



Westminster Justice and Peace Commission

Hanging out together can be fun!

For nearly eighty Diocesan and Agency workers, the weekend of 24th/25th September was a blur. It began in the early autumn morning alongside Hyde Park—what a temptation there was to go and explore its geography. Instead we had a task to perform inside the home of geography—The Royal Geographical Society's beautiful headquarters in South Kensington. Our weekend ended at around 6pm on the Sunday in what we are told is the geographical centre of the Diocese, the Pastoral Centre in London Colney. My over use of the word Geography might lead you to believe that my theme here is just that. It isn't.

However, we 80 workers were together for something global, we were together to present to the Diocese the teaching and the challenge of how God's people should live in God's world. We were together to bring to the Diocese the 'Living Gospel Values' Workshop. This is a workshop which opens up to people of the Diocese the teaching of the Catholic Church on matters of social justice. Well over 500 people came to take part and from the written feedback we know that perceptions and lives were changed.

What was great about this weekend was the sense of energy that we felt. Equally wonderful was the sense of discovery that came for many as we unfolded the Church's best kept secret—its social justice teaching. But maybe best of all was the sense of achievement that we all felt. We had come as individuals from many organisations involved in social justice issues. We had come from Agencies and Departments of the Diocese and from other Christian Traditions. We left united and renewed in the knowledge that working for and promoting Christian social justice can bring people—the most unlikely people—together.

Hanging out together was fun. Why not try it at your local level.

Fr. Stuart Wilson
Director, 'At Your Word, Lord'

Peace Matters

As a Diocesan department involved in Season V of the At Your Word, Lord programme, we were inspired and greatly encouraged by the Workshops and the constructive comments we heard from attendees. Remarks such as: *'...reminded me that the Church supports me and provides me with the resources to live out my vocation as a Christian'...* and *'the Marketplace was astonishing... strengthened my desire to learn more'*, reinforce our commitment to help you and to provide information and practical advice to help channel your energies into living out the Gospel Values.

With this in mind, we look forward to welcoming you to the Commission's annual event on Saturday 12th November at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington. Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi, will be our keynote speaker. We can be assured of a thought-provoking and informative session on peace issues.

In the afternoon Rev. William Campbell Taylor will tell us about his work with St. Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. You may remember that in 1993 a bomb exploded in Bishopsgate killing one person and partially destroying the small medieval church of St. Ethelburga. The Bishop of London and the late Cardinal Hume decided it must be rebuilt and it has become a Centre for Reconciliation and Peace. The Centre aims to be a venue for dialogue between groups in conflict both at home and overseas.

We will have a report from the Commission with time for questions and the day will include a panel discussion with three people each involved in local initiatives. We are very pleased that many Agencies involved in J&P will be with us in the Marketplace.

The attached gives you the timing and address. Please publicise this event and encourage attendance, as we wish to welcome all who are interested in J&P issues. Many of you work ecumenically and all are welcome.

We look forward to seeing you on November 12th.

Fr. Pat Davies

Around the Networks

West London J&P Network

The Network's meeting on 17 September was perhaps not as exhausting as the celebration of the England Cricket XI after regaining the Ashes in September, but it was pervaded by a similar sense of pride in having contributed to a job well done, following the success of the MAKE POVERTY HISTORY on 2 July, in Edinburgh and around the country.

After an introduction by Brother Bernard Elliot S.J. of the Jesuit Refugee Service to the predicament of the refugees and asylum seekers in our midst, there were reports from the ten parishes represented at the meeting of their summertime endeavours. These ranged from Our Lady and St Joseph (Hanwell) supporting a campaign to obtain permission for Mr Hossain Siavoshi, an Iranian citizen living in the parish, to remain in the UK, and also supporting an ecumenical workshop - while at the same time supporting a Filipino women's co-operative by a sale of cards made by them - to St Margaret of Scotland (East

Twickenham) participating in a Sycamore Tree programme for restorative justice for victim's held at Feltham Young Offenders Unit, and fundraising for a school in Lusaka, Zambia.

