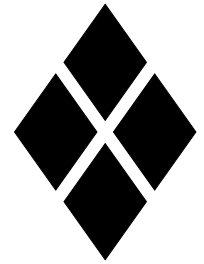


MOUTH PEACE



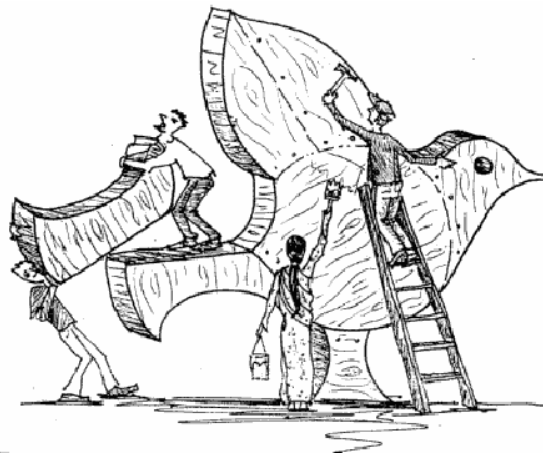
Shrewsbury and Liverpool Justice and Peace Commissions

Summer 2011

"The peace we seek cannot come from weaponry, but from a commitment to justice and nonviolent actions which recognise the dignity of every human person and all creation.

We reject models of security that rely on fear, the demonisation of others or on the strength of arms - conventional and nuclear"

(Pax Christi on peace and security)



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ISSUE 74

THE *Livesimply* AWARD

The *livesimply* award is a mark of a parish's achievement in cherishing God's creation. It demonstrates a commitment to put Christian faith into action by following the three core principles of:

- Living Simply
- Living in Solidarity with the poor
- Living Sustainably with creation



To qualify for an award, a parish must carry out a self-assessment and demonstrate it is bringing the *livesimply* principles to life in three areas:

Spiritual: helping the whole congregation link their faith with *livesimply* principles through worship and teaching.

Practical: putting simplicity, solidarity and sustainability into practice through initiatives such as Fairtrade, reducing energy use, or support for families in need – locally or abroad.

Reaching out: involving your local community in projects that transform personal and community lifestyles, such as a Lenten carbon fast, walk to church Sunday, or getting a story about *livesimply* in the local newspaper.

Once a parish can demonstrate its achievements, which can include activities already part of parish life, it can apply for an award and will be visited by a *livesimply* assessor. If successful, a *livesimply* plaque will be presented.

How does a parish register for an award?

There are four steps to register:



1. Get the support of the parish priest
2. Set up a *livesimply* group
3. Do a parish self-assessment to identify where to start
4. Make a plan, including a timeline, for achieving the award.

Thoughts from St Thérèse's parish, Upholland, who were part of the pilot project

Livesimply parish would be impossible without the approval of the parish priest.

The process hasn't produced a thriving new group but it has become a vehicle for issues that have been around for the last 10 years.

The appeal of *Livesimply* parish is that it is holistic and became part of the way that the parish does things as it strives to be a living part of the kingdom of God.

Livesimply has become part of the leadership group's way of thinking.

It has helped to bring environmental concerns to the centre of the parish.

It is helping parishioners realise that they have a responsibility.

It is helping parishioners realise that they can make a difference.

The organising team made a distinction between how the parish looks after its communal parish facilities (buildings) and how the parishioners take the same concerns into their own homes and lives.

The audit led directly to the action plan. It was done in two columns:

What is happening?

The organising group were keen to:

- Attract the less 'resource-wealthy'
- Avoid becoming an exclusively middle class concern
- Develop reflections on scripture that lead to changes in behaviour
- Promote Fairtrade.
- Produce less waste
- Think before they print
- Develop ecumenical links.

What needs to happen next?

The *livesimply* award was launched in May. For more details about applying for the award in your parish look on www.cafod.org.uk/take-action/livesimply-award-



The parish land being used as allotments for the local community was over and above the LS parish initiative, though it is interesting that the Heinz factory that can be seen from the allotments is the biggest food processing factory in Europe.

Steve Atherton



ENOUGH IS ENOUGH—how can we flourish fairly on a finite planet?

Bernice Halson from Willaston writes:

That title brought some 80 people to find out more at a day conference on April 9th in Crewe. The day began with the local Primary School, St Mary's, singing three songs, 'PEACE' being composed by its leader (his choir came 2nd in East Cheshire Festival the night before!) That put us in the mood for viewing "The Story of Stuff", a clever depiction of the misuse of resources from forest cutting to what we deposit in our waste bins. So our first 'clue' to how we pollute our environment, deplete our resources and its negative effect on our health. As we were sitting in small groups around tables we readily exchanged concerns in a buzz session.

Our first speaker, the journalist

ELLEN TEAGUE used the overhead projector pictures to comment on her experiences of change from their experiences

in Nigeria where they say nothing is rubbish, and the U K. She asked, is the rain forest a rich home for life or a source of our commodities? Why do we address only short-term issues ignoring our future offspring's needs? Why do we despair over conflict, weapons, etc.? But then she outlined some signs of hope; spoke of heroes of the environment, of exciting movements in the field of sustainability, non-violent direct action, challenges to Rio Tinto and IMF Gold in recent weeks. There are several websites whose vision show that another world is possible: <http://youtube/gLB5QAYXp8> or Google *The Story of Stuff*. By this stage we needed coffee and a stretch.

