



Justice & Peace

News from the National Justice & Peace Network Summer 2002

National Justice & Peace Network (NJPN)

39 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1BX
Tel: 020 7901 4864
Fax: 020 7901 4821
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

The National Justice & Peace Network coordinates and encourages work for justice and peace within the Catholic Dioceses of England and Wales.

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.

Editorial Team:
Maureen Matthews
Phil Kerton

Contents

Global Ceasefire Day	2
Groups Audit	2
Tobin Tax	2
Formation	2
Conference 2002	2
Agencies Merge	3
Diary	4
News Items	4

NEXT ISSUE DATE
OCTOBER 2002

COPY DATE
1 SEPTEMBER

AGM discusses Pan Faith Britain

John Battle MP was the guest of the National Justice and Peace Network at their AGM on 11/12 May. John Battle, who is the Prime Minister's Interfaith adviser, is a regular and old friend of the Network.



John Battle MP

For the past two years the Network quarterly meetings have invited a series of different faith speakers. The AGM featured a review of the programme and a discussion on 'Where do we go from here?'

John Battle set the context by saying that engagement with our brothers and sisters of other faiths is not "an optional, a luxury, an add-on or an extra", it is at the heart of the question: Who is my neighbour?

Hence the need to be 'Faith Navigators' making space for the best in other Faith traditions and getting to know our own Christian faith tradition better. While acknowledging that Religions have contributed to serious problems through

history, we also need to know and affirm that Faith can be liberating. Faith can shape our experience and action, and without such action we can have little credibility, particularly with the young.

Hence he urged the elimination of crude stereotypes which we have about one another, and urged common action involving all faiths, such as opposing war, responding to inner city issues of social injustice.

This common action will help to lessen fear and give people of all Faiths a new common story as we

face the injustices that destroy so many human beings and our planet. There may be no clear pathways, but as we talk and act in partnership, we make a new route together. It may be conflictual, but a lived experience in service to our suffering humanity and planet will also be a richer one than if we stay in our sacristies. Gaudium et Spes challenged us, he says, to solidarity, participation and prayer.

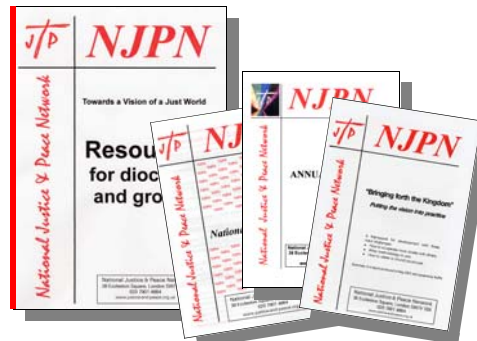
New Image

As you will see from this Newsletter we have a new 'face'. Our name and our logo have not changed but we have tried to give ourselves a fresh look. So the change of colour for the newsletter brings a uniformity with our notepaper and some recently produced documents.

A resource book for dioceses and groups gives a variety of information and worksheets. A new leaflet explains the National J&P Network and "Bringing forth the Kingdom" is a document that looks at the strategy for working with our vision of justice and peace.

"Bringing forth the Kingdom" Like many other organisations NJPN produced a vision

statement for the new millennium involving the whole network. What we now have is a framework for trying to put that vision into practice. It was the product of a working party whose report was the subject



of wide consultation before ending up in this summary leaflet form.

After reflecting on the inspiration of the Scriptures and the Church's rich tradition

of social teaching, we are reminded of some of the glaring issues of peace and justice that confront us - but also the signs of hope. The main part of the document then explores some of the different models for bringing about change, the many partners with whom we can collaborate and the spirituality needed to sustain us.

There is strong emphasis on working 'with our fellow Christians, with other people of faith and indeed with all people of good will'. Finally, in order to integrate Justice and Peace more fully into the life and mission of the Church the document makes a plea for more human resources.

