

The monthly e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to [anneoc980@hotmail.com](mailto:anneoc980@hotmail.com)

## BOMB WILL NOT DESTROY "FANTASTIC, DIVERSE MANCHESTER", BISHOP ASSERTS

**Madeleine Davies:** 23 May 2017 @11.11

With the area around Manchester still locked down, prayers were said outdoors this morning, after 22 people, many of them under 16, were killed in a bombing at a concert nearby. Greater Manchester Police were called to reports of an explosion at the Manchester Arena at 10.33pm last night, at the conclusion of an Ariana Grande concert. It is being treated as a terrorist incident. The single attacker detonated his improvised explosive device near one of the exits of the venue, and died at the scene. The Chief Constable, Ian Hopkins, has described it as "the most horrific incident we have had to face in Greater Manchester." It is the worst terrorist attack here since the London bombing of July 2005.

All political parties have suspended general election campaigning. The Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the emergency committee COBRA in London and will travel to Manchester later today. In a statement, she said that it was "now beyond doubt that the people of Manchester and of this country have fallen victim to a callous terrorist attack." It "stands out for its appalling, sickening cowardice, deliberately targeting innocent defenceless children and young people."

The Bishop of Manchester, Dr David Walker, said the attack was made "particularly dreadful" by the targeting of a concert "known to attract very young fans." Ariana Grande, a 23-year-old American singer and actress, had an early career on the children's TV channel Nickelodeon, and has a fan-base of young girls. Dr Walker said: "There is a proper anger and rage in the face of events like this. Our challenge will be to direct that rage and anger to be a force for good. We will rally around the victims and their families. We will unite across our diversity, drawing close especially to any that the terrorists would seek to separate us from. And we will rebuild and repair the damage to our city, as we have done before."

On *Today* on Radio 4, Dr Walker told of chairing a meeting of faith leaders in Greater Manchester: "We all have the interests of the city and of one another at heart. We're united. And at a local level within communities in Manchester there's good relations between the mosques, the synagogues, the temples, and different faith communities – and those with no faith at all ... There's always, after an event like last night, a tendency to create blame by association. And so we must make clear that is not the way we behave or react. The guilt for last night belongs to the perpetrators and the perpetrators alone. It doesn't go beyond them. My message to the Muslim community is: you are one with us. Just as you were yesterday, you are one with us. Part of us. A vital part of us, You will go on being a vital part of us. You will be part of how we together respond to last night, how we together repair the damage, rebuild what's destroyed and go forward in the fantastic, diverse community we are.... Most of us are good at distinguishing what is truth in this. We know, again and again, a little phrase: love wins."

Harun Khan, secretary-general of the Muslim Council of Britain, described the attack as "horrific, this is criminal. May the perpetrators face the full weight of justice both in this life and the next."

The Priest-in-Charge of St Nicholas, Burnage, Canon Rachel Mann, has written a prayer of mourning:

### A PRAYER FOR MANCHESTER AFTER THE BOMBING

Compassionate God,  
whose Love dares to dwell in the midst of us.  
Be with the people of Manchester today.  
Grieve with us in our grief,  
search with us as we seek our lost loved ones,  
wait with us in the anxiety of unknowing.

Help us to give thanks for the people of Manchester  
– warm, open, generous and resilient;  
Help us to draw on the spirit of solidarity  
and the defiance in loss of this great city.  
Be with our emergency services in this time of trial.

In the midst of our fears, and the fierce pain of loss;  
when our commitment to justice and mercy and kindness  
is tested by death and terror, be with us, O Lord.

Today let us mourn, let us weep;  
meet us in our anger, fear and disbelief.

Tomorrow help us be makers of your compassionate world. Amen.

### THIS IS THE PLACE

... hard times again in these streets of our city,  
but we won't take defeat and we don't want your pity.

Because this is a place where we stand strong together,  
with a smile on our face, greater Manchester forever.

... Because this is the place in our hearts, in our homes,  
because this is a place that's a part of our bones.

Because Manchester gives us such strength from the fact  
that this is the place. We should give something back.

Always remember. Never forget. Forever Manchester.

Choose love.

Extract from ***This is the Place*** Manchester performance poet Tony Walsh's inspirational ode to the city, recited to rapturous applause at the evening vigil on 23 May in Albert Square, flanked by faith leaders from the local community. <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/greater-manchester-news/tony-walsh-poem-manchester-vigil-13082050>

## WHILE THE MEN WERE IN HIDING, WOMEN DELIVERED THE GREATEST NEWS THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

**COMMENTARY: Jim Wallis** 13 April 2017

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here: He has risen!" (Luke 24:1-6)

Imagine what these women — these followers of Jesus — must have felt as they heard the best news in the history of the world.

God chose to reveal the miracle of Jesus' resurrection first to women. In so many of the gospel stories that are familiar to us, women were behind the scenes — always there, always present, always faithful — but nearly always in the background and hardly ever mentioned by the men in the stories, and certainly not the ones writing the stories. Their testimony as women was not even admissible in court under Jewish law; the word of a woman had no public credibility in that patriarchal culture. But God chose to reveal the miracle of Jesus' resurrection first to women. They were then told to report the astonishing news of the empty tomb to the men.

Jesus' first appearance was also to a woman: Mary Magdalene. She was in the garden near the tomb, stricken with grief. The one who had accepted and forgiven her, the one whom she loved so deeply, was gone. She saw a figure she thought was the gardener and said to him, "They have taken my Lord. Do you know where they have laid him?" Then a familiar voice called her name, "Mary." She looked up and recognized him. "Master!" she cried. Her Lord had come back, and the heart of the woman who had been cleansed by his love leapt for joy. Mary went straight to the disciples with a simple testimony, "I have seen the Lord." The male disciples heard the greatest news in history and for the future of their lives from Mary — a powerful sign of the purposes of God.

On that first Easter morning, the women were present at great risk to themselves. They were at the grave of a convicted political criminal who had just been crucified. The guards posted at the tomb could easily have reported the identities of any followers or supporters of this one whom they had killed and whose movement they now hoped to crush. The risk of the women is made even more dramatic by the realisation that the rest of the disciples were all lying low. The men were hiding, paralysed by grief and fear.

The women at the tomb have always reminded me of other women, like the Mothers of the Disappeared in Latin America, who in country after country were the ones who — when things were at their worst, when the violence of military-ruled countries was most grotesque, when the suffering was so horrible — came out time and time again and stood alone before the military and before the world, testifying for their loved ones, and for the truth.

Women also put their lives on the line and played key roles in the transformations in many African countries, the peace movement in Northern Ireland, and in the hopeful beginnings of the Arab Spring protests.

I also think of the women at the tomb when I think of the Mothers of the Movement — mothers of young men and women of colour who have died at the hands of law enforcement, while in police custody, or as the result of gun violence. We know the names of their children: Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Hadiya Pendleton, Dontre Hamilton, Jordan Davis, and so many more. Their powerful testimonies on behalf of criminal justice reform, racial justice, and commonsense gun control speak of the power of these women to raise their voices for justice and hope in the face of unspeakable personal tragedy. We have also seen women disproportionately leading the broader Black Lives Matter movement, often on the front lines of protests where police in military gear have been all too willing to use force against overwhelmingly nonviolent protestors.

The Women's Marches all over the world the day after Donald Trump's inauguration were a harbinger of what has happened since. Statistics are emerging that suggest that women form the clear majority of the resistance to some of the most harmful and dangerous agendas of the new administration.

