



Justice and Peace

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CHINA TODAY

The world's largest population -
1.3 billion people divided into 56 different ethnic groups.

"In 5,000 years of history the people have nourished wealth like modern Europe and poverty as severe as that of the Sarah desert."

Xinan

"Beyond the glitz, quest for wealth and all the negative images with which the western media portrays Chinese society, there is also a profound and sincere core of deep search for truth in a way that I have never experienced in any country I have worked in"

Fr Eamonn O'Brien, the Columban Director of China Cultural Exchange (CEC)

'China is not an emerging but a returning power'

Many people at the NJPN conference at Swanwick this year confessed they knew very little about China. The conference urged us to open our eyes and ears to 'the kaleidoscope of perspectives' 'the rainbow of colours' of China, the country and its people and to encourage others to do the same.

Yet the last article in Mouthpeace on China was in 2008, the year of the Beijing Olympics. It is time to try to redress the balance.

From the Editor

正義 和平

Justice

Peace

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Archdiocese of Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission

Diocese of Shrewsbury Commission for the Promotion of Justice, Peace & Social Responsibility



JUSTICE AND PEACE IN LIVERPOOL
The Diocese of Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission Review of the year.

Steve Atherton writes:

1. Development Day for the Commission, held at St Michael's, Liverpool, to agree and plan the programme and priorities for the year. This meeting also set up two subgroups: NOMAD and Parish Power.
2. Contacts Day at St Teresa's, Upholland, for local groups to meet with the emphasis on sharing their own stories, strengths, and concerns. This low key event had repercussions that lasted all year.
3. Progressio Lecture in the North at St Michael's, when Emma Atherton spoke of her experiences as a ICN Empower volunteer in El Salvador and Christine Allen described the rationale of Progressio's work. This was a wonderful mix of innocence and experience as both speakers wound together story and analysis of the situations behind the narrative of struggle against unjust situations.
4. The Arms Trade Vigil outside St Luke's, the bombed-out church in Bold St, in conjunction with Liverpool Pax Christi, on the same day as the big vigil at the Arms Fair in London.
5. The Greetings Card Campaign (GCC) was launched at 4 venues on the same day so that J&P groups could be ready to promote the writing of cards during Advent. Two lists of addresses were prepared: churches in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (which includes both Israel and Palestine) and named individuals from ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture). Materials were also sent out to all parishes and shared with Shrewsbury and even further afield. Over 2,000 cards were sent to the Holy Land and we heard that they were greatly appreciated as signs that people have not been forgotten.
6. The Memorial Lecture on Peace Sunday in January, given by David McLaughlin and titled 'Jesus and the reign of God', opened up parables of 'the alternative kingdom' in a way that made them relevant to our modern political situation.
7. In February we worked with Nugent Care and MARCAP to host 'Breaking Barriers' as part of the Poverty and Homelessness Action Week at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool. Local MPs and the archbishop were present.
8. The Ash Wednesday Act of Penitence, also at St Luke's and in conjunction with Liverpool Pax Christi, on a squally afternoon level with the top deck of passing buses made us wonder whether it's enough for witness to be faithful or whether it also needs to be effective.
9. The Romero Mass was celebrated at St Anne's, Ormskirk, continuing the pattern of introducing new people to the life and witness of Oscar Romero at a family Mass in an ordinary parish. We used Emma's experience of El Salvador again and a young voice helped the local J&P group to make great use of the occasion.
10. The J&P Retreat, held at Loyola Hall, was led by Diarmuid O'Murchu MSC who continued our exploration of the theme of the kingdom of God. We always struggle to keep a balance between input and reflection during our retreat and this year perhaps we overloaded input. However, when the Commission reviewed the year, this was many people's highlight.
11. The Annual Assembly at LACE was held in conjunction with the Vincentians In Partnership (VIPs) and, unlike the Contacts Day, had a full programme of speakers and workshops. Our main speaker was Martin Newell CP whose account of his everyday life at the London Catholic Worker house was profoundly moving because of his guileless assumption that such a living-out of kingdom values is everybody's everyday experience. As with other aspects of our year, this event was improved by the decision to work in partnership.
12. Presence at the Northern Catholic Conference (NCC). This is an event to which we need to give more attention so that we can witness to our view of Catholicism to others who don't share our perspective. Ours is a broad church and the least we can do is to talk to our brethren.
13. The ACAT overnight vigil at St Teresa's, Upholland. Perhaps we were too ambitious with this. Next year we'll be better prepared.

The events give us a good structure but a problem remains over how to reach the parishes, which we need to do because our Constitution says: *The Commission exists to*

- *stimulate awareness of the need for justice and peace both at home and overseas,*
- *assist in the work of reflection on those needs in the light of the Gospel and the Church's social teaching,*
- *foster and encourage action for international and local justice and peace in the parishes of the Archdiocese.*



COMMUNITY CREED

Written by pupils in Harrytown Catholic High School on One Community Day - 13th July 2012

We believe in one God and in this God we trust.

We believe that charity is about giving and not receiving and being willing to put others before ourselves.

