLE TO PROTECT THE PLANET*

In the UK alone we consume three times our fair share of the planet's resources. The World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Earth Hour is the single, largest, symbolic mass participation event in the world inspiring a global community of millions of people in 7,001 cities and towns across 152 countries and territories to switch lights off for an hour as a show of concern for the environment. It invites us to think of positive ways to reduce our carbon footprint. <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/about-wwfs-earth-hour>

31 MARCH LAUNCH OF CND SCRAP TRIDENT TOUR

Pax Christi is supporting the Scrap Trident Tour - with Bruce Kent as speaker - which is being launched on 31 March. Please contact Pat Gaffney coordinator@paxchristi.org.uk if you can host/arrange a meeting.

4 APRIL UNITED NATIONS' MINE AWARENESS DAY

The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on 4 April each year. It includes assisting victims, teaching people how to remain safe in a mine-affected environment, advocating for universal participation in international treaties related to landmines, explosive remnants of war and their victims, and destroying landmines stockpiled by governments and non-state armed groups. www.un.org/en/events/mineawarenessday/

13 APRIL WORLD YOUTH DAY (PALM SUNDAY)

Pope Francis has released a message for the 29th World Youth Day reflecting on the meaning of the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," urging young people to use the revolutionary power of the Beatitudes as a central point of reference in their lives.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=24112>

14 APRIL GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON MILITARY SPENDING UK

On 14 April, the Global Day of Action Against Military Spending, CAAT, Pax Christi, War on Want, CND and others are joining together to protest against the UK Government's prioritization of military spending over public services and welfare. Our military spending is a massive £39 billion each year, the fourth highest in the world. The 55,000 arms trade jobs in the UK are subsidised to the tune of £700 million a year. Yet 56,000 NHS jobs are expected to be lost as a result of public sector cuts. The replacement of Trident nuclear weapons is expected to cost £80 billion over the next 40 years but vital public services are cut: £20 billion NHS "efficiency savings" by 2015; £4 billion a year Social housing; £2 billion a year Sickness benefits; £150 million so far Mental health services and £200 million so far Youth services. There are alternatives: the huge subsidy currently paid to the arms industry could be redirected towards renewable energy and energy saving measures, allowing diversification and conversion of the arms industry and enabling public resources to tackle a huge cause of human insecurity – climate change.

<http://demilitarize.org.uk/call-to-action/>

Pax Christi is a member of the GDAMs group and will be producing materials to help mark this day - a great opportunity to make the link between welfare cuts, lack of provision for environmental programmes and military spending. <http://paxchristi.org.uk>

22 APRIL INTERNATIONAL MOTHER EARTH DAY

"International Mother Earth Day is a chance to reaffirm our collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature at a time when our planet is under threat from climate change, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and other man-made problems. When we threaten the planet, we undermine our only home – and our future survival. On this International Day, let us renew our pledges to honour and respect Mother Earth."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Message for the International Mother Earth Day 2013

<http://www.un.org/en/events/motherearthday/>

1 MAY FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER

The Feast of St Joseph the Worker is also the anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Worker Movement by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933 in the US. Funded entirely by donations and run by workers who accept no pay but choose to live in a spirit of voluntary poverty, the Catholic Worker Movement in the UK offers hospitality, advocacy and friendship to destitute men and women (some with children), many of whom are refugees.

www.londoncatholicworker.org

What we would like to do is change the world – make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, the destitute ... we can, to a certain extent, change the world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. **Dorothy Day**

A society that "does not pay a just wage", that "does not give work" to people; a society that "only looks to its balance books, that only seeks profit" is unjust and goes against God. It is work - not power, not money, not culture – that gives men and women a sense of dignity. By stripping them of work, society strips them of their God given dignity. **Pope Francis**

10 MAY WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY

Coordinated by the World Fair Trade Organisation, the theme this year is 'Fair Trade People', chosen to celebrate the people of Fair Trade – producers and consumers. Find out more at: www.wfto.com

11-17 MAY CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Held every year since 1957, Christian Aid Week is Britain's longest-running fundraising week to support projects in developing countries with a focus on tackling poverty. Other areas of the charity's work include helping communities affected by natural disaster, political upheaval and HIV. Info and resources: www.caweek.org

A little girl, who had wanted to know what the envelope was for, learned from Christian Aid News that her pocket money for one week could buy a hoe for a family, and allow them to grow their own food.