We have seen it in so many places: When things get rough, when things are at their worst, when everyone else flees or is in hiding, very often it is the women who stand up, offering themselves, becoming completely vulnerable as they submit to the risk of death. That is indeed their strength and their power.

So here in the resurrection event is the pivotal moment in all history. The male disciples have fled and are hiding, and only the women are left. And they come not without fear, the gospel story tells us, but they come out of love and faith. They were faithful to Jesus in all of his life, and in his death, and now even after his death. Out of their love for him, they are going to minister to him even at the tomb.

For their loving perseverance and courage, these women are rewarded with the honour of being entrusted with the most important news in the history of the world. These women, and many women who have come after them, can rightly be called history's midwives of hope. And they become for us, on the resurrection morning of Easter, the primary example in the story of what we too are called to be — midwives of hope.

What does it mean to be a midwife of hope? The word hope is so often used in ways that are mostly mystical or rhetorical — politically or otherwise — or so religious that the meaning escapes the world. It somehow escapes the reality in which we have to live.

Hope becomes a feeling, or a mood, or an inspired moment that is lived somehow above the painful and the dull agonies of history. We're down here living in it all, and someone says, "Well, you have to have hope." And right away we think, "I'm supposed to feel something I'm not feeling — to get into a mood that isn't natural to me. I need to rise above this daily reality somehow and be hopeful." But the more I wrestle with this word "hope," the more I am convinced that we must see hope in a different, and indeed a more biblical, way. You see, hope is not simply a feeling, or a mood, or a rhetorical flourish. It is a choice, a decision, an action based upon faith. Hope is the very dynamic of history. Hope is the engine of change. Hope is the energy of transformation. Hope is the door from one reality to another.

Things that seem possible, reasonable, understandable, even logical in hindsight — things that we can deal with, things that don't seem extraordinary to us — often seemed quite impossible, unreasonable, nonsensical, and illogical when we were looking ahead to them. The changes, the possibilities, the opportunities, the surprises that no one or very few would even have imagined, just become history after they've occurred. What looked before as though it could never happen is now easy to understand.

Hope unbelievably is always considered nonsense. But hope believed is history in the process of being changed. The news from the women at the tomb was the greatest hope that the world has ever known. And yet what did the disciples call it? "Nonsense." The nonsense of the resurrection became the hope that shook the Roman Empire and established the Christian movement. The nonsense of slave songs in Egypt and Mississippi became the hope that let the oppressed go free. The nonsense of a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama, became the hope that transformed a nation.

This is also how personal transformation takes place. We can't imagine ourselves different than we are today or healed of that which binds and afflicts us. We can't imagine ourselves forgiven. We can't imagine our own salvation. But when we walk through the door of hope, and we look back at where we have been and where we are now, we see evidence of the grace of God.

For Christians the Resurrection is that door of hope, and Jesus showed us that the resurrection comes by way of a cross. Suffering and hope are always joined in human history. The cost of moving from one reality to another — in our personal lives and in history — is always great. But it is the only way to walk through the door of hope.

History depends on those who are willing to walk through that door, those who live and act and even die in hope for the sake of the future they know by faith is there — those such as the women at the tomb who were given the news of the resurrection. They were given the news of the resurrection because they opened the door for all the rest of us. On Easter morning we stand on the knowledge of the resurrection. We stand on the faith of those who have been given the news of the resurrection before us.

It is not nonsense to believe that weapons of mass destruction are not necessary, and that war is not inevitable. It is not nonsense to believe that a child's race and class and sex will not always determine their future share of happiness and well-being. It is not nonsense to believe that we who have been divided from each other can, and will, one day sit down together at the welcome table of God's love and God's grace. These are not nonsense thoughts. With the Easter eyes of resurrection faith, we can see the door through which we too can walk, through which we are invited, where we also will be given the news of the resurrection.

And with this hope, sisters and brothers, we can know our sins forgiven, and our lives made whole. We can look into the faces of our children and believe there is a future for them. With this hope we can look into the eyes of the poor, the suffering, and the dispossessed and believe that God is able to establish justice for all. With this hope we can together build new communities of faith that will someday overcome the barriers of race and class and gender. And with this hope we can even look forward to a day when our nation no longer measures its security by its weapons, and its status by its wealth.

With this hope we can envision an America finally able to live without racism and without oppression, but no longer able to live without justice and compassion. With this hope we can plan and sow and build and create visions and dreams. And with this hope we can find the faith and the courage to bear the cost of such possibilities.

So with all this in mind, we prepare to hear this Sunday, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Amen.

**Jim Wallis is president of Sojourners.** His book, *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America*, is available now. Follow Jim on Twitter [@JimWallis](https://twitter.com/JimWallis).

<https://sojo.net/articles/while-men-were-hiding-women-delivered-greatest-news-world-has-ever-known>

## LOOK AROUND YOU

**REFLECTION: Frank Regan:** 14 April 2017

*"Look around you, can you see? Times are troubled, people grieve.  
See the violence, feel the hardness; all my people, weep with me."*

This the first verse of a song we sang this morning in an ecumenical service for Good Friday. As we look around: at Syria after a gas attack and bombing; at Iraq and Mosul and the refugee camps; at Nigeria remembering the more than 200 kidnapped girls still not returned; at Sudan, Palestine and Yemen. At the tortured and murdered gays in Chechnya. At the suffering in cancer wards and aids clinics all over the world. At women here in the UK, two of whom will die this week victims of domestic violence, and next week and the week thereafter. At the planet whose water is polluted, air contaminated, soils exhausted, rainforests disappearing.

We are wounding each other and the planet, and those wounds are open, seeping blood and pus. Jesus died faithful to the Reign of God which he bore witness to and gave his life for. He heralded a hope for peace, justice, healing, wholeness and transformation and willingly, even if hesitantly at first, gave his life as witness to that hope and deep human yearning. We are a people sent for the life of the world. Today we renew that mission in the shadow of the cross of failure, insisting in a resurrection we hope in faith will be of all of humanity and of creation.

## MANCHESTER: LAUNCH OF CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND JUSTICE – CONNECTING FAITH AND ACTION

**Simon Oxley:** 12 May 2017

"We are all on a journey with God towards a vision of God's kingdom of justice, of shalom. The Centre for Theology and Justice seeks to respond to the questions we encounter on that journey. We do not journey alone, we journey together, sharing ideas, resources and engaging in theological reflection."

With those words, Clare McBeath introduced the Centre for Theology and Justice to a packed chapel at Luther King House. Over recent years, various collaborations between Christian Aid, Church Action on Poverty, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland and Luther King House led to the formation of the Centre. The Centre is a space and an opportunity for sharing reflections, resources and actions. Representatives of those organisations symbolically signed the partnership agreement on which the Centre is based. In order to extend the network, the Centre is welcoming associate partners.

Following the formal launch of the Centre, Father Augusto Zampini gave the first David Goodbourn lecture on ***'Is justice enough? A radical Christian response to humanitarian and ecological crisis'***. The lecture was chaired by the Bishop of Manchester, David Walker.

Father Augusto challenged the gathering not to start a discussion on justice with theory but begin with the real experiences of injustice. While we discuss the nature of a just society, people are starving. Drawing on the concerns of Pope Francis, he focused on the environment, arguing that we cannot separate environmental justice from social justice in our thinking. Stewardship should imply care rather than domination – care for our common home. We need to find common solutions for issues such as: pollution; loss of biodiversity and cultural diversity; water resources; quality of human life; rapidification. The latter being the experience of many of us as the increasing speed of life overwhelms us. He quoted Patriarch Bartholomew who has called Christians to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity and waste with a spirit of sharing.