We believe that we have to respect God and his creation so that when He welcomes us into Heaven we will leave a better world behind us.

We believe that simplicity is important because when we keep our needs simple there will be enough left for everyone else and no one need go hungry.

We believe that inspiration is when people give courage to others to achieve their dreams and to succeed in all that they do.

We believe that to serve God is right and just. If we follow the example of Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served, we will find the courage to do what is right.

We believe that if we offer friendship to those around us the world will become the place that we have dreamed of.

We believe that if we work with each other we can make a better community which unites us all. Lord, we ask for the wisdom to understand that even if we do not like another person we still do not have the right to be unkind to them.

We believe that we have a right to respect for our choices and need the humility to respect the choices of others.

We believe it is important to be modest about our achievements and grateful for the talents God has given us, and to use them to the full.

We believe that to show courage is necessary because it will inspire those who come after us.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Editor: Thanks to Damian Cunningham Headteacher for giving permission to print this.

The Year of Faith 11th October 2012 – 24th November 2013 (Feast of Christ the King) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of **Vatican II** and the 20th anniversary of the publication of the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**.

Justice and Peace in Liverpool *continued.....*

This year we tried new NOMAD meetings (New Open Meeting Across the Diocese) as well as regular Commission meetings. NOMAD meetings were held in four different Pastoral Areas, supplemented by holding some of the programme of events in the same PAs.

The areas were:

1. Liverpool: the Progressio lecture, the work with Pax Christi, GCC launch, and the work of the Parish Power sub-group.
2. Ormskirk: GCC launch, Romero Mass, 2 well attended NOMAD meetings.
3. Skelmersdale: Contacts Day, GCC launch, an Apple Grafting day, 5 Saturday CST Study meetings, 1 NOMAD meeting at which we met the chair of the West Lancs Women's Refuge and director of Skelmersdale Recycling. This was an important moment because it demonstrated that the work of J&P involves engagement with the world.
4. Leigh: GCC launch, 3 NOMAD meetings. This series of meetings was arranged after extensive consultation and preparation with the clergy to make sure that they addressed the real concerns of local people rather than imposing yet another round of meetings.

The other sub-group for the year was Parish Power which attempted to address the problems of fuel poverty in Kensington Fairfield, Liverpool, by setting up a series of community information sessions on understanding utility bills, comparing tariffs, and offering advice on getting most benefit from money spent on energy. This initiative grew out of a discussion on the implications of CST and was made possible by a grant from CUF (Church Urban Fund) who were interested in our claim that churches could be a gateway into otherwise unreachable communities. This project used expertise from EPP (Energy Projects Plus) and was later extended from Heat to Eat to include some work in the same parish on growing food and providing publically accessible garden spaces. This work was done in partnership with the NHS and F4C (Faiths For Change).

Our busy year also included involvement with MouthPeace and oversight of the Integrating Life and Faith programme.



'THE WAY FORWARD'

Shrewsbury Diocese JPSR Commission Open Meeting

Saturday October 6th at All Saint's, Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, 10.30am - 4pm Buffet lunch provided.

Due to our changed circumstances, with no worker to cover the bulk of J & P activity in the diocese, the Commission now finds itself on a different path. To help decide our future we invite groups to send a couple of representatives to an Open Meeting to consider What should our priorities be now? How best can we support one another?

We are pleased that Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi will join us to help us discern our way forward.

Before the Open Meeting it would be helpful if groups could look at the following points when they next meet and discuss ideas for the way forward:

What are the main areas of interest in your group? How do you raise awareness and involve parishioners?

How can the links between parish groups and the Commission be most effective? What goals should we set?

Please let Anne know if you plan to attend and provide a contact email or number to: anneoc980@hotmail.com

SWANWICK 2012

Stephen Cooke writes:

"A NEW WORLD ORDER? – CHINA TODAY AND OUR RESPONSE" was the theme for the annual Justice and Peace Conference, chaired by Fr Eamonn O'Brien, the Columban Director of Cultural Exchange with China (CEC). Approximately 300 people from all ages and backgrounds attended and enjoyed a range of speakers, workshops and various activities, including a barn dance, calligraphy and Tai Chi.

溝通

Building Bridges

The first speaker was a priest who gave an outline of the history of the church in China. He asked not to be named in any written reports – judge why for yourself. One of the many examples he gave was of his uncle, also a Catholic priest who was imprisoned and brutally tortured in the 1960's, having an ear torn off and losing a leg. After he died in prison, his family smuggled the body back to his home village and discovered that his tongue had been cut out when he refused to answer questions.

The next speaker was Li Bingqin, lecturer in social policy at the London School of Economics. She described the social and political scene in China and gave examples of how the One Child Policy and an aging population were affecting China. She described how China's pension system has two strands, the first strand is an employment based pension scheme, which is then supplemented by a minimum income guarantee. Before the next speaker, there was the opportunity to attend two workshops from a selection of fifteen, which included Chinese military spending, Education in China, Human Rights in China and Housing Challenges in Chinese Cities.

