

The 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

THE BIRTH OF A CHILD

Advent is a season of waiting. The leaves have all fallen; the weather is cold, the trees are barren. It is a good time to remember the Holy Spirit moving across the waters at the moment of creation, being breathed into Adam's inert clay, coming upon Mary in Nazareth, entering our own lives in conception and baptism. We are all called to conceive God's Child in this world; this is our vocation as Christians. May we all find strength in the memories of those who have come before us, and in the companionship of those with us, offering us, in this time of waiting, the taste of liberation made possible in the birth of a child.

Sabra McKenzie-Hamilton, *Catholic Worker*, December 1996

RECEIVING CHRIST

Our task is to seek and find Christ in our world as it is, and not as it might be. The fact that the world is other than it might be does not alter the truth that Christ is present in it and that his plan has been neither frustrated nor changed. All will be done according to his will. Our Advent is the celebration of this hope. What is uncertain is not the "coming" of Christ but our own reception of him, our own response to him, our own readiness and capacity to "go forth and meet him." We must be willing to see him and acclaim him, as John did, even at the very moment when our whole life's work and all its meaning seem to collapse.

Thomas Merton

BRITISH OVERSPEND ON FOOD AT CHRISTMAS BY OVER £1BILLION

The average British households who say they usually buy too much food at Christmas, splash out £83.72 more than they need. Together, that's a whopping £1,109,290,000, according to a new nationwide poll by ComRes for charity Christian Aid about Christmas charitable giving and festive food waste habits. 50% of British public say they usually overspend on food at Christmas.

The poll is published as Christian Aid launches stop-motion film, *'Oh What A Waste'*, using real food from the traditional Christmas dinner, combined with a unique version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, to highlight the vast quantity of edibles the UK public throws away every year.

The statistics used in the film are based on existing research and include 70 million mince pies, four million puddings and two million turkeys. The film is part of the charity's annual Christmas Appeal, and is encouraging people to waste less this Christmas and spend on food that saves lives. For every pound the public give to the appeal to support people living in poverty, the UK Government will also give a pound. That's double the support for families struggling to feed themselves in South Sudan, meaning even more mothers and infants under-five in South Sudan will be saved from the life-threatening effects of malnutrition.

Ian Livett, Head of Fundraising, said: "*Oh What A Waste* is a bit of festive fun but it highlights a serious message. If we're all bit more careful with our Christmas food shop, buying only what we need, then we can save more, waste less and save lives. Poor people across the globe, including those in South Sudan, still go to bed hungry. An estimated six million people in Africa alone facing food insecurity. If left untreated, acute malnutrition - the most extreme type of food crisis - can result in death. But hunger is not inevitable and there is enough food in the world to feed everyone.

"Please do share the film, waste less and donate what you can to our Christmas Appeal - with all donations being doubled by the UK Government." **Watch the film here:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIdodXcAz0k
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33945>

A CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

I believe that Christmas is the joyful celebration of the birth of Christ. Therefore, I commit myself to celebrate it in a way that is faithful to its meaning.

Jesus is a radically free person; he came to liberate others. Therefore:

I will examine my motives for celebrating Christmas.

I will not spend money to impress others.

I will avoid doing anything to oblige others to spend on me.

I will not engage in excess of eating, drinking, partying or anything that reduces the freedom of myself or of others.

I will include alternatives to alcohol and cholesterol when I entertain.

Jesus respects all life; he came that we might have life in all its fullness. Therefore:

I will give gifts and do activities only if they enhance life – for myself and for others.

I will avoid gifts made by complicated, energy-consuming processes that excessively pollute the environment.

I will choose gifts that rely on the involvement, energy and ingenuity of the recipient.

I will avoid buying items made by exploited workers whose land and labour are sacrificed.

I will question the source of consumer goods before I buy.

Jesus cares about all people; he came to involve himself with others. Therefore:

I will celebrate Christmas by sharing of myself more than of my property.

I will give gifts of service which involve my time, my work, my spoken and written words, my art, my song, my presence – and other things that are not objects – whenever possible.

I will use some of my time to visit family, friends and those who have less, hurt more and have been forgotten.