We have to allow ourselves to be touched by what we see. However, what we see is not enough. We have to go to the root causes of injustice and make a proper diagnosis. Analysing our situation helps us see that a pragmatic technological paradigm, the myth of perennial progress, the globalisation of indifference, the lack of political will and a throw-away culture all relate to injustice. We have to have an integral ecology, integrating human development with the care for the environment. An holistic understanding of being gives us an holistic understanding of justice. We need to integrate our relationship with God, with ourselves, with other, with society and with creation.

From the Christian tradition, we can take an understanding of persons as compassionate individuals acting socially in solidarity, an integral understanding of development from below based on participation and a spirituality which integrates faith and worship with peace and justice. The educational challenge is to produce a change of mindset that can give us a new understanding of relationships with others and with nature, a culture of love and care – a cultural revolution, a conversion. Our religious narratives can inspire people to promote justice. We have a message of hope about the care of our common home. Churches need to give concrete signs of our integral ecology.

**Watch a video of the whole lecture here:** <https://vimeo.com/217108892>

**The Centre for Theology and Justice** – connecting faith to action is a partnership of Christian Aid, Church Action on Poverty, Churches Together in Great Britain and Ireland and Luther King House.

Revd Dr Clare McBeath is the Co-principal of Northern Baptist College at Luther King House and is the Co-director of the Centre. The late David Goodbourn served as President of Luther King House and as General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

**For more information see:** [www.theologyjustice.org](http://www.theologyjustice.org)

## SILENT PROTEST AGAINST FRACKING

**Anne Van Staveren:** 10 May 2017

More than 100 Quakers climbed windswept Pendle Hill in Lancashire on Saturday. For half an hour, they held a meeting for witness to protest against fracking. Only the skylarks and one or two friendly dogs interrupted their silence.

It was in 1652 on top of Pendle Hill that George Fox was inspired to build a movement of people. He had a vision of "great many people to be gathered" and, with others, founded the Quaker Church. Now Pendle Hill is in the midst of an area licensed for fracking. Quakers are calling for fracking to be banned – globally, not just in Lancashire – because the process damages the land, water and potentially food supplies.

Quakers in Britain are motivated by faith to cherish the earth for future generations and to speak out against climate injustice that causes huge inequalities across the world. Stephen Lee, one of the organisers from the Pendle Hill Area Meeting said he felt heartened and empowered by people's efforts to be there. They had come from far afield, from Scotland, Wales, Devon, Yorkshire, Cornwall and Cambridge, Lancashire and London. They included 89-year-old Brian, an environmental scientist from Chichester. Some were from Friends of the Earth. Some spoke of their concerns about the environmental impact of fracking and possible seismic activity.

In 2011 Quakers made a commitment to take action to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. In 2013 Quakers in Britain became the first church in Britain to divest their centrally held funds from fossil fuel extraction. In doing so they announced that, "investing in companies who are engaged in fossil fuel extraction is incompatible with Quakers' commitment to become a low-carbon community." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32508>

## NJPN FOCUS ON PRAYER AND ACTION FOR CREATION TIME

**Ellen Teague:** 14 May 2017

**In 2015 Pope Francis designated 1 September as a World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in the Catholic Church.** In fact, he encourages Creation Time to be celebrated in the Church between 1 September and 4 October, as it is in other Christian Churches. And so '**Creation Day and Creation Time – Ideas and Resources**' occupied the morning session of Saturday's quarterly meeting at CAFOD's London office of the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales (NJPN), led by the NJPN's Environment Working Group.

The day of prayer, the Pope said, gives individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God's help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God's forgiveness "for sins committed against the world in which we live". It was pointed out that last year, on 1 September, Pope Francis himself led Vespers for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation in St. Peter's Basilica. Similar prayer services were held around the world. Pope Francis encourages all the Catholic Church to be engaged in the day of prayer and the spiritual and lifestyle transformations he has called for in his encyclical **Laudato Si'**, on **Care for Our Common Home**.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement, which includes around 300-plus Catholic networks which highlight creation care, coordinated efforts and shared resources for the 2016 Season of Creation. The NJPN will be doing this in Britain for 2017, in collaboration with members such as CAFOD and the Columban missionaries who have care for creation as part of their charism.

The NJPN day looked at available resources, including sample services for 1 September used in Harrow, Southampton and Lancaster parishes. The services held over the past two years provide litanies of repentance, reflections on scripture passages, prayers and hymn choices. These and resource lists are now available on the internet. The NJPN Conference in July, **A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor – The Challenge of Pope Francis**, will provide further formation and preparation. The NJPN Environment Group also presented feedback on its work encouraging dioceses to develop environmental policies, developing NJPN policy on fracking, and promoting the *livesimply* parish award. Diss Parish in East Anglia Diocese was the latest parish to be assessed for the award the following day.

Around 30 activists from dioceses attended Saturday's meeting - including from Brentwood, Cardiff, Liverpool, Portsmouth, Middlesbrough, and Westminster – and they joined Catholic organisations and religious involved in social justice - such as the Archbishop Romero Trust, CAFOD, CARJ, PACT, Pax Christi and the Mill Hill missionaries. Briefing papers and sources for the 8 June General Election were circulated, particularly the **Our Common Future** briefing from CAFOD and CSAN. The meeting was also NJPN's AGM and Anne Peacey from Hallam Diocese was endorsed to continue her role as NJPN Chair. Campaigns supported by NJPN in 2016 have included: Robin Hood Tax, Trade Justice Movement, Global Day of Action on Military Spending, and Christians Aware Action Cards. The meeting recommended that Blessed Oscar Romero, on the centenary of his birth, become patron of NJPN at the July annual conference.

**NJPN Environment Working Group:** [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/njpn-environment-working-group/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/resources/njpn-environment-working-group/)

**Booking details for NJPN Conference 2017:** [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/)

**Creation Time resources, listed by Columban missionaries:** [www.columbans.co.uk/creation-time/](http://www.columbans.co.uk/creation-time/)

**CAFOD/CSAN Election flier – Our Common Future:**

[http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41413/469782/version/3/Our%20Common%20Future\\_%20General%20Election%20questions%202017.pdf](http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41413/469782/version/3/Our%20Common%20Future_%20General%20Election%20questions%202017.pdf)

## CAFOD CAMPAIGNS

**THE NEW POWER TO BE CAMPAIGN** was due to be launched to parishes and everyone on 24 April, but the surprise announcement of the General Election meant that we had to put it temporarily on hold and focus on the election. The campaign will now be officially launched on 9 June. So we're encouraging everyone to support the election action as well as plan for *Power to be*. That said, if any supporters have organised to do *Power to be* campaign events or card signing before 9 June, that is absolutely fine.

Please do start talking about the campaign now though and encouraging people to plan how they might use *Power to be* both in their communities and individually and also to plan for possible events inviting their MPs around the **Speak Up Week of Action 1-9 July**. The campaign will work well in a parish setting.

### **POWER TO BE: OUR RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMPAIGN – RESOURCES.**

Every child has the power in them to achieve great things. But with one in six people still living without electricity, the hopes of millions of the world's children are too often a distant dream. Local renewable energy is usually the cheapest, fastest and most efficient solution to bring power to the poorest communities. It can help families to lift themselves out of poverty, without harming the world we share.