Xinran, a former radio journalist in China and author, spoke about the role of women in China. A quote that stuck in my mind is "the longest worldwide war in human history - fight for women and baby girls" Cardinal Keith O'Brien presided at Mass. His homily was full of anecdotes from his visit to China and strongly endorsed a conversation with a Chinese Catholic Bishop who said "There is only one Church in China" Saturday evening saw the opportunity to watch the film 'When China met Africa' which examines the role that Chinese investment in Zambia has played through three characters, both Chinese and Zambian, and raises the question is Chinese investment in Zambia a good thing?

Sunday morning saw Martin Palmer from the Alliance of Religion and Conservation (ARC) speak about 'Chinese Spiritualities and the Environment' and the role that his organisation plays in bringing religion and the environment together throughout the world.

The weekend as a whole was incredibly informative and highlighted to me how little I really knew about China.

Stephen is a student at Edge Hill University in Ormskirk and a member of Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission

Suggestions to find out more about China: see pages 5, 6 & 8

Websites: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk carries reports on the conference. www.indcatholicnews.com has several reports in the justice and peace section. See also:

www.taichiunion.com www.cecuk.org www.arcworld.org

Joan Sharples writes:

I was moved by the kind words that appeared in the last edition of *MouthPeace* after I had been made redundant as J&P Coordinator for the Diocese of Shrewsbury, but I was also very aware that, in reality, so much of the credit belonged to others: members of the Commission - particularly its Chairmen: Charlie Burchell, George Pollard and Tony Walsh - and above all two of my predecessors in the job. So when the editor invited me to write a few words to mark the resignation of Ann Gill, whose involvement with the Commission dates back for over twenty years, I was delighted to pay tribute to Ann and to Mike Simpson.

Ann joined Pax Christi in the early eighties and was soon involved with both her parish J&P group and an ecumenical peace group with whom she travelled to Greenham Common. In 1991 she succeeded the late Marcella Johnson (who held the position from October 1989 – April 1990) and was appointed to share the J&P Fieldworker post with Mike Simpson who had been doing the job since 1989. Together Ann and Mike made a formidable team.

When Mike had taken early retirement from teaching English in the mid-eighties, his parish priest invited him to become secretary of his parish J&P Group. Mike agreed provided the group could focus on Latin America – an area of the world which particularly interested him. Not one to do things by halves, Mike’s commitment to working for justice and peace soon stretched far beyond his Nantwich parish and the diocese. In the pre-internet days of the 1990s he photocopied letters from priests working in Latin America and assisted by his wife, Margaret, mailed them and other articles to a large mailing list of contacts: Christians from different traditions, contacts in development organisations and in trade unions. On a couple of occasions, Mike was able to mobilise this network to block the phone lines of the Salvadorean Embassy and the Foreign Office on behalf of Salvadoreans in danger of being ‘disappeared’ much to the bemusement of the staff who found it difficult to comprehend this interest in the welfare of obscure campesinos. It is a tribute to his character that the great number of friends Mike made, in those days, were happy to speak

or to run workshops at the series of popular J&P Conferences held in Crewe every two years to 2005. The Conferences were a source of inspiration for many people from ‘all Churches and none’ involved in justice and peace work. And whilst Mike kept Shrewsbury J&P’s national profile high, Ann nurtured parishes and schools in the diocese.

Ann brought the Commission into the computer age. She set up a computer database, ensured the good order of the Commission’s finances, assembled displays on J&P and produced the monthly *Quick News Network* mailing to a high standard. Ann delivered a social justice module for the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies and took pleasure in delivering sessions on Catholic Social teaching, which she admitted to being her preferred bed-time reading! She established good relationships and closer cooperation with Diocesan Commissions and Agencies. Ann maintained her close association with Pax Christi and also worked closely with CAFOD on its campaigns – once walking barefoot to Mass to raise awareness of CAFOD’s land mine campaign. Ann enjoyed being part of the diocesan group which challenged parishes to ‘make a covenant with the poor’ at the time of the Millennium, even if she found working on the ecumenical event held at Tatton somewhat testing. When she spoke on J&P in parishes in the diocese, her great gift of empathy enabled her to quickly establish an easy rapport with people whatever their social or cultural context. She continues to use this gift in her ministry as an RCIA catechist in her parish. Ann collected together comprehensive collections of school resources for both primary and secondary schools, which she toured around the diocesan schools. She loved going into schools. She would wear a large ‘I’m a drip’ poster round her neck, telling the pupils that ‘many drips come together to make a flood: what you can’t do alone, you can do together’. Ann and Mike both served on the Commission after retiring from the position of Fieldworker. During the past twelve years, the Commission continued to value Ann’s wisdom and common sense as it made decisions for the future. We have much to thank them for.

Books on China
 ‘The elements of Taoism’ ‘The Jesus Sutras: Rediscovering the Lost Scrolls of Taoist Christianity’
 both by Martin Palmer
 ‘The Dragon’s Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa’ Deborah Brautigam
 Several books by Xinran: ‘The Good Women of China : Hidden Voices’
 ‘Message from an Unknown Chinese Mother: Stories of Loss and Love’
 ‘Human Rights, Religious Freedom & The Catholic Church in the People’s Republic of China’ CEC China Series No.3
 ‘The End of the Chinese Dream’ by Gerard Lemos

CHINA AND ECOLOGY

Bernice and Bryan Halson write:

The final presentation at this year's NJPN conference was given by Martin Palmer. Martin is Director of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and has spent much time in China. Participants at the Conference were hugely impressed by his input.

