

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

SAD NEWS: PROGRESSIO TO CLOSE AFTER 75 YEARS

September 22, 2016: The charity Progressio has announced today that it is to close next year. Following the loss of a two million pound grant from the Department for International Development, the charity has been unable to raise enough funds to continue. In a letter, the Chair of Trustees, Martin McEnery writes: "At a meeting on 14 September 2016 to discuss the conclusions of the recent consultation on Progressio's future, the charity's trustees and myself as chair took the decision to begin proceedings to close Progressio. This decision has been taken with deep regret, on the basis that we have not been able to secure sufficient levels of income to ensure a viable future post March 2017. It is our intention to, as far as possible, complete all project and partner commitments through to the end of March 2017 alongside our Global South partners. For the International Citizen Service (ICS) programme our sub-contract will pass back to the ICS contract holder Voluntary Service Overseas. With regards to the other three projects where funding continues beyond the end of March 2017, we are currently working with a few organisations to ensure our current work and existing commitments can be fulfilled after March 2017.

The decision to close comes despite intensive fundraising efforts and many years of investing to diversify income. Unfortunately, the funding landscape has become increasingly competitive and we have been unable to replace the £2 million unrestricted grant per annum from the Department for International Development which comes to an end in December 2016. We, the trustees and myself as Chair, have reached this decision with great sadness. The decision was agreed and supported by all the trustees. We are hugely proud of all that has been achieved since the charity was formed in 1940. In particular we appreciate and thank all of our staff, Development Workers and volunteers both in the UK and overseas, as well as all of our supporters like you. Together, your support and dedication have helped our partners and some of the world's most marginalised communities achieve incredible things, empower themselves and challenge multiple unfair power structures.

Our thoughts now are with the people we work alongside, such as the Yemeni, Somali and Southern African women struggling to have a voice and working to counter deeply entrenched abuses of their rights and violence targeted against them. They are also with the subsistence farmers across all our country programmes in Central America, Africa and Yemen who are striving for sustainable livelihoods and to have a voice in decisions that affect their lives. We will do our utmost to ensure their voices continue to be heard and their struggles supported." Fiona Mwashita, Progressio's Sub Regional Manager of Southern Africa said: "I would like to thank all the supporters of Progressio who have helped us carry out significant development work through our international programmes."

The letter concludes: "We would like to thank you all for your support, donations and time. Moving forwards, we are no longer actively fundraising. However, any donations that we receive will go towards our core funding to help us keep providing support to the people and partners we work with in fragile states until March 2017. We leave a proud legacy and the foundation of a huge amount of good work that will now be continued by others across many countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. We will seek to ensure that as much of our legacy as possible is captured and that some of our history, achievements and learning are made available to others."

History - (text taken from the Progressio website)

The organisation was founded, with the support of Cardinal Hinsley, on 1 August 1940 and originally named: 'The Sword of the Spirit' - as a reaction to war and to Hitler's rejection of 'kinship and love'. The lay Catholic group was a "campaign of prayer, study and action to unite the citizens of this country in support of future peace," Cardinal Hinsley said.

In its early years The Sword of the Spirit worked to build peace in Europe. It published pamphlets on Nazism, and spoke out about the threat of totalitarianism to the Christian conception of life and to international order. Although The Sword initially focused on oppression in Eastern Europe, it began to widen its attention to the international stage and to address issues such as food aid and human rights. This growing internationalism led The Sword to begin to recruit volunteers to work overseas in 1963, working in conjunction with the British Volunteer Programme. The Sword believed it was important to invest in people, and its volunteers set out to enable people in the developing world to find solutions to their own problems. This idea would later become central to the success of the organisation.

In 1965, The Sword of the Spirit was renamed the Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR). While establishing a reputation as a leading international development agency, CIIR continued its policy work, seeking to provide a moral voice against human rights abuses and to influence both the Church and state. By this time, CIIR was well respected for its analysis and commentary on international issues. It had developed good relationships with the global South and worked closely with grassroots initiatives in the developing world, giving a voice to the voiceless and projecting them onto an international stage.

In the 1970s, following the Second Vatican Council and its statement of commitment to 'the option for the poor', progressive elements in the Catholic Church increasingly supported grassroots liberation movements. CIIR supported progressive elements of the Church in various liberation and human rights struggles in Central America, Southern Africa and Asia. It published booklets on liberation theology and promoted progressive Church speakers. This, however, was only part of its work, as detailed policy analysis and innovative work on issues such as drugs, debt and trade were not expressly Church linked. CIIR worked in collaboration with others and published high quality analysis.

When the volunteer placements first began they were linked to the Church, but the overseas programme soon adopted a wider developmental perspective, working with people of all faiths and none. Although best known overseas, the programme worked closely with other British agencies and secured a reputation for professionalism and integrity. It began to recruit skilled professionals alongside volunteers to do specific jobs in response to specific needs identified by our partners in the South.

CIIR recruited its first such 'development worker' to work in Nicaragua in 1974. It was also the first international development agency to begin recruiting local staff - rather than expatriates - to run its offices in the countries where it worked. It was a true partnership with the South, based on people sharing skills with local communities through grassroots initiatives, in order to help poor and marginalised people bring change to their own lives.

As time went on, CIIR's advocacy and development work became increasingly intertwined. Meanwhile, this development work was based on the awareness that practical solutions to the problems of poverty must be backed up by changes in the structures and policies that keep people poor. Our development programme therefore explicitly sought to build the capacity of partners to undertake advocacy themselves.

As CIIR's distinctive approach to international development took hold, it was becoming increasingly clear that the name, the Catholic Institute for International Relations, no longer represented the breadth and depth of the organisation's work. In 2006, CIIR changed its name to Progressio - a reference to *Populorum Progressio*, one of the central documents in Catholic social teaching that emerged from the Second Vatican Council. *Populorum Progressio* speaks about the challenges of development and the importance of justice in relations between rich and poor nations.

Visit Progressio's website here: <http://www.progressio.org.uk/>
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30973>

LONDON: TENS OF THOUSANDS MARCH FOR REFUGEES

Tens of thousands joined a march on Saturday 17 September calling on government to do more to aid refugees ahead of a UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants in New York on Monday 19 September to be followed by a separate summit on the issue hosted by Barack Obama the next day.

A packed ecumenical service of prayer for refugees was held at St James, Spanish Place before the march, organised by CAFOD, Christian Aid and Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS). The Anglican Bishop of Croydon, Rt Rev Jonathan Clark and Fr Michael Smith SJ led the prayers. There was a reflection on the Lampedusa Cross. Sarah Teather, director of JRS, introduced Victoire Lally a refugee from war-torn Togo who gave a harrowing description of her three years in a detention centre. She received an ovation as she thanked all the Catholic organisations who have helped her.

After the service, campaigners filed out with their banners to join the march down Park Lane towards Parliament Square, organised by Solidarity with Refugees with groups such as Amnesty International, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, the Refugee Council and Stop the War Coalition. Among the Catholic banners were: the Columban Missionaries, The Association of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, Franciscans, Dominicans, JRS, CSAN, CAFOD parish groups, Westminster Justice and Peace Medical Mission Sisters, and Medical Missionaries of Mary and many more. Slogans included: '*End the Drowning*', '*Reunite Families*', '*No-one is illegal*', '*Choose love*', '*Be human*', '*Suffer the Children*' and '*#refugeeswelcome*'

Representing the Columban Missionaries, Fr Aodh O'Halpin and Ellen Teague said the Columbans "accompany and defend the rights of refugees and were happy to show solidarity with them in the streets of Central London". They were delighted "to see tens of thousands of people walking alongside us."