DONALD TRUMP RECOGNISES JERUSALEM AS ISRAEL'S CAPITAL

In a controversial move that has alarmed and angered many, President Trump announced at 1pm Wednesday 6 December that the US will officially recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital and plans to relocate the American embassy from Tel Aviv.

The Palestinian General Delegate to the UK, Manuel Hassassian, warned that Trump would effectively be declaring war in the Middle East. He said it would mean "a kiss of death to the two state solution." "He is declaring war in the Middle East, he is declaring war against 1.5 billion Muslims [and] hundreds of million Christians that are not going to accept the holy shrines to be totally under the hegemony of Israel," he added.

His comments were echoed by the adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who said that if Mr Trump was to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel it would amount to a "complete destruction of the peace process." Speaking in Mr Abbas' presence, Mahmoud Hasbash said "the world will pay the price" for any change in Jerusalem's status.

The move drew concerned responses from around the world.

Pope Francis called for the "status quo" to be respected. Dialogue would only come through "recognising the rights of all people" in the region, he said.

Saudi Arabia, an ally of the US, called the new policy "a flagrant provocation to Muslims." Jordan's King Abdullah said the decision would "undermine efforts to resume the peace process." Egypt's President Abdul Fattah-al-Sisis urged Mr Trump "not to complicate the situation in the region," and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday his country would sever ties with Israel. Hamas leader Ismail Haniya called for protests this coming Friday and China warned against escalating tensions in the Middle East.

UK Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, said he viewed the reports of Mr Trump's comments "with concern." France, the European Union and the Arab League have also expressed concern. Israel's intelligence minister Israel Katz told Army Radion that Israel was "preparing for every option," including an outbreak of violence.

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-42250340

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-42246564

TRUMP JERUSALEM MOVE SPARKS ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CLASHES

7 December: At least 31 Palestinians have been wounded in clashes in the Gaza Strip and across the occupied West Bank, during protests against US President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. One person is in a critical condition.

Mr Trump's announcement - met with worldwide dismay - reversed decades of US policy on the sensitive issue. Israel deployed hundreds of extra troops in the West Bank as Palestinians went on strike and took to the streets. Protesters set tyres alight and threw stones, and Israeli troops fired tear gas, rubber bullets and live bullets. Two rockets were fired from the Gaza Strip towards Israel but fell short, Israel's army said. In Gaza, according to Reuters news agency, Palestinians threw stones across the border fence at Israeli soldiers who responded with live fire.

Many of Washington's closest allies have said they disagree with the move, and both the UN Security Council and the Arab League will meet in the coming days to decide their response.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel was profoundly grateful to Mr Trump, who had "bound himself forever with the history of the capital". He also said Israel was "in touch with other countries to follow suit. I have no doubt other embassies will move to Jerusalem - the time has come". He did not name any of these countries, although the Philippines and the Czech Republic have been mentioned in Israeli media.

The mood has been very different on the Palestinian side. There are fears the announcement could lead to a renewed outbreak of violence. The Palestinian Islamist group Hamas has already called for a new intifada, or uprising. Hamas leader Ismail Haniya said the announcement was a "declaration of war" He has called for a "day of rage" on Friday and said it should "be the first day of the intifada against the occupier." "We have given instructions to all Hamas members and to all its wings to be fully ready for any new instructions or orders that may be given to confront this strategic danger," Ismail Haniya said in a speech in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' rival Fatah movement is seeking to protest through diplomatic means, by filing a complaint to the UN Security Council and pushing for a strong stance by the Arab League. "We are going to declare the United States disqualified as co-sponsor of any peace process or political process," spokesman Dr Nasser Al-Kidwa said. "In our mind, it has lost its ability to do or perform any efforts in this regard."

There has also been widespread condemnation across the Arab and wider Muslim world, with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warning Mr Trump that he was "throwing the region into a ring of fire".