和平
Peace

ARC brokers between the faiths and environmental groups. Martin emphasised what he called "the powerful and lasting" presence of the faiths – they own 8% of the planet, own or have an input in over 50% of schools, and one third of the world's investments. Above all they are widely trusted at a time when governments have lost people's trust.

In China ARC began work with the Daoists. Martin quoted a Daoist saying that "true wealth" is found only when animals, birds, trees, humans flourish. A key in the ARC/Daoist project was the protection of sacred mountains.

In 2006 Martin was called to a meeting with officials of the Chinese Ministry of Religion. They asked for his help because they said what it means to be Chinese has been destroyed – the one-child policy had produced a totally selfish generation, and the Cultural Revolution and rampant consumerism had destroyed tradition. The officials were completely nonplussed as to how it had happened but were desperate for a restoration of "a culture of respect" and thought the faiths were a means to achieve this. There is in China a deep desire to understand the past, and it is the faiths which hold memories of the past – memories which say "it could be something different".

There is today a crucial opportunity for the faiths in China to proclaim 'you don't need a lot' by living this out. Martin gave details of a number of ecological projects that faiths were engaged in – a Daoist ecological training centre, Buddhist programmes based on ancient texts (Sutras carry encoded memories of previous ecological collapses), a Catholic tree planting programme based on Xian cathedral. However, although very good on social issues, the churches both Catholic and Protestant were still weak on ecological issues and have much to learn from the other faiths.

Martin said "We are at a moment of glory, a huge opportunity. Our faith needs the other faiths to think more deeply, including being more rooted in Nature". He ended with a heart-felt plea that we should be "guardians of creation".

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR

Edna St Vincent Millay, considered by many to be one of America's finest poets, was dedicated to the pacifist movement. One of her best-known poems *Conscientious Objector* written in 1931, but still as relevant today, opens with the defiant line 'I shall die, but that is all that I shall do for Death.'

In an award-winning short film by Director Colin Stevens the poem is brought to life through the voices of many actors: old, young; male, female; black, white; who take turns to speak her lines. But this powerful adaptation is far more than mere recitation: the speakers live the lines of the poem. Accompanied by a poignant original soundtrack by composer Thomas Gray and against a series of related images the film is a must for anyone dedicated to peace. To be found on the Pax Christi Youth Resources page at <http://theatricx.co.uk/#/conscientious-objector/4544061234> this 9 minute clip is equally useful for groups or individuals of any age.

Look too at a website and blog by 2 US Iraq War veterans who have taken the words of the poem to their hearts and are now channelling their personal experiences of war and violence into ways of promoting peace:

<http://contagiousloveexperiment.wordpress.com/2009/07/05/day-37-conscientious-objection-i-shall-die-but-that-is-all-i-shall-do-for-death/>

*I shall die, but that is all that I shall do for Death.
I hear him leading his horse out of the stall;
I hear the clatter on the barn-floor.
He is in haste; he has business in Cuba,
business in the Balkans, many calls to make this morning.
But I will not hold the bridle while he clinches the girth.
And he may mount by himself:
I will not give him a leg up.
Though he flick my shoulders with his whip,
I will not tell him which way the fox ran.
With his hoof on my breast, I will not tell him where
the black boy hides in the swamp.*

*I shall die, but that is all that I shall do for Death;
I am not on his pay-roll.
I will not tell him the whereabouts of my friends
nor of my enemies either.
Though he promise me much,
I will not map him the route to any man's door.
Am I a spy in the land of the living,
that I should deliver men to Death?
Brother, the password and the plans of our city
are safe with me; never through me
Shall you be overcome.*

USELESS, OR UNDERVALUED AND STIGMATISED?

Bernadette Meaden writes:

On Radio 4's 'The Life Scientific' recently, geneticist Steve Jones explained how truly unique every person is: 'Not only are we different from everybody else, we're different from everybody who has lived, and ever will live.' This appreciation of the uniqueness of every human being is in marked contrast to the way people are spoken about by politicians and economists.

The term, 'economically inactive' for instance, is used to refer to people who are neither employed nor actively seeking employment. They may be raising children, studying, caring for a sick relative, or just generally making the world a better place in their own unique way, but if they're not a cog in the economic machine, they count for very little in the minds of many politicians and economists. Even more disparagingly, young people not engaged in employment, education or training have been dubbed 'Neets', always referred to in a negative way which serves to stigmatise them.

This dismissal of whole sections of society as comparatively worthless seems bad enough, but in a recent radio discussion about global population growth, the term 'useless eaters' was used. This chilling phrase is used by some people to refer to anybody who consumes resources without producing any. The Nazis referred to disabled people in this way – in German 'Nutlos Esser'

This utilitarian or reductionist way of looking at individuals, who all have their own unique gifts and qualities, is very disturbing. If we value people only for the economic contribution they can make we are on a very slippery slope. Taken to its logical conclusion, why should we bother to care for anybody if they are, in economic terms,

simply a drain on resources? There is no place for love in this philosophy.