At the rally in Parliament Square there were speeches from artists, actors, musicians and politicians. Juliet Stevenson expressed concern for the children trapped at the Jungle in Calais, calling on world leaders to share responsibility, adding: "I hope Theresa May is listening." Vanessa Redgrave said: "Citizens in this country, of whatever background, all want to obey the law. There are human rights laws. The present government and previous governments, Labour, coalition and Conservative, have been breaking international human rights law. We must hold them to account."

Lord Dubs, who arrived in the UK under the Kindertransport programme for Jewish children as a six-year-old fleeing Nazi persecution, said in his speech that the government has been "pretty hopeless" at dealing with the issue. He told the crowd as he pointed towards parliament: "I tell you, speaking here is a million times better than speaking in there. There is only one thing that is shifting this government and that is the force of public opinion and that means you."

Solidarity with Refugees director Ros Ereira said: "This week is going to be Theresa May's first opportunity as our prime minister to represent us at a global summit... I really hope she is going to set the tone for what kind of a country we can be post-Brexit and with her new leadership. Hopefully she will want to portray us as an open, tolerant, welcoming society that wants to play an important role on the global stage and lead an appropriate global humanitarian response." She said: 'It's not just humanitarian, it is political will. It is not a crisis of the numbers of people coming, it is a crisis about the way the government is managing it.'

More than 3,200 refugees and asylum seekers have drowned attempting to reach Europe so far this year. Around 300,000 who survived the journey are now stranded in Greece and Italy in desperately poor living conditions. Around 10,000 are living in squalid conditions at the 'Jungle' in Calais. Many of the refugees are unaccompanied children, some as young as six. There was a minute's silence for a 14 year old refugee boy from Calais who died a few days ago trying to reach UK refugees were also remembered on Saturday at the National Justice and Peace Network of England and Wales. **Jo Siedlecka**
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30941>

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES AT HEART OF POPE'S NEW *MOTU PROPRIO*

Pope Francis has created a new Dicastery to better minister to the needs of the men and women the Church is called to serve. The new 'Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development' was instituted in a Motu Proprio published on 17 August and will come into effect as from 1 January 2017 and will be especially "competent in issues regarding migrants, those in need, the sick, the excluded and marginalised, the imprisoned and the unemployed, as well as victims of armed conflict, natural disasters, and all forms of slavery and torture." On that same date, four Pontifical Councils dedicated to charity and to the promotion of human development will cease to exist and effectively be incorporated into the new institution. The Pope has appointed Cardinal Peter Turkson as Prefect of the new dicastery. Turkson is the current President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace - one of those destined to be disbanded. One of the sections of the new dicastery is an expression of the Pope's particular concern for refugees and migrants and of his deep belief that in today's world integral human development cannot be promoted without special attention for the phenomenon of migration.

Read the full text of Pope Francis' *Motu Proprio* here: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30827>

CSAN VOICES GRAVE CONCERN OVER PROPOSAL TO BUILD BORDER WALL AT CALAIS

September 12, 2016: CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) has issued the following response to Government proposal to build a four metre high concrete border wall at Calais.

"CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) is deeply concerned by the proposal to build a wall near the Calais refugee camp. We recognise the right of states to secure their borders but we believe that investing more money in security at the port and Channel Tunnel will not provide a long-term solution to the growing problems at Calais. In the past months, the refugee camp in Calais has been growing. An estimated 9,000 people are now living on one meal a day in poor conditions in the camp, hoping to find a way to build their lives again. Caritas organisations working with refugees and in the Calais camp have reported an extraordinary response to their calls for donations and aid to be sent to Calais, which is evidence of the continuing resolution among the British and French people to see the residents of the camp treated with dignity.

We reiterate our call for EU responses to the situation at Calais to respect the human dignity of residents of the Calais camp. We in particular urge the EU, France and the UK to: provide for the basic needs of migrants, including those in transit, to guarantee their human dignity; improve solidarity and responsibility-sharing among EU Member States through including a fair mechanism in the Common European Asylum System; prioritise family reunification of asylum seekers in Calais with family members in the UK, in particular unaccompanied children; give priority to protecting vulnerable people with particular attention to women and children. The dire situation in Calais cannot be resolved by building yet more fortifications. Rather we need to find ways of responding to human needs. As Pope Francis said in April, to achieve peace, "the greatest obstacle to be removed is the wall of indifference".

CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) is the social action arm of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. CSAN is a network of 44 charities that work across the field of social action including families and children, prisoners, elderly people and homeless people. **More information can be found here:** www.csan.org.uk

CSAN's French partners, Secours Catholique (Caritas France) work to support migrants in the camp at Calais.

More information can be found here: www.secours-catholique.org

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30900>

CAFOD WELCOME COLOMBIA PEACE DEAL ENDING OVER FIVE DECADES OF CONFLICT

August 25, 2016: A peace deal has been agreed between the Colombian Government and the largest guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), bringing to an end the longest internal armed conflict in the western hemisphere.

CAFOD's Head of Latin America, Clare Dixon, said: "This is a great day for Colombia. Together with our partners we are celebrating this deal as an important step towards achieving peace in the country. The agreement is a major step forward on what will be a long road to peace in Colombia, one which requires the transformation of the country and the accompaniment and participation of all of Colombian society and the international community. This is an historic moment for Colombia. The end of the armed conflict is near, and we hope this deal will bring an end to the violence and fear that has devastated the lives of over seven million people, particularly those living in rural areas; farming communities, Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Peoples."

The deal, which was reached on Wednesday 24 August in Havana, Cuba, will need to be approved by Colombians in a popular vote, which will take place on 2 October. Sergio Coronado, Deputy Director of CAFOD's partner CINEP (Centre for Research and Popular Education), based in Bogota, said: "We are celebrating this news, this is the start of a long journey to transform the country, although we still face many challenges before we can say Colombia is a country at peace. The deal will have to be approved and accepted by the Colombian society, each of the six agenda items implemented, and institutions strengthened to ensure its implementation and the security of both those who have decided to lay down their arms with this deal, as well as the people who have lived in territories that until now have been under their control."

In the past half-century, the armed conflict has killed at least 220,000 people in Colombia. More than 45,000 are missing, over 6 million have been displaced, and thousands have suffered sexual violence. "This deal explicitly recognises the commitment of both sides to replace bullets with dialogue" said Coronado. "Peace building is a duty for the Colombian State and society that will require long term debates and consensus, we need to make transformations that only will be possible if we as individuals, organisations and institutions are open to change. That is why we must focus on the construction of peace from the regions". A bilateral ceasefire was announced on 23 June - the last point of the peace talks agenda that have been taking place since October 2012 between the Colombian Government and the FARC in Havana, Cuba.

For more information see: www.cafod.org.uk <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30781>

PAX CHRISTI URGE UK GOVERNMENT TO STOP ARMS DEALS TO SAUDI ARABIA

September 2, 2016: Pax Christi International, together with Pax Christi USA and Pax Christi UK, has sent letters to President Obama and Prime Minister May voicing their concern about the continuing conflict in Yemen between the government--supported by the Saudi-led coalition -- and the Houthis, as well as the US and UK involvement with arms exports to Saudi Arabia. The United Nations Human Rights Office report that since March 2015 3,799 civilians have been killed and more than 6,000 injured. Three million have been forced to flee the violence.

The Saudi arms deals of the UK and US have been serious matters of discussion at last week's second annual Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The treaty, which the US has signed and the UK has ratified, stipulates that arms should not be exported when there is an overriding risk that they would undermine peace and security and facilitate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

In the letter to Theresa May they urge the UK government to stop arms deals with Saudi Arabia, as it has enabled the Saudi-led coalition to further intensify the bombing campaign in Yemen which is victimising civilians. The letter says that the export of arms, such as last year's transfer of 58 aircraft and 2400 missiles, should end immediately; it is not only devastating for Yemen, but it will also undermine the security of the Arabian peninsula and feed global terrorism networks. Instead Pax Christi urges the UK government to contribute to the restoration of peace talks and to deepen its engagement in support of locally and civilian-led conflict prevention, mitigation, peace-building and good governance.