**Introduction to *Power to be* and main resource page:** <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Power-to-be/Energy-campaign>

#### **Power to be campaign guide:**

<http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41258/468550/version/2/Power%20to%20be%20campaign%20guide%20vfinal.pdf>

**Power to be poster:** <http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41369/469416/version/2/Power%20to%20be%20poster%20v5.pdf>

#### **Power to be liturgy with leader's notes:**

<http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41426/469853/version/1/Power%20to%20be%20liturgy%20and%20leaders%20notes.pdf>

#### **Background: *Power to be* references:**

[http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41277/468725/version/1/Power%20to%20be\\_formatted\\_references.pdf](http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41277/468725/version/1/Power%20to%20be_formatted_references.pdf)

The main action will be asking parishes/schools/individuals to sign and return campaign action cards. We will use them to show the World Bank how many people, parishes and schools want them to act. To order more free resources, including action cards, visit [shop.cafod.org.uk](http://shop.cafod.org.uk) or call 0300 011 5680.

**Power to be action card:** <http://shop.cafod.org.uk/mail/productpage.cfm/CAFODShop/CAF3510/531704/Power-to-be-action-card>

### **Call on the World Bank to ensure renewable energy access for the world's poorest people.**

**E-Petition to the World Bank:** <https://e-activist.com/page/7676/petition/1>

**Power to be – your questions answered:** <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/Power-to-be-Q-A>

**Switch your energy:** <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Power-to-be/Switch-your-energy>

### **SPEAK UP WEEK OF ACTION 1 – 9 July**

Big things are happening this summer: people in all corners of the country are preparing to Speak Up on climate and energy to their newly elected MPs from 1-9 July. This is your opportunity to make sure that the concerns of the world's poorest people are one of the first things on your MP's agenda, just a few weeks after they have been elected. We are inviting you to organise or attend an event during this week in July and to invite your newly elected MP to attend. From nature walks to tea parties to a picnic after Mass, there are no limits to how you can get those first conversations about energy started. Don't worry – you don't have to be an expert! We will provide you with a briefing to give to your MP as well as suggestions for what to talk about and a guide to organising events.

**Sign up** to organise an event/browse events that have already been organised near you for Speak Up Week Of Action:

<http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Power-to-be/Week-of-Action-1-9-July>

**Download** the Climate Coalition Week of Action organiser guide:

<http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41437/469914/version/1/file/Week%20of%20Action%20guide%202017.pdf>

**Ann Wilson** Community Participation Coordinator – CAFOD (Mon-Tues all day and Weds mornings), CAFOD Salford Volunteer Centre, Katherine House, 26 Singleton Road, Salford M7 4WL 0161 705 0605 or 07772282884 [annwilson@cafod.org.uk](mailto:annwilson@cafod.org.uk)

## JOB VACANCY

**St Joseph's Family Centre**, Museum Street, Warrington, a registered charity, is seeking to appoint a full-time Centre Manager. The Centre is an accredited Child Contact Centre and offers an extensive range of counselling services for children and adults. It also provides a welfare service.

Applicants should ideally have experience in working for a charitable organisation, mental health services or social care fields allied to proven operational management experience. Salary in the range of £34,000 to £39,000 per annum. The closing date for applications is 8 June 2017. For an application pack please call 01925 635448, email: [contact@sjfc.org.uk](mailto:contact@sjfc.org.uk) or visit the website <http://www.saintjosephsfamilycentre.org.uk/>

## END HUNGER CAMPAIGN

The Student Christian Movement has now become partners in the End Hunger campaign alongside Church Action on Poverty. SCM staff and volunteers wrote a worship service responding to the campaign. Here's a prayer from the service:

*We place our planet into your hands, the tides and seasons,  
the incredible way it sustains life,  
and the powerful way it affects our existence.  
We thank you that there is food for all.  
Help us to ensure that it is shared and not wasted.*

**Click here to read or download the End Hunger worship service *Faith that all can be fed*:** [http://www.church-poverty.org/pray/worship/spring2017/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\\_campaign=prayer&utm\\_content=2017+05+prayer+email](http://www.church-poverty.org/pray/worship/spring2017/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=prayer&utm_content=2017+05+prayer+email)

## KATHY MOHAN - NEW HEAD OF HOUSING JUSTICE

10 April 2017

"To live is to change" wrote Blessed John Henry Newman, but as he went on to acknowledge, that isn't always easy. Over the last month Housing Justice has been undergoing one of the biggest changes in our recent history as we bid farewell to Alison Gelder, who retired as Chief Executive on 17th March. As Alison's successor, I know there are big shoes to fill and big challenges to face. Over Alison's 14 years at Housing Justice there is much to be proud of. Whether it is Housing Justice's work with Church and Community Night Shelters for the Homeless, the destitute migrant hosting project, encouraging churches to develop affordable housing or its tireless advocacy for those experiencing homelessness, under Alison's leadership Housing Justice always punched above its weight.

However, walk down any high street, visit any Church and Community Night Shelter, speak to any migrant without the means to support themselves and you will acknowledge that there is no place for complacency. The challenges many people face are stark and likely to increase in the coming years and so the work Housing Justice does will become more and more important. Faith Communities, churches and Housing Justice must continue to bring hope and practical support to those in need in the challenging years to come.

I join Housing Justice having spent my working life working in housing and homelessness services. Most recently I was Regional Head at St Mungo's, but I've also previously worked for a YMCA, The Guinness Partnership, Sanctuary, Servites and within Local Government. Throughout my working life those principles of hope and practical support for those in need have been paramount. These same principles led me to become a volunteer in my local Church and Community Winter Night Shelter, becoming the first chair of trustees of the project. We worked closely with Housing Justice in our Church Winter Night Shelter and I have seen first-hand the difference that work can make.

As I start my tenure as Chief Executive I am struck by the faithfulness of Housing Justice's supporters without whose prayers, donations and thoughtfulness, none of the work the organisation does and the difference it makes would be possible. It seems appropriate that the transition at Housing Justice should take place during Lent, a time of reflection before the new beginning of Easter. As Housing Justice begins a new chapter, I ask for your prayers for our small but committed team, for the projects and people we support, for Alison in her retirement and for those Housing Justice as the successor organisation to the Catholic Housing Aid Society was set up to assist, those experiencing homelessness or in housing need.

**Read more about Housing Justice here:** [www.housingjustice.org.uk](http://www.housingjustice.org.uk)  
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32308>

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

**Ged Flynn:** 5 May 2017

Ahead of Mental Health Week 2017, Ged Flynn, chief executive of national charity PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide, said: "I hope that the momentum gained since Theresa May's original Downing Street promise to prioritise mental health and well-being in this country, particularly among children and young people, is not lost during the current general election. Furthermore, I hope that the new government will not allow suicide prevention to fall off its radar and that it will finally recognise that, since suicide is THE leading cause of death among young people in the UK, we must not rest until the State helps to equip young people with every resource possible in order for them to live with resiliency and support for their emotional and mental health."  
[www.papyrus-uk.org](http://www.papyrus-uk.org)

## PAPYRUS COLOURING BOOK: THE ART OF A PEACEFUL MIND

8 May 2017: It's the start of #MentalHealthAwarenessWeek! Today we're launching a colouring book with a difference. Designed by students and young artists, *'The Art of A Peaceful Mind'* focuses on the importance of self-care to our wellbeing, and how self-care can help us stay suicide-safe. Every page in the book contains a design reflecting the ways in which our artists practice self-care.

<https://www.papyrus-uk.org/help-advice/why-do-i-feel-suicidal/lose-yourself-in-the-art-of-a-peaceful-mind>

## FRIENDS OF SABEL UK AND KAIROS BRITAIN MERGE

These two organisations announced a merger in April 2017. It is hoped that the organic growth that the merger will bring will make support of the Palestinian people stronger and enable each organisation to play a full part in ending the 50-year occupation in Palestine today. It was felt that the advocacy work undertaken by Kairos Britain would be strengthened by the Theology of Liberation for the Palestinian Christian community that Sabeel has developed over the last 70 years. The merger will allow the development of a joint advocacy programme which will have a significant impact in the UK.