Copies available from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

Group Audit

Many J & P groups are based in catholic parishes. Our MAD group is different. (MAD = Marple and District!). It comes under the umbrella of Churches Together and is truly ecumenical with members from almost all of the local churches. This is unusual and, in the Shrewsbury Diocese, looked upon as a model for emerging groups in other areas. Even more unusual is that, because of our location, our fourteen members come from two Catholic dioceses, two Anglican dioceses, three Methodists circuits and two URC areas.

The MAD group was formed in 1998 as a result of a series of Lent talks that looked at the then forthcoming millennium as a time of Jubilee. We have been meeting monthly ever since. Our purpose as a group is to work and pray for justice and peace in whatever way we can and to encourage others to do the same. To be a resource for churches and encourage simple actions for all church members to join in. By taking action together we support each other in trying to live out the Gospel message .

In the past year, for instance, we have learnt specifically about the needs and problems of refugees world wide and those seeking asylum in our country. Some members are now helping practically with the newly formed Stockport Refugee group. We discovered more about Credit Unions but decided it was too big an undertaking for our group to start one in Marple, at this time. We have learnt more about the reeducation

of child soldiers in Sierra Leone from a CAFOD partner at present studying in England. Also we have found out about the problems of clearing landmines in Cambodia, through a United Nations Association initiative being supported by the Mayor. We supported both these activities with donations.

Fairtrade is always a passion of group members. As well as trying to promote Traidcraft in our churches, we regularly talk with the local Co-op on this issue and have a stall there each year during Fairtrade Fortnight. The group is also fully supporting the Trade Justice campaign launched last year.

Since Sept 11 there has been an even greater focus on peace. We organised a peace vigil in January and hope to repeat this later in the year. Some of the group are also involved with the newly established Stockport Peace Forum.

Our group produces a newsheet, highlighting events and actions, to coincide with the quarterly meetings of Marple Churches Together and copies are available in all churches.

NJPN is trying to do an audit of all J&P groups and activity throughout England & Wales. Please write to us giving details of your group, its membership, activities, special interests and contact people.

Write to 39 Eccleston Square or Email maureen.matthews@which.net

Network News

24th Annual Justice & Peace Conference

Who Is My Neighbour



People of faith working together for the common good

Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
19-21 July 2002

Booking Forms available from: NJPN
39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX
020 7901 4864

- Conference & Formation

"Towards a Vision of a Just World" Workshops

The Theology & Spirituality of J&P
Group Skills & Networking

We have now run six each of these workshops around England and Wales and they have proved to be inspirational with solid theological and Scriptural input and of practical use - very "user friendly" in fact. Almost all those who attended -over 200 - felt they would be able to hand on what they had learned in some way.

The "Theology & Spirituality" workshop will be repeated at Salisbury on 15 June and Taunton on 6 July. These could be repeated in your area if that will benefit your group, Commission or network.

Autumn workshops will be in response to demand using the Pastoral Cycle and working in conjunction with agencies on their current campaigns and issues.

Contact: Rosemary Read,
National J&P Worker on 01332 293336.

21/9

Global Cease-Fire Day

What have you planned to mark the first ever Global Ceasefire Day on 21 September 2002?

The vision of this day is being carried throughout the world by Jeremy Gilley, whose initiative has gained UN support. Food aid distribution and child inoculations are possible benefits if this day succeeds.

Visit: www.peaceoneday.org

Tobin Tax



Roy Hattersley with the Declaration on Harnessing Currency Transactions to tackle Global Poverty

The first two points of the Declaration explain the function of the Tobin Tax, also known as the 'Robin Hood Tax'.

- International currency transactions total more than \$1 trillion a day The vast majority of this is unrelated to the real economy of tangible trade in goods and services Such enormous speculative flows have contributed to serious economic damage to countries and regions such as Mexico (1994) Southeast Asia (1997) Russia (1996) Brazil (1999) and Argentina (2001)
- A small levy on such currency speculation (a Tobin tax - named after the Nobel Laureate who originated the concept) could both dampen down the scale and scope of speculation and raise substantial revenues potentially in excess of \$50 billion each year for projects targeted towards ending global poverty.

The declaration calls on the Chancellor to take a global lead in pursuing all steps necessary for an early introduction of an internationally co-ordinated Currency Transactions Tax with the proceeds ring fenced for international sustainable development objectives and to ensure that these proceeds do not replace either existing international aid disbursements or agreed commitments to increase International aid.

For further information contact David Hillman
Tel:0207 6201111 Web: www.tobintax.org.uk
Email:dhillman@waronwant.org

AGENCIES MERGE

CASC

CATHOLIC AGENCY for SOCIAL CONCERN (CASC)
39 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1BX
020 7901 4875
E: lindsells@cbcew.org.uk

CHAS

CATHOLIC HOUSING AID SOCIETY (CHAS)
209 Old Marylebone Road
London NW1 5QT
020 7723 7273
www.chasnational.org.uk

PACT

PRISON ADVICE & CARE TRUST (PACT) (formerly The Bourne Trust)
Lincoln House
1-3 Brixton Road
London SW9 6GE
020 7582 1313
www.imprisonment.org.uk

The last nine months has been a time of listening, challenge and change for **CASC** as we review our role and functioning. We have been exploring new ways of working to enable us to be more effective in being a focus for the Church's work on poverty and social exclusion.

Following a meeting of representatives of **CCWC (Catholic Child Welfare Council)**, CASC, the Social Welfare Committee of the Bishops' Conference and the new Association of Directors of Diocesan Welfare Agencies in August 2001, it was felt that the best way forward is through having one organisation that sought to co-ordinate, advocate for, support and empower those involved in Catholic social welfare.

The process of setting up the new Agency is now in its final stages. There has been discussion and agreement on issues of finance, board, governance, location, process, staffing issues ensuring due diligence, assets and liabilities. The inaugural meeting of the new Board will have taken place in April. A Director will be appointed in May and the new Agency starts operating in September 2002. After a period of overlap CASC and CCWC will cease operations on 31st December 2002.

The proposed structure of : - '**New Agency**' England and Wales

<u>Board</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Forums</u>
5 Diocesan Agencies	• Networking & Convening	Directors' Forum
2 Bishops; 1 Religious	• Policy & Advocacy	Childrens' Forum
1 Network; 1 Independent	• Capacity Building	Criminal Justice Forum
2-5 Individuals	• Communication	Adult Forum
1 Europe	• Theological Reflection	Community Relations Forum

CHAS, the **Catholic Housing Aid Society**, is setting out on a new venture. We have decided in principle to merge with the **Churches National Housing Coalition (CNHC)**, to form a new ecumenical and gospel-rooted organisation. We are currently consulting stakeholders and supporters for their views.

The churches have a long tradition of involvement in housing and homelessness, both in providing services and campaigning for change. But our voice is not loud enough. We believe a single organisation would better represent the churches' concerns to decision-makers, and provide a more comprehensive service to people who are homeless or poorly housed.

We have a history of working with CNHC on a number of projects, such as the annual Homelessness Sunday, which was marked this year by over 2000 churches across the country. We have recognised for some time that our work is complementary and the two Boards' discussions over a number of months have demonstrated the closeness of our vision.

This vision stems from the fact that Britain is far from meeting the basic human need of decent housing for all, and there is a distinct part for churches to play in seeking to meet this aim. The churches have a presence throughout the country, even in the most deprived areas, and a single organisation could best help churches get involved in these issues.

We face an exciting future as we seek to create a louder church voice on housing and homelessness. If you have views on this proposal, we would very much like to hear from you.

The **Bourne Trust** merged with **Prisoners Wives and Families Society** at the end of October last year and became **PACT**, The **Prison Advice and Care Trust**. Both charities had been doing similar work and were fortunate enough to have the same Chair person for their board of Trustees. Staff of both organisations were apprehensive at the prospect of merger, but were keen to meet the challenge and forge a new, vibrant and forward looking organisation. Six months down the line and we are preparing for our official launch as PACT. So, has it been difficult? No, it *has* however been challenging!

The merger has created a larger and more effective organisation, providing more rounded and stable services for our very needy client group. Has it changed our moral and philosophical position? Has it as some feared meant the loss of a uniquely "Catholic" voice in the field of criminal justice? The answer is clearly no on both counts. We still do what we do because of what we believe and we still, to a great extent draw our support, both spiritually and financially from the Catholic community. For us, and for our clients, bigger has undoubtedly meant better!

We at PACT hope that we can continue to count on your support as we attempt to serve the needs of a section of our community that is frequently both marginalised and neglected. If you wish to find out more about the merger please visit our web site at www.imprisonment.org.uk

DIARY

Prayer Information Reflection Action

May 30 Campaign training evening for the lobby of Parliament for Trade Justice, 18h30-21h00, All Hallows on the Wall Christian Aid Office, 83 London Wall, London EC2 (Doors open 17h30). Call 020 7496 1680 to book free place.

Jun 2 Golden Jubilee Interfaith Service, 15h00-16h00, Battersea Park, release of 2002 doves of peace. A variety of fringe events will take place.

Jun 5 Earth Summit 2002 Rally, Birmingham - info@earthsummit2002.org

Jun 6 Performance of The Dalit Drum at the Guildhall, Eastgate Street, Gloucester. A musical evening focussing on the struggle of the Dalits. Tickets £6, from the Guildhall Box Office or Jane Gardner at Gloucester Christian Aid (tel 01452 309115).

Jun 7-15 Event at Faslane submarine base, marking the 20th anniversary of the Peace Camp.

Jun 8 Pax Christi AGM, Diocesan Centre, Mornington Crescent, Mackworth, Derby. With President, Bishop Malcolm McMahon and speaker Rt Hon. John Battle, MP. (020 8203 4884)

Jun 8-9 Whose Rules Rule? Trade, Debt and Corporate Power. World Development Movement AGM, speakers include John Pilger. Further information from the [WDM Website](#)

Jun 13-18 Event at Aldermaston weapons factory. Join in and put an end to real weapons of mass destruction. Further Information on the [Trident Ploughshares website](#) or call their dedicated answerphone news line on 0845 458 8365.

Jun 15 Southwark J&P AGM at St Mary's, Clapham Park Road, SW4, including input from Chris Cole on CAAT's "Call to Conversion". Details 020 7928 9742 or swkjp@dircon.co.uk

Jun 16 Day of prayer against the arms trade. "Call to Conversion" resource pack £2.50 from CAAT, 11 Goodwin St, London N4 3HQ.

Jun 16-18 Stop the Arms Trade Week. Further information and events from the [Campaign Against the Arms Trade website](#).

Jun 17-23 *Refugee Week*. Info: [Refugee Council](#) (020 7932 1019 or 020 7582 3055)

Jun 19 Trade Justice Movement - Mass Lobby of Parliament (CAFOD 020 7733 7900). Events on the day include an ecumenical liturgy at 12h45 and Mass with Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor in Westminster Cathedral at 17h30.

Jun 23 Whispering Freedom, an evening for Burma at the Royal Court Theatre (020 7565 5000)

Jun 26-28 G8 Summit: posters/fliers for local action from Jubilee Debt Campaign, 020 7922111.

Jun 29 Liverpool J&P Annual Assembly, "Reading the Signs of the Times", at Centre for Evangelisation, Liverpool.