Read the full text of the letter to Theresa May here:

http://www.paxchristi.net/sites/default/files/160830_letter_uk_saudi_arms_deals_-_signed_pdf.pdf

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30834>

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE (CAAT) LETTER

John Dowling continues his regular sample letters on issues relating to the arms trade.

John says: If you can personalise the letter all the better. The letter is short and to the point. As you might have guessed, it concerns the issue of arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

As always with these letters, I want to remind you that we are trying to prick the hide of a rhinoceros. You will receive a response to this letter full of anodyne statements and reassurances. However we are making progress and there is now immense pressure on the Government to suspend sales of arms to Saudi Arabia. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Greg Clarke MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Dear Mr. Clarke

Since the Saudi Arabian attacks in Yemen began earlier this year, the UK government has licensed over £2.8 billion worth of arms sales to that country. The weapon categories included for arms exports since the bombing of Yemen began include approximately:

- £1.7 billion worth of ML10 licenses (Aircraft, helicopters, drones).
- £1.1 billion worth of ML4 licenses (Grenades, bombs, missiles, countermeasures).
- £430,000 worth of ML6 licenses (Armoured vehicles, tanks).

Over 6000 people have been killed in this bombing campaign. There is now significant evidence that this has created a humanitarian catastrophe; destroying vital infrastructure and leaving 80% of the population in need of aid. Despite this, the UK has continued to arm the Saudi regime.

Reports from a range of prestigious international organisations, including a UN Panel of experts, the European Parliament and humanitarian NGOs, have accused Saudi forces of serious breaches of International Human Rights. These include:

- A failure to take all precautions in attack as required by International Human Rights.
- Attacks causing disproportionate harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- A failure to adhere to the principle of distinction and/or the targeting of civilians and civilian objects and those not directly participating in hostilities.
- The destruction of Cultural Property and/or a failure to adhere to the immunity to be afforded to such property during armed conflict.

The UK is now de facto complicit in human rights violations. The UK's position on arms exports to Saudi Arabia is indefensible. I urge you to suspend these immediately.

Yours sincerely ...

HINKLEY: BAD NEWS

Yesterday (15/9/16), the government gave Hinkley nuclear power station the green light.

This means that government ministers have decided to ignore energy experts who've said Hinkley is a bad idea [1]. They decided to lock Britain into building a nuclear reactor that hasn't yet been proven to work. And they decided to ignore the hundreds of thousands of us who signed a huge petition calling for Hinkley to be canned.

This is - quite literally - a deal that doesn't make sense. The government knows that electricity from renewables is predicted to be cheaper than Hinkley by the time it comes online. And the government knows there are huge obstacles Hinkley faces, like if technology used in the reactor will be proven to be safe [2].

For more than a decade, successive British governments have insisted that new nuclear plants should play a big role in powering the UK. But all we have to show for it is Hinkley -- a power station that's 9 years behind schedule, won't be ready for at least a decade, and is billions of pounds over budget.

All the time Hinkley has suffered setbacks, the UK has kept relying on fossil fuels. Tackling climate change is too urgent for the government to keep sitting on its hands and waiting. That's why we should be urgently investing in renewables now, not wasting huge sums of cash on a power station that may or may not be possible to build.

Though the result isn't what we hoped for, it's important to remember that the Hinkley project could still turn to dust. There are fears that EDF - the French energy firm building Hinkley's reactor - could go bankrupt [3]. And no one's sure if crucial technology set to be used in the nuclear plant will ever work [4].

Whatever happens next with Hinkley, personally I'm proud of what we've achieved together in just the last few months.

Together we're a worldwide movement of people who are determined to protect the planet -- for us, and for generation to come. So let's keep working toward a clean energy future. Because together, we will win.

Richard Casson Greenpeace UK

PS. The nuclear industry is doing all it can to spin Hinkley as a good deal for Britain. Here's a Facebook video that anyone can share to help prove them wrong.

<https://secure.greenpeace.org.uk/hinkley-video>

NOTES

1. A few of the experts who have spoken out against Hinkley are listed on this page:

<http://greenpeace.org.uk/blog/nuclear/thousands-people-just-chipped-get-times-20160831>

2. 'Safety flaw casts fresh doubt on Hinkley reactor'

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/business/hinkley-style-reactor-has-serious-safety-flaw-wq50jzxhd>

3. EDF board member warns Hinkley Point C is 'too expensive and could bankrupt' the energy firm

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3713679/French-firm-build-new-18bn-Hinkley-Point-plant-No-10-hasn-t-given-ahead.html>

4. The European pressurised reactor, which is set to be used at Hinkley Point C, is not yet commercially operational. The EPR that's under construction at Flamanville in France is experiencing serious difficulties:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/jul/27/flamanville-france-edf-nuclear-reactor-hinkley-point-c>

CHRISTIAN AID WELCOMES US AND CHINA MOVE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

September 6, 2016: Christian Aid has welcomed the announcement from the US and China on their ratification of the Paris Agreement. Mohamed Adow, Christian Aid's Senior Climate Advisor, said: "This marks the moment the two biggest economies throw their weight behind the Paris Agreement. It means the deal, agreed less than nine months ago, will now likely have the full force of law before the end of the year.

"This choreographed announcement shows that the US and China are still working together collaboratively to address climate change. And it shows how far we've come from the days when they were both at the back of the class, dragging their heels."

The Paris Agreement will enter into force after at least 55 countries, accounting for 55% of total global greenhouse gas emissions, have ratified it.

Mr Adow added: "With the US and China's announcement it is now highly likely that other countries will also join quickly and both thresholds will be crossed much earlier than anticipated. This will protect it from any future political shocks such as the election of Donald Trump this November.

We now need the other countries to join in and ratify as soon as possible, including the UK. On Wednesday there will be a debate in the House of Commons at which the UK Government will have a chance to set out their timeline for ratification. If the UK intends to retain its climate leadership on the global stage it mustn't show up late to the party.

Ultimately tackling climate change will require more than just signing the Agreement. World leaders need to turn their Paris rhetoric into reality to speed up the transition to a low carbon world which is safe for everyone."

Source: *Christian Aid*

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30859>

3,500 UK CHURCHES DITCH FOSSIL FUEL ELECTRICITY

September 2, 2016: More than 3,500 UK churches have either switched their electricity from fossil fuels to renewables or registered to do so, according to figures released by charities today. The announcement follows the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1, the beginning of a global ecumenical time of contemplation during which Christians are encouraged to pray and work for the protection of the environment.

Around 2,000 of the switches come from 16 Catholic dioceses which are running entirely on renewable energy, some of whom made the decision following the Pope's encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*. The number also includes the majority of the Salvation Army's UK sites and a third of Britain's Quaker Meeting Houses. In addition, nearly 700 churches from across denominations have so far individually signed up through the bigchurchswitch.org.uk website promoted by the charities Christian Aid and Tearfund. Following the success of the initiative, this will now be extended into the New Year.

The Rt Revd John Arnold, Bishop of Salford - one of the 16 dioceses to have switched - and chairman of Catholic aid agency CAFOD, said: "There are many ways in which we may respond to the threat and the reality of climate change and adopting renewable energy for our church buildings must be a priority. Pope Francis challenges us all to 'care for our common home', and by adopting renewable energy we will directly help people threatened, and already most severely affected, by climate change." The Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury and Church of England's lead bishop on the environment, said: "Celebrating Creationtide marks a shift in the Christian understanding of our relationship to creation under God. The consequences of teaching over recent centuries that humanity has been given domination over creation are clear in the complex environmental crisis we now face. It is important that Christians rediscover older traditions of a godly relationship of humanity to the wider created order. One simple thing we can do in response to such a crisis is to switch to using clean energy in our homes, communities, schools and places of worship".

