

Shrewsbury and Liverpool Justice and Peace Commissions

Spring 2011

ICON PRAYER

*O Risen Christ,
You breathe your Holy Spirit on us
and you tell us: 'Peace be yours'.
Opening ourselves to your peace -
letting it penetrate the harsh
and rocky ground of our heart-
means preparing ourselves to be
bearers of reconciliation
wherever you may place us.
But you know that at times we are
at a loss.
So come and lead us to wait
in silence,
to let a ray of hope shine forth
in our world*

Bro Roger of Taizé

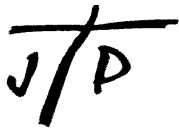
The PaxChristi Icon 'Christ is our Reconciliation' has been in the Liverpool and Shrewsbury Dioceses during the past few months.

It was made for Pax Christi International as a gift at the start of the Millenium by the monks of the Monastery of St John in the Desert, near Jerusalem.

In this issue

❖ J & P day & weekends	2
❖ The Big Society	2
❖ Five Essential Virtues of a Just Soul	3
❖ A Common Endeavour CSAN conference	4
❖ CAP Merseyside & National	5
❖ Lent meditations in Upton	5
❖ Meeting God in Friend and Stranger	6
❖ Manchester Peace & Social Justice Trail	6
❖ The future of South Sudan	7
❖ Can we feed the world?	8
❖ Reducing my carbon footprint	9
❖ Antislavery International	9
❖ Thank you from Chris Cole	10
❖ When the dust settles	10
❖ Archbishop Romero	11
❖ Depaul UK Pilgrimage	11
❖ Dates and addresses	12

ISSUE 73



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

A Christian Challenge to our Current Lifestyle.
How can we all flourish fairly on a finite planet?

Saturday 9 April

Coffee from 9.30 for **10.00—4.00**

St Thomas More Catholic High School Danebank Avenue Crewe CW2 8AE

Becoming aware:: Exploring issues:: Inspired by faith::
Committing ourselves to action



With the help of

Ellen Teague (Editor, Vocation for Justice and Contributor to The Tablet)
Linda Jones (Theology Programme Leader, CAFOD)

Witnesses: **St Mary's Primary School, Crewe and the Pilgrim Troupe**

All are welcome

Drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch

A donation of around £10 would be appreciated towards the cost of the day but not for those on a low income.
Cheques payable to Shrewsbury Diocese J & P Commission

If you are able to attend it would help if you could let Joan Sharples know by March 31st
tel: 01270 620584 [joansharples620 @btinternet.com](mailto:joansharples620@btinternet.com) 16 Wellington Rd Nantwich, Ches CW5 7BH



DISCERNMENT

Retreat with Stephen Hoyland
and Liverpool J&P Commission.

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 May

Loyola Hall, Warrington Rd, Rainhill
Friday 6.00 – Sunday 2.30

The weekend will focus on discerning
a J&P strategy that leads towards acting
justly in a peaceful, systematic and
coordinated way.

The weekend is available as:

RESIDENTIAL £94 (waged)
£72 (unwaged)

**RESIDENTIAL BOOKINGS CONTACT LOYOLA
HALL IN ADVANCE**

NON-RESIDENTIAL

Friday evening – no charge
Saturday – £15 per person
Sunday – £10 per person
Or £20 for all three days

Shared table lunch on Saturday and Sunday

National J & P Network 33rd Annual Conference

JUSTICE AT WORK

A place of safety, fulfilment and growth?

15—17 July

The Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick Derbyshire

Exploring the dignity and reality of contemporary work both
globally and locally, the conference will seek
to raise awareness from a Christian
perspective of working conditions in the
context of today's economy and modern
society

Speakers: David McLoughlin,
Jon Cruddas MP, Frances O'Grady,
John Battle, Shelia Kambobe

Plus workshops, stalls, programmes for children

**For more information and booking forms,
contact:**

National Justice & Peace Network:

39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

Tel: 020 7901 4864: Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Booking forms can be downloaded from the website

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk



THE BIG SOCIETY

Steve Atherton writes:

Are you confused and worried by Big Society?

According to the government's web page "The Big Society is a society in which individual citizens feel big: big in terms of being supported and enabled; having real and regular influence; being capable of creating change in their neighborhoods." Big society will help in "... achieving a radical shift of power away from the centre." There is even a Minister for Decentralisation. Another document writes about "a society where individuals and communities have more power and responsibility, and use it to create better neighborhoods and local services." We are told that Big Society "lies at the heart of the Department's work in housing, planning, regeneration and local government". The principles are described with inspirational words: "The first is about what the state can do for us. The second is about what we can do for ourselves. And the third is about what we can do for others."