Returning to our table group we found passages from numerous thinkers as well as Scripture to reflect and comment on. We were helped again

by a presentation from **LINDA JONES**, CAFOD's Theologian. From her wide experience she shared ways of living. She pointed out that consumerism with its exclu-

sive emphasis on shopping doesn't bring happiness. Our sense of self, our value is much more than monetary value. Consumerism is used as an escape. We must ask how growth can be 'progress' when it trashes the planet. The person is more important than any system. Human dignity is vital therefore we concern ourselves with the 'common good'. We can't flourish if others can't. The Kingdom of God as Jesus shows it tells what it is to flourish. Linda said "the Church's Social Teaching confirms the value of the earth as God's creation. So we must make common cause by connecting with others. For we are created to be fully alive, shining with God's glory".

Is the rain forest a rich home for life or a source of our commodities?

Consumerism is used as an escape. We must ask how growth can be 'progress' when it trashes the planet.

Following lunch the day offered exactly what we needed - concrete examples where positive action has been taken and these were enhanced by their PowerPoint presentations. First we learned how Ashton Hayes decided to become a 'zero- carbon' village. It began in 2005 with support from Parish Council, funding from local businessmen and involvement of large percent of the population. In 2009 the BBC made a programme because the government took interest. Regular surveys are taken and the 5th in 2010 shows that 20% cut in energy use was maintained. The Community developed a 'can do' approach, (see www.goingcarbonneutral.co.uk)

Secondly, Steve Atherton described his *Livesimply* Parish and its pilot project. St. Theresa's Leadership team began with a) what can the church (building) do? b) how can it help people in their homes?

One thing the Parish did was to buy a field and turn it into allotments. (see page 2)

Thirdly, we heard from Martin Peck, who after graduating became a hill farmer in N. Wales. He wanted to avoid toxic food but discovered it was all of a piece with environmental issues. So he became an organic farmer and found himself working against agribusiness. He asked "how do I prosper without being at the expense of others?" as he studied the ecological consequences of agriculture. Some things he did were: plant clover in place of nitrogen fertilisers, establish hedges and plant one acre of woodland, build his own house making insulation key. He noted in Africa some yields improved 116% through organic farming. It also gives 20% higher carbon soil levels.

Martin reminded us that since most of our food comes from soils, its health is vital.

Again at our table group we looked at a 'Mandate for Change' and focused on: three sentences: *We are aware that... We believe... We commit ourselves to...* The closing event was performed in a circle by the "Pilgrim Troupe", a liturgical drama group who develop their own scriptural script based on the theme of a given event. Beginning with Jesus temptations, the modern idiom left no question about what direction Jesus gives us in making decisions and choosing action. We will look forward to a follow up in about 6 months time.

That was a conference that helped us see that **Enough is Enough**.



Women to Women for Peace 30th Anniversary Exhibition

An exhibition showing the activities of a small group of **ordinary** women doing **extraordinary** work with women in many countries to lay the foundations of a more peaceful world for our children

St. Peter's Church and Community Centre

The Cross, CHESTER CH1 2LA

June 6th – 17th

10 am ~ 4 pm

Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

Mount Pleasant, LIVERPOOL, L3 5TQ

21st June – 3rd July

9 am ~ 5 pm



WOMEN TO WOMEN FOR PEACE 30th ANNIVERSARY

Women to Women for Peace (W2W4P) - formerly Mothers for Peace - is a grass-roots women's peace organisation based in the UK.

W2W4P is celebrating their 30th Anniversary in 2011, and are marking this by:

Organising a travelling exhibition highlighting the achievements of the organisation, and including photos, artefacts and textiles. See above for details

Hosting women from around the world with whom we have forged links in the past 30 years.

Inviting speakers to talk about areas where W2W4P have had recent active involvement – e.g. Israel-Palestine.

Founded at the height of the Cold War, Mothers for Peace aimed to bring together mothers to create links of understanding and friendship. Where there was prejudice, mistrust and enmity previously, women from the USSR, the USA and Great Britain came together.

The core belief of the organisation is that it is through networks created by ordinary peace-loving people that the conditions for peace between communities and countries are made possible.

W2W4P's motto is: "World peace will come through the will of ordinary people like yourself." We work towards this by organising peace exchanges and bringing people together so that they can understand one another's cultures and mind-sets better.

Women play a particular role in this vision of a more understanding and harmonious world. The original idea of choosing mothers to undertake exchange visits for peace came from the conviction that mothers all over the world have an innate desire for the survival and well-being of their offspring, and are therefore opposed to the promotion of and preparation for war.

Women tend to be good organisers and communicators, and have concerns in common: amongst these the family, the community and the development of education, health and social services. In W2W4P we try to develop positive "softer" skills by sharing our knowledge and practice of areas such as conflict resolution and negotiation. Decisions are made through democracy and consensus, and with the minimum of hierarchy.