Christian Aid Chief Executive Loretta Minghella also welcomed the news. She said: "We need a big shift to renewable energy and a shared commitment to leave the vast majority of fossil fuel reserves in the ground. This action by thousands of churches shows a groundswell of public support for renewables to which governments must respond by doing all they can to shift to a clean energy future. Tearfund Advocacy Director Paul Cook said: "The Christian community has come together to help lead the shift to clean energy - we're showing that we care for our neighbours, we care for creation, and we care that the government takes urgent action too. The longer we postpone, the worse it will be for our future and the future of people living in poverty around the world."

Some 340 congregations have also signed up to a broader scheme 'Eco-Church', committing to a range of environmental improvements. Similarly, 21 Catholic parishes have received a 'Live Simply' award, in recognition of commitments to sustainability and solidarity with people in poverty. Dr Ruth Valerio, founder of the Eco-Church programme, said: "I sense that a corner has been turned with churches engaging in caring for the earth. The Bible is so clear that God loves the whole creation, both human and non-human, and that we are to love similarly, and so it is really encouraging to see us getting to grips with what that means and taking practical action".

September 1 is the first day of Creationtide season, which runs from September 1 until October 4, incorporating traditional Harvest activities. The following week - from October 8 to 16 - churchgoers from across denominations will take part in the 'Speak Up Week of Action' during which they will join with others to explain to MPs the people, places and things they want to protect from climate change, asking the UK Government to announce an ambitious low carbon investment plan for Britain.

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30833>

CHRISTIAN AID WELCOMES GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL TO FINE ADVISORS WHO ASSIST TAX DODGERS

August 17, 2016: Commenting on today's UK government proposals to fine professionals whose clients aggressively avoid tax, Christian Aid said the move could hit the global tax avoidance supply chain, by increasing the risks facing the accountants, lawyers, banks and others involved. Toby Quantrill, the charity's Principal Adviser on Economic Justice said: "Since the UK and its overseas tax havens lie at the core of a rotten global system, it's right for the UK to take decisive action. We welcome the intention of these proposals although we have yet to see the crucial details. Tax advisers' lack of accountability for the damage they inflict on societies is a serious problem, which we have previously highlighted. We are pleased to see this government planning to match its strong words on tax avoidance with action. If the government is prepared to resist the inevitable lobbying to water down these plans and to put sufficient weight and political will behind them, then they could be an effective response."

Mr Quantrill added: "The Panama Papers and other revelations over the past few years have confirmed that tax avoidance and evasion are not just about the actions of particular wealthy individuals and companies - they are supported by a rotten global system. That system relies on accountants, lawyers and banks prepared to test the boundaries of legality in order to help their clients slash their tax bills. The UK and its tax havens are world leaders in the provision of such services. The system does great damage to people's lives, not just in the UK but also in the poorest nations. It makes it hard or impossible for governments to provide the education, care, safety and security that their citizens need. Tax avoidance deprives societies of billions needed for such public services. It also exacerbates already terrible inequality."

Commenting further on the government proposal, Mr Quantrill said: "While successful implementation will rely heavily on the definitions used, the potential exists to vastly increase the risks to those involved in the tax avoidance 'supply chain' and thus shrink the sector significantly. We would like to see the proposals include penalties for UK-based advisors and banks that facilitate tax avoidance schemes elsewhere in the world. This could make a significant impact in countries which struggle to raise the taxes needed to finance development." **Source: Christian Aid** <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30735>

REPORT SHOWS INCREASE IN RACIAL INEQUALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

August 22, 2016: Racial inequality is getting worse in the United Kingdom, with young black people and ethnic minorities suffering 'institutional racism' and 'unfairness' in education, employment and the criminal justice system, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has said in its latest report. Entitled ***Healing a Divided Britain***, the report found that life chances for young people from ethnic minorities had got worse, becoming 'the most challenging for generations.' You are more likely to experience a hate crime if you're an ethnic minority, with 82% being race related. There has been an "unprecedented spike" in hate crimes since the Brexit vote.

The report also highlighted a 49 percent increase in long-term unemployment among 16 to 24-year-olds from ethnic minority communities since 2011, compared with a fall of 2 percent for young white people. Black people remained much more likely to be victims of crime, including murder, and to be more harshly treated in the criminal justice system. It said that although educational attainment had improved, black college graduates were typically earning 23 percent less than white graduates.

Commenting on the report, Phil McCarthy, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network said: "Catholic teaching condemns racial discrimination and racism. The findings of this report highlight the pervasiveness of discrimination and inequalities experienced by ethnic communities in many areas including education, employment and the criminal justice system. The relationship between race and socio-economic disadvantage is important because the report shows that poorer white communities are disadvantaged socially. We have made progress in the realm of race inequality, with increasing numbers of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students obtaining university level qualifications and greater representation in the public sector with the number of ethnic minority police officers in England and Wales having increased to 5.5% in 2015 from 3.6% in 2006. Our member organisations work to support and protect the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in society. We're striving to build a 21st century Britain in which individuals irrespective of their class, race or ethnicity are able to fully participate in society".

Yogi Sutton, Chair of Trustees of the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) said: "Education is a key driver of social mobility and this review illustrates how different ethnic communities are being marginalised and excluded from the education system. Permanent school exclusions for Black Caribbean children in England are nearly three times the exclusion rate for all pupils. The research shows students from Gypsy/Roma, Irish, Traveller and Black Caribbean backgrounds have the lowest GCSE attainment levels.

In the wake of Brexit, we have seen an increase in hate crimes which seek to threaten the fabric of British society. We have to commit to investing in building a fairer, safer and equal society. Pope Francis called for an end to bigotry and racism stating 'the problem of intolerance should be dealt with as a whole: every time a minority is persecuted and marginalised because of his religious beliefs or ethnicity, the good of the whole society is in danger.'"

The Equality and Human Rights Commission's ***Healing a divided Britain*** is available here:

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/healing_a_divided_britain_-_the_need_for_a_comprehensive_race_equality_strategy-final.pdf
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30766>

ONE IN EIGHT TOO ILL OR DISABLED TO WORK BY STATE PENSION AGE

September 5, 2016: Around one in eight (12 per cent) men and women are forced to stop working before state pension age due to ill-health or disability, according to Trades Union Congress (TUC) research published today (5 September 2016).

The TUC report, *Postponing the pension: are we all working longer?*, finds that nearly half a million (436,000) workers who are within five years of state pension age have had to leave the workplace for medical reasons.

The analysis also reveals a stark North-South divide. In the South West of England, sickness and disability is cited by just 1 in 13 of those who have left work in the run-up to state pension age, followed by 1 in 11 in the South East and in the East of England.

But this rises to 1 in 7 in Yorkshire and the Humber, the North East, the North West, Wales and Scotland and 1 in 4 in Northern Ireland, reflecting wider health inequalities across the regions and nations of the UK.

The report also reveals that those who have worked in the lowest paid jobs – including cleaners, carers, those working in the leisure industry and those doing heavy manual jobs – are twice as likely to stop working before retirement age due to sickness and disability than managers or professionals.

Workers aged over 50 now make up one in three (30 per cent) of the workforce – up from less than one in four (24 per cent) in 2000. The report finds that nearly half (49 per cent) of 60 to 64 year olds stopped working before their official retirement age.