Jun 29 CCND AGM in Oxford, followed by workshop on "Dialogue with Decision Makers", run by Janet Bloomfield (020 7700 4200 or ccnd@gn.apc.org or www.gn.apc.org/ccnd)

Jul 5 CEL Academic Seminar "Consumption, Christianity and Creation" at Sheffield. Public Debate at Victoria Hall Methodist Church, 20h00, *Worldly Goods: God's Blessing or Curse?*

Jul 6 CEL Day Conference in Sheffield, *While Stocks Last? Christians, Consumerism and Creation* - John Gummer, Sir John Houghton, other prominent speakers - <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk>

Jul 7-19 Training for Transformation is an exciting programme based on the principles and methods of Paulo Freire. A two week Training for Transformation residential workshop in Malpas, Cheshire. for more information see <http://www.che.ac.uk/Events/malpas2002.htm>

Jul 19-21 **Annual National J&P Conference, Swanwick. *Who is my neighbour?* 020 7901 4864.** People of faith working together for the common good. Info at: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Jul 25-28 CARJ National Congress, Southlands College, Roehampton Institute, London. *People of Colour, People of God*.

Jul 27-Aug 3 Catholic Peoples Week. Matlock, Derbyshire. "The Song of Creation". Speakers include Dr Edward Echlin and Dr Tim Cooper. Details: 01342 3114357.

Jul 27-Aug 3 International Conference on An Interfaith Perspective on Environment, free Trade and Globalisation: Common Goals, Common Crises, Common Call and Common Hope Plater College, Oxford. Conference Secretary: 01865 740520

Aug 6 Anniversary of Hiroshima (and Nagasaki on 9th August). Services of remembrance at Aylesford, 20h20 (Phil Kerton 01474 873802), Westminster Cathedral (vigils outside, prayers and Mass in the Cathedral). (Info. Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884 or CND 020 7700 2393)

Aug 23-26 Greenbelt, Cheltenham. Stalls include one involving CAP and another jointly with CEL.

Sep 8 Racial Justice Day. (CARJ) 020 8802 8080 (or info@carj.co.uk), or from CCRJ, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL (020 7620 4444).

Sep 21 UN Global Cease Fire Day (see page 2) (www.peaceday.org)

Sep 28 CAAT National Forum 020 7281 0297

Oct 13-20 Inter Faith Week of Prayer for World Peace (Literature with prayers from several faith traditions via 0117 942 3454).

Oct 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: info. from UK Coalition Against Poverty, 020 7703 5400

Oct 18-20 CAP Annual Conference at Carberry Tower, near Edinburgh. (CAP 0161 236 9321 or www.church-poverty.org.uk)

Oct 20-27 One World Week - *Into Action*. (Info. enquiries@oneworldweek, or PO Box 2555 Reading, RG1 4XW, Tel. 0118 939 4933 or at www.oneworldweek.org).

Nov 1 CIIR AGM, 18h00-22h00 (buffet from 19h30), London Voluntary Centre, N7. (020 7354 0883 or bgeorgiou@ciir.org)

Nov 17 Day of prayer for prisoners and their dependants. Date for PACT (Prison Advice & Care Trust) - formerly Bourne Trust annual appeal for funds. 020 7820 3454.

Nov 17-23 Prisoner's Week - materials from PACT 020 7582 1313 (Prison Advice & Care Trust) - formerly Bourne Trust)

NEWS

Earth Summit 2002

At their Low Week meeting the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales urged 'all Catholics to pay close and prayerful attention to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg from 28 August to 4 September 2002'.

Use your Loaf

Christian Ecology Link has recently had a focus on Food and Land Use. Out of this came a simple mnemonic to bring to mind the wider issues of how our food is produced, and how as Christians we might take care of God's creation.

Locally produced
Organically grown
Animal friendly
Fairly traded

Using the 'placemat' above see that the food we use in our churches follows the LOAF principles and encourage people to think about our responsibility towards the environment.

RECOMMENDED READING

From the Land of Green Ghosts

by Pascal Khoo Thwe

At a time when democracy in Burma is in the news again and the release from house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi raises 'cautious optimism', this compelling book is the story of Pascal's journey from the remote jungles of the Kayan Padung Tribe to Caius College, Cambridge. A brilliant read that tells you more than Pascal's own story.

HARPER COLLINS
ISBN 0007116810

Website

Visit our website:
www.justice-and-peace.org.uk