During the 30 years since its foundation W2W4P has grown and adapted to the changing world. Whilst still retaining contact with peace women in the former Soviet Union, we have developed contacts in areas such as Cuba, Romania, Albania, Iran, Israel and Palestine. We are also concerned to build bridges between women of different cultures and faiths in the UK.

30 years on, W2W4P is still working at the grass-roots level to create a more understanding, peaceful world and to break down prejudices and stereotypes. We are looking for active, creative women of all ages to join us. More information can be obtained through visiting the Women to Women for Peace web-site:

www.womentowomenforpeace.org.uk

Local contact : Gwen Backwell ~ 0151 709 2407



ARCHBISHOP ROMERO LECTURE 2011

Marian Thompson writes:

On March 24th thirty one years ago Fr Juan Hernández Pico had the unhappy task of informing his contact in UK that Archbishop Oscar Romero had been assassinated – gunned down as he was saying Mass. This March we were pleased to welcome Fr Juan to St Peter & St Paul Church Pendleton in Salford where he talked to a packed church about ‘Romero and the Social Gospel, the challenge for us today’



Fr Juan deliberately didn't give a theological talk but using Romero's own words led us through the 3 years of his ministry from 23 February 1977 when he was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador until his death three years later. His appointment was met with surprise, dismay, and even

incredulity. While it was welcomed by the government, many priests were disappointed, fearing his conservative reputation would negatively affect their commitment to the poor. Everyone had reckoned without ‘the Romero phenomenon’ – the conversion that transformed Romero from a model of spotless rectitude to a man of prophetic courage. Romero's conversion came as he kept vigil over the body of a dead priest and friend killed for his support of the poor. Romero was convinced that ‘we all are in need of conversion, even Popes and Bishops’ ‘I want to be near the grief of the families and a voice for those who are voiceless’ This did not please his comfortable wealthy friends in the church and in government.

Romero stressed that the work of leadership was service. ‘It is true that the church is not a democracy but it only has one head, Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Whoever is in a position of leadership is called to follow Christ's example of service. Peter learnt that by refusing to have his feet washed, by not recognising Christ as the servant he could not share in His friendship. Preachers have a duty to learn this as well’ ‘I do not confront anyone who is trying to serve people. Who ever is in conflict with people, is in conflict with me’.

Fr Juan likened Romero's three years as Archbishop to Christ's three years of public ministry. As Romero became

more and more radical and outspoken, more and more the opposition to him gathered like threatening storm clouds. And the more he became aware of the opposition the more audacious he became in defence of poor people massacred for demanding justice and liberty. ‘Peace and security cannot be achieved with oppression and abuse but with social justice’ ‘You must learn to take off your gold rings so your fingers are not cut off’.

Fr Juan then offered us his views on the challenge of the social gospel for us today.

He noticed the difference between Central American culture and ours here. Central America is still religious and the anniversary of Romero's death will be celebrated in San Salvador with a procession and public Mass in front of the cathedral. Here Fr Juan felt we live in a very secular society and culture where only a small minority are committed to Christ among the many who are indifferent to religion. It is important for the churches to seek TOGETHER to find a common meaning, a place for God and Jesus Christ in a secular society.

A globalised world has put great value on money rather than human beings. We are facing a crisis of greed which presents all of us with a challenge. We cannot serve two masters, God and money. We live in a society of ever increasing consumption where the leaders of globalisation are the servants of the power of money. Yet we are called to build the Kingdom of God. This is the challenge. Today would Jesus have said ‘Happy are those who do not put consumption at the top of the human agenda’?

Talking specifically about El Salvador, Fr Juan thought there had been change in the thirty years since Romero's death. He felt the people had a greater voice in the National Assembly and there was more consultation between government and the various groups in the country. The present president seemed sincere in wanting to take on the mantle of Romero and have an option for the poor. Fiscal reform is being discussed and the president wants to increase taxes to have more money for social projects...not popular with the large property owners.

It was a most inspiring evening and thanks to Fr Juan Pico we felt we had become closer to Archbishop Romero and the people of El Salvador.

ROMERO DAY

First International Day for the Right to Truth of Victims of Gross Human Rights Violation and for the Dignity of Victims was marked on March 24th. The day was the 31st anniversary of the murder by a US trained Salvadorian death squad of Archbishop Oscar Romero. The UN secretary Ban Ki-Moon praised the Archbishop in his speech inaugurating the day.

‘We pay tribute to Monsignor Romero's work and to that of all human –rights defenders around the world. As we inaugurate this new international observance, let us recognise the indispensable role of the truth in upholding human rights’ The new UN webpage for “Romero Day” www.un.org/en/events/righttotruthday/

THE ARAB SPRING?

Steve Atherton writes:

Outside the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region, could politicians explain with any measure of credibility why we chose not to act in Burma or Congo or Zimbabwe, or in any part of the world where violations have taken place over many decades and where we have provided those regimes with arms and support? 450 million people live in the 20+ countries around the Mediterranean Region.

Forces from the West have attacked Iraq and Libya - two major oil-rich countries - while not taking a stand against countries such as Yemen, Bahrain and Syria.

How did the West back and encourage the brutality of Arab dictators over long decades? To what degree did the cynical encouragement of despots foster the jihadist wave that our Western societies and powers seek to curb? How do we deal with this tactical hypocrisy and how will we deal with it in future? The answer to those uncomfortable questions might go a long way toward explaining the realities we are compelled to face in Libya and elsewhere in the MENA region today.

There has been an upheaval of 'people power' in places like Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, Jordan, Morocco and other countries that are teetering on the slippery edge between hurried reforms for possible survival or entrenchment and possible collapse.

Teachers and lawyers calling for an elected parliament in the United Arab Emirates have been arrested. Syrian troops are going door-to-door arresting people in major towns and cities. Yemeni security forces have fired indiscriminately into crowds of protesters killing innocent bystanders.

One view of the Tunisian and Egyptian uprisings is that the security agencies abandoned the presidents, allowing them to drift and be thrown out of power, while the real power holders remained in place. There are no coherent new governments in Egypt and Tunisia to suggest that this analysis is wrong.

US and European policy in MENA (and in South East Asia) proclaims democracy but props up autocratic regimes as long as they remain supportive. The continuing drip of classified information from Wikileaks is a constant reminder that US policy is largely a matter of self-interest.

The 'rebels' fighting against Colonel Gaddafi's forces remain by an unknown quantity: some of them are well-meaning and brave volunteers whilst others are former fighters from Afghanistan whose past and future loyalties remain questionable. Their overall political strategy remains unclear

We might end up in the MENA region by substituting one group of autocrats with another group of autocrats.

What 'mission slip' dangers are there? Is the imposition of a no-fly zone the objective of this operation? In how many creative ways can we 'interpret' this Resolution and is there now an assumption that taking out Colonel Gaddafi has become allowable?

If the rebels start advancing westward toward Tripoli and in the process cause civilian casualties, would we then attack the rebels to protect the pro-Gaddafi civilians? In other words, which civilians are we mandated to protect according to Resolution 1973?

Was a fresh start made when the UN approved a new doctrine called the 'Responsibility to Protect', nicknamed R2P, declaring that world powers have the right and obligation to overlook state sovereignty and intervene when a dictator decimates his people? Is it a sign of progress that it took three-and-a-half years to respond forcefully to the slaughter in Bosnia but roughly three-and-a-half weeks to respond in Libya?

Libya has a long and complex history. A long and seething history of rivalries among 140 largely unknown tribes and clans lurks behind the thin façade of a modern oil-rich state. People from what is now Libya were troublesome during the Old Kingdom of the Pharaohs; the ancient Greeks thought that Libya was the whole of Africa; the Romans called it Pentapolis. Simon of Cyrene was a Libyan. Libya became part of Islam in the 7th century. It was the infamous Barbary Coast before being pacified by the Ottoman Empire. 500,000 Libyans died under Italian rule from 1911 till 1943. The modern state was unified by Mussolini in 1939. Gaddafi overthrew King Idris in 1969. What does it say to Libyans that they are being bombed from bases in Italy?

From the traditional Christian perspective, does the Allied operation satisfy the principles of a 'just war'? For any war to be just in this Christian juridical understanding, it should include a final objective as well as protection of civilians, a reasonable hope for success, and the conviction that peace would follow after the war.

There are serious concerns about the future of the minority - largely indigenous and Christian - communities in countries such as Egypt and Iraq. Would their future for instance be safeguarded in the wake of new emerging realities or will the new political authorities be hostile to their fundamental freedoms let alone to their very physical safety?

The Arab Spring? *continued....*

“It is local movements for change that lead countries away from tyranny. Freedom cannot be imposed top-down, least of all by a military intervention. More bombs will mean more deaths, not more democracy. The British Prime Minister is bombing Libya only a few months after authorizing the sale of arms to the Gaddafi regime. Saudi forces are currently suppressing peaceful protests in Bahrain with armoured vehicles made in Newcastle. If the government wishes to demonstrate a commitment to opposing dictatorship on the world stage, then ending all arms sales to oppressive regimes should be the priority, rather than risky military adventurism.” (Symon Hill. Ekklesia)

The turmoil in North Africa has led to a surge of migrants across the Mediterranean seeking refuge from the conflict. The relatively peaceful uprising in Tunisia initially led to an influx of 6,000 boat people to Lampedusa, a small Mediterranean island that has served as a holding camp for asylum seekers trying to gain admission to Italy. As the number of Tunisians arriving topped 28,000, the Italian government issued them with temporary resident permits and, on 17th April, France temporarily blocked a train carrying some of the Tunisians over the border from Italy, and it subsequently threatened to suspend its Schengen obligation to allow free movement of those with valid papers. Amid warnings of an influx of over a quarter of a million asylum seekers, Italy has been joined by the interior ministers of France, Spain, Malta and Cyprus in calling for assistance from the EU.

The Schengen Agreement is a treaty signed on 14 June 1985 near the town of Shengen in Luxembourg, between five of the then ten member states of the European Economic Community. It was supplemented by the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement 5 years later. Together these treaties created Europe's borderless Schengen area which operates very much like a single state for international travel with no internal border controls.