The TUC General Secretary, Frances O'Grady, said: "Raising the state pension age is an easy target for chancellors of the exchequer wanting to make stealth cuts. But these figures show that we must hold off on any further rises in the pension age until we have worked out how to support the one in eight workers who are too ill to work before they even get to state pension age. People should be able to retire in dignity with a decent pension when the time is right. Older workers have a crucial role to play in the labour market but we can't expect the sick to wait longer to get a pension when they may need financial support more than ever."

Postponing the Pension: are we all working longer? <https://www.tuc.org.uk/sites/default/files/PostponingThePension.pdf>
<http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/23400>

WHY WE NEED TO SUPPORT THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION BILL

On Friday 28 October 2016, MPs will gather in Parliament to debate the Homelessness Reduction Bill. The bill represents a very important opportunity to reform homelessness legislation in England. As a Catholic charity working on the front line of homelessness, Caritas Anchor House fully supports the bill, and to ensure a fair hearing, we are calling on everyone to write to their MPs and ask them to attend the debate and back the bill.

Caritas Anchor House is a residential and life skills centre for single homeless adults based in Newham, one of the most deprived boroughs in the UK. Each year, we offer a home and support to up to 220 homeless people and work to ensure that those who walk through our doors grow in confidence and move towards leading independent, self-fulfilling lives by providing education, guidance and personal rehabilitation.

In the last few years, we have seen a dramatic increase in demand for our services, as homelessness in London and the country continues to rise at a worrying rate. In the year to March 2016 alone, Caritas Anchor House received 598 referrals for our 118 rooms, an increase of 13.5% from the previous year. Meanwhile, the latest figures from the Department of Communities and Local Government show the number of people sleeping rough in England on any one night is 3,569 - an increase of 30% from last year and double that of 2010. In addition to this, there are a further estimated 400,000 'hidden homeless' people, living in hostels, squatting, sofa surfing and more.

It is unacceptable that so many people are abandoned by society and left to sleep rough. Homelessness cannot be ignored any longer and the 'hidden homeless' crisis, which MPs have recently warned about, is unfortunately all too real.

We need a step change to tackle homelessness in England and that is why Caritas Anchor House and countless other homeless charities, organisations, MPs and celebrities are supporting the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

"When my landlord sold the property I was living in, I approached the council for help. I was receiving support from mental health services and had to leave the property quickly, but I was not considered a priority. The council turned me away and I was forced to sofa surf, which only made my depression worse." - Caritas Anchor House resident who sofa surfed after asking the local authority for help.

Under current homelessness legislation, people who do not fit into restrictive 'priority need' categories, or who are found to have made themselves 'intentionally' homeless, are often turned away with little or no help when they approach their local authority. In 2015/16, 114,790 people applied to a local authority for help under the current homelessness legislation. Only half of those (50.3%) were considered to be in priority need and unintentionally homeless. This can cause undue anxiety and pressure on the individual or families concerned, in what is an already stressful time.

In Newham alone, in the year ending April 2016, 2,448 people approached the local authority for homelessness assistance, of which, 1,345 were accepted as homeless (55%). 198 were recorded as 'intentionally homeless', 286 as 'homeless but not priority' and 619 as 'eligible but not homeless'. In the same period, there were 11.89 homelessness acceptances per 1,000 households in Newham, compared to 5.49 in London and 2.52 in England.

While additional funding announced by the government in the 2016 Budget to support rough sleepers off the street is welcome, it is not sufficient to deliver the long term changes needed to reduce homelessness across England.

The Homelessness Reduction Bill aims to change this. It will make sure that councils have a duty to prevent and relieve homelessness regardless of priority need, extend the time that households are considered at risk of homelessness from 28 to 56 days, and provide emergency accommodation for people with nowhere safe to stay.

If we intervened earlier, for example soon after an eviction notice is served and approaches due to risk homelessness are received, we would be able to prevent further suffering and also save our already strained public services time and money. If the legislation was to change, I predict that at Caritas Anchor House, we would receive less and more appropriate referrals, allowing our staff to deal with enquiries and service delivery more efficiently.

The Homelessness Reduction Bill has been tabled by Bob Blackman MP and is co-sponsored by members of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee from across the House.

It is vitally important the bill gets a fair hearing when it is debated on the 28 October, and for this to happen 100 MPs need to attend the debate. If fewer than 100 MPs do attend, parliamentary rules mean that just one opponent will be able to stop the bill and it could be scrapped without even going to a vote.

That's why I urge you all to write to your MPs and ask them to attend the debate and back the bill. This is our moment to change the way we support homeless people for the better, and we cannot afford for this opportunity to slip away.

Keith Fernett, Chief Executive of homeless charity Caritas Anchor House

To contact your MP, please visit: <http://www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk/hrb>

For more information on the Homelessness Reduction Bill please email info@caritasanchorhouse.org.uk

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30951>

CHURCH OF THE POOR? CHURCH ACTION ON POVERTY'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 19 November 2016 10am – 4pm Cross Street Chapel, Manchester

Prayers and shared worship; building a church of the poor: inspiring stories from churches, projects and people with lived experience; roundtable conversations and discussions – share your own experiences and ideas; speakers exploring the challenges and opportunities for a church of the poor; panel discussions; Church Action on Poverty AGM.

Churches in the UK often deliver social action that tackles the effects of poverty. But how often do we go beyond charity to solidarity? Are we building communities that genuinely welcome everyone and put the poorest first? Are we challenging the root causes of poverty and injustice? Pope Francis has challenged Christians to build "a poor church, for the poor", and churches are responding with renewed vigour. Join the conversation at our conference: what does it mean to be 'a poor Church, for the poor' and how can we build that Church?

Building a good society

- What is our shared vision of a Good Society?
- How does a Good Society include people struggling with poverty or other forms of marginalisation or exclusion?
- How can we enable the insights and gifts of people living in poverty to be recognised by wider society, and those with power and influence?

Book your place now! (Call 0161 872 9294 if you would prefer not to book online)

[cchurch-](#)

poverty.org.uk/conference?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=conference&utm_content=2016+09+19+conference

Source: Church Action on Poverty 2016 www.church-poverty.org.uk

CARDINAL: 'BAN THE BOX' SO EX-PRISONERS CAN FIND STABLE EMPLOYMENT

Cardinal Vincent Nichols told delegates at a conference on prison chaplaincy that employers should exclude the tick box on initial job application forms requiring a person who has completed a prison sentence to disclose their conviction. He suggested that banning the tick box and allowing people to discuss their conviction at a later stage in the recruitment process would give them the chance to "put their past in context and show who they really are."

"Of course convictions have to be disclosed and where necessary DBS checks undertaken," he said. "But people should not be 'written off' without a hearing for actions in the past which may no longer have a bearing on their future."

The Cardinal emphasised that prison leavers need stable employment and that true rehabilitation means not defining people by their worst actions for the rest of their life: "It is hard to envisage the crushing disappointment of someone who has worked hard to move away from crime and learn new skills, only to be rejected for job after job and never even given the opportunity to explain how he or she HAS changed since being convicted years before. That is not just devastating for the individual - it deprives employers of potentially excellent and able workers and denies society working taxpayers."

Whilst stressing that all necessary steps must be taken to ensure that safeguarding is paramount, Cardinal Nichols said that he would be looking at the Church's own recruitment processes: "Over the coming year I look forward to discussions about how the Church can ban the box in our own employment practices, while taking all the necessary steps to ensure that safeguarding is never compromised. I personally appeal to all employers to take this step and give people a fair opportunity that will benefit our society... Dioceses too have such opportunities if they can create social enterprise programmes with employment possibilities."