She told her mummy that she would not miss her pocket money for that week, and put it in the envelope!

- Read other inspiring stories from Christian Aid Week collectors

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/christianaidweek/organiser/it-shouldnt-happen.aspx>

15 MAY CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS DAY

Celebrated on 15 May every year this day raises awareness of those who refuse to participate in armed conflict for moral or religious reasons. There were about 16,000 conscientious objectors (COs) in World War One. The Peace Pledge Union is working with other peace groups with connections back to the First World War, to commemorate all those who tried to stop the war at the time and who resisted taking part in it. There will be a ceremony in Tavistock Square, London, at the Conscientious Objectors stone.

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/15-May-eventt.pdf>

The Peace Pledge Union have produced an information briefing about conscientious objection and peace activism in the First World War entitled *Opposing World War One: Courage and Conscience*

- Download at: <http://www.ppu.org.uk/OpposingWorldWarOne.pdf>

RESOURCES

SILENT VOICES EXHIBITION

Monday 20 January-Sunday 20 April at the Hope Park Campus exhibition space. April 2-29 The Eighth Day Café All Saints, Oxford Road Central Manchester. This thought provoking exhibition displays photographs of the everyday life in the Palestinian village of Bil'in, as seen through the eyes of children. Under the guidance of the Liverpool-based photographer Elaine Stapleton, children from the ages of 8 to 18 were given a camera to take pictures of their family and village life in Bil'in. The exhibition is composed of 24 pictures taken by the children and 10 by Ms Stapleton, which place the photographs in the political context of the Israel-Palestine Conflict surrounding the village.