The 1997 Amsterdam Treaty incorporated them into the mainstream of European law. The borderless zone created by the Schengen Agreements, the Schengen area, currently consists of 25 European countries, covering a population of over 400 million people and an area of 4,312,099 sq km (1,664,911 sq mi), excluding the United Kingdom and Ireland.

A DECADE OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING—IN MERSEYSIDE

Many people on Merseyside score poorly on wellbeing indicators which can indicate that they tend to have less happy experiences and that they are vulnerable to poor health and to future illness. As a consequence of this Liverpool Primary Care Trust and Liverpool City Council have declared their commitment to a 'Decade of Health & Wellbeing' with the support of the Regional Health Authority and the Government's Chief Medical Officer.

Over the next ten years people in Liverpool will be asked to focus on feeling good and functioning well, as the city celebrates the Decade of Health and Wellbeing. This draws upon research which points to the importance of a positive approach to living in the Five Ways to Wellbeing - five simple ways to improve personal wellbeing by making small, achievable lifestyle change.

The five ways to health and wellbeing are:

Connect - with others, at home, at work, in your community. During 2010, the people of Liverpool connected through neighbourhood activity days, festivals, multi-cultural events, play projects and all kinds of community gatherings.

Be active - an active lifestyle not only keeps our bodies healthy, but makes us feel good as well. The City offers a huge range of activities from walking and cycling to swimming, and everything in between. There was something for everyone, whatever their fitness level.

Keep learning - trying something new can help keep our minds and our lives active. Many across Merseyside had a go at something completely different, be it signing up for a reading group, joining a drama class, taking part in a workshop or getting creative with arts and crafts.

Give - giving to others makes us feel better, and 2010 could not have happened without the generosity of the people of Liverpool. By giving their time, expertise and energy, they helped not only to organise events, but make them successful by turning up and joining in. Thousands also made the most of sponsored events such as Race for Life to raise cash for good causes.

Take notice - It's easy to rush through our busy lives without pausing for thought. A key feature of 2010 was to help people notice how special our environment is, at all levels, through a packed cultural calendar, tours of historic buildings, and nature walks in our beautiful parks

For Decade of Health & Wellbeing Events see www.2020healthandwellbeing.org.uk/

Alan Cunningham



PROSPERITY

Bryan Halson writes:

If you were to ask the question ‘what is prosperity?’ my guess would be that most people would answer in terms of money and possessions. That wouldn’t be surprising. After all we need an income in order to stay alive, we need shelter (a home), and clothes. After those basics, of course, we enter into a debate as to what other things we need as distinct from things we would like to have. Our answers would vary considerably! Can I be prosperous without a PC? without a car? without a dishwasher? Then there are elements which are not possessions but that we need in order to flourish – notably healthcare and education.

Is That it then?

However, the question arises is this all that prosperity is? Perhaps prosperity has as much (or even more) to do with the mind as the wallet. It has something to do with contentment, with hope, with wholeness. Research has shown that beyond a certain level of financial prosperity ‘happiness’ actually decreases. Thus the question ‘what is prosperity?’ turns out to be in essence a spiritual question. As Jesus says-

“For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” (*Matthew 6.21*)

If our treasure is acquisitiveness, then our way of looking at things (our ‘heart’) will be trapped in that mode, whereas if our treasure is to do the will of God our way of looking at things will echo God’s compassion and generosity. As Oscar Romero put it “we are called not just to have more but to be more”.

From ‘Me’ to ‘Us’

This takes us a step further. We are so used to thinking of prosperity in individual terms – how do I flourish? But true prosperity involves me with others. At a recent conference an organic farmer told us that the key question which lay behind all his work was “how can I prosper without it being at the expense of others?” Prosperity has to do with solidarity. It is found in the common good, and as the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales put it-

“The common good is about how to live well together. It is the whole network of social conditions which enable human individuals and groups to flourish and live a full, genuinely human life”. (*Choosing the Common Good, 2010*)

True prosperity then depends upon a particular model which is global, and global in the fullest sense for it involves a flourishing planet, a whole ecosystem. It involves a church which lives out God’s option for the poor: it involves urgent worldwide action in the field of climate change; it involves working for policies which control the current race to exhaust the natural resources of our planet.

Let’s Do It Together

Such major issues at first sight seem to be beyond the scope of the most well-meaning individuals, and so even when people are persuaded of the need for change they give up before they have started. But that is to forget the power of accumulated action, of doing it together. All efforts I make, for example, to ‘Live Simply’ put together with other’s efforts have an effect ultimately on a global scale; they are for the Common Good at its widest – all created life on which God looked in the beginning “and behold it was very good” (Genesis 1.31). That is where true prosperity is found.



THE CAFOD MILE

Friday July 8—Sunday July 10

As part of a new fund-raising initiative, CAFOD Shrewsbury together with volunteers have a number of events around the diocese to highlight and raise money for, CAFOD’s support for water projects around the world encouraging folk to walk in solidarity for just one mile with those who have to walk several miles every day in order to find water for their families.