So far so good but my alarm bells began to ring when I read about four key principles of "competition, choice, payment by results, transparency." I began to wonder what 'competition' to provide social security payments would look like or what 'payment by results' would look like in local government. I wondered why Big Society does not lie at the heart of defence, health, energy, or education.

I found it very informative to learn the brain behind 'Big Society' is a man called Philip Blond, an Anglican theologian and confidant of the Prime Minister, who regularly attends conferences in Italy on Catholic Social Teaching.

Comparison of Big Society with key principles from CST shows that many of the ideals are shared: The Principle of Subsidiarity (Decisions are to be taken as near as possible to where they will have effect) is central to the idea of Big Society; The Principle of Human Dignity fits comfortably into the Big Society framework; The Principle of Solidarity is appealed to to encourage people to join in with Big Society; The Principle of the Common Good could fit into the framework if those with oversight make sure that everybody is protected and not just an elite or their supporters.

However, I don't find enough emphasis is given to The Principle of Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. Most worryingly, I fear that "the delivery of public services and community benefits through private / third sector partnership" will lead to a loss of reliable professional services. Churches have always been places where the poor were treated with respect and indeed many of our current social services began in the churches. But they are not there any longer and a government that seeks to cut its spending in the hope that churches will distribute welfare is a government that has abandoned its responsibilities.

FIVE ESSENTIAL VIRTUES OF A JUST SOUL

Mary Ward, foundress of the 'Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary' (known as Loreto sisters), in her search to discover what God wanted of her, received an understanding from God of a 'Just Soul.' These are five essential virtues that Mary Ward saw as emerging from her understanding of a 'Just Soul'.

Freedom: Refer all things in your life to God, you will find inner peace and the freedom to respond creatively to the needs of others.

Justice: Be in right relationships with all created things: you will live in integrity and wholeness.

Sincerity: Be such as you appear and appear such as you are.

Truth: Seek for truth; reflect critically and seek answers to crucial questions.

Joy: Have an attitude of mind and disposition of heart that opens you to life. Be optimistic, hopeful, courageous, open, welcoming, good humoured and self accepting.

Thanks to Sr Martine Patoir, IBVM, the speaker at the Shrewsbury Diocese J&P Commission's Advent Reflection, who introduced those present to the five virtues.



'A COMMON ENDEAVOUR'
CSAN: Caritas Social Action Network Conference

Steve Atherton and Joan Sharples write:

During his visit to Britain last year, Pope Benedict XVI emphasised the need for Christians "to take a lead in calling for solidarity for those in need". Inspired by these words, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), an instrument of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, sought to bring together Catholics involved in responding to social need in a conference *A Common Endeavour* held on 1 February at Hope University, Liverpool.

In his introductory remarks Archbishop Patrick Kelly reminded delegates of the foundations of wealth and of the human cost. He spoke of the need to See, Judge and Act.

Archbishop Vincent Nichols said: "Our Church is present throughout the country, and Catholic social action takes place quietly and on a much greater scale than many realise. The present juncture offers a particular opportunity to re-imagine and re-invigorate the work we do."

Helen O'Brien, CSAN's chief executive, shared the results of a survey that was carried out in late 2010, attempting to gather details of social action being undertaken across the dioceses by diocesan-linked projects and CSAN members: 9,000 employees and 19,000 volunteers serving 800,000 people at the cost of £ 170,000,000.

There is much to be proud of and surely such information needs to be shared for 'joined-up' thinking: particularly if the Church is to dialogue with Government, the Civil Service, academics and think-tanks – the next part of the process.

The conference was looking for a way forward, for a way to help the church engage with the issues of our day. The 150 delegates were asked to find the 'challenges and opportunities' on the following topics:

Partnership working/consortia	Commissioning/contracts
Funding streams and financial options	Church systems and structures
Children and families	Social care/NHS
Homeless people	Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers
Physical disabilities and learning difficulties	Elderly people
Young people	Prisoners and ex-offenders
Volunteering	The theology of the Big Society

Delegates at the conference had much to reflect on. They will certainly have taken with them the reflections on Catholic Social Teaching, made by Jesuit theologian James Hanvey, who defined 'subsidiarity' as 'a re-ordering of power as service, support and enabling' and 'solidarity' as moving from the 'me' to the 'we'.