LENTEN PRAYER LEAFLETS

- Daily reflections for Lent from <http://jpshrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/lenten-journey-2014.pdf>
- J&P Stations of the Cross <http://jpshrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2010/12/jp-stations-of-the-cross-2014.pdf>
- J&P Stations of the Cross for Young People – used successfully last year with Youth and Confirmation Groups <http://jpshrewsbury.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/young-peoples-stations-of-the-cross-2013.pdf>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 7** World Day of Prayer *Streams in the Desert* prepared this year by the women of Egypt www.worlddayofprayer.net
- 8** One Hour Vigil of Concern 12 Noon Heysham Nuclear Power Station 3rd anniversary of the nuclear incident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Gathering at Friends Meeting House Lancaster 10am. Details: Mo Kelly 01524 389911
- 11** Chester World Development Forum bi-monthly meeting 6.45–9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin St Chester, CH1 2B Speaker Dominic Cadman, Assistant Technical Manager with the firm Community Wind Power, will look at aspects of climate change, power needs in the UK, and renewables here and in developing countries.
- 12** Annual series of weekly Lenten Lunches in support of Christian Aid by City Centre Churches Together in Chester at St. John Street Welsh Presbyterian Church 12 noon to 1.30pm. Min. donation £5 for simple lunch incl. homemade soup 01244 320562.
- 19** Lenten Lunch Chester (see details for 12 March above)
- 20** *Do you care about Poverty in our Society? What is the Christian Response?* Speakers from Church Action on Poverty and a local Credit Union. Organised by the Servite Parish Faith and Justice Group in Servite Parish Centre (at rear of church) 500 Bury New Road, Salford, M7 4ND. 7.30pm–9pm 0161 792 1603
- 20** *A Poor Church for the Poor: Romero's witness to the joy of the gospel* Speaker Martin Maier SJ Hope University L16 9JD Liverpool at 7pm. Organised by J&P with the Romero Trust. Details 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 21** CAFOD Quiz Night Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre at 7.30pm
- 22** Archbishop Romero Anniversary: St Mary's, Duke Street, Denton, Manchester M34 2AN. Mass at 12 noon, followed by presentation by Ann Wilson who recently visited El Salvador.
- 22** Action Against Poverty in South Lakeland 9.30am for 10am–4pm St Thomas Kendal Cumbria LA9 4QG. Opened by Tim Farron MP. Main speaker Niall Cooper National Coordinator of Church Action on Poverty. Donations welcomed. Tea & Coffee provided. Workshops: The Elderly Caught in Debt; Disabilities; The Food Bank; Rural Poverty; Homelessness. Please register: 01539 740605 ctikd@hotmail.co.uk Organised by Churches Together in Cumbria
- 22** *Your Kingdom Come...* Keynote speakers Dr Daleep Mukarji, Vice-President Methodist Conference *'Building a just, inclusive and healthy world'* and Linda Tiongco, Head of Westside Region Christian Aid *'Rebuilding Communities in the Philippines.'* Live music, discussions, worship & afternoon tea 2–5pm Frodsham Methodist Church, Kingsley Rd, Frodsham, WA6 6BA Organised by Chester and Stoke-on-Trent Methodist District and Christian Aid North West.
- 22–25** *Come And See 'The Drones Quilt'* at The United Reformed Church Hibbert Lane, Marple, Stockport SK6 7NN. Exhibition opening times: Saturday 22 March 11am– 4pm, Sunday 23 March 2–4pm, Monday 24 March 2–4pm, Tuesday 25 March 11am–4pm. Details: Marian Thompson 0161 427 7254 marianet@tiscali.co.uk
- 23** Liverpool Archdiocese J&P Commission's 34th Annual Romero Mass, St Anne and St Bernard, Overbury St, Liverpool L8 2TY. Speaker Steve Atherton 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk Hospitality after Mass.
- 23** Romero Memorial Mass 10:30am at St Mary & St James Church, Snow Hill, Scorton, Preston PR3 1AY
- 26** Lenten Lunch Chester (see details for 12 March above)
- 27** Liverpool J&P programme of events around the diocese to raise the question of how WW1 should be remembered - 7–9pm at St Francis of Assissi, Earl St L19 1RT 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 29** Anti Human Trafficking Forum in Frodsham Methodist Church 9.30am–4.30pm frodshamforuminfo@gmail.com
- 29** Evening of Poetry & Music featuring readings by Trevor Dennis and music led by Adrian Rushforth 7.30–9.30pm St Mary's Handbridge, Overleigh Road Handbridge Chester, CH4 7HL www.chesterwdf.org.uk
- 31** Start of CND Scrap Trident Tour with Bruce Kent as speaker (see 28 April) Info: Pat Gaffney coordinator@paxchristi.org.uk

APRIL

- 4** End Hunger Fast Campaign National Day of Fasting www.endhungerfast.co.uk
- 10** *Drone Wars* - talk by leading activist Chris Cole 7:30pm St Mary & St Michael Parish Hall, Tillman Close, Settle BD24 9RA
- 15** CWDF Forum meeting with Stephen Mosley MP (Provisional - arrangements TBC) 7pm–9pm at The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. Meet with our Chester MP for an exchange of news and views at this significant time – just one year before the next General Election. www.chestercwdf.org.uk
- 28** *Time to Scrap Trident* Speaker: Bruce Kent 7pm St Wilfrid's Parish Centre 1 Winckley Square Preston PR1 3JJ 5 minutes walk Preston Railway Station. Contact: Lancaster Faith & Justice Commission St Bernadette's Parish House, Bowerham Road, Lancaster LA1 4HT tel: 01524 383081 or email: lfjc@talktalk.net

MAY

- 7** Catholic Social Teaching (CAFOD/Katherine House) Led by Phil Doyle & Joy Wanless Katherine House, 26 Singleton Road, Salford, M7 4WL 1.30pm–4pm 0161 708 9744 khousefcj@hotmail.com www.katherinehousefcj.org.
- 14** Catholic Social Teaching Event repeated from 7 May in the evening 7pm–9.30pm- same details as above

The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN