



# Justice & Peace

News from National Justice & Peace Network

Autumn 2011



*Age is opportunity  
no less  
than youth itself,  
though in  
another dress.  
And as the evening  
twilight fades away,  
The sky is filled  
with stars,  
invisible by day.*

### Some Advent/Christmas Resources and Actions

Pax Christi: Advent Crib Project for Schools; Messages to Bethlehem: 020 8203 4884  
YCW Advent Service resource: Searching for the Crib in our Streets: 020 8203 6290  
Action by Christians Against Torture (ACAT): Christmas Card campaign: 01752 843 417  
Links: [justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://justice-and-peace.org.uk)

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## Rediscovering the Dignity of Work



Photo: Peter Richardson

At July's annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) in Derbyshire attended by around 300 people, Anne Peacey, Chair of NJPN, pledged to 'Close the Gap' between the richest and the poorest in UK society as part of the campaign organised by Church Action on Poverty. 'Close the Gap' aims to reduce levels of poverty and inequality in the UK, to speak out where Government policy adversely affects the most vulnerable, and to promote fair working conditions so that low-paid workers have dignified employment.

The 33rd annual conference of the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) raised awareness of working conditions in today's economy and modern society. A keynote speaker was the Deputy General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC), Frances O'Grady. She quoted Catholic Social Teaching which '...recognises that the relationship between an employer and a worker is a fundamentally unequal one and that therefore unions have an important role at work and in society, building solidarity and providing a voice for working people'. She pointed out that faith groups have worked with trade unions on many issues such as the 'Living Wage' campaigns and should now work together to challenge public spending cuts which hit poor communities the hardest. This was picked up by former member of parliament John Battle, who highlighted that papal teaching on 'Work' encourages trade union membership. He also pointed out that the papal document 'Rerum Novarum' of 1891 was the first document to use the term 'living wage'.

*Ellen Teague*

The conference was chaired by Maria Elena Arana from CAFOD and began with a talk from David McLoughlin, a theologian, on the social conditions of the people in Palestine in the time of Christ and how Jesus challenged these through his teaching. Jon Cruddas MP gave a reflection on the dignity of work in today's society and how aspirations about work have changed. Phil Callaghan, National President of Young Christian Workers, gave a powerful testimony about the challenges young workers face in work and stepping onto the employment ladder in this time of recession. Sheila Kambobe of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, spoke about the plight of workers and small businesses in a free market in Zambia. There was great emphasis on the need to continue the discussions on justice in the workplace, and ensure that the Church's voice is heard in society.

*YCW Report*

In a message ahead of the conference, **Cardinal Peter Turkson**, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace said: 'I wish first and foremost to congratulate the NJPN for holding a meeting to consider Justice as indispensable condition for peace, fulfilment and growth.'

### And kids came too...

This year we at Y-Kids were delighted to be asked to lead the children's work again at the Justice and Peace conference. We have been running the programme for a number of years now. It's always a jam packed weekend - and we certainly sleep well afterwards! As usual the kids were a pleasure to work with - they came up with lots of great thoughts, got stuck in with our lively worship and rose to the challenge of our messy games and practical activities.

This year we looked at 'Hopes and Dreams'. We thought about

how the journey that we go on to achieve our dreams will have challenges, but God is with us all the way. We thought about how encouraging one another to never give up is really important. Just as we cheer each other on, Jesus cheers us on too.

The children took part in lots of craft activities - making an earth collage, rockets (*reach for the stars*), patchwork, ties, bead making and lots more. There were sports activities, including an aerobics work out with "Russell & Muscle" as well as having a go at a couple of Olympic sports. Lots of fun was

had, and it was great to see some new and familiar faces. What another great year!

*Kate Yates*

*Y-Kids Schools Work & Gap Year Co-ordinator*



Photo: Peter Richardson

*Lots more reports and photos are available on the website, [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk). CDs of all the inputs and liturgies can be obtained from NJPN, please contact the office for details.*

## Speaking Personally: John and Audrey Marshall

### Where do you think your commitment to justice and peace comes from?

We were both born on council estates in Newcastle in 1935. Audrey's was a typical Irish/Tyneside Catholic family while mine tended to be either communists or Co-op Society. We both went to Secondary Modern Schools. After leaving school at 15 both of us became apprentices, Audrey as a Tracer and myself as a Fitter and Turner. We both joined trade unions and both of us held office in the T.U. movement, which is where we first learned about the importance of solidarity, of giving time to justice issues, and working with and on behalf of others. We met at 16, I became a Catholic at 19 and we married at 21, when I began National Service in the RAF.

After our children were born we both decided to become Catholic teachers. Audrey eventually became deputy head of the parish primary school and I was housemaster of a diocesan secondary school. Soon after teacher training we set up a youth club in our local parish hall and lead this popular inner city club for 30yrs. We also ran a YCW group in the club, which helped us to understand young people and their problems, including unemployment, poor wages and bad working conditions. At an early age we joined the Labour Party and are still active members. I was a City Councillor for 19 years and had terms of office as Sheriff and Lord Mayor, giving us a unique opportunity to see the vast amount of voluntary work going on in the community.

After retiring we set up a Fairtrade Shop in an affluent area of Newcastle. It failed after just one year— maybe we are not too good at business! I was General Secretary of the Movement of Christian Workers for two years. After I retired from this post we both became interested in J&P and I spent 14 years as diocesan Chair. Three years since I stood down as Chair, we are both still active on the Diocesan Co-ordinating Council. Our commitment to Justice and Peace comes from all of these life experiences, giving us so many opportunities to explore Catholic Social Teaching and put it into practice in our own way. We almost always work as a team.

### What for you are the most important areas of concern today?

Inequality has to be a huge area of concern- inequality of opportunity, racial and gender inequality, economic inequality with the ever widening gap between the rich and the poor, leaving many with little or no hope. In the current economic climate it is those who can least afford it who suffer most, through government cuts, unemployment, and a feeling that things are not going to improve. We have become familiar with poverty in developing countries and do what we can through agencies such as CAFOD to promote justice abroad, but here among us we are now seeing real poverty, and sometimes this can be harder to deal with. Sometimes J&P seems to pull us in many directions. However, we recall the words of Oscar Romero:

*"We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well"*



In this spirit the work we have decided to engage in is destitution among asylum seekers, including some migrants and a few local people who are experiencing hard times. At our Justice and Peace Refugee Project (JPRP) we befriend around 150 clients who rely on us to provide them with £5 and a bag of groceries

each week, together with three hot meals and somewhere to be during the hours of 11.00am until 3.00pm, Monday to Friday. This project has been running successfully for ten years. Our only concern is that at 3.00pm, we have to send some of these people out to sleep rough or to find a bed with friends who are not yet destitute. We have yet to find a solution to this.

### What sustains you in your commitment?

We are kept going through our work with like-minded people of goodwill, Justice & Peace groups, colleagues and friends, those who tirelessly volunteer at our asylum drop-ins and day centre, who organise parish food collections or who deliver these to our centre. Also those who send us cash to keep our asylum fund afloat. All of these people are an inspiration to work alongside. We are also sustained by our prayers answered, and those of everyone associated with our work. These are a source of untold strength. We have the certainty that the Church community is totally supportive of our work. We confess that we thoroughly enjoy taking part in demonstrations, local, national and international- standing in solidarity with people sharing a cause. We love walking proudly behind, from time to time, the Labour Party banner, the NUT banner or the J&P banner. There's no feeling like it!

### What are your hopes for a Church like ours in the 21st Century?

We would like our Church to be an example of justice and fairness, seeking to vocally and actively redress the balance between the overly rich and those in poverty. We would like to see the Church working alongside others on campaigns such as "Closing the Gap" and "Live Simply", while continuing to unstintingly support, through CAFOD, Progressio etc. the needs of the developing world. Within the Church, we'd like to see those in positions of authority listening to the voices of women, and treating them with more justice. Similarly to take notice of the views of lay people, and not just expect blind obedience. We think that, perhaps, the Church is starting to move in this direction. We certainly hope and pray that it is.

*John and Audrey Marshall are NJPN members and active on the Diocesan Co-ordinating Council in Hexham & Newcastle.*

There is a developing awareness of the spiritual and pastoral needs of people with dementia and their carers. The CSAN Dementia and Spirituality Project seeks to build on good practice from the faith communities with a particular focus on the Catholic Church. A



## Dementia and Spirituality

DVD exploring spirituality and dementia, *It's still ME, Lord*, is available from CSAN.

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is the umbrella organisation for domestic social action in England and Wales. Several CSAN members provide

invaluable services to older people such as residential, nursing and respite care and run imaginative outreach and befriending projects to help some of the most lonely, isolated and destitute older people in our communities. For more information contact: CSAN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, 020 7901 4875 or visit [www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk](http://www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk)

## Age as Opportunity

It is generally known that there is an increasing number of older people in the UK, 'older' being defined as anyone aged 60+; at present this group numbers about 12 million, some 20% of the population. Much of the associated commentary talks in apocalyptic terms of 'demographic time-bombs', 'inter-generational inequalities', and other negative attitudes to this God-given gift of longer life.

What is true is that older people are an extremely diverse section of the population, some of whom span an age range of over 40 years, some 2 or even 3 generations (viz the growing number of centenarians), and whose circumstances vary as widely as those of the population as a whole. There are particular variations in income (1:5 pensioners live on or below the poverty line), in health (average life expectancy for men in industrial areas can be 11 years shorter than for those in more affluent



locations), in housing, in social exclusion, and in the quality of care received as frailty develops. But most older people today are relatively fit, not frail. They are 3<sup>rd</sup> age people, able to live independent active lives, whatever their chronological age. What we all hope for is to extend this period, and to experience only a short episode of 4<sup>th</sup> age dependency when we will be well cared for by our families, communities (and the NHS).

In fact, this extended 3<sup>rd</sup> age period is a relatively new phenomenon. Most of us 3<sup>rd</sup> agers are only too aware that we are able to lead more active lives than our parents did at comparable ages. But how should we spend these gifted years, these years when we don't have to wake up to the alarm clock? (The late Keith Waterhouse used to say that Happy Hour for him was when he woke up in the morning and realised he didn't have to go to work). How are we expected to spend this God-given special time? How do we balance

the demands of continued family responsibilities, caring for the frail couple next door, the Baltic cruise, the U3A courses, the hospital check-ups, and our involvement with justice & peace issues?

Fortunately many 3<sup>rd</sup> agers use this new disposable time in ways very beneficial to their own and wider communities. A recent study by the WRVS valued older people's volunteering at approximately £40 billion per annum. This can involve committee membership, fund-raising and campaigning (as CAFOD knows only too well), befriending of asylum seekers, work with projects for homeless people, and political lobbying, to name but a few examples. There are issues of particular concern to older people themselves including campaigns against Fuel Poverty, and those launched by the recently re-named Age UK (which now embraces overseas issues as a result of the merger between Age Concern and Help the Aged).

However, most of us will eventually become frail, and experience the inevitable losses of later life: of partners, of friends, of home, of health, and of energy. We won't be rushing to work in the charity shop or attend the march or committee meeting. Let's hope that at this stage we will have more time to pray for those who are still out and about, and that occasionally we are able to get on-line to track and support what they are doing in our name. At a time when there are so many tensions and injustices in the UK and globally, this may be our most important contribution of all.

*Anne Forbes*

### Useful addresses:

Church Action on Poverty, Dale House, 35 Dale St, Manchester M1 2HF. Tel: 0161 236 9321. [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)  
Age UK, York House, 207-221 Pentonville Rd, London N1 9UZ. Tel: 0800 169 6565. [www.Ageuk.org.uk](http://www.Ageuk.org.uk). (and local partners around UK)

### Some reading

*The Gift of Life: Growing Old Gracefully.* Joan Chittister. Darton Longman & Todd. 2008.

*The Forgotten Age: understanding poverty and social exclusion in later life.* The Centre for Social Justice/Age UK. November 2010.

*The Stature of Waiting.* WH Vanstone. Darton Longman & Todd. 1982.

*The Warmth of the Heart prevents Your Body from Rusting: Ageing without Growing Old.* Marie de Hennezel. Rodale (Macmillan) 2011

## Fish on Fridays?

To believe some of the media reports following the meeting of the Bishops of England & Wales earlier this year, you might think that eating fish on Fridays was a mark of Catholic identity. Catholics in England & Wales are being asked to abstain from eating meat on Fridays from 16 September. The guidance suggests a common act of witness presents an opportunity to explain its significance to interested parties. Any such explanation could include a correction of the misconception and a reminder that, with many fish stocks and fishing communities under threat, it makes sense to be selective about the fish we eat at any time.

More than 1 billion people rely on fish as their main or source of protein, and 95% of fish workers live in developing countries. Small scale fishers often face competition from subsidised commercial fishing from Japan, EU, US, Canada, Russia, Korea and Taiwan, causing depletion of native fish stocks. Illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing threatens



the long-term sustainable management of some fisheries particularly in African waters, see [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

The Marine Conservation Society has developed an on-line guide to sustainable seafood, [www.fishonline.org](http://www.fishonline.org). Marine Stewardship Council certification and improved labelling by retailers is aimed at enabling informed choices to be made, but the certification process is not foolproof.

No one doubts the nutritional value of fish, but eating such a precious resource hardly seems to be a penitential act.

*Bernard Shaw*

*You can read a more detailed version of this article on our website, along with other ideas for making Friday penance a creative act of solidarity with the poor; or contact the office for a hard copy*

## DIARY

Links to websites of dioceses and organisations listed below can be found at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk), unless otherwise stated. Go to our website for more dates on the rolling calendar or via our extensive external links.

### OCTOBER

- 7 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
- 8 London: Anti-war Mass Assembly: [stophthewar.org.uk](http://stophthewar.org.uk), 020 7801 2768
- 8 Leeds: Leeds J&P/CAFOD Day: [Shelagh@leedsjp.org.uk](mailto:Shelagh@leedsjp.org.uk), 0113 261 8055
- 8-16 Global Debt Week: Jubilee Debt Campaign, 020 7324 4722
- 9 Swansea: Youth for Peace! [dovesyouth@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dovesyouth@yahoo.co.uk)
- 14-16 Ringsfield Hall: Christian Ecology Link Retreat, 0845 459 8460
- 15 Crewe: Enough to Live Simply day: [joansharples620@btinternet.com](mailto:joansharples620@btinternet.com), 01270 620 584
- 15 Solihull: Birmingham J&P Assembly with Tina Beattie: [jenkins@woxon.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:jenkins@woxon.freeserve.co.uk), 01993 702 654
- 15 Rotherham: Hallam J&P Assembly with David McLoughlin: [sacredheart479@btinternet.com](mailto:sacredheart479@btinternet.com), 0114 234 3580
- 15 Lancaster: Celebrating Creation with Maria Elena Arana & Kathy Galloway: [lfjc@talktalk.net](mailto:lfjc@talktalk.net), 01524 383081
- 15 Luton: Northampton J&P Assembly: 01234 353 116
- 15 London: Launch, Building Peace with 2012 Olympic Games: [justice@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:justice@rcdow.org.uk), 020 8888 5518
- 16-22 National Ethical Investment Week: [www.neiw.org](http://www.neiw.org): Action Guide for Churches at [www.eccr.org.uk](http://www.eccr.org.uk), 01865 245 349
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: [unmeditation.org](http://unmeditation.org)
- 17 Bristol: The HBOS Story and Lessons Learned: 0117 328 2334
- 19 Manchester: Hunger for Justice –small farmer movements from global south: World Development Movement, 020 7820 4900
- 19 Swindon: The Banker Who Spoke Out: 01793 536 815
- 22 Southwark Autumn Assembly: 020 7928 9742
- 23-30 One World Week: 0118 939 4933
- 23-30 Week of Prayer for World Peace: [nfpb.gn.apc.org](http://nfpb.gn.apc.org), 020 8968 4340
- 24 United Nations Day: [unmeditation.org](http://unmeditation.org)
- 26-27 Crewe: Retreat: Passion for the Inner City: [info@carj.org.uk](mailto:info@carj.org.uk) copy to [richard@zipfel.uk.com](mailto:richard@zipfel.uk.com), 020 8802 8080
- 29 Oxford: The Modern State and the Kingdom of God: [pa-lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pa-lascasas@bfriars.ox.ac.uk)
- 31 Dictator Debt Day of Action: Jubilee Debt Campaign, 020 7324 4722