The leaders of the UK, France and Europe have all said they disagree with the US announcement. French President Emmanuel Macron said it contravened international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

The EU's top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, said the move had "the potential to send us backwards to even darker times than the ones we are already living in."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-42265337>

HOLY LAND CHURCH LEADERS URGE PRESIDENT TRUMP NOT TO CHANGE STATUS OF JERUSALEM

6 December 2017: The Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem have written an open letter to President Trump today, urging him not to change the present international status of Jerusalem. They write: We are fully aware and appreciative of how you are dedicating special attention to the status of Jerusalem in these days. We are following with attentiveness and we see that it is our duty to address this letter to Your Excellency. On July 17, 2000, we addressed a similar letter to the leaders who met in Camp David to decide the status of Jerusalem. They kindly took our letter into consideration. Today, Mr President, we are confident that you too will take our viewpoint into consideration on the very important status of Jerusalem.

Our land is called to be a land of peace. Jerusalem, the city of God, is a city of peace for us and for the world. Unfortunately, though, our holy land with Jerusalem the Holy City, is today a land of conflict. Those who love Jerusalem have every will to work and make it a land and a city of peace, life and dignity for all its inhabitants. The prayers of all believers in it - the three religions and two peoples who belong to this city - rise to God and ask for peace, as the Psalmist says: "Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!" (80.14). Inspire our leaders, and fill their minds and hearts with justice and peace.

Mr President, we have been following, with concern, the reports about the possibility of changing how the United States understands and deals with the status of Jerusalem. We are certain that such steps will yield increased hatred, conflict, violence and suffering in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, moving us farther from the goal of unity and deeper toward destructive division. We ask from you Mr President to help us all walk towards more love and a definitive peace, which cannot be reached without Jerusalem being for all.

Our solemn advice and plea is for the United States to continue recognizing the present international status of Jerusalem. Any sudden changes would cause irreparable harm. We are confident that, with strong support from our friends, Israelis and Palestinians can work towards negotiating a sustainable and just peace, benefiting all who long for the Holy City of Jerusalem to fulfil its destiny. The Holy City can be shared and fully enjoyed once a political process helps liberate the hearts of all people, that live within it, from the conditions of conflict and destructiveness that they are experiencing.

Christmas is upon us soon. It is a feast of peace. The Angels have sung in our sky: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to the people of good will. In this coming Christmas, we plea for Jerusalem not to be deprived from peace, we ask you Mr President to help us listen to the song of the angels. As the Christian leaders of Jerusalem, we invite you to walk with us in hope as we build a just, inclusive peace for all the peoples of this unique and Holy City.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33943>

SONG OF THE ANGELS

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman, Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA

MY THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON TRUMP'S SPEECH:

The Christmas story starts with an imperial decree signed by Caesar Augustus. As I was watching President Trump's address yesterday evening on our TV, I could not help but think of the so-called Balfour Declaration signed 100 years ago when the British Empire promised Palestine to the European Jews as their national homeland. Trump's address yesterday was indeed another such imperial decree recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Again and again we, the Palestinian people, are sacrificed at the altar for imperial politics. In that sense nothing is new for us Palestinians. New is seeing a US administration abandoning international law and isolating itself from the larger international community. This is not only a disappointment to over one billion Muslim people for whom Jerusalem is Holy, but also a blow to an even larger Christian community who kept a vision for an inclusive Jerusalem shared by two peoples and three religions.

The situation is very volatile. Today the whole West Bank and Gaza are on strike. Our Dar al-Kalima University College is on strike too and we had to cancel our conference planned for today. The Palestinian people are in a state of mourning; mourning justice that was lost in the allies of power. And yet we do not believe in the power of Caesar but in the power of Christ, born in Bethlehem under occupation and crucified in Jerusalem by Roman authorities. Most of Caesars brought only bloodshed, destruction, and animosity to Jerusalem because they were not able to realize "what makes for peace". No decree will deter us from working for a just peace in Jerusalem. We will continue to raise the next generation of creative leaders for Jerusalem and to grow hope all over Palestine. This is Christ's legacy in this country and we are determined to keep it alive.

We ask our friends to pray for us, our staff, our teachers, students and their families. We ask our partners to raise their prophetic voice in political advocacy. We ask our supporters to continue thinking of the little town not only because of Christmas but especially now at times like these.

Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, Palestinian Christian theologian and author, Founder and President Dar al-Kalima University College.

ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVISTS CELEBRATE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AT MOD

7 December 2017: Anti-nuclear activists will gather outside the Ministry of Defence on Saturday morning to celebrate the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The 2017 prize will be handed to ICAN(International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons), a global network which campaigned for a United Nations nuclear weapons ban treaty, at an awards ceremony in Oslo this weekend.

CND, along with other members of the ICAN-UK network, will host their own ceremony outside the Ministry of Defence to mark the prestigious award and raise awareness about the UN ban treaty. Veteran campaigner Bruce Kent will present 'awards' to those campaigners present. Other speakers will include journalist Victoria Brittain, Sheila Triggs from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - a previous Nobel peace laureate, Dr Michael Orgel from Medact and Kate Hudson from CND.

The groundbreaking treaty, launched at the UN headquarters in New York in September, received the backing of 122 states. The treaty sets out how the international community will work together to abolish nuclear weapons.

Representatives from Medact, a body of campaigning medical professionals, will perform a 'die-in' wearing scrubs to symbolise the lives of medics that would be lost once a nuclear bomb is detonated.

Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary, said: "This year's Nobel Peace Prize recognises thousands of people across the world who are working towards a nuclear-free world, but specifically it highlights the nuclear ban treaty launched at the United Nations earlier this year, and the Nobel Committee has called upon nuclear weapons states to back the Treaty and move towards the elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

"At a time when the leaders of the US and North Korea are engaged in nuclear brinkmanship - the need for nuclear disarmament has never been more urgent. The Nobel Peace prize recognises that urgency, and so too should the British government."

Dr. Frank Boulton, from Medact, said: "Doctors and health professionals have long explained that nuclear weapons. In an increasingly violent world, the hasty use of nuclear weapons held on trigger-alert by ill-qualified authorities is becoming more likely. These indiscriminate, inhumane and illegal weapons must be banned worldwide. We urge the Government to act on their stated commitment to a world without nuclear weapons, and sign the Ban treaty as soon as possible."

On Thursday evening, the Mayor of Oslo, Marianne Borgen came to Trafalgar Square to light the tree. She is returning to Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize weekend. In what is being seen as a snub to the people of Oslo and Nobel Peace Prize Committee, the British government has stopped their ambassador to Norway from attending the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony this year.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33949>

TRUMP WITHDRAWS FROM UN MIGRATION TALKS DESPITE PAPAL PLEA + CAFOD PETITION

Liam Finn 5 December 2017

Donald Trump has withdrawn the US from a process to reach a global agreement on migration, despite a plea from Pope Francis for world leaders to work together on the issue. The Trump administration announced yesterday that it would not participate in negotiations on the agreement - known as the 'Global Compact' - which are due to culminate at the UN General Assembly next autumn. The withdrawal leaves the US as the only country to refuse to take part in the discussions, a year after all 193 UN member states agreed to the negotiations.

Pope Francis has made care for refugees and migrants a priority of his papacy, visiting the island of Lampedusa - where thousands of migrants have drowned - on his first trip outside Rome as Pope and meeting Rohingya refugees last week on a visit to Bangladesh. In 2016, the Pontiff set up a Vatican department to oversee the Church's work on displaced people and issued a call this summer for governments to better care for people on the move.

Chris Bain, Director of Catholic aid agency CAFOD, said: "Donald Trump's refusal to work with the rest of the world on this issue is another example of the President abdicating responsibility towards our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. This move should serve as a catalyst for others to step into a leadership role, just as politicians worldwide sought to do by redoubling efforts on climate change following Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Governments would do well to look to the real leadership example set by the Holy Father, who has made clear that the unprecedented movement of people we are seeing across the world is a global phenomenon. As such, it requires a global response; not a renunciation of responsibility."

Negotiations on the Global Compact are seeking to create a joined-up response from states to help people who are displaced by conflict, persecution or poverty. The Vatican published guidance for governments this summer with specific proposals for the Compact, including creating safe ways for people to flee conflict areas and enabling refugees to find work and education in their place of arrival.