As they prepare for that important dialogue, the Church's representatives will recall that Pope Benedict went on to say, "The prophetic voice of Christians has an important role in highlighting the needs of the poor and disadvantaged, who can so easily be overlooked in the allocation of limited resources". Acts of charity to those in need and criticism of unjust systems are both important and necessary. How can those involved in justice and peace work collaborate further with those delivering services to people in need? Former MP John Battle described the task in the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero: it is 'to tell the truth about reality and to accompany the people'.

In a recent statement the Bishops' maintain that "The Church does not exist for her own sake, but for the healing and flourishing of humanity". Let's hope that their conversations with those in positions of power can encourage life-enhancing decisions by those who have power over our countries resources and that all of us can be filled with fresh resolve to do what we can to make God's love and justice known.

A full report can be found at:

www.catholicchurch.org.uk/Catholic-Church/Events/Catholic-Social-Teaching-Conference

In addition, the Bishops' Conference have hosted a seminar involving academics and theologians on 9th February. A further conference with parliamentarians, civil servants and others will be held in London on 6th April. Themes arising from the conference will also be discussed at the CSAN conference on 9-10th June.

ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

MARCAP (Merseyside And Region Church Action on Poverty) had a full house for their conference at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool during Poverty and Homelessness Action Week. Unsnappily titled "All in this together? Or will inequalities widen?", the event featured contributions from Alison Gelder from Housing Justice, Niall Cooper from Church Action on Poverty, Luciana Berger MP, Esther McVey MP and an introduction from Louise Ellman MP.

Roger Phillips, who had dashed from his radio show, chaired the event so that each participant was able to speak without interruptions and hostility was kept to a minimum.

All the contributors challenged the stereotype that Merseyside is full of spongers living on the backs of the rich but there was no agreement on where the bottom line is for what the state should provide. Alison deplored that the changes being made to the provision of social housing were neither in the parties' manifestos nor in the coalition agreement. Niall pointed out that serious organising will be necessary if we are to make the aspiration to change society more than just a dream.

I almost felt sorry for the Tory. It was painfully obvious that her motivation for entering politics was based on the assumption that because she herself had forged a successful career from a difficult early life, then everybody must have the inner resources to solve their problems on their own without help from the state. If only that were true. She had the difficult task of persuading 150 people that the cuts were inevitable in all their gory glory. Unsurprisingly, she didn't succeed.

But there is an elephant in the room. Our economy has been based on exploitation for several centuries. Archbishop Patrick Kelly had referred at the CSAN conference a few days earlier to the current crisis as the death throes of the slave trade. Perhaps living simply is the only option that we have.

Steve Atherton

' Progress made towards protecting the poorest from legal loan sharks'

says Alan Thornton Campaigns Coordinator for Church Action on Poverty.

Thank you to those who contacted their MP about February 3rd's House of Commons vote to end legal loan sharks. Thousands of people did the same, and two thirds of MPs were contacted - which resulted in a vigorous debate.



Unusually for a backbench debate, the Government required Coalition MPs to oppose Stella Creasy's motion. So whilst this meant the vote was lost (271 to 156) to introduce a cap on the total cost of credit, an amendment was passed for "regulators to consider putting in place a range of caps on prices". This is significant progress and something we can build on.

Business Minister Ed Davey, who claimed that the "evidence base ... is limited", clearly hasn't seen the overwhelming international evidence from European countries and US states where caps on credit have been proven to protect poor households.

We are up against the trade body of doorstep lenders, the Consumer Credit Association, which lobbied extensively and was quoted verbatim by some MPs in Parliament and in letters to constituents. In the first week of February we have made more progress towards caps to protect low-income consumers than we have in the last 10 years. There is momentum now with the backing of churches, trade unions, consumer groups and MPs. There is still considerable work to be done to counter the scaremongering of the doorstep and payday lenders.

INEQUALITIES IN WIRRAL: Lent Meditations in Upton, Wirral

Thursday 24th March 7.30 at Upton United Reformed Church, Ford Road:

Christians and local health inequalities: Led by The Bishop of Birkenhead, Rev. Keith Sinclair.

Thursday 31st March 7.30 at St Joseph's Church, Moreton Road:

Christians and family debt: Led by Bernie Gallivan, Christians Against Poverty.

Thursday 7th April 7.30 at St Mary's Church, Church Road:

Christians and caring for older people: Led by Ken Power, St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Thursday 14th April 7.30 at St Mary's Church Centre, Saughall Massie Road:

Christians and caring for young people: Led by Martin Dickson, Pray Wirral Group/ Youth for Christ

OPEN TO ALL

Contact David Williams 7 Manorside Close Upton Wirral CH49 4PP email : digger5548@uwclub.net

Arranged by UPTON CHURCHES TOGETHER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE



“MEETING GOD IN FRIEND AND STRANGER”

In 2010 the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales published the above ‘teaching document’. It is a remarkable document and essential reading for all those involved, or wishing to become involved, in interfaith relationships.

The first paragraph of the Preface states: *“For a great many people in the world their religious allegiance claims their deepest feelings and loyalties. As a consequence, any activity that promotes respect and better understanding among believers must contribute to peace, at a time when justice and peace are so threatened.”*

There are six chapters:

1. What is ‘Interreligious Dialogue’?
2. The Changing Face of Britain
3. Dialogue in the Teaching of the Catholic Church
4. Prayer and Worship
5. Interreligious Marriage
6. At the Local Level

Each chapter contains not only the teaching of the Church but also practical advice on how to proceed.

The principal author of the document is Archbishop Kevin McDonald and on 25th January this year the Altrincham Pastoral Area organised an evening with him. The large hall at St Ambrose Prep School was packed, not only with Catholics, but also with many members of other churches and some from other faiths.

The Archbishop began by talking about ‘dialogue’. In 1984 the Holy See’s Dicastery for dialogue described it in this way: *[Dialogue]... means not only discussion, but also includes all positive and constructive interreligious relations with individuals and communities of other faiths which are directed at mutual understanding and enrichment.*

In an address to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue in 1990 Pope John Paul II described it even more briefly: *Dialogue is not so much an idea to be studied as a way of living in positive relationship with others.*

“Interreligious dialogue... includes simply living as good neighbours, or working together in matters of common concern, such as in issues of justice, peace, the integrity of creation and so forth.” We must listen to the other’s story, ask them to listen to our story and try to find common ground. Only in this way can ‘the other’, ‘the stranger’ become a friend.

The Archbishop went on to talk about some of the other parts of the document: the unique relationship between Christianity and Judaism; the recognition in Islam of Jesus as a prophet born of the Virgin Mary; the three monotheistic faiths which all trace their roots to Abraham.

The evening closed with a lively question session.

The above gives only a tiny flavour of this important and immensely positive booklet. The document in pdf form can be downloaded free from www.catholic-ew.org.uk/publications It is published by C.T.S., price £5.95. The Alive Publishing website: www.alivepublishing.co.uk has a useful introduction and summary, click on “Faith Today Articles”. There is a very informative article in the Shrewsbury Diocesan Year Book 2011 (page 151) written by Deacon Alan Morris of the Department for Evangelisation, Christian Unity and Interfaith Dialogue.

Ann Gill

MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE TRAIL

Manchester is a city with a rich, progressive history. The world’s first industrial city, it is also a city of great renown for promoting peace and social justice with many progressive movements and people taking an important role for the good of Manchester and the wider world. The Trail seeks to highlight some of these stories and provide an alternative way to consider the capital of the north. The full trail begins in a site close to Manchester Piccadilly Train Station and ends in the centre of Piccadilly Gardens. It can be walked in whole or in part. Download www.peacemuseum.org.uk/.../Manchester-Peace-Trail-adults-final-version1.pdf

A separate Children’s Trail is also available for families and schools to use.

www.peacemuseum.org.uk/.../Manchester-Peace-Trail-young-peoples-version.pdf



SOUTHERN SUDAN VOTES PEACEFULLY BUT ENORMOUS CHALLENGES LIE AHEAD

Last year UK parishes joined those in Sudan and around the world in praying for peace, ahead of Southern Sudan's vote on whether to remain a united Sudan or form a separate nation.



Defying fears of delays and violence, voting in January took place on time and largely peacefully. Thank you to CAFOD supporters for your prayers and support. International monitoring missions say the vote was free and fair and we now know that the vote was overwhelming for Southern Sudan to form its own state.

Key challenges ahead

Following two decades of civil war that killed two million and made four million flee their homes, this peaceful vote is a big step forward in the peace process. But CAFOD and our Sudan Church partners know that huge challenges remain that threaten peace. Continued international attention and support is essential.