Apparently, some economists are in favour of euthanasia as an answer to this perceived problem of 'useless eaters' In some quarters it seems that almost anything can be justified by reference to our allegedly dire economic situation, and the assertion that there just aren't enough resources to go round. However, a recent report from the Tax Justice Network www.taxjustice.net/cms/front_content.php?idcatart=2&lang=1 showed that there is £13 trillion stashed away in tax havens, which rather makes a mockery of the need for austerity. There is plenty of money in the world, it's just not distributed correctly.

What we need is not austerity, which is punishing the poor for the mistakes of the rich, but a system in which resources are distributed more fairly, which is perfectly possible given the political will. As Ghandi said, 'There is a sufficiency in the world for [humanity's] need but not for [humanity's] greed.'

The French government has taken a small step in the right direction, with the introduction of a 0.2 per cent financial transaction tax. Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said it was "the first step toward fiscal reform and a move toward justice,"

David Cameron's response was to invite any French financiers who wanted to avoid the new tax to move to London.

Bernadette Meaden is a regular contributor to Ekklesia where this article appeared on August 11th 2012
www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/16914

ALL ABOARD FOR TAX JUSTICE!

Tax dodging is big business in the UK according to Church Action on Poverty (CAP) . Government figures show that £35 billion is lost every year to tax dodging. More than the amount the Government is cutting from public services. Christian Aid (CA) estimates corporate tax dodging costs developing nations at least \$160 billion annually, that's one and a half times the global aid budget. So CA and CAP are asking people to sign a postcard or online petition calling on David Cameron to use his global leadership to end financial secrecy so tax dodgers have nowhere to hide.

This autumn, CA and CAP are joining forces to take the Campaign for Tax Justice on the road. A bright red London bus will be touring the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland, to promote the simple message: it's time for Tax Justice for the poorest communities at home and globally:

www.church-poverty.org.uk/taxbus

Catch the bus in our area:

Day 32 West Midlands Monday 24 Sept: Stafford, Stoke, Shrewsbury
WEST MIDLANDS Contact: John Cooper, 0121 200 2283, jcooper@christian-aid.org

Days 50-53 North West Friday 12 Oct: Stockport, Knutsford, Crewe
Saturday 13 Oct: Bury, Rochdale, Bolton, Chester
Sunday 14 Oct: Preston, Lancaster, Blackpool
Monday 15 Oct: Liverpool, Warrington, Manchester

NORTH WEST Contact: David Hardman, 01925 582820, dhardman@christian-aid.org



CHINESE INVESTMENT IN ZAMBIA — A THREAT OR AN OPPORTUNITY?

團結

solidarity

Marian Thompson writes:

Geoffrey Chongo, a CAFOD partner, works at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection in Zambia. The Centre researches, reflects on and lobbies for social justice. Although always headed by a Jesuit, the others who work at the Centre are lay people, some not even Catholics. Geoffrey confessed he was probably the only speaker at the Swanwick Conference this year who had never been to China! Instead he spoke both to the full conference and in his workshop on the effects of China coming to Zambia.

Zambia is three times bigger in land area than UK but economically very small. Out of a population of 12 million people only 600,000 have regular jobs. Most others live uncertainly by subsistence farming, small time trading and day labour. Over 8 million live below the poverty line of \$1 a day. So it might appear to some that Chinese investment with a promise of another 10,000 jobs is like a prayer answered.

But this Chinese investment is the subject of intense debate in Zambia. It offers cheap capital which is needed for development and more jobs which will surely lead to an increase in the standard of living for some. In return China is obtaining from Zambia some of the natural resources that it needs for its home industry.

Geoffrey Chongo spoke of three main areas where the Chinese presence is very obviously felt:

i. Mining

Copper and coal are mined in large quantities but there are also cobalt and nickel mines. Chinese mining companies bring in their own large equipment for construction of roads and necessary infrastructure such as housing, clinics and hospitals near the mines. But it is often hastily built and of questionable quality. There is an increased presence of Chinese workers to take on the more responsible jobs leaving the Zambians to take the low paid casual jobs where there is scant regard for health and safety issues (not sufficient protective clothing for instance) and no written contracts or job security.

ii. Trading

Zambians trade on a small scale, with each other and tourists in local markets and small shops selling fresh and cooked food and handmade goods such as pottery. The Chinese who come to Zambia bring in Chinese products and compete with the Zambians.

iii. Agriculture

Most rural Zambians survive off small family run subsistence farms. The Chinese grab large stretches of this land for biofuels and cotton for export to China. In return they offer to build the farmers homes which prove to be of low quality. Also by excessive use chemicals Chinese produce good crops of maize and plump chickens. But distribution of these is poor, much is sold to neighbouring Zimbabwe and many rural Zambians go hungry. The land and environment are also suffering from intensive chemical use.