The US withdrawal comes as countries begin work on the Global Compact, with representatives from the Holy See participating in a conference in Mexico this week. The Vatican has made clear that it hopes to influence the process in the same way that the Pope's encyclical on climate change and the environment, *Laudato Si'*, was credited with creating momentum for the negotiations that led to the Paris Agreement in 2015.

Chris Bain said: "The Pope has stated that our response to the plight faced by displaced people is 'a test of our humanity'. We must pray that it's a test that other leaders do not fail." <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33934>

Add your name to the Pope's call at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Refugee-action>

'EVERY MIGRANT HAS A NAME, A FACE AND A STORY' - Catholic Refugee Exhibition in Parliament

5 December 2017: Catholic charities have joined forces to launch an exhibition in Parliament showcasing the response of the Catholic community in England and Wales in welcoming refugees. **CAFOD, Caritas Social Action Network** and the **Jesuit Refugee Service** have worked together to stage the exhibition, which was opened yesterday at the Palace of Westminster by Catherine McKinnell MP. The exhibition demonstrates the work of the Catholic community and the three agencies in supporting refugees, both at home and overseas.

The **Share the Journey** exhibition takes its name from the recently-launched campaign from **Caritas Internationalis**, a confederation of 165 Catholic development and relief agencies working at the grassroots in almost every country of the world. The campaign and the Westminster exhibition focus on **four aspects of safe migration: to welcome, to protect, to promote and to integrate migrants**. The exhibition presents CAFOD's projects protecting refugees in camps, JRS' work supporting asylum seekers in the UK and promoting their rights, and CSAN's support for the Community Sponsorship Refugee resettlement scheme, integrating refugees in local parish communities. More than 40,000 messages of hope and welcome have been sent to refugees by Catholics in England and Wales in the last year, some of which have been displayed in the exhibition.

Commenting on the launch of the exhibition, Catherine McKinnell MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of CAFOD, said: "At a time when it is easy to focus on what makes us different and divides us, I am proud to be hosting this exhibition in Parliament about the importance of providing sanctuary and support to our fellow human beings in their time of need. Whilst demonstrating the scale of support from the Catholic community for refugees in the UK and abroad, the exhibition also highlights the need for a united global response to this issue, which respects human dignity, protects the vulnerable, supports host countries and tackles the causes of displacement."

A refugee friend from JRS, Michael, also spoke at the exhibition, retelling his story and highlighting the work of the Catholic community to support those navigating the asylum process: "Our Catholic communities have given us so much in terms of rights, in term of support."

Speaking of the growth of the new **Community Sponsorship Resettlement of Refugees** scheme in Catholic parishes (see following report – Ed.), National Community Sponsorship Coordinator Sean Ryan said: "As Christians we are called to respond to refugees as human beings loved by God - real people with names, histories, needs and desires. This unique initiative allows us to welcome refugees as friends, neighbours and valued members of our own communities."

Pope Francis has made the protection of migrants and refugees a key issue of his papacy, launching a new department in the Vatican focused on the issue that he personally oversees. In August, the Vatican published guidance for governments, urging them to step up and respond to the world's current mass movement of people. The Holy Father is hoping to increase political will ahead of countries negotiating two new 'global compacts' - or agreements - on refugees and migration at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018.

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is the domestic social action agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, comprised of over forty Catholic charities and dioceses which work across England and Wales supporting those living in poverty, homeless people, disabled people, travellers, migrants, refugees, prisoners and other marginalised groups. **For more information, visit:** www.csan.org.uk
<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33936>

SHREWSBURY: PARISH WELCOMES REFUGEE FAMILIES FROM SYRIAN WAR

Simon Caldwell 23 October 2017

At least two families of refugees from the Syrian War are to be welcomed by a parish in the Diocese of Shrewsbury. The move will make the Church of Our Lady and St Christopher in Romiley, near Stockport, the first in the Diocese to work with the Government in resettling about 20,000 refugees from camps along the Syrian border. It follows the success of project at St Monicas's Church, Flixton, in the neighbouring Diocese of Salford, which has already welcomed a family from Syria. The project also represents part of a new focus on social justice and action in the Diocese of Shrewsbury following the launch of the local Caritas agency last year. The initiative will involve befriending the families and helping them to integrate into society over a two-year period.