As the south splits off, **critical issues between the north and south must be urgently resolved**, such as citizenship, border demarcation, sharing of oil revenues & national debt, and protection of religious and ethnic minorities both north and south.

The biggest potential flashpoint for future conflict is the **contested area of Abyei**, where 40 people died in inter-ethnic clashes while the south voted. Lying between the north and south, it was to hold a separate referendum, but it has been postponed indefinitely over who has the right to vote.

Over **190,000 Southerners have returned** south since November 2010, fearful of their future in the north. Bringing only what they could carry, many urgently need shelter, and face an uncertain future. CAFOD with our Caritas and Sudan Church partners is responding to this with emergency household kits.

With some of the most **shocking poverty indicators** in the world, such as one in every seven children dying before their fifth birthday, the Southern Sudan authorities have a major task to provide basic services and build a working democracy. Failure to do so risks undoing any progress for peace.

The UK government, as a guardian of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, has a crucial role to play in ensuring long-term peace in Sudan.

Please keep the people of Sudan in your thoughts and prayers, and if you'd like to take action you can write to your MP (see Cafod link below) asking them to hold the UK government to its promise to support the Sudanese people in their journey towards peace. The UK government must:

Ensure Sudanese authorities protect vulnerable Sudanese people, such as southerners living in the north and northerners living in the south.

Ensure critical issues such as citizenship, oil, borders and Abyei's referendum are urgently resolved.

Provide long-term support and money to implement the referendum result and build peace and development in Sudan.

For the latest updates, pictures, stories and prayers visit: cafod.org.uk/sudanpeace

SOUTH SUDAN SHOULD NOT BE SADDLED WITH UNJUST DEBTS



The people of South Sudan have voted to secede from the north. Over the next few months negotiations will take place on what to do with Sudan's debt of \$35 billion, \$20 billion of which is interest on original loans. Meanwhile, popular protests in the region have now spread to Khartoum.

Nick Dearden, Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign said:

"South Sudan should not inherit unjust dictator debt from the north. Current debt relief processes are not acceptable - they will simply force south Sudan into a time consuming programme, full of illegitimate conditions, which allows borrowers to collect interest on deeply unjust debts. Moreover, as popular protests reach Khartoum, the debts of the northern government also need to be audited to identify past unjust lending and increase transparency."

"The UK is claiming Sudan owes £650 million for a debt which may have been as small as £55 million in 1984. If this debt is cancelled the UK will call the whole amount aid, and use it to meet aid targets. Yet the debt is made-up money based on ridiculously high interest rates. The UK government needs to conduct an audit of all debts owed by developing countries to reveal if loans damaged human rights, development or the environment, and to expose usurious interest rates."

For more information www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk



CAN WE FEED THE WORLD?

Anyone who shops for food knows that prices keep rising. This is not just in our local shops and supermarkets but world wide. In 2008 the rapid increase in food prices around the world, forced the United Nations World Food Programme to issue its largest-ever appeal, and brought food security, after decades of neglect, on to the top table at the G8 Summit in Japan that year. One result of this wakeup call is the UK Government's Foresight report, "The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and Choices for Global Sustainability", that was published this January. This detailed report tries to look ahead over the next 40 years and see how the people of the world can be fed.

Over the next 40 years there will be various pressures on the global food system:

- The global population will increase from the present 6.8 billion to around 9 billion. (At present about a billion people are starving or seriously short of food and the same number are harming their own health and that of the planet by overeating.)
- As many more people become wealthier they create a demand for more varied high quality food which requires additional resources to produce.
- Competition for critical resources such as land, water, and energy will intensify.

The effects of climate change will become more apparent so the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate will be imperative.

Any one of these pressures would present a challenge to food security: together they constitute a major threat that requires a strategic reappraisal of how the world is to be fed. This is the basis of this report which has attempted to place the food system within the context of wider policy agendas. It argues for decisive action and collaborative decision-making across multiple areas, including development, investment, science and trade, to tackle the major challenges that lie ahead.

We are not talking here of short-term projects to boost popularity at the next election but long-term governmental and international planning. This is challenging to governments. But it is also calls for a change of mind and heart amongst us – the consumers – particularly those of us who have plenty to eat at present.

Here the Church could play an important role ... by encouraging governments in their endeavours and pointing out the need to be in solidarity with the hungry throughout the world. In his book-length interview with the journalist Peter Seewald, Pope Benedict XVI spoke for many when he said that political action on the environment "is rendered largely impossible by the lack of willingness to do without". This seems to be the nub of the issue. Feeding the world maybe an urgent global priority, but it is cannot be left to governments alone. We are 'The Church' and unless many of us in the richer countries are prepared to consume less ourselves and inspire others to do the same the most altruistic of governments will still struggle to take the steps required. It is good that the J & P Network and CAFOD are already giving us some leads.