The representatives of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Bridget (Isleworth) told of their 'Pause for Prayer' on 2nd July at midday outside the church, and the release of helium filled white balloons (with prayers attached) by the children, to the pealing of church bells, and of their basic English classes in the Parish Hall for new arrivals in the country, their Fairtrade stall in the local hospital and their ingenious parish 'yellow pages' directory of local businesses, who pay £12 each quarter for the privilege of being listed!

Other parishes laboured with their pens, writing to their MP's about the new Asylum Bill, or the outcome of the Edinburgh G8 Summit in July, or Economic Partnership Agreements; while others laboured over stands in the open air at innumerable parish summer fairs, distributing literature, white MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY bands and Trade Justice balloons,

in the midst of the frenetic world of jam competitions, Irish dancing and bric-a-brac stalls! So much individual vision and ingenuity!

The big opportunities for us till the end of the year are to help to inspire fellow parishioners during Season V of At Your Word, Lord, support the Mass Lobby of Parliament organised for the 2nd November by the Trade Justice Movement and also White Band Day III on 10 December organised by the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY Campaign. Meanwhile, efforts continue to get behind the Fairtrade Foundation's push to certify Richmond, Ealing, Hammer-smith and Hounslow as Fairtrade Boroughs.

In short, the focus is on all those 'numberless diverse acts' which, in the words of Robert Kennedy in 1966, send forth 'a tiny ripple of hope, [which] crossing each other from a million different centres of energy and daring ... build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance'.

Hugh Caldin

Herts J&P Network

After the excitement generated by the G8 Summit and the MPH Rally in Edinburgh we hoped to enjoy a summer break before resuming our work for the MPH Campaign, but the London bombings and their repercussions and also events in the Middle East sharply reminded us how much urgent work there is to do, and that we have to focus on peace-making efforts in this country, in Israel/Palestine, Iraq and other parts of the world, as well as continue with our other projects. The commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and

Nagasaki and the end of WWII in Japan served as poignant reminders and lessons from history.

We started planning for our participation in the final season of AYWL, in which, we believe, everyone caring about justice and peace matters should take part and which, we hope, will inspire many more Catholics to engage in J&P work.

We also got involved in the planning for One World Week, which is organised here in St Albans by CTSA (Churches Together in St Albans), and the excellent programme of Church services and events that has emerged is likely to

bring together a wide cross-section of people of all faiths or none. In view of the EU and WTO meetings in December many of us hope to attend the parliamentary lobby of MPs on 2nd November concerning Trade Justice.

Plans for our annual Herts. J&P Network Meeting are well advanced. The meeting will take place on 18th February 2006 at St Edmund's College, Ware. Our two speakers will be Fr Tim Edgar and Valerie Flessati. The theme of the day will be "Seek peace and pursue it".

On 6th October the North Transept J&P Group (St Albans Abbey) will

Around the Networks (cont'd)

be re-launched. Canon Richard Wheeler will give the key address. The group will be ecumenical and hopes to work in close connection with the St Bart's J&P Group and CTSA.

Many problems and worries, but also many encouraging developments: with God's help we will be able to make a difference.

Adelheid Smith

North London J&P Network

The G8 Agreement at Gleneagles has now been confirmed and eighteen of the world's poorest countries have had their debts cancelled. The countries are Benin, Bolivia, Burkino Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, and Paul Wolfowitz, President of the World Bank,

explicitly acknowledged the role played by campaigners in putting pressure on rich countries for debt relief. CAFOD said that it is a victory for campaigners and that the Trade agenda must now be addressed.

On the 24th and 25th September, the 'At Your Word, Lord' team held an event at the Royal Geographical Society and at the Pastoral Centre at London Colney, to promote Season V which is on the theme of Justice and Peace. The event was called "Living Gospel Values". There was a marketplace where many Agencies displayed their literature. As well as the Faith Sharing books for Season V, there is an Action Pack containing ideas and suggestions for Justice and Peace activities to help groups to "Recreate the face of the earth and build the Kingdom of God", by bridging the gap between the rich and the poor in our world. We were urged to set up a Justice and Peace Group in every parish in the diocese and this is also the wish of Cardinal Cormac.

A small group of people can achieve a lot. The agreement at Gleneagles was achieved by groups such as these. The campaign to MakePovertyHistory is ongoing and Season V of At Your Word, Lord could be the beginning of something great in our diocese and a great contribution to the campaign.