In a wide-ranging speech, the Cardinal also discussed the acute need for prison reform and stressed that the Catholic Church is prepared to be an active partner in the process. He had this message for government:

"We are ready to work alongside and support you in transforming prisons from places of despair to places of redemption. But I also urge you to be brave and go further than any government before: Make this the turning point where prison policy is built upon giving people the support they need to make amends and play a positive role in our society."

"It is widely accepted that effective change in our prisons will also require tackling underlying factors. One of these is sentencing policy, which is inherently linked to the expanding and increasingly unmanageable prison population. This is a challenge but with courage and commitment it need not be an insurmountable one."

The Cardinal made it clear that individuals need to be prepared to accept punishment, make amends and work towards a better future, but he identified the important role Catholic parishes can play to help people get their lives back on track: "Our parishes are particularly well placed to welcome people and help them get back on their feet. I hope and pray that this Year of Mercy will be a rallying call for Catholics actively to reach out a hand of friendship and offer practical assistance to those leaving prison. For even the smallest actions can give someone hope and help them to stay on the right path."

The conference was hosted at St Mary's University, Twickenham on Tuesday, 6 September 2016.

See the full speech text here: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30864>

PAPYRUS HOPEWalk 2016

PAPYRUS annual national HOPEWalk is back again in October 2016 for the fifth year running. Last year HOPEWalk raised a fantastic £11,000 - together HOPEWalkers walked 250km, taking a total of half a million strides to shatter the stigma surrounding young suicide. This helped extend the hours of our national helpline, HOPELineUK, as well as train more people across the country as suicide first-aiders. This October we're hoping to double last year's total. The cost of Host entry is £7.50, which includes entry for your group and a HOPEWalk Host pack with lots useful fundraising materials to help you make the most of your walk. We will send you: a t-shirt; literature; 10 balloons, a pen; a wristband; sponsorship forms and detailed information about organising your HOPEWalk. <https://www.papyrus-uk.org/get-involved/fundraise-for-papyrus/papyrus-hopewalk-2016>

To find out more, contact our fundraising team at fundraising@papyrus-uk.org or take a look at our HOPEWalk FAQs.

Download a registration form: [https://www.papyrus-](https://www.papyrus-uk.org/repository/documents/editorfiles/hopewalk_2016_registration_form.doc)

[uk.org/repository/documents/editorfiles/hopewalk_2016_registration_form.doc](https://www.papyrus-uk.org/repository/documents/editorfiles/hopewalk_2016_registration_form.doc) and email it to fundraising@papyrus-uk.org

THE CALAIS SESSIONS

Music made in the Calais 'jungle' by the talented musicians there, facilitated by *The Calais Sessions* music project.

The Calais Sessions is a collective of creatives from the UK who use the universal language of music to empower and entertain Europe's refugees. Our team travel armed with a colourful array of instruments, and on arrival at camp we connect with the local musicians, hear their stories and see where we can collaborate. Meanwhile, a makeshift studio is set up on site in which to capture these tracks by day, as is a venue to host performances by night. Excited news of our arrival travels fast; just under the surface is a deep and heavy yearning for self-expression. From the raw Syrian folk song to the nectar-sweet Ethiopian gospel lullaby, and the clannish Sudanese drum circle to the most infectious Afghan pop, it is clear that Europe has been bestowed a treasure chest of rich and exotic cultural heritage. Let's embrace it we say. These are the people behind the headlines. Will you listen to them?

All people involved in *The Calais Sessions* are volunteers. All tracks recorded by Damien Barriere-Constantin of Cooz's Records Oxford. Massive thanks to Kevin Cousineau, manager of Cooz's for his generosity, time and expertise. Money raised from sales goes to the charity Citizens UK, working to reunite unaccompanied refugee children with family members in the UK and as donations to the refugee musicians playing on the album. www.thecalaisessions.com

Available to buy now from Bandcamp: <https://thecalaisessions.bandcamp.com/releases>

NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE CONFERENCE KEYNOTE TALKS

The theme for this year's National J&P Conference was *Justice, Power and Responsibility: How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?* Talks from the keynote speakers are available on the NJPN website:

<http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference-reports/justice-power-and-responsibility-conference-2016videos/>

THEATRE

The LOWRY Salford Quays

A Bench On The Road The Studio Sat 8 October

Based on real testimonies, *A Bench on the Road* is a rich piece of musical and visual storytelling which explores women's experience of immigration through the lens of Scottish-Italian immigrants from 1850-1950. The play tells stories of Scottish and Italian women divided, yet united, in battle for identity and belonging. Spanning a century of unprecedented radical change, the diverse experiences of women from both cultures intertwine. Based on hundreds of interviews collected over thirty years, this play brings to life stories of our mothers, unlocking the past and asking pertinent questions about our future. Weaving together folk music from the Scottish and Italian traditions, the piece employs bold Kantoreque visuals and an innovative and experimental merging of language and dialect. Whilst coming from a particular bi-cultural perspective, the piece strikes at the heart of the public debate around immigration and changing notions of identity in Europe.

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/a-bench-on-the-road#su2PDACRSEYrBygI.99>

The LOWRY Salford Quays

E15 in The Studio Fri 18 November - Sat 19 November. Post show talk Friday 18 November.

Lung | Associate Artist Developed with The Lowry and Barnsley Civic. Commissioned by Battersea Arts Centre

'We want social housing, not social cleansing.'

Facing skyrocketing rent and forced relocation out of London, 29 single mothers united to confront Newham Council's gentrification of their hometown. From the streets of Newham to the Houses of Parliament, this bold and pertinent piece of documentary theatre is adapted from the real-life testimonies of the most under-represented and prominent voices on the political spectrum – providing a truthful retelling of the Focus E15 Campaign, Britain's housing crisis and how one group of women refused to be marginalised. This is the beginning of the end of the housing crisis. Suitable for age 13+

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/e15#Tm2CtpIMziTsof.99>

The LOWRY Salford Quays

Who Cares? Commissioned by The Lowry & Salford Young Carers Tue 22 November

A gripping verbatim theatre production based on a year of interviews that offers a rare insight into a year in the lives of three young carers from Salford.

Read more at <http://www.thelowry.com/event/who-cares#McYt0P23T5iffXDq.99>

Liverpool EVERYMAN PLAYHOUSE STUDIO

Just an ordinary lawyer A play, with songs written and performed by Tayo Aluko

Tues 4 October – Sat 8 October

"The British Empire was trying desperately to hold on to its colonial possessions by any means ... and the foul, it became clear to me, would often override the fair."

Nigerian **Tunji Sowande** quietly breaks through multiple barriers to become Britain's first Black judge in 1978. Also a fine concert singer and keen cricket lover, he muses on international politics and history as they affect the Black world from Africa to the USA and Britain, from the point of view of one who would rather watch sports, and spread love and peace through the medium of song. Recalling heroic sporting achievements alongside epoch-defining political events, former Everyman & Playhouse Writer in Residence **Tayo Aluko** offers another "brilliantly put together history lesson delivered as art" (*Dirt & Candy*).

<http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/just-an-ordinary-lawyer>

Liverpool EVERYMAN PLAYHOUSE STUDIO

Spine

From fast-rising Channel 4 playwright **Clara Brennan**, comes the Fringe First and Herald Angel award winning ***Spine***, a hilarious and heart-breaking call to arms for our modern age.

Spine charts the explosive friendship between a ferocious, wise-cracking teenager and an elderly East End widow. Mischievous activist pensioner Glenda is hell-bent on leaving a political legacy and saving Amy from the Tory scrapheap because *'there's nothing more terrifying than a teenager with something to say'*.

In this era of damaging coalition cuts and disillusionment, has politics forgotten people? Can we really take the power back? Amy is about to be forced to find out.

Running Time 1h 5m.