Last year's Annual Conference at Swanwick focused on 'Our daily bread– food security, people and the planet' and provided many challenges and opportunities for action to those who were fortunate enough to be there. This April in Crewe at 'Enough is Enough' (see page 2) we are fortunate in having Ellen Teague and Linda Jones as a speakers. Ellen played a large part in the planning of last year's Swanwick Conference and we all aware of CAFOD LiveSimply that offers much inspiration plus their continual support for those for whom food security is an issue now.

The full report can be found www.bis.gov.uk/.../food-and-farming/11-546-future-of-food-and-farming
Marian Thompson

The world's threatened tribal people

150 million tribal people live in more than 60 countries across the world Although their land ownership rights are recognized in international law, they are not properly respected anywhere. Survival International takes up their causes. As well as working on specific cases around the world, Survival campaigns on issues which face tribal peoples everywhere.

Their colourful informative website explains their work www.survivalinternational.org

REDUCING MY CARBON FOOTPRINT AND PRODUCING MY OWN ELECTRICITY

Tony Walsh writes:

I have been looking at ways of reducing my carbon footprint in recent years, aware of the implications for people and planet of the increasing use of fossil fuels. Installing a new condensing boiler, improving the insulation of the house, replacing older double glazing, more walking and cycling for local journeys and the increased use of public transport have all been taken on board.

The next step would be a big one! Should I install solar panels on my roof to generate electricity? I knew that this would be a costly project. A number of questions would need to be answered before I made any decision.

Could I afford such an expense?

Was the technology sufficiently advanced to make it viable for domestic use?

Would a PV (photo voltaic) system be effective in our variable Northern climate?

Was there anyone I knew who had recently had such a system installed?

Were there any reputable local firms that could be recommended to carry out the work?

The answers to many of these questions came just before Christmas.

A long-term saving plan became paid up. However interest rates are very low at present so traditional forms of investment are not an attractive proposition. Investment in my own generating system seemed a better proposition.

Two members of my rambling club told me about their recently-installed PV systems and gave very positive reports. I also went round to see someone nearby who had recently had a system installed. He seemed to have much technical knowledge and was very happy with his roof panels. They were producing a reasonable amount of electricity even though it was the depth of Winter with short daylight hours.

A local company sent some leaflets that gave very clear and useful information about PV electricity generating systems and the financial benefits of installing them at the present time.

The Guardian also published an article in their Money supplement that gave details of the financial costs and returns. FITs (Feed in Tariff rates) are 41.3p per kilowatt hour and are set for 25 years. You are paid that amount for every kilowatt you produce whether you use it or not. Using your own electricity also reduces your electricity bills.

I decided to go ahead in early January and chose the firm that had installed the system for the local house. The initial inspection showed that my roof orientation was good and that it was not overshadowed.. The system was to include 10 panels that could produce up to 2.3 kWh of electricity, an inverter to convert from DC to AC, an extra meter to record the amount of electricity produced and a Sunny Beam remote device to give up to the minute readings of electricity production and even the CO₂ emissions being saved.

The firm I chose carried out the work very efficiently and thoroughly, completing the job in two and a half days. They were also very helpful in filling in all the paperwork needed for registration.

I was also very pleased to find out that my local authority would make a grant of £1000 towards the cost, although whether that will continue in the present economic climate is to be seen.

I am now looking forward to the Spring and Summer when there are longer daylight hours, not just for the better weather, but because my PV panels will produce more electricity. I have also been advised to use electrical appliances during the daytime when possible thus consuming the electricity I produce and so reducing my energy bills. It has been quite a learning experience but hopefully there will be benefits both for myself and the planet.

ANTI SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL have launched a brand new interactive website about slavery and the products we buy to help us, as consumers, understand the scale of slavery in the global markets and how we can take action to end slave labour. This is a very good website and the more you delve into it the more facts and figures you obtain: www.productsofslavery.org/

'THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT'

Chris Cole, who was sentenced for refusal to pay fines following criminal damage peace action, has written on his release:

Dear Friends

I just wanted to send a quick note to say thanks for the support and solidarity whilst I was in HMP Wandsworth these past two weeks. All your cards, letters and prayers were really gratefully received and kept me going. Ginia too appreciated all the support for her and the children. Thank you.