Events around the diocese:

Fri 8: Sale, Sat 9: Nantwich Circular, Sun 10 Chester
Contact Shrewsbury CAFOD Office, 01244 677594

NANTWICH CIRCULAR

Shrewsbury J&P Walk

A five mile circular walk including a CAFOD Mile
Saturday 9 July, 10.30 am

Start from the car park behind the Black Lion, Welsh Row,
Nantwich CW5 5ED
Lunch at The Star, Acton

Contact: Joan Sharples

FRUITS OF SWANWICK 2010

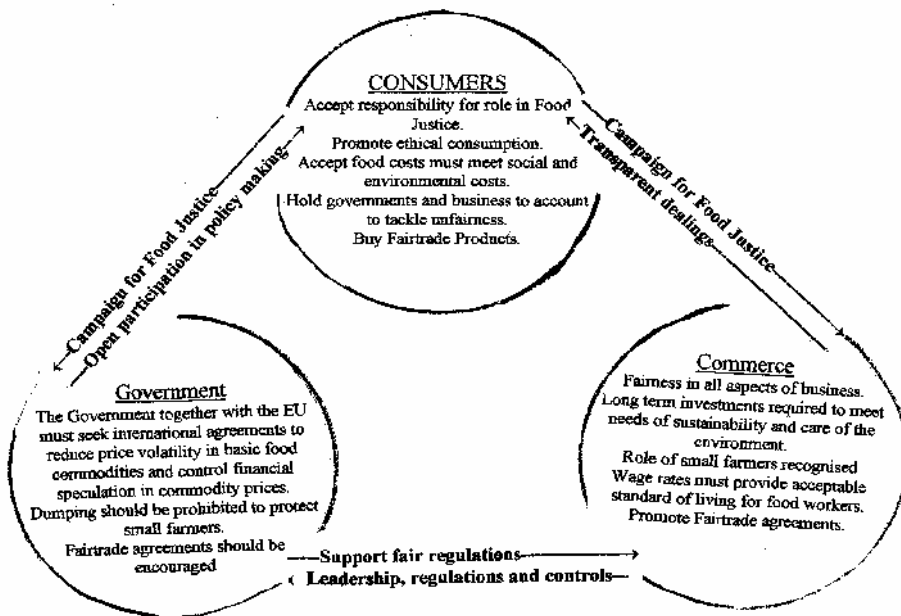
Inspired by last year's J & P conference on the theme 'Our Daily Bread, Food Security, People and Planet', Alsager Churches Together Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation group focused this year on **Food Justice** in the light of the fact that today a billion people go hungry, the world population is increasing significantly and under nourished children suffer great setbacks. In the UK many families find food costs too high and are unable to afford a healthy diet. Using The Food & Fairness Inquiry of the Food Ethics Council the group examined A Food System Fair to All. (report www.foodethics.org)

The group's findings: Reforming the food system is a complex problem.

- * Need for a balance between industrial agriculture and small farmers who are unable to compete and have restricted resources and little access to markets.
- * Prohibit 'dumping' excess production by the West on poor countries.
- * Mechanisms required to control wide fluctuations in commodity prices.
- * Gambling on future commodity prices causes shortages and high prices.
- * Pressure for cheaper food can result in lower wages for food workers, thus workers need an agreed minimum wage which provides for a healthy diet.

Financing the food market must work differently in the future.

- * Investment in the food industry needs to be seen as a long-term project to meet environmental and sustainability aspects. Involvement of private equity funds seeking quick profits is unhelpful.
- * Fair Trade is a welcomed model of investment.
- * Trading partnership development based on transparency and respect in dealings between food producers and their buyers. Profits must be on both sides.
- * A dialogue required between commerce, i.e.. food growers and food product sellers, with the government and the consumers.



* Governments worldwide have a major role and need to take control of markets and give leadership.

Our Government should take a lead in international efforts to:

- 1) reduce food price volatility
- 2) strengthen financial regulations to control speculation in food commodity prices.

* Commerce in food must be conducted in fairness to the needs of the environment and the planet's sustainability.

* Customers should make purchases with some responsibility in the manner trade is conducted. This could mean paying more for food in the future to meet costs for a Sustainable Environment.

WATER FOR LIFE

Tuesday June 27 - Saturday July 10 (Closed Sunday July 3) 10 am—3 pm
Ludlow Methodist Church Broad Street.



Ludlow Festival free exhibition organised by Churches Together around Ludlow including:
 Water around Ludlow - information, museum artefacts, old & new photos etc.
 Wider issues about water—world wide necessity, a limited resource, a source of power, danger, conflict
 Today's priorities responsible conservation and use of water. Commitment to helping all people have access to safe water
 What local Christians are doing. Support for various international aid agencies.

LOOK EAST WILD EARTH

LEWE is a UK-based registered not-for-profit charitable company which forges links between environmental initiatives in the UK and in Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Its activities include

- Support for environmental organisations in Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- International volunteering, youth exchanges, study visits and seminars
- Talks, events, campaigns and information promoting issues of global sustainable development

Look East Wild Earth is run by voluntary co-ordinators who facilitate projects and campaigns, and make decisions in a cooperative manner. The decision-making body is a board of Trustees who meet 3-4 times per year. Full members are entitled to vote at AGMs and are invited to contribute

History

'Look East' was born in the summer of 2004 on a hiking trip on Olkhon island on Lake Baikal in eastern Siberia. Steph was completing a volunteering placement with an environmental organization and Katy was visiting her and some old friends from her time there as a volunteer four years previously. Feeling overwhelmed by the beauty of the place as well as the amazing work of the organization, Baikal Environmental Wave, we decided to try to set up a UK-based organization that might be of some use in supporting the work of struggling Russian, Siberian and East European NGOs and help to promote cooperation and understanding between UK folk and those to our immediate east. Look East was formed as an unincorporated voluntary association, until 2007 when we established ourselves as 'Look East Wild Earth', a charity and company limited by guarantee.