**The new organisation will be known as Sabeel – Kairos UK.**

**Full details:** [www.kairosbritain.org.uk](http://www.kairosbritain.org.uk) or [www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/news-2/](http://www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/news-2/)

## WCC CALLS FOR PENTECOST PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is calling on Christians worldwide to join in prayer for just peace in the Holy Land by taking part in a Pentecost prayer service. Tied directly to the churches' celebrations of Pentecost, the service, entitled '**Come, Spirit of Peace: A Global Day of Prayer for Just Peace in the Holy Land,**' is meant to invoke the Holy Spirit to inspire further engagement by Christians everywhere in the quest for peace and justice in the conflictive arena of Israel and Palestine.

Arranged at the invitation of heads of churches in the Jerusalem area, the service will take place the day after Pentecost (Monday, 5 June 2017) at 11am, Jerusalem time, in Jerusalem's Upper Room (Cenacle) on Mount Zion. It will be followed by a session at the Dormition Abbey, where participants can share the various initiatives they are undertaking to build peace in the Holy Land. Churches everywhere are invited to participate in the Jerusalem gathering on site or via the planned live stream of the service (at [oikoumene.org/live](http://oikoumene.org/live)). Churches can also organize their own service on that day or the day before. An order for common prayer has been prepared and is available in a variety of languages for use in local churches (see link below).

WCC general secretary Rev Dr Olav Fykse Tveit said: "We are calling on Christians everywhere to share in our witness to unity and to use this moment as a focus for prayers for peace in the Holy Land. Our vision is to make this moment of prayer truly participatory." Along with the regional leaders and local congregants, eight young ecumenists from various confessions and regions have also been invited to participate in the service, capping their several-day stay in Jerusalem visiting the pilgrimage sites there. Participants around the globe will also be able to add their own prayers online to mark their solidarity with the event.

In his message to WCC member churches, Tveit placed the effort in context: "To pray for unity is our calling as an ecumenical family. To pray for peace in the Holy Land and particularly in Jerusalem at this time, is an affirmation of our commitment to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and our long history of engagement for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel through supporting the member churches in the region in their witness and ministry, encouraging member churches around the world to act in prayer and solidarity for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel, accompanying people suffering under occupation, and advocating in the United Nations for an end to the occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories and for a just peace in the region." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32618>

**Share your prayer:** [www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/spirituality-and-worship/share-your-prayer-for-just-peace-in-the-holy-land](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/spirituality-and-worship/share-your-prayer-for-just-peace-in-the-holy-land)

**Download the order of service for this common prayer, 'The Global Day of Prayer for Just Peace in the Holy Land'** [www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/spiritual-life/pentecost-ecumenical-prayer-for-unity-and-just-peace-pentecost-2017](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/spiritual-life/pentecost-ecumenical-prayer-for-unity-and-just-peace-pentecost-2017)

**Read the WCC general secretary's message:** [www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/messages-and-letters/pentecost-prayer-for-unity-and-just-peace](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/general-secretary/messages-and-letters/pentecost-prayer-for-unity-and-just-peace)

**Statement on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peace Process (28 June 2016):**

[www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/2016/statement-on-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-and-peace-process](http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/central-committee/2016/statement-on-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict-and-peace-process)

**See the ongoing work for peace of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel:**

<https://eappi.org/en>

## ARE YOU CRAFTY? IF YOU CAN KNIT OR SEW, YOU CAN HELP END HUNGER!

Help us invite people at the Greenbelt festival to be part of the campaign to **End Hunger in the UK.**

Every year, Church Action on Poverty joins the Iona Community and Fischy Music as part of Northern Lights, a venue at the Greenbelt festival (25-28 August <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/>). This summer, we will be inviting festival-goers to spend time in Northern Lights relaxing, and learning how they can be part of **End Hunger UK.** Northern Lights is staffed mainly by volunteers, and run on a shoestring. Could YOU help us turn it into a creative, welcoming space that makes it easy for people to get involved? Northern Lights is a big tent. We want to decorate it, outside and in, with bunting that reflects the green and purple colours of the real northern lights. If you're able to knit or sew and you can spare some time, you could help.

**Download our bunting information sheet:**

[http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bunting/at.download/file?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=engagingnetworks&utm\\_campaign=endhungeruk&utm\\_content=2017+03+23+bunting](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/bunting/at.download/file?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=endhungeruk&utm_content=2017+03+23+bunting)

**Email us to let us know you're interested** - and if you can, let us know how many pieces of bunting you can produce:

<http://church-poverty.org.uk/>

**Get to work,** make the bunting, and send it to the Iona Community (details on the information sheet) by 14 July. Thanks in advance! Liam Purcell, Church Action on Poverty, 28 Sandpiper Court, Water's Edge Business Park, Modwen Road, Salford M5 3EZ 0161 872 9294 [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)



## FORMER HEAD OF CAFOD EDUCATION BECOMES PAPAL KNIGHT

**Ellen Teague:** 4 April 2017

After two decades as Head of Development Education at CAFOD and many years of service to the Birmingham Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission and to Interfaith Dialogue, Brian Davies, 83, was invested as a Knight of St Gregory on 2 April.

The investiture was conducted during a Mass at Brian's parish, Sacred Heart Church in Rugby, celebrated by Bishop William Kenney, auxiliary in Birmingham, and in the presence of Papal Knight William Ozanne and Papal Dame Nora Whelan. "We are drawing attention to the good things Brian has done with CAFOD and Justice and Peace", said Bishop Kenney, "and through these things God is shown to our world - that God's kingdom is among us". He said that one role of a papal knight is to defend the weak and oppressed against injustice, and Brian has already been doing that for many years. There were four concelebrants, including parish priest Fr Gerry Murray, and they stood in front of six beautiful 'Days of Creation' windows.

Brian and his wife Diane were also celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. The joyful mass was packed with family members, parish friends and longstanding colleagues with CAFOD and Justice and Peace. These included Julian Filochowski, former Director of CAFOD; Pat Gaffney, Director of Pax Christi; and theologian Mary Grey.

While at CAFOD Brian oversaw development education campaigns on such issues as *'Migrant labour in South Africa'*, *'The causes of Africa's crisis'* and *'Renewing the Earth'*. He was keynote speaker at literally hundreds of conferences and day events - including many linked to the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales - focusing on the issues, the pastoral cycle process of Justice and Peace formation, and both Liberation and Creation theology. And he has edited several books on the Church's Social Teaching.

Recent campaigns on Food and Climate Change and education work around *Laudato Si'* were brought by him into his diocese and parish. Since 2003 the parish has had a series of talks each Autumn with Brian playing the leading role in securing speakers. Following three years on Vatican II, the theme of the tenth series in 2013 was its Spirituality. There were talks on Kingdom, Franciscan and Peace Spirituality with a contribution from Birmingham's Archbishop on Ecumenical Spirituality. A more recent theme has been the renewal of the Church being brought about by Pope Francis, whom Brian described as "an inspiration to all of us".

There are 18 papal knights in Birmingham Archdiocese and around 200 throughout England and Wales.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/32265>

## CHILD SAFEGUARDING

**Patrick Harte:** 10 April 2017

The latest UNICEF child marriage rates in Uganda are 40% married by the age of 18 and 10% by 15. A UNICEF-coordinated national survey on violence against children in Kenya had 73% of males and 66% of females experiencing physical violence before their 18th birthdays. More disconcertingly still, google "child sacrifice" and you will see horrific stories about ritual murders of children.