Prison, for those who haven't been, is mostly boredom and frustration mixed together with a great deal of time spent missing family and friends with occasional moments of fear. Other prisoners who asked about my sentence were bewildered but friendly enough. I had three different cell mates during my two weeks and they were fine but all loved their TV! I spent most of my time lying on my bunk unsuccessfully trying to read and think by blocking out the TV noise. The exception was watching news coverage of the revolution in Egypt which was incredibly moving.

Many of you have mentioned that you appreciated my pre-prison reflections on the need to make visible the choices that we as individuals and community are making (see Figtree below) This chimed with a story that I read a story in John Paul Lederach's book *The Moral Imagination* which I brought into prison. Lederach tells the story of how cellist Vedran Smailovic responded to a mortar attack on a bread queue in his neighbourhood in Sarajevo in 1992 in which 22 people died. The day after the attack Vedran put on his evening suit and bow tie and went to the square where the massacre had occurred and began to play. He played every day for twenty-two days - one day for each person killed in the massacre. Shelling never ceased during those days but neither did the music. Lederach reports that during a lull in the shelling a TV journalist interviewed Vedran asking him "Aren't you crazy for playing the cello while they are shelling Sarajevo?" Vedran replied "Playing music is not crazy. Why don't you go ask the people who are shelling if they are not crazy to shell Sarajevo?"

Today the 'craziness' of pushing more and more weaponry around the world and resorting to violence to make the world more peaceful and secure needs to be continually challenged. The question that we need to ask ourselves is how can we creatively challenge and expose this falsehood in an effective and sustainable way? Later in the Spring I'd like to hold a day of reflection to think about this question and maybe to plan some more resistance. If you would like to come to the day, please let me know ...

With all best wishes and thanks

Chris Cole

Figtree 20 Wilkins Road Oxford OX4 2HX

www.figtree.org.uk www.dronewarsuk.wordpress.com

WHEN THE DUST SETTLES

The International Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons and IKV Pax Christi have been working on a joint project to create an animated short film on the hazards of depleted uranium and the international campaign against its use and are happy to announce that the English language version has now been completed.

They have sought to render down a complex issue into six and a half minutes and at present the animation is available in English and Dutch, and it is hoped that additional languages will be available in future. Both versions are available from YouTube channels—for English version see:

www.youtube.com/user/ICBUW

ICBUW can also provide copies for use at events and to help support your national campaigns.





A PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY

Whitsun weekend, 11-13th June 2011

Depaul UK is now the largest youth homelessness charity in the country. Our mission is to offer homeless and disadvantaged young people the opportunity to fulfil their potential and move towards an independent and positive future.

The Depaul UK Canterbury Pilgrimage is a fantastic opportunity to support our work whilst undertaking an inspiring personal challenge. Over three days you will cover 50 miles, following in the path of hundreds of pilgrims before you along the beautiful North Down's Way, taking in the historical Pilgrim's Way. A Priest will join us throughout the journey to offer prayers and guidance and the whole experience will culminate in a private Mass at Canterbury Cathedral.

£150 registration fee includes:

- A welcome pack for participants with training advice, fundraising tips and further information
- A souvenir t-shirt
- All food including snacks and refreshments
- Luggage transfer (you just carry your day-time essentials)
- Two nights' accommodation
- Route maps for each part of the walk

To download our information pack and sign up for the event go to: www.depauluk.org/pilgrimage

Depaul UK Lenten Appeal and resources

Depaul UK was founded by Cardinal Basil Hume in 1989 as a response to the growing number of homeless young people on our streets. From a single 14 bed hostel at Willesden in North West London we have grown to become the largest youth homelessness charity in the country, working with more than 3000 young people every year from Newcastle to London. We now run 21 accommodation and resettlement schemes and 20 other initiatives to prevent youth homelessness. We also manage Depaul Nightstop UK, the authorising body for the 45 nationally spread Nightstop schemes, which offer emergency overnight accommodation for young people in the homes of volunteers. In 2009 Nightstop services provided over 6800 nights of accommodation to over 1000 young people.

NB: There are several Night Stop projects in the Manchester/Cheshire area. See www.depauluk.org/projects/
Please would you consider supporting our Lent appeal? Fundraising and worship resources are available from www.depauluk.org/lent We hope that in these financially strained times, as well as concern for the developing world, there will be some sympathy for those who are most vulnerable in our own country.