More information including the Spring newsletter focusing on indigenous people can be found www.lookeast.org.uk



National J & P Conference

15th to 17th July 2011

The Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire

"Justice at Work"

A place of safety, fulfilment and growth?



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

It will do this from a Christian perspective.

Full programme of speakers and programmes for children and young people.

Booking Form available from www.justice-and-peace.org.uk or from Joan.

DON'T SACRIFICE ELEPHANTS FOR TITANIUM

More than 100 endangered Asian elephants -- the largest population in Cambodia -- depend on the elephant corridor in the Cardamom Mountain rainforest. But the elephants could lose this critical habitat if Cambodia approves a permit for a new titanium mine.

It's not just elephants: The Cardamoms are home to sun bears, Siamese crocodiles and more than half of Cambodia's bird population.. Moreover, the Cardamom Mountains are one of the last intact rainforests in Southeast Asia. It is a model for conservation and have a burgeoning eco-tourism industry that helps locals make a living without destroying the land. For protest mail please, go to: www.rainforest-rescue.org

A few years of mineral extraction isn't worth the permanent damage to the rainforest and the people and wildlife who live there.

SOME GOOD NEWS!

On April 27th 2011, the Congress of Costa Rica passed a law prohibiting Uranium Weapons in its territories. Costa Rica is the second country in the world to pass such a law, Belgium being the first. This law will prohibit the use, commerce, transit, production, distribution and storage of uranium weapons in Costa Rican territories.



This coincides with the anniversary of the First Latin American Conference on Uranium Weapons organized by the San Jose Quaker Peace Center (CAP), the International Depleted Uranium Study Team (IDUST) and the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons (ICBUW). Efforts to obtain a ban began in Costa Rica at the beginning of 2009.

www.bandedpleteduranium.org/en/a/407.html

HELP BREAK THE SILENCE

The Burma Campaign appeals for our help:

Out of sight in the ethnic states of Burma where journalists and diplomats are banned from visiting, the dictatorship has stepped up attacks against ethnic minorities. On March 13th this year the military government broke a 22 year long ceasefire agreement with the Shan State Army – North. Sixty five clashes were reported in the first three weeks of the breaking of the ceasefire. Civilians are being targeted in the military offensive, with mortar bombs fired at civilian villages. Abuses committed by the Burmese Army include arbitrary execution, arbitrary detention, torture, looting, rape, forced relocation and forced labour. These abuses are violations of international law.

More than 3,000 people have been forced to flee their homes. Many are hiding in the jungle. Local community organisations are calling on the international community to condemn the attacks, and take action to persuade the dictatorship to implement an immediate nationwide ceasefire. They are also calling for humanitarian assistance, including cross-border aid, which, because of aid restrictions by the dictatorship, is the only way aid can be delivered in some areas. In March we received reports from local organisations in Shan State, Eastern Burma, telling us how the Burmese Army has been gang-raping women, torturing villagers, executing them, and firing mortar bombs into their villages. Many are taken as slaves to carry supplies for the Burmese Army.



With its fake election and release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the dictatorship is trying to fool the world into believing it has changed. But its actions speak louder than words.

The new attacks started when the dictatorship broke a ceasefire agreement with an armed ethnic political party, the Shan State Army - North. They had refused to join the Burmese Army, and so they were attacked. And as usual, the Burmese Army targeted civilians, raping, looting and killing.

What is happening in Burma is similar to what has happened in Libya and Syria - a brutal regime targeting civilians. But the response could not be more different. On Libya there is international action, on Syria there is international condemnation, but on Shan State, Burma, there is silence.

Help us break the silence, action is needed now!

Please write to the Foreign Secretary, William Hague MP, calling on the British government to make a public statement condemning the dictatorship for breaking ceasefire agreements, and the serious human rights abuses it is committing in Shan State, and calling for a nationwide ceasefire in Burma. The British government should be encouraged also to increase humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflict, including cross-border aid to areas where aid agencies and others do not have access. Send your letter to:

Foreign Secretary, William Hague MP, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH



INFORM REFORM TRANSFORM

Zambia's people are **rich in copper**. Annual exports amount to hundreds of thousands of tonnes. Last year, the price of copper on the world market rocketed. Yet with **one doctor per 10,000 people** and life expectancy a mere **47 years**, Zambia is still trapped in a cycle of aid.

As with so many poor countries rich in natural resources, **Zambia's people do not benefit from the wealth beneath their feet**. They are unaware of how much foreign mining corporations pay for their copper, in the form of taxes and royalties. Without this information, they cannot call for a fair share of the profits to be spent on **schools, hospitals, and basic services** like electricity.