Patricia Mulchrone



Sr. Ellen Corbett (front row centre), of the North London Network, was presented with a bouquet of Fairtrade roses and a card on the occasion of her Golden Jubilee as an Ursuline of Jesus. The occasion was also marked by the celebration of Mass at St. Ignatius Church followed by a reception in the hall and garden. Congratulations to Sister Ellen.

CAFOD Update



We will be taking part in the Mass Lobby of Parliament for Trade Justice on Wednesday 2nd November. We are not organising coaches as the majority of our supporters are able to make their own way by public transport. If you would like information packs, then please contact Rashmi Mistry of our Campaigns Team at Brixton, tel: 020 7333-7900.

This year's Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture will be on Friday 4th November. The talk entitled "A Theology for Today: the option for the poor in 2005" will be given by renowned theologian Gustavo Gutierrez, OP. The Lecture will

be chaired by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, and will be held at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster. 7.15pm. Tickets: £5 lecture only; £10 lecture and reception. You can reserve your tickets by emailing: tickets@CAFOD.org.uk.

Vote for Trade Justice

The next big presentation of voting cards will take place on 10 December, White Band Day III, just before the World Trade Organisation summit. Campaigners aim to collect a million votes by this date. We're already half way there, but we still need your help.



Please vote yourself and encourage friends and colleagues to do the same—and collect votes in your community. Postcards available from CAFOD.

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**Working for Justice and Peace
In the Diocese of Westminster**

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Diary of J&P Events



Oct

23rd-30th	Week of Prayer for World Peace—leaflets available from London Interfaith Centre, 125 Salusbury Road, NW6 6RG	020 7604 3053
23rd-30th	One World Week— <i>Promises, Promises</i> — www.oneworldweek.org	0118 939 4933

Nov

1st	CAFOD Partner Visit—Eliud Ngunjiri, Founder and Director of RODI, Nairobi. He is an expert on the effects of International Trade from longstanding work in agriculture, rural and community development in Kenya. Venue: Waldegrave Drawing Room, St. Mary's College, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, 7 for 7.30pm, with Dr. Kevin Cook of the Dept. of Geography and Erin Condit-Bergin, CAFOD student campaigns officer.	020 8940 4600 Judith Burman
2nd	Mass Lobby of Parliament. Details from CAFOD Campaigns Team, ask for Rashmi Mistry	020 7326 5416
3rd-4th	2 Day Training Course for Persons attending to the Needs of Detainees. Amigo Hall, St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. Details and booking form from Jesuit Refugee Service.	020 7357 0974
4th	Pope Paul VI Memorial Lecture "A Theology for Today: the option for the poor in 2005" given by renowned theologian Gustavo Gutierrez, OP. Church House, Dean's Yark, Westminster. 7.15pm. Reserve tickets by emailing: tickets@CAFOD.org.uk	CAFOD
5th	Making Peace in the Post Christian Era—a day conference on Merton's prophetic thoughts on war and peace. 10am-4pm at Sion Centre for Dialogue and Encounter, 34 Chepstow Villas, W11. Booking essential.	020 8203 4884 Pax Christi
5th	Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) present a Concert for Peace, at 7.30pm at St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, W1. Guest speaker Tony Benn.	020 8455 1030 for details/booking form
12th	Westminster Justice & Peace Commission Annual Event: "Peace Matters", with Pat Gaffney, keynote speaker. Our Lady of Victories, Kensington. Further details from Commission	020 7437 1525
30th	Advent Hope, St. Albans, The Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban, 7.30pm. Reflect on World AIDS Day and discover reasons for hope this Advent. Contact: Christian Aid.	01865 246818

Dec

5th	Pax Christi: Carols for Peace—7.30pm, St. Aloysius, Phoenix Road, Somerstown (near Euston Station)	Pax Christi
7th	Churches Together in Chiswick event: Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the World and in Britain. 7.30pm for 8pm in Christ Church, Town Hall Avenue, Chiswick, London W4, including speakers from UNHCR and the Jesuit Refugee Service. (Nearest tube: Chiswick Park).	020 8994 6368