These are vignettes of the reality in east Africa where corporal punishment is outlawed, children's acts are in place, and all countries are signatories to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is also the wider backdrop against which Emily Hosford operates as child protection mentor of VMM International, the UK and Dublin-based NGO originally founded as the Volunteer Missionary Movement. Emily, an engaging and energetic 31-year-old from Limerick, leads a small core team dedicated to protecting children and vulnerable adults in targeted areas of Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and Tanzania. Her work takes her to these countries as she visits VMM International's partner organisations to help implement child safeguarding policy and procedures.

"We've been leading the way in promoting child safeguarding with our partners, who have considerable outreach in their communities thanks to their good standing with local government and traditional leaders," she says. "We've been building expertise over several years, yet safeguarding means the same everywhere – protecting children from harm and promoting their rights in a practical way. It's about creating a culture of safety and openness within your organisation."

A faith and values-based international development body, VMM has been active in safeguarding for eight years, assisting upwards of 25 partners first in developing effective policies and understanding what safeguarding signifies in their respective contexts, and then in rolling them out. These efforts materialised into a specific safeguarding mentoring programme in 2015, backed by the Irish charity Mísean Cara.

"I work closely with the designated child protection officer of an organisation as well as with other staff members," says Emily, for whom a site visit can last a month. "Our partners range from civil society organisations and other NGOs to small community-based organisations, such as clinics, and then larger diocesan programmes with schools, teacher training centres and hospitals," she elaborates.

One of the child protection officers trained by Emily is Gorret Kugonza Rusa from Mountains of the Moon University in Fort Portal, Uganda. Gorret is one of dozens of new officers sponsored by VMM to undertake an eight-week online course (the Kimmage Open and Distance Education training in Child Protection in Development Practice). "Our commitment is to create awareness among all the people within our reach of their obligations to provide for children's optimal chance to develop to their full potential," she says. "My impact is felt not only at the university but in the whole Rwenzori region of western Uganda," Gorret says.

Corporal punishment is one of the principal forms of abuse that VMM works tirelessly to counter. According to Oladapo Awosokanre, from UK-based campaign group Africans Unite against Child Abuse (AFRUCA), "growing up in Africa, physical beating is not seen as a big issue". He explains: "Africans have a strong belief that their children should achieve and they think if they don't physically chastise them, they won't have the rectitude to achieve in their lives." Emily's team therefore promotes positive discipline methods and classroom management techniques in nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools through training of positive discipline mentors, general staff training and workshops. One recent event was attended by more than 156 teachers from 25 different schools (representing a total of 16,800 pupils) in the Turkana and Trans Nzoia districts of Kenya; meanwhile 600 head teachers and deputies participated in a single session in Kitale, Kenya, last July.

People with disabilities are another key concern, and VMM is striving to raise awareness of the rights of vulnerable adults among protection officers in 19 partner organisations. These endeavours scored a success when Uganda Martyrs University revised its safeguarding policy on one of its campuses to include vulnerable adults. The programme thus encourages partners to take seriously inclusive education and education for all, as well as helping protection officers in Kenya and Uganda to access counselling supervision, and facilitating networking with local organisations and connecting of partner staff.

This attempt to foster a sustainable network of good practice – which is the ultimate safeguarding goal for Emily – is aided by technology and social media platforms, with all their knowledge-sharing possibilities. "There are a lot of people and organisations doing different things around child protection, so we're linking them together in order to share that expertise outside VMM," she says. "Eventually, it has to be a collaboration between all sorts of organisations – international ones like Child Focus, Save the Children, UNICEF; organisations who work through partners, like VMM does; and local organisations themselves."

Remarkably, local-language radio plays are proving a useful educative tool, spreading the message as far afield as South Sudan. Last year, for example, ten such productions were broadcast in Turkana, Kenya, with follow-up phone-ins and Q&As, and the same plays subsequently aired in Fort Portal, Uganda. Sometimes, however, obstacles appear in the way of this vital work. Cultural sensitivities, or even the legal system itself, can hinder the protection officers and the supplementary parish safeguarding committees that have been established by VMM and which have enabled children to be rescued from situations of neglect, abuse, rape, and even witchcraft and sacrifice.

Emily, with six years' experience in international development, acknowledges the difficulties, saying: "There are Kenyan people, Ugandan people who in their work are facing opposition. They can be controversial figures because when you're discussing child protection it can be a sensitive topic. Another challenge is when people come to the child protection officers and report abuse. The officers follow this up and guide the victim and their family through the right procedures. But although the laws are there, they're not enforced by the police. It's not all police – quite often there are barriers to justice put in place by the legal system or by individuals within the system." Not that Emily will ever sit in judgement on her host countries. She always seeks to reflect VMM's *modus operandi* of simply responding to locally articulated needs. "It's not about me, from Ireland, going to another country and saying, 'This is what you should do,'" she insists. "No, it's about listening to partner staff and what they need help with. This helps build trust."

For John Denny, CEO of VMM – which since its formation in 1969 has placed more than 2,800 volunteer professionals in capacity-building development work in over 30 countries – the element of trust is essential. "Once you get fully involved in a community, you get involved in conversations about the reality of the place, so for somebody to talk to a westerner about child sacrifice, for instance, means that we are communicating," he says.

Thankfully, that darkest end of the safeguarding spectrum – child sacrifice – remains a foreign territory to Emily personally, though she admits, "I know it's a growing problem in Uganda." Oladapo Awosokanre defines the problem as twofold: "First there are issues of branding certain vulnerable children as witches or possessed – disabilities are seen as not normal and albino children as oddities. They don't see that as abuse unfortunately – they're just sending them back where they came from. Then there is sacrificing young people to gain power, which happens across Africa," he continues. "Certainly before elections, politicians want to have power so there is an increase around election time."

Whatever the abuse – and it can take the form of violence, defilement, early marriage, child labour or exploitation – for Emily, there is always the restorative counterpoint of her dedicated colleagues on the ground. "I've met amazing people through this project who are really passionate about children's rights," she says. "If you're more vulnerable in society or your community – if nobody takes you seriously – then you're more likely to be abused. And that's the story generally. But I also think every society has deeply-embedded values of child protection. Care-givers here make enormous sacrifices to send their children to school in order to give them a better life. It's really all about attitude change, and anything to do with attitude change is gradual or generational," she concludes. "But every day I see evidence of how people cherish children and want what is best for them. This helps me believe positive change is possible. We're getting there."

• For details of volunteering opportunities available with VMM, contact Van: [van@vmminternational.org](mailto:van@vmminternational.org) or 0044 (0)151 291 3438

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN ENGLAND & WALES URGED TO REVIEW THE CHURCH'S CELIBACY REQUIREMENT

29 April 2017: Catholic bishops in England and Wales are facing a fresh call for a national commission on the ordination of married men amid mounting concern that the church's celibacy requirement is contributing to a shortage of priests. The call for a review of celibacy as a condition of priesthood comes after Pope Francis signalled last month he was open to the possibility of ordaining married men under specific conditions. The issue is expected to be raised at a synod next year on vocation. The Movement for Married Clergy (MMAc) is renewing its call for a national commission of bishops, clergy and laity to discuss ways of tackling the shortage of priests. "We're asking bishops to recognise the issue and examine possible solutions in good faith," said the MMAc secretary, Chris McDonnell.