Please email Rt Hon George Osborne MP now to call for an end to this injustice.

Details on www.cafod.org/about-us/where-we-work/Zambia

We want to **inform** people about the payments that extractive companies make in exchange for natural resources, for each country where they operate.

We want to **reform** the law so that UK companies have to open up their books about their business overseas, to ensure they pay their fair share. This change would help not only the people of Zambia, but citizens of fifty other countries rich in natural resources.

We want to **transform** the lives of people in poverty, so they are able to start benefiting from their birthright.



DIARY DATES

JUNE

5 World Environment Day www.unep.org/wed

3-12 Nonviolence Works and Pax Christi Exhibition, Our Lady and St Oswalds Catholic Church Oswestry between 11am and 4 pm (Mass times excepted). Jointly coordinated by: Pax Christi and the Oswestry Coalition for Peace group.
Contact: Dave Thomas on 01691-661417.

6-17 Women to Women for Peace exhibition in Chester (see page 4)

7 Jane Beesley, from Oxfam's Humanitarian team, talking first-hand about her experiences in Pakistan. 6.30- 8.15 pm in the Oxfam Shop, 44 High Street, Shrewsbury. Contact Anna Hall on 07917 323 538 ahall@oxfam.org.uk.

9 "Teatime for Change" Westminster Lobby for international development. Central Hall, Westminster 11am - 4pm Register online www.cafod.org.uk/teatimeforchange 020 7 095 5416

14 South Shropshire Interfaith Forum "Women of Faith - partners with men, or?" The challenges facing women (and men) in Christianity, Islam and Judaism. 7.30pm Community Centre (Newington Way, Craven Arms).

17 Concert for Malawi, with Liverpool Gospel Choir. 7.30pm in Christchurch, Port Sunlight.. Tickets £6, family £12, proceeds in aid of Women's Centre, Blantyre, Malawi. Organised by Mersey URC Synod. Further info 01244 381490

18-26 Campaign Against Arms Trade STOP Week CAAT 020 7281 0297 www.caat.org.uk

20 -26 Refugee Week www.refugeeweek.org.uk

25 Soccer Tournament, Ellesmere Port 9 am - 5 p, Teams of five plus three subs to be registered by end of May. Contact Siobhan Harkin on 0151 355 4008 or email healthyinclusion@yahoo.co.uk

25 Heald Green Festival Heald Green's ecumenical J&P group will have a stall centred on the Christian Aid campaign 'Poverty Over'. From 1.30pm.

30 Deadline for sending in 'Down to Business' CAFOD action cards.

21 June - 3 July Women to Women for Peace exhibition in Liverpool (see page 4)

27-July 10 (not Sun 3) Water for Life exhibition Ludlow (p. 9)

JULY

9 "Church and the Big Society: how to make the most of the opportunities" Breakfast Keynote speaker Steve Clifford, General Director of Evangelical Alliance and Chairman of Hope Together. Also Interview Forum. 8.30am for 9.00am, Sovereign

Suite, Shrewsbury Town Football Club. Tickets £10.50; book by Mon 27 Jun for booking form call Stephen Derges 0972 9835796.

8 - 10 The CAFOD Mile See page 8

9 Shrewsbury Annual J & P walk 10.30 am see Page 8

10 Sea Sunday www.apostleshishopofthesea.org.uk

11 Chester World Development Forum Meeting. 6.45 for 7pm, Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham St. Chester. Speaker Shaun Williams on the work of the group **Third World Hope**

15-17 National J&P Conference 'Justice at Work—a place of safety, fulfilment and growth?' Hayes Centre Swanwick (P.10)

25 Day for Life www.dayforlife.org

25-29 Living Theology Loyola Metro's week of practical theology. Main speaker: **Guy Consolmagno, keeper of asteroids at the Vatican observatory.** One topic to be considered 'Would you baptise an alien?' at Liverpool Hope University, Everton Campus, L3 8DR For more information: 0151 298 1911 Email: d.reynolds@sfxchurchliverpool.com

AUGUST

6 & 9 Anniversaries of first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima & Nagasaki. Pax Christi 020 8203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

11 Racial Justice Sunday CARJ 020 8802 8080 carj.co.uk

12 CWDF Forum Meeting. 6.45 for 7pm, Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham St. Chester. Speaker Ros Raizada on the work of **Windows for Peace, "helping towards dialogue and understanding in the Middle East"**

17-18 'COME & SEE' 2011 Keynote Speaker: **Sr Helen Prejean [whose story was told in the film Dead Man Walking]** 9.30 am - 6.00 pm each day at Christ the King High School, Southport PR8 4EX. Conference fee £40. Please bring a packed lunch [Tea & Coffee available] Booking forms from www.irenaeus.co.uk Email: jenny@iraneus.co.uk 0151 949 1199.

21 Peace One Day 020 7456 9180 www.peaceday.org

ADVANCE NOTICE: OCTOBER

7 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day cafod.org.uk

18 Follow up of 'Enough' Day

23-30 One World Week & Week of Prayer for World Peace

24 United Nations Day www.unmeditation.org/

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Copy date for next issue

1/8/2011 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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