Suitable for 16 years +. £5 YEP tickets at all performances

Afterwords Thu 13 Oct, 5:30 pm

<http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/spine>

Liverpool EVERYMAN PLAYHOUSE STUDIO

YEP Presents ***The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning***

Wed 2 Nov - Sat 5 Nov

In 2013 Chelsea Manning (formerly Bradley) was sentenced after nearly two years in prison without charge. She was accused of releasing 250,000 secret embassy cables and military logs from Iraq and Afghan wars.

"When I chose to disclose classified information... I did so out of love for our country and a sense of duty for others. If you deny my request for a pardon I will serve my time knowing that sometimes you have to pay a heavy price to live in a free society."

But before any of this, Chelsea Manning was just a teenager in west Wales.

YEP tackles one of the most controversial political stories of modern times. Carrying on from the sell-out success of *The Wonderful World of Dissocia* YEP take this epic story in to the intimate settings of the Playhouse Studio.

<http://www.everymanplayhouse.com/whats-on/the-radicalisation-of-bradley-manning>

LIVERPOOL J&P COMMISSION MAKES GOOD USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Steve Atherton writes: Did you know the Liverpool J&P Commission is on social media? Our Facebook and Twitter accounts are approaching one year old. We created these accounts to allow us to reach a new audience that we perhaps would not otherwise connect with and these accounts are growing well. Our Instagram account is much newer and will be used more often in future to promote events and show highlights of events in the region. We also created a YouTube channel in the lead up to the EU referendum with the aim of raising awareness of issues that are of relevance.

Going forward we have some exciting plans for our online presence, including promotion and highlights of relevant events, promoting the work of the commission and our local groups, promoting local organisations and/or charities and growing awareness of Justice and Peace issues to a wider audience.

If you want to get in touch with our social media subgroup, for any reason, they can be reached by email on j-p@rcaolp.co.uk

You can like our Facebook account at www.facebook.com follow our Twitter account at www.twitter.com/liverpooljandp and our Instagram account at www.instagram.com/liverpooljandp You can view and subscribe to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCQzJkymJ3su5HJKc7dbiKyQ/videos or by searching Liverpool Justice and Peace on YouTube.

PAX CHRISTI SCHOOLS RESOURCES

Pax Christi offer talks and workshops for young people in schools, parishes, and at youth events across England and Wales to encourage critical reflection on issues of peace and nonviolence and the role of peacemaking as part of the Christian life:

- **Pax Christi and the Work of Christian Peacemaking** - This workshop is designed particularly for students studying GCSE Religious Studies and needing to focus on the work of a faith-based organisation that works for peace.
- **Christian Peacemaking** – Why should a Christian work for peace? This workshop explores Christ's message of peace and how we can put it into practice.
- **Holy Disobedience** – Inspired by the life of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, we look at how the work of peacemaking occasionally means doing what is difficult and unpopular.
- **Human Security** - How do we build a safe and secure world? This workshop looks at models of international security and explores how we might create a peaceful world.
- **Israel / Palestine** - With a focus on the separation wall as a means of building a just peace.
- **Conflict and Violence** - Conflict is a part of everyday life. Here we explore how we respond to conflict positively, deal with the problem, and avoid violence.
- **Religion, Peace and Conflict for GCSE Religious Studies.** Direct link: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/gsce/re>

We work throughout England and Wales primarily with young people aged between 14 and 18 (school years 10 – 13). Workshops last about an hour and are most effective with groups of between 20 and 30 participants. We encourage schools to make a donation to cover our travel costs and other expenses incurred.

Enquiries and Bookings: Contact Matt at the Pax Christi youth desk education@paxchristi.org.uk

CARING FOR CREATION

Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is first and foremost, up to us - Pope Francis *LSi 160*

Saturday 22 October 2016 The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1PJ 10:30am - 4:30pm

A day exploring hope for the future and our role in this modeled on ***See-Judge-Act.***

See: inputs from 7 speakers on different aspects of concern for the environment.

Judge: conversations on the inputs and opportunity to name other issues.

Act: a frame for practical response.

Refreshment break at 11:55am and lunch break from 1:30pm to 2:30pm.

We are not allowed to bring our own food into the venue but there is a café in the building and many cafés and food market stalls just a couple of minutes away and the Castle & Priory round the corner with gardens.

There will be inputs from:

Fr Hugh Pollock, Chair of the Faith & Justice Commission and Refugee Co-ordinator for Lancaster Diocese. Fr Hugh went to Paris for the COP 21 and will set the context of the day - climate change

Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi UK, the international Catholic peace movement. She is a peace activist, campaigner, educator and advocate. She has travelled to East Timor and Israel/ Palestine in her peace work. Her involvement in active nonviolent resistance to militarism, at the Ministry of Defence and other places, has led to four prison terms.

Paul Bodenham has worked in a policy-making environment since 1990, initially in local government and now for English Heritage. He has been active for many years in voluntary initiatives and, realising that climate change is the most urgent and complex crisis facing the world today, he developed Operation Noah. He is the chair of Green Christian.

Lya Vollerling was for many years a key figure at the Minsteracres Centre near Consett, developing their work on ecology and environmental responsibility. Lya is currently investigating the thought of Thomas Berry.

Fr Tom Cullinan is a 'monk-priest' of the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Tom has a long history of involvement in justice issues and is a frequent speaker at conferences. He has a way of getting to the heart of the matter.

Dr Paul Kelly has been working with environment group of the National Justice & Peace Network and involved in the churches response to fracking in the North-West

Sue Holden will explain an alternative understanding of money. She will explain the Positive Money position that money is created as debt and the wider implications, aiming to whet the appetite for continued learning: "I think of myself as having sent out money creation awareness tendrils into various communities around the country." Sue is a Quaker.

5 minutes' walk from both Lancaster Railway Station and Bus Station. Car park close by on Dallas Road. All Welcome.

Booking form: [http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/download/events/Caring%20for%20Creationbooking%](http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/download/events/Caring%20for%20Creationbooking%20form)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

1 The Balfour Project NW conference Liverpool Hope University <http://www.balfourproject.org/towards-appropriate-commemoration/>

1-8 National Drone Week of Action with the theme *Out of sight, out of mind, out of control*. Help raise awareness of the growing use of armed drones today. Resources: <https://dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com/>

7 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day www.cafod.org.uk

7 Stephen Twigg MP, talk on the work of the Commons Select Committee on International Development 7-9pm Binks Building, University of Chester, Parkgate Road, Chester, CH1 4BJ. This meeting is jointly arranged with the University of Chester's Department of Geography and International Development. This date is at a pivotal time, being the Friday before the return of MPs to Westminster following the recess for the annual party conferences.

8 Journeys to Justice – Walking in the light of the Gospel: A conference by Caritas, Salford, CAFOD and the Justice and Peace Association at Holy Cross College, Bury. Arrivals and registration 10.30 onwards for 11 am start. 4.30 pm finish. Speakers: Susy Brouard (CAFOD) and Fr Chris Gorton (Salford). Workshops, stalls. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee provided. Register at: <https://www.evenbrite.co.uk/e/journeys-to-justice-tickets-26720129627> Enquiries to comms@caritassalford.org.uk or phone 0161 817 2250

8-16 Climate Coalition Week of Action www.weekofaction.org.uk The Climate Coalition <http://www.theclimatecoalition.org/> is a group dedicated to action on climate change. It has 100 plus members (including CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund and many other faith and non-faith bodies). It is calling for action to influence MPs. St Alban's J&P Group is organising a petition to the Macclesfield MP with the support of HOPE (the grouping formerly known as Churches Together in Macclesfield). Details: Keith Taylor 01625-429915 SKeithTay@aol.com.