A recent editorial in the *Catholic Times* endorsed the call. "What has the church got to lose by establishing such a commission? Or perhaps more importantly, the focus should concentrate on what the church has to gain from such a move," it said. According to Catholic Church figures, 25 men entered training for the diocesan priesthood in 2016 for England and Wales compared with more than 150 in 1985, although the pace of decline has slowed in recent years. "We have a very advancing age profile of serving priests, and low numbers of people going into seminaries," said McDonnell. "At the moment, it's just about manageable. But in five years' time it's going to be very different. We want to use this window of opportunity to look at what could be done." Last year it was announced that a third of the 62 Catholic churches in North Wales would close by 2020 because of a shortage of priests under the retirement age. In January, Salford diocese said more than 20 churches across Greater Manchester would close and about 100 parishes would merge, partly because of falling numbers of priests.

The MMAc said Pope Francis's comments suggested a new openness to the idea of married priests. In a separate interview, Cardinal Walter Kasper, a German theologian close to Francis, said the pope wanted to leave the decision up to local bishops' conferences. "The [vocation] situation differs so widely in different parts of the world that a uniform worldwide solution is not possible," Kasper told a German church website, [katholisch.de](http://katholisch.de). Each bishops' conference should decide whether it was in favour of married priests and then submit proposals to the Pope. "I have the feeling that if their application is well-founded, it will be met positively." He added: "We simply cannot carry on with the situation as it is at the present ... One cannot just go on clustering more and more parishes together into ever larger entities."

Celibacy is a matter of church discipline rather than doctrine, and Catholic priests were often married up until the 12th century. In the UK, married Anglican clergy who joined the Catholic Church in disagreement over the ordination of women have continued to serve as priests. "I think the vast majority of lay Catholics would accept married clergy – particularly young people for whom it is a no-brainer," said McDonnell. "But we want to be very clear that we're not rejecting celibacy. If a man decides as part of his vocation to be celibate, we'd applaud his dedication. Celibacy and the priesthood should not be considered incompatible."

Two of the church's 22 serving bishops, Tom Burns of Menevia and Seamus Cunningham of Hexham and Newcastle, and three retired bishops have backed married priests in recent years. However, the bishops' conference of England and Wales rejected a proposal to ordain married men in 2015.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the Church in England and Wales, has said he sees no need for change. "I don't think we are in a [vocations] crisis in England and Wales," he told the *Irish Catholic* in February, adding: "I personally value ... the celibacy of the priesthood." Father Christopher Jamison of the Catholic National Office for Vocation said he had "no problem" with the ordination of married men, but "it does not solve the fundamental challenges facing churches today". He pointed out that the Anglican Church ordained married men and women yet still faced a clergy shortage and declining congregations.

Pope Francis has said the next synod in October 2018 will discuss the decline in vocations. Reports have suggested the Pope wanted the issue of celibacy to be discussed but yielded to objections from his advisers.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/29/catholic-bishops-pressed-to-review-celibacy-rules-shortage-of-priests>

## NEW FILM ON JEAN VANIER'S L'ARCHE MOVEMENT

A new documentary out in June explores the history of the L'Arche movement. *Summer in the Forest*, follows Philippe, Michel, Andre and Patrick, who were once locked away and forgotten in violent asylums, until the 1960s, when the young philosopher Jean Vanier took a stand and secured their release. Together they created L'Arche, a community at the edge of a beautiful forest near Paris, built on a belief in God's love for the vulnerable. A quiet revolution was born, and a movement began to spread.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury said: "I am delighted to see the story of Jean Vanier's inspired work being shared in film. The work of Jean Vanier has reshaped attitudes to those with learning difficulties, and that reshaping has overflowed into a deeper appreciation of what we share in being human, and how those who imagine themselves to be strong are taught by those whom many consider to be weak."

Director Randall Wright's follow-up to his critically acclaimed and award winning film *Hockney* showcases compelling story-telling at its best. Under his deft and generous touch human self-importance crumbles to reveal our better instincts. Assumptions are shattered as we are welcomed to a place where the usual hierarchies don't apply. *Summer in the Forest* is arriving in UK cinemas on 23 June. Damaris Media, Mencap and L'Arche UK are partnering with the filmmakers to bring this unique release to a wider audience, providing a special companion booklet alongside the film.

**For more information and to see a trailer, visit: [www.summerintheforest.com](http://www.summerintheforest.com)**

## AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED *PORTRAITS OF FAITH: SYRIA'S CHRISTIANS SEARCH FOR PEACE* An exhibition of artworks inspired by the Syrian conflict

ACN Portraits of Faith: Syria's Christians Search for Peace has been assembled by the NW Office of Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) in response to the terrible suffering in Syria, particularly of Syria's Christian communities. The exhibition will feature artworks and crafts inspired by the Syrian conflict, including oil paintings by Farid Georges, a Syriac Orthodox artist from Homs, hand-made table linens by three Christian women from Aleppo and jewellery by two Christian jewellers also working in Aleppo. Photos from ACN's extensive archives will introduce visitors to some of the people and places from the suffering Church in Syria today. Over 100 drawings by Syrian children of all faiths will also be on display; these were sent late last year to the European Parliament with a plea from Syria's young people for help from the West to secure lasting peace in their country. Entrance is free and all are welcome. ACN NW is raising awareness and funds to support 25 Christian families in Syria for one year each.

**To find out more, please contact ACN NW** Tel: 01524 388739; email: [nw.office@acnuk.org](mailto:nw.office@acnuk.org)

- Lancaster Cathedral: Saturday 24 June (9am-6pm) and Sunday 25 June (9am-6pm)
- Wrexham Cathedral: Saturday 1 July (9am-5pm) and Sunday 2 July (9am-5pm)
- Salford Cathedral: Saturday 8 July (12noon-6pm) and Sunday 9 July (12noon-5pm)
- Shrewsbury Cathedral: Saturday 15 July (9am-4pm) and Sunday 16 July (9am-4pm)
- Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral: Saturday 22 July (10am-4pm) and Sunday 23 July (10am-4pm)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### JUNE

**4 Hope Charter Launch** Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TQ with Cardinal Nichols and church leaders from across Merseyside. The Hope Charter is an ecumenical initiative to encourage proper funding of effective social care. Refreshments in Piazza café 2pm, explanation of Charter 2.20pm, Ecumenical service and official launch 3pm.

**8 General Election. Guidelines produced by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales** encouraging active participation: [www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Election-Message](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk/Home/News/Election-Message)

**Pax Christi resources:** <http://paxchristi.org.uk/2017/05/05/pointers-for-the-general-election/>

**CAFOD and CSAN resources: *Our Common Future*** <http://e-activist.com/page/8526/action/1>

<http://cafod.org.uk/content/download/41413/469782/version/3/Our%20Common%20Future%20General%20Election%20question%202017.pdf>

**UN nuclear ban treaty/replacement of Trident/construction of new nuclear power stations** [cnduk.org/Election2017](http://cnduk.org/Election2017)

**10 Celebration Mass for CAFOD SHREWSBURY volunteers** plus shared table. Families welcome. 11.30am at Blessed John Henry Newman, Knutsford Road, Warrington WA4 1JE

**10 Celebration Mass for CAFOD LIVERPOOL volunteers** from 2pm (for 2.30pm start) to 5pm at St Bartholomew's Parish Centre, Rainhill L35 6NY. We will be looking back over the year and will have a special visitor from our Latin American Team, Weronika Ozerianska, newly back from visiting the Connect2Peru communities. [liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk)

**13 Celebration and thank you** Keswick 7-9pm hosted by Bishop James and Alison to celebrate the impact of **Christian Aid Week** over the last 60 years and thank the supporters that make it happen. Light buffet and drinks.