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Stratford, E. London: 'Chaos-Divisiveness– Hope': [urbanmission.org.uk](http://urbanmission.org.uk), [dawn@unlock-urban.org.uk](mailto:dawn@unlock-urban.org.uk)
- 5 Birmingham: CAFOD Campaign Energiser Day: [marana@cafod.org.uk](mailto:marana@cafod.org.uk), 020 7095 5417

- 6 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church: Christian Solidarity Worldwide 0845 456 5464
- 9 London: Uniting for Peace Annual Conference: 020 7377 2111
- 12 Leeds: CAFOD Campaign Energiser Day: [marana@cafod.org.uk](mailto:marana@cafod.org.uk), 020 7095 5417
- 13 Remembrance Sunday: [whitepoppies.org.uk](http://whitepoppies.org.uk), 020 7424 9444
- 13 London: Development and Disarmament: The Kindest Cut of All: [brucek@uk2.net](mailto:brucek@uk2.net)
- 17 London: Vulnerable Workers...London 2012 and Beyond: ECCR 01865 245 349
- 17 London: Housing Justice AGM: 020 7920 6411
- 18 London: CAFOD Pope Paul VI Lecture: Christopher Jamison OSB: [cafod.org.uk/lecture](http://cafod.org.uk/lecture), 020 7095 5684
- 19 London: **NJPN Networking Day**: What is the alternative? Forum discussion led by John Battle: 020 7901 4864
- 19 Kendal: Lancaster Faith & Justice Assembly with Dan Hale: [lfjc@talktalk.net](mailto:lfjc@talktalk.net). 01524 383081
- 19 Leeds: Church Action on Poverty Annual Conference: 0161 236 9321
- 19 London: Christian Ecology Link Annual Members Meeting: 0845 459 8460
- 20 Prisoners Sunday: [prisonersunday.org](http://prisonersunday.org), pact 020 7735 3989
- 20-26 Prisons Week: [prisonsweek.org](http://prisonsweek.org)
- 20-26 Interfaith Week: [interfaithweek.org](http://interfaithweek.org)

### DECEMBER

- 1 World Aids Day: [worldaidsday.org](http://worldaidsday.org), 020 7814 6767
- 5 London: Pax Christi Advent Peace Service: 020 8203 4884
- 10 UN Human Rights Day: [unmeditation.org/](http://unmeditation.org/)
- 28 Holy Innocents Witness: Network for Peace

### 2012 JANUARY

- 15 Peace Sunday: Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884
- 21 Crawley: Arundel & Brighton Annual Assembly, 'Slaves to Branding': [justice-and-peace@dabcec.org](mailto:justice-and-peace@dabcec.org), 01293 515 666
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day, 'Speak Up, Speak Out': [hmd.org.uk/](http://hmd.org.uk/)
- 28 London: CAFOD 50th Anniversary Mass
- 28 Poverty Sunday: Church Action on Poverty 0161 236 9321
- 28-5 February: Poverty and Homelessness Action Week: [actionweek.org.uk](http://actionweek.org.uk)

### FEBRUARY

- 5 Homelessness Sunday: Housing Justice 020 7920 6411
- 11 Leicester (tbc): **NJPN Networking Day** 020 7901 4864
- 22 London: Ash Wednesday Witness: Pax Christi 020 8203 4884
- 27-11 March: Fairtrade Fortnight: Fairtrade Foundation 020 7405 5942

**DONATE TO NJPN:** By cheque payable to NJPN to the address below, online at [www.cafonline.org/donate](http://www.cafonline.org/donate), put National Justice and Peace Network in the Find a Charity box. To make a regular donation by **Standing Order**, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

**The National Justice & Peace Network** encourages and facilitates communication and networking between Catholic/Christian individuals, groups, and organisations (both lay and religious) who are working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation at grassroots, diocesan, national or international level.

*This newsletter is produced three times a year by the Network. The views expressed are not necessarily those of the National Justice and Peace Network.*

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NEXT ISSUE DATE

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