9 Two Talks on the Suffering Church in Pakistan 3-4pm. St John Southworth's Church, BB9 0JS. Please join the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) and the parish of St John Southworth for an afternoon of talks given by Archbishop Sebastian Shaw, Lahore, Pakistan and Lord David Alton of Liverpool followed by Mass. 07815 538425 caroline.hull@acnuk.org

11 ACN's (Aid to the Church in Need) Annual NW Event 7:30pm St Columba's Church, Chester CH2 1SA. Entrance free. Retiring collection for ACN's work with the Persecuted Church. Invited speakers include Archbishop Sebastian Shaw of Lahore, Pakistan and Sister Annie Demerjian from Aleppo, Syria. Please join us and Bishop Mark Davies for an evening of talks about the persecution of Christians around the world and ACN's work to help them. 07815 538425 caroline.hull@acnuk.org

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

14 Heswall Arts Festival Malawian Poetry and Politics Professor Jack Mapanje. With African traditional music. Heswall URC, 199 Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 7SE. Tickets £6 including refreshments from the Church Office 0151 342 8522, Lingham's Bookshop Heswall or Rosie Potter 0151 342 7124 and Susan Flynn 01244 381490. Proceeds to the Dr Harry Potter Endowment Fund providing scholarships in Malawi for financially challenged students.

14 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £3.00 (children £1). Quizmaster Mr. Mike Ives. All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fund raising project. Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.

14 Quiz Evening 7.30-9.30pm at St Columba's Hall, Newhall Rd, Upton, Chester CH2 1SA. Asocail occasion organized on behalf of Churches Together in Upton with all proceeds split between Christian Aid and CAFOD. Admission £1 on the door, make up tables of six. Includes light refreshments but bring your own wine. 01244 350323

22 Autumn Craft Fair in aid of *Chifundo UK* empowering girls and women in Malawi. 10.30-3.30 Hoole URC, Hoole Rd, Chester CH2 3NT. Stalls including cards, woodcraft, jewellery, painted glass, Traidcraft, Chifundo fashion, free children's activities, refreshments. Admission adults £1, children free. Tables £10. Contact Susan Flynn 01244 381490 chair@chifundomalawi.org

22 Joint environmental event between **F&J Lancaster** and **J&P Liverpool** 10.30am-4.30pm The Storey, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1PJ looking at some of the environmental issues facing us in our current context. The day will begin with theology and end with ideas for positive action. (see p 12 for full programme)

23-30 One World Week 2016 – Including You – Acting together for One World in Peace focussed around the whole area of migration and asylum seekers. More info from the OWW website: <http://www.oneworldweek.org/v2/>

29 Come and See Conference. Speakers: Lord David Alton & Steve Atherton 10-4 Irenaeus project, Liverpool. Venue not confirmed. For info: 0151 525 6191

30 -5 November Good Money Week. An opportunity to ensure those you trust with your money are looking after it well and using it in ways that benefit society and protect the environment. Information: <http://goodmoneyweek.com/take-action>

NOVEMBER

4 Romero Trust Annual Lecture *Rutilio, Romero and Francis: martyrs for the faith* given by Fr Rodolpho Cardenal SJ at St Wilfrid's, Chapel St, Preston PR1 8BU 7-9pm. All welcome.

5 CAFOD Lancaster Annual Memorial Mass 6.30pm Vigil Mass St Bernadette's, 120 Bowerham Rd, Lancaster LA1 4HT

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8 CWDF Forum meeting 6.45-9pm Regular bi-monthly meeting at The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN. An open meeting, for all our groups and individual members to discuss future campaigns. Contact 01244 350323 www.chesterwdf.org.uk

9 Prisons Sunday

9-15 Prisons Week of Prayer. For prayers for each day see: www.prisonweek.org

NOVEMBER (continued)

9 Life under occupation: Stories from the West Bank All Saints Church, Carrington Lane, Ashton-on-Mersey M33 5WL at 8pm. Come and hear from Veronica Pasteur who recently returned from the occupied West Bank. In 2015 she was working as a human rights monitor there for three months. Find out what daily life under occupation is really like; what the Israeli peace movement is doing; and what you can do to promote a just peace in Israel/Palestine. Zaytoun oil and dates on sale.

<http://ourparishes.church/all-saints-rc-church-sale>

10 Christian and Jewish Holocaust Study Day 2016 Menorah Synagogue Manchester M22 4RZ 9.30-1pm. All welcome but advanced booking required - email office@menorah.org.uk or phone the Synagogue Office on 0161 428 7746.

17 Lecture by Oxfam's Duncan Green *How Change Happens (and ow to make it happen)* – a return visit to Chester to coincide with the launch of his latest book which explores how political and social change takes place and the role of individuals and organizations in this. 7.30pm, Best Building on the University's Chester Campus.

19 NJPN Open Networking Day, 10.30am-4pm, CAFOD, Romero House, London SE1 7JB. Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi will report on the Rome conference on Nonviolence and Just Peace. Plus opportunities to network with J&P activists from around the country and get updates from national agencies. Tea and coffee available, please bring your own lunch. Contact: NJPN 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, Tel 020 7901 4864, Email admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

19 Church of the Poor? Church Action on Poverty's Annual Conference 10am-4pm Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. To book a place call 0161 872 9294 or go to: [church - poverty.org.uk/conference?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=conference&utm_content=2016+09+19+conference](http://church-poverty.org.uk/conference?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=conference&utm_content=2016+09+19+conference)

19 Cumbria Churches Dementia Conference 10am -3.30pm at Carver United Church, Lake Road, Windermere LA23 2DB. Open to all. Tea and coffee provided but please bring your own lunch. To reserve a place contact the Secretary to the Dementia Reference Group, Margaret Irving: margaret.irving@alzheimers.org.uk 07540 920829

23 Garth Hewitt Concert 7.30pm Altrincham United Reformed Church – details logan-j@btconnect.com

24 Advent Reflection Day led by Garth Hewitt 10.30 - 3.30 – details logan-j@btconnect.com

25 Ellesmere Port LPA Justice & Peace Group CAFOD Quiz Night 7.30 pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre. Entrance fee: £3.00 (children £1). Quizmaster Mr. Mike Ives. All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect2 Ethiopia fund raising project. Fair Trade stall and Fair Trade refreshments provided at the interval. Details: Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419.

26 CAFOD Campaign Retreat Day 10am – 4pm Our Lady 7 St Edward's Parish Centre, Malborough Drive, Fulwood, Preston PR2 9UE. To book contact Patrick 01772733310 Lancaster@cafod.org.uk

26 ACN NW Benefactor's Mass Church of the Holy Name, 339 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PG. Please join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving for the loyal support of ACN's past and present benefactors throughout the NW. The Main Celebrant will be Father Dominic Robinson SJ, ACN's National Ecclesiastical Assistant; Father Andrzej Halemba, ACN's Project Co-ordinator for the Middle East, will preach. The Mass will be followed by a reception. A collection will be taken for ACN's work with the Suffering Church. 07815 538425 caroline.hull@acnuk.org

27 Talk by Fr Andrzej Halemba, ACN's Project Co-ordinator for the Middle East. The Gibberd Room, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool L3 5TQ. Fr Halemba has spent years traveling around the Middle East and North Africa for ACN; he will share his recent experiences and his thoughts about the future for the most ancient Christian communities in our world today. A retiring collection will be taken for ACN's work in the Middle East. Following the talk, all are invited to attend a brief service led by Fr Halemba during which we shall pray together for our fellow Christians in Iraq, Syria and neighbouring countries. 07815 538425 caroline.hull@acnuk.org

DECEMBER

8 Service of worship, witness and solidarity for victims and survivors of domestic abuse St Andrew's Church, Penrith, 2pm. This service is part of CtiC's project to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support those who suffer from it. All welcome.

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• Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com or from Ekklesia 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

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