No-one knows the exact number of Chinese people now living and working in Zambia . A figure somewhere between 5,000 and 30,000 has been suggested. It can fluctuate according to circumstances for instance a textile factory was built to process the Zambian grown cotton. But then textiles suffered from cheap imports so the Chinese closed the factory and withdrew.

Asked how the Zambian government feels about the increasing Chinese presence, Geoffrey Chongo replied that in 2011 this was much debated election issue and candidates promised to deal firmly with the Chinese and even quoted from Catholic Social Teaching. But once in power as government members they welcome the Chinese and other foreign investors, give them good tax incentives to come and do little to translate economic growth that foreign investment brings into addressing poverty issues.

As Geoffrey Chongo concluded 'Chinese investment is not yet a win-win situation in Zambia'not yet a prayer answered.



QUIZ NIGHTS
in Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port, starting at 7.30pm
Fridays: September 14th, October 19th, November 16th

All money raised will go towards Cafod's fund raising projects to provide basic facilities in developing countries. As usual there will be a Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments. For further information contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419. The quizzes are run by the Ellesmere Port LPA J&P group



ANOTHER LOOK AT VATICAN II

We're fast approaching the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and, although I can remember it, I'm only just beginning to understand it. I keep hearing that it was a renewal of the life of the church that we still haven't properly grasped. The record of Council documents shows the momentous nature of what happened there. First there was a series of Constitutions:

1. **LUMEN GENTIUM: The Constitution on the Church**
2. **DEI VERBUM: Divine Revelation**
3. **SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM: Sacred Liturgy**
4. **GAUDIUM ET SPES: The Church in the Modern World**

These are still relevant and exciting in helping us to understand what is offered to us by the church and what our membership calls us to. These are some of the key points (a short and selective list):

1. **LUMEN GENTIUM: The Constitution on the Church**

- The church is the body of Christ
- We are all called to holiness through love

- The faithful are called to be the church in the world
- We are part of the communion of saints

2. **DEI VERBUM: Divine Revelation**

- The Bible is the source of revelation
- God wants us to know Godself fully and intimately

- Our response to revelation is faith
- God is still speaking to us

3. **SACROSANCTUM CONCILIUM: Sacred Liturgy**

- The church's mission is to all humankind
- Local languages can be used as well as Latin

- The Mass is the source and summit of our worship
- Baptism and Eucharist are the primary sacraments

4. **GAUDIUM ET SPES: The Church in the Modern World**

- The Church lives and acts in the world not in opposition to it
- The church should be concerned about people's joys, hopes, grief and fears.
- We hear God's voice echoing in us as our conscience.
- Supporting the common good is our urgent business as church

How has Vatican II affected us? The changes to the liturgy were the most immediate and obvious result of and were changed again recently. Liverpool Archdiocese has just begun a process of changing the order of the Sacraments to a way that accords with the Council's vision. Our engagement with the world outside of church continues to be a special part of our membership of the body of Christ.

The teaching from Vatican II is exciting and challenging because of its Implications. Looking at the four main points from **LUMEN GENTIUM** in a little more detail, leads to some questions:

What might it mean to claim: **"The church is the body of Christ"**? When we listen to the Gospels we hear about Christ going around doing good, showing people the way to his Father, teaching, healing the sick, and casting out devils, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom of God. St Paul used the image of the body when he called for "unity in the work of service" Eph 4:13. As members of the body of Christ, we are part of the church that is a way to the Father, offering a place of healing, of peace, and of teaching ... a taste of the Kingdom of God. Christ told the woman taken in adultery to "Go and sin no more" Jn 8:11 but his blessing was not conditional on her being guiltless. Throughout the Gospels he was accused of consorting with tax collectors and sinners. He was not exclusively concerned with sin. As the body of Christ shouldn't we be very careful about judging and rejecting people?

Surely **"to be the church in the world"** means to be busy outside of our church buildings, being the Body of Christ to the broken and damaged world. Maybe 'busy' is the wrong word. Maybe, 'preoccupied' or 'concerned' would be a better way to describe the Christian attitude of charity and compassion and concern for justice that we should show to the people we meet; in our families, our neighbourhoods and our places of work. We can get so involved in efforts to keep our churches open, in children's liturgy, in reading and other ministries around the liturgy that we have no energy left for being Christ to the rest of the world. How the world needs politicians, trade unionists, business people, teachers, journalists, nurses, doctors and workers of every sort to be inspired by Christian values. To be 'church in the world' is a much more challenging task than to be the 'church in the church'.

This challenge to be in right relationship with the world and the people in it is expressed by the Council as the call **"to holiness through love."** It's quite something to dare to say that we want to be holy and that the way to holiness is to love the world and its inhabitants.

If we are to work to be the body of Christ, active in the world and in loving relationships then we will not be alone but will have placed ourselves into **"the communion of saints"** who throughout the ages have followed Jesus. St Paul's 'running the race' 2 Tim 4:7 is a good image for our sport-obsessed times. We can develop it put the communion of saints into the stands where they are cheering on those of us who are still actively involved here on the pitch that is life.

And then there is Gaudium et Spes and the enormous implications of what it might mean to bring Joy and Hope to the world.