**13 Time out on Tuesdays** An ecumenical quiet day for everyone 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. Cost £10. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**14 Friends of Sabeel UK Conference 2017 *Hope in the midst of Hopelessness*** 7.15-9.30 pm Altrincham URC, Trinity Church Hale, 81 Cecil Road, Hale, Altrincham WA15 9NT. Refreshments served from 6.30pm. Hear about the reality of life in Occupied Palestine from Omar Haramy, one of the leaders of Sabeel Jerusalem and a driving force in sustaining Hope in a situation that to so many seems Hopeless. Plus an opportunity to watch the **Balfour Project** film ***Britain in Palestine 1917-1948*** and consider an alternative to the UK Government's plans to 'celebrate' 100 years since the Balfour Declaration in November of this year. Information about **Kairos Britain's** advocacy programme to encourage a Morally Responsible Investment Strategy for the various Church denominationS in the UK. Details [logan-j@btconnect.com](mailto:logan-j@btconnect.com) 07525 750191

**15 a Poverty Witness** with Niall Cooper, Church Action on Poverty. Marple Methodist Church, Church Lane, Marple SK8 7 AY at 7.30pm. Arranged by Marple Churches Together J&P Group.

**16-18 *The Great Get Together*** – a nationwide invitation from Brendan Cox, husband of murdered MP Jo Cox, to honour the first anniversary of her death by getting together with neighbours to share food and celebrate all that we have in common. Further info: [www.greatgettogether.org](http://www.greatgettogether.org)

**18 Wirral Coastal Walk** from Seacombe Ferry to Thurstaston Country Park Visitor Centre to raise funds for CAFOD's Syria and Yemen Appeal. Please join us – you can walk 4, 10 or 15 miles along the Wirral coast or sponsor others. Further info: 0151 632 5504, or 0151 647 9124 or 01244 677594

**20-26 Refugee Week** <http://refugeeweek.org.uk>

**22 Feast of St Thomas More** – an opportunity to remember in prayer the many people worldwide who suffer for their beliefs. Amnesty International: [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) Christians Against Torture: [www.acat.org.uk](http://www.acat.org.uk)

**24 Liverpool J&P Commission Annual Assembly *Our Common Home*** using Catholic Social Teaching as our guide, with Tom Cullinan, Jenny Sinclair (T4CG), Nicholas Postlethwaite and others we will look for ways to respond positively to the signs of our times. 10am – 4.30pm, LACE Conference Centre, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA. Contact Steve Atherton 0151 522 1080, email: [s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk)

**26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** [www.irtc.org/our-work/day-against-torture-on-26-june.aspx](http://www.irtc.org/our-work/day-against-torture-on-26-june.aspx)

## JULY

**1 Refugee Week** celebration *Sharing our Future* at the Friends Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster 2-9pm.

Organised by Global Link, proceeds to Lancaster and Morecombe City of Sanctuary. [www.globallink.org.uk](http://www.globallink.org.uk)

**1-9 Week of Action on Climate Change** [www.theclimatecoalition.org](http://www.theclimatecoalition.org)

**8 Listening to the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor:** the Response of the Church in Latin America to Pope Francis' Call. **CAFOD Campaign Event** with Fr Peter Hughes SSC, expert in indigenous communities in South America. 10am-2pm (to be confirmed) St Joseph's Parish Centre Wrightington, Crow Road, Standish, Wiganb WN6 9PA. Plus the first opportunity to hear from the CAFOD Campaign Team about the new Climate Change-related campaign Power to Be. [liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk)

**9 Sea Sunday** [www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/about-sea-sunday](http://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/about-sea-sunday)

**11 'Three Jumbos crash in a day'** John Williams, retired hospital consultant, tells of some of his post-retirement activities overseas. CWDF Forum 6.45-9pm, The Unity Centre, Cuppin St, Chester CH1 2BN

**11 Time out on Tuesdays** An ecumenical quiet day for everyone 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. Cost £10. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**21—23 NJPN Annual Justice & Peace Conference** The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. *'A Sabbath for the Earth and the Poor: The Challenge of Pope Francis.* Speakers at this weekend conference include: Dr Ruth Valerio who is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director for Tearfund; Fr Peter Hughes SSC. has spent most of his life as a missionary in Peru, working in some of the most impoverished communities in Lima. He is an advisor to the Instituto Bartolome de las Casas, working in programmes of leadership and social justice; Kathy Galloway is an ordained minister of the Church of Scotland. She was leader of the Iona Community from 2002-2009 and formerly head of Christian Aid Scotland. She is also a published poet, author and hymn writer. Lots of other elements to the weekend and there is a completely separate programme of activities for young people. See their website for full details and booking arrangements: <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/> Email: [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk); Tel: 0207 901 4864 [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

## AUGUST

**6 & 9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.** More information and prayer resources from Pax Christi [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) 020 8203 4884

**18-21 Pedal for Peace 2017 Coast to Coast Challenge** Barrow-in-Furness • Kendal • Barnard Castle • Great Ayton • Whitby. Setting off from Barrow-in-Furness, the home of the UK's nuclear fleet, on Friday 18 August we will reach Whitby on Monday 21 August and doff our cycling caps in honour of St Hilde. Please join us for a wonderful event in support of important peace education work. Registration fee £20 for the Coast-to-Coast / £5 for the Last Leg. Deadline 30 May. Call the Pax Christi office on 020 8203 4884 or email [education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk)

## SEPTEMBER

**1 Day of Prayer for Care for Creation**

**1-4 October Season of Creation** [http://seasonofcreation.org](http://http://seasonofcreation.org) [www.columbans.co.uk/creation-time/](http://www.columbans.co.uk/creation-time/)

**12 Time out on Tuesdays** An ecumenical quiet day for everyone 10am-4pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. Cost £10. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: [winniecenacle@mail.com](mailto:winniecenacle@mail.com)

**15 CAFOD Quiz Night** Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port 7.30pm. With Fairtrade refreshments provided at the interval. Entry fee £3 adults, £1 children. Proceeds to CAFOD's Connect 2 Ethiopia project. Details: Tony Walsh 0151 355 6419

**17 Anti Modern Slavery** ecumenical service Chester Cathedral 6.30pm. Major Ann Read will be preaching and the band from Hoole Church will be playing. The Bishop of Chester, the mayor, and the high sheriff will also be attending. Please spread the word to show we care about stopping. All welcome, but please give numbers to Canon Jane Brooke, Vice Dean to ensure adequate seating [canon.brooke@chestercathedral.com](mailto:canon.brooke@chestercathedral.com)

**21 Peace One Day** annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence [www.peaceday.org/global-campaigns](http://www.peaceday.org/global-campaigns)

## OCTOBER

**Advance Notice: COME & SEE 2017** With Timothy Radcliffe OP at Christ The King School Southport, **14 & 15 OCTOBER** with workshops by Steve Atherton, Fiona Castle, Dermott Donnelly and more.... Music by Jo Boyce and friends, also Mime artist Steve Murray and Margaret Duncan. For more info about all our events see our website [www.irenaeus.co.uk](http://www.irenaeus.co.uk) or contact the IRENAEUS PROJECT on 0151 949 1199 or email [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)

• Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News [www.indcatholicnews.com](http://www.indcatholicnews.com) or from Ekklesia [www.ekklesia.co.uk](http://www.ekklesia.co.uk) both invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles. Sign up for comprehensive weekly e-bulletins from National J&P Network 020 7901 4864 [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)

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