Tim Harford

Head of Donor Care and Community Fundraising Depaul UK, 291-299 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1JG
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Archbishop Romero Lecture 2011

to be given by

Fr Juan Hernández Pico

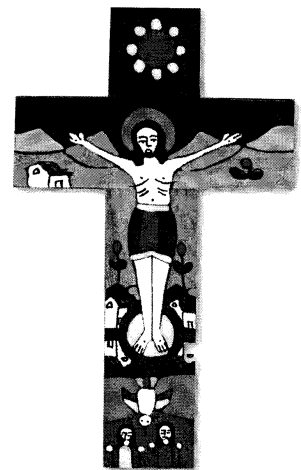
(Central American Jesuit Theologian and Social Scientist)

'Romero and the Social Gospel - the challenge for us today'

Tuesday March 22nd 7 pm

St Peter & Paul Church Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR

Organised by Archbishop Romero Trust with CAFOD Salford



Also:

Romero Mass Sunday March 20th St Michael's, West Derby Rd, Liverpool 10.30—12.00

Speaker: Fr Tony Lester O.Carm (Prior Provincial of Carmelites)



DIARY DATES

28 February—13 March Fairtrade Fortnight 'Show off your label' see www.fairtrade.org.uk

MARCH

4 Women's World Day of Prayer prepared by women of Chile wwdp-natcomm.org

9 Ash Wednesday Public Act of penance to pray that reconciliation will take the place of war. Information from Liverpool Diocese website or 0151 522 1081

12 Thanksgiving Mass for Sr Liz Stinson 2pm at St Francis Xavier's Church, Langsdale St L3. Sr Liz was a long standing member of the J&P Commission and was very active in J&P issues for many years.

14 Chester World Development Forum Meeting 6.45 for 7 pm Quaker Meeting House Frodsham St Chester Speaker Linda Shuttleworth on Chester's links with mental health work in Uganda

18 CAFOD Lent Fast Day

18 CAFOD Quiz Night Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port town Entrance fee: £3.00 (children half price) All money raised will go to CAFOD's new Connect 2 Ethiopia fund raising . Fairtrade stall and refreshments in interval. For further details contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419

18 Irish Night organised by St Vincent de Paul Society, St Edward's Conference, Runcorn, 8.00 - 12.00 midnight at Holiday Inn. Music by Ceilidh Band 'USQUEBAUGH' with caller Ian McDougal. Tickets £18.00 from Marjorie Lightfoot 01925 600695 or Ursula Lewis 01928 500887. Concessionary accommodation £49 for double room, breakfast and use of spa facility.

20 Romero Mass St Michael's, West Derby Rd, Liverpool 10.30—12 Speaker Fr Tony Lester O.Carm (Prior Provincial of Carmelites)

22 Archbishop Romero Lecture 7 pm St Peter & Paul Church Pendleton, Salford M6 8JR details page 11

24 31st Anniversary of death of Archbishop Oscar Romero romerotrust.org.uk

24 Upton Peace & Justice Lent Meditations see P 5

25 CAFOD Quiz Night St Luke's Primary School The Willows, off Fluin Lane , Frodsham

27 Welcoming the Stranger - with Shari Brown of RESTORE, a Birmingham Churches Together project reaching out to refugees and asylum seekers. St Nicholas Church Newport: Ecumenical worship contact John Fowler - 01952 812458

31 Upton Peace & Justice Lent Meditations see P 5

APRIL

7 Upton Peace & Justice Lent Meditations see P 5

9 Enough is Enough: A Christian Challenge to our Current Lifestyle. How can we all flourish fairly on a finite planet? St Thomas More High School Crewe See page 2

9 & 10 Integrating Life and Faith course begins at Loyola Hall —for information or to book contact Steve Atherton Liverpool J & P office below

14 Upton Peace & Justice Lent Meditations see P 5

24 Easter Day

MAY

15 –22 Christian Aid Week

20 – 22 'Discernment' J & P Retreat at Loyola Hall, See page 2

JUNE

5 World Environment Day unep.org/wed

11-13 DePaul Canterbury Pilgrimage see page 11

20 –26 Refugee Week refugeeweek.org.uk

JULY

15 –17 'Justice at work' National J & P Conference at Swanwick see page 2

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Copy date

for next issue

1/5/2011 Don't forget to send in reports of events and dates for the diary

The opinions expressed in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the dioceses of Shrewsbury and Liverpool

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