Do you recognise such a church? Are you an active member?

Steve Atherton



VSO in SIERRA LEONE

Gail Haddock who spent two years with VSO, first as Medical Officer, then acting Medical Superintendent at Serabu hospital in Sierra Leone will speak about her time working in the country. Gail has also written a book about her experiences. Written under the pseudonym Emily Joy, it is called "Green Oranges on Lion Mountain."

SEPTEMBER 22nd from 3 to 5 pm

IN SHREWSBURY URC HALL COLEHAM HEAD SHREWSBURY SY3 7BJ

The invitation to Gail to come and speak is part of the church's 150th anniversary celebrations. They hope to raise £5000 to supply running water and electricity to two hospitals in Sierra Leone. This is a Christian Aid Partnership Scheme, and for every £1 the church raises, a further £3 is added from the European Commission. Our £5000 thus becomes £20,000 with matched funding. The event will be very informal and tea and cake will be provided.

If you are going please tell Howard Hutchings 01743 357975. hhutchings@talktalk.net so they can cater for the numbers expected. There is plenty of parking.

Also

Sunday October 7th Chester Marathon. CWDF (Chester World Development Forum) member Heather Lannin is running and seeking sponsorship for children's projects in Sierra Leone. Contact 0784 062 1878.

'WORKING WITH STREET CHILDREN IN UGANDA'

An Audio Visual talk by Detective Constable Anna Rickards and Sir Peter Fahy - Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (Organised by the local Stockport charity Retrak)

Thursday September 27th 7.30 pm at the Evron Centre 1 Adswold Lane West, Shaw Heath Stockport SK3 8HT

Please contact: B. Potter. 0161 485 8312. Our Lady's Justice & Peace Group Stockport, to reserve a seat.

TACKLING FUEL POVERTY IN SHROPSHIRE

September 28th 9am - 1pm

A conference at **Craven Arms Community Centre**
Hosted by Shropshire RCC.

Philip Dunne MP will open the conference .

Other speakers will include:

Paul Sutton Executive Director Shropshire Housing Group; Dr Kevin Lewis Director of preventative health programmes (public health); Graham Whitham - Poverty policy advisor Save The Children; Samantha Nicklin Campaigns Manager Age UK; Julia Baron CEO Shropshire RCC and Jon Cooke Volunteer Affordable Warmth Forum.

The conference will look at the problem of fuel poverty both locally and nationally and how it affects the lives of families and individuals. It will help participants to be aware of the signs of fuel poverty and look at the work being undertaken to help tackle the problem both by organisations and volunteers across Shropshire. It will be of benefit to anyone working in the field of health, housing, education, family wellbeing and community work.

Free of charge but booking essential – early booking recommended. To reserve a place please email clive.leworthy@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

'FOOD MATTERS'

Ecumenical World Development Conference

Monday 1st—Wednesday 3rd October

Hayes Conference Centre Swanwick Derbyshire

Why, in a world of plenty, do so many still go hungry? What's the solution? And what does Christian thinking have to say about it?

Bringing together leading theologians, policy experts and activists, the conference will grapple with vital questions of food, hunger and poverty.

Through presentations, discussions, workshops and worship participants will leave informed, stimulated and equipped to play their part in tackling one of the greatest challenges of our age.

The conference is organised by a coalition of Christian development agencies, campaigning organisations and denominations including Progressio.

All are welcome More details and booking forms from www.ewde.info/

A CHALLENGE TO BE MET

750,000 people in the UK suffer from dementia—16,000 of them are young people;
The proportion of sufferers from dementia doubles every 5 years;
Dementia costs the UK £20bn per year;
Family carers save the UK £6bn per year by their devoted and costly care of loved ones.
(See The Alzheimer's Society website)



The Marple area Justice & Peace Group is seeking to raise awareness of this situation and of the resources available locally to help in making a response. We have arranged the following:

DEMENTIA CARE: A WORKSHOP FOR CARERS, CHURCHES & THE COMMUNITY

Saturday 13th October 11am—3pm St Mary's Church Hall, Hollins Lane, Marple Bridge, Stockport SK6 5BB

Led by **MARK PERRY** Training Officer Dementia Unit The Meadows Community Hospital Offerton Stockport and **THE REV DR ALBERT JEWELL** a Methodist Minister with a wide experience of dementia, through his time as Principal Chaplain & Spiritual Director at Methodist Homes for the Aged, who have many homes dedicated to the care of dementia sufferers.

Information stalls

Hot drinks provided

Please bring your own food

More details from Rev Graham Hawley (0161 449 5647) email: the.hawleys@virgin.net



'COME AND SEE'

Pilgrim Journeys of Encounter

Saturday November 3rd 10 am – 4 pm
St. Theresa's Social Club, College Road, Upholland (near Wigan) WN8 0PY

Thinking of visiting the Holy Land? Keynote speaker: George Rishawi, a Palestinian Christian Tour Operator will inform and inspire you. During the day there will be films and presentations by several organisations, secular and Christian about a range of ethical options, from traditional pilgrimages to walking holidays. There will opportunities to ask questions about where to go and what to see. The cost for the day is £5. Drinks will be available but please bring your own food.

To register email: logan-j@btconnect.com

Organised by Friends of Sabeel UK in the North West

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL- the north's role in peace & co-operation

The annual national Peace History Conference, which is open to everyone, has moved this year from London to Manchester to celebrate the International Year of Co-operatives.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9th, MANCHESTER FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE

3.30pm– 5.30pm Manchester Peace & Social Justice Trail Guided Walk exploring Manchester's rich, progressive history. Led by Mike Herbert, Red Flag Walks.

7pm The Threads of Occupy: Peterloo to St Paul's A conversation with Occupy activists and Dr Brian Doherty, activist and Director, Research Centre for the Study of Politics, International Relations and Environment, Keele University.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10th, THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM

Speakers include:

Martin Ceadel, Professor of Politics, University of Oxford, *'The Business of Peace: the Manchester Peace Conference of 1853'*;

Rae Street, CND and Nick Wilding, film maker and historian, *'Outstanding Forgotten Women Against War: Enid Stacey (1868-1903) and Ethel Carnie Holdsworth (1886-1963)'*;

Arn Dekker, Pax Christi, *'400 Years of Peace Medals'*;

Gill Scott, Assistant Head of School, School of Historical & Critical Studies, University of Brighton, *'The Women's Co-operative Guild and the Question of Peace Activism between the Wars'*;

Linda Clair, historian, *'A History of the Jewish Left in Manchester'*.

Full details and booking forms from:

www.cnduk.org/get-involved/events/item/1447-peace-history-conference-manchester



DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 4 The Cost of Peace: violence or the non-violent Jesus?** Talk by John Dear SJ at St John's RC, Crompton St, Wigan. WN1 2LX NB The talk begins at 7 not at 5.30 as advertised in some places.
For more info ring 0151 522 1080 or 01942 24374
- 9 Racial Justice Sunday** resource pack from www.ctbi.org.uk/588
- 9 'Being an Inclusive Church'** Racial Harmony Mass for Shrewsbury Diocese Our Lady of the Rosary & St Luke, Church Road, Trench, Telford TF2 7HG 2.30 pm followed by light refreshments. All welcome
- 10 CWDF Forum meeting** 6.45 for 7.00pm at St Peter's Centre, The Cross, Chester. Talk by Susan Flynn on Merseyside URC's ongoing work with women of Malawi.
- 12 Progressio Lecture in the North: Report from Zambia** at St Michael's, West Derby Rd, Liverpool L6 5EH Talk begins at 7.30 followed by refreshments in the Irish Centre For more information: Liverpool J&P Office: 0151 522 1080/81 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 14 CAFOD Quiz Night** see page 8 for details
- 20 –22 Peace Day Celebrations in Wrexham.** Programme coordinated by Wrexham Peace & Justice Forum, and includes a day for schools at St Christopher's School for which volunteer helpers/contributors are being sought. Further information from Genny Bove, 01978 757489 peacedaywrexham@yahoo.co.uk
- 21 Peace One Day : join the Global truce 2012** www.peaceoneday.com
- 22 VSO in Sierra Leone** a talk by Gail Haddock see page 10
- 27 Working with the Street Children in Uganda** see page 10
- 28 Conference Tackling Fuel Poverty in Shropshire** See page 10
- 29 Sea Sunday Day of prayer for Seafarers** [www.apostleshipof the sea.org.uk](http://www.apostleshipofthe sea.org.uk)

OCTOBER

- 5 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**
- 6 'The Way Forward'** Shrewsbury Diocese JPSR Commission Open Meeting . Full details on page 4
- 11 Start of Year of Faith**
- 12 –15 Christian Aid Tax Bus in North West** see page 7
- 13 Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) Roadshow** in Salford
- 13 Dementia Care** 11-3 St Mary's Parish Hall Hollins Lane Marple Bridge. More details on page 10
- 19 CAFOD Quiz Night** see page 8 for details
- 21-28 One World Week** www.oneworldweek.org

NOVEMBER

- 3 'Come and See' planning visits to the Holy Land** More details and registration see page 11
- 12 Launch of Christmas Greeting Card Campaign in Liverpool diocese** if your parish or group would like to take part please contact Liverpool J&P Office: 0151 522 1080/81
- 16 CAFOD Quiz Night** see page 8 for details
- 17 Stockport Annual Fairtrade Fair** 10 – 3 Stockport College Wellington Road South Stockport SK1 3UQ
- 22 CSAN event in Liverpool**

DECEMBER

- 9 J&P Advent reflection, 4pm Wistaston Hall, Crewe,** with Clare Dixon, Head of CAFOD's Latin America & Caribbean team.
- 2013 Integrating Life and Faith Course** 20 – 21 April 22 – 23 June 14 – 15 September and 16 – 17 November, at Loyola Hall, Warrington Rd, Rainhill, L35 6NZ For more information or to book a place contact: Liverpool J&P Office: 0151 522 1080/81 or email s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk £50 per Module. Parishes are usually happy to offer financial support and there may be bursaries available.

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Copy date for next issue
1/11/2012 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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