Canon Michael Gannon, parish priest and Vicar General, said he hoped other parishes in the Diocese would follow suit. He said: "The whole concept is about creating missionary parishes and responding to the call of Pope Francis to have that missionary call. We are very much up for it." Canon Gannon added: "It is very much a response to Pope Francis's call. I am determined to see this through and I know I am supported here."

The project will be paid for by funds generating by **Our Mission Together**, the fund-raising initiative under way in the Diocese. Each parish which takes part allocates 30 per cent of funds given through the generosity of parishioners to projects within the parish. Our Lady's has identified three parish projects. Besides the welcome of refugees money will be spent on catechetical resources and formation courses for adults, and on developing waste ground at the rear of the church. A new project for refugees and asylum seekers in Wythenshawe, Manchester, is being run by Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury in partnership with the Diocese of Salford and the Ivy Evangelical Church. The **Well Project** is helping more than 30 people from Afghanistan, Turkey, Syria, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria and Iran to learn English and better integrate into society. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33676>

SHARE THE JOURNEY PRAYER

God our refuge, you share the journey with migrants and refugees, lightening their footsteps with hope. For you, Lord, are close to the broken-hearted. Pour out your Spirit upon world leaders. May they see the tragedies of our human family, and be moved to respond with wisdom, compassion and courage. Open our eyes and hearts to the God-given dignity of all your people. Move us to welcome our neighbours, and so bear witness to your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rachel McCarthy/CAFOD

BRITISH QUAKERS PLEDGE TO RESIST GOVERNMENT'S 'HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT' FOR MIGRANTS

5 December 2017: Britain's Quakers are pledging to resist the policies of the government's 'hostile environment' for immigrants. The **'Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto'**, agreed by the Quakers' national decision making body this weekend, declares: "Through Quakers' longstanding work welcoming newcomers to our shores, we have seen up close that the government's creation of a 'hostile environment' is increasingly embedding policies of discrimination into the practices of the British state. Quakers in Britain are committed to working with others to change this, creating a culture of compassion and welcoming hospitality that answers that of God in every person." The position takes a stand against the scandal of indefinite immigration detention, pledges support for 'new, peaceful, safer routes of migration', and opposes the possibility of unjust deportations and forced removals. Tim Gee, Sanctuary Everywhere Programme Developer for Quaker Peace and Social Witness said: "We are inspired by Jesus' very last public speech, in which he invites every one of us to **'Welcome the Stranger'**. As a church minister's daughter, Theresa May is no doubt familiar with this teaching. We invite her to put it into action."

Quakers have been instrumental in establishing the **Sanctuary Movement** in the USA and in Britain. This builds on a history that includes providing refuge in Pennsylvania for the Amish and other religious minorities in the 18th Century, assisting enslaved people escape the US South in the 19th century, and in the 1930s helping Jews and others oppressed by the Nazis to flee Germany to Britain through the *Kindertransport*. Many Quaker Meetings in Britain are engaged in welcoming newcomers. Actions include hosting people at home, providing legal support, volunteering in refugee camps, visiting detention centres, providing English lessons, holding anti-racism events at Quaker meeting houses and conversations with politicians advocating for change.

"As Quakers, we have long worked for peace and equality, because of our belief that there is that of God in everyone, everywhere, whoever they are. Through Quakers' longstanding work welcoming newcomers to our shores, we have seen up close that the government's creation of a 'hostile environment' is increasingly embedding policies of discrimination into the practices of the British state. Quakers in Britain are committed to working with others to change this, creating a culture of compassion and welcoming hospitality that answers that of God in every person.

"Our **Meeting for Sufferings** was born of a response to the government's systematic discrimination against Quakers in the past. Today we turn that experience into solidarity, and stand against all oppression and suffering. We declare our determination to work for sanctuary everywhere, including here in Britain, by agreeing this Manifesto for change. Human rights standards for all should be the foundation on which any national policy or international agreement on migration is founded, and these include the right to work, to learn, to housing, to medical care and to security in the event of adverse circumstances beyond personal control.

"We will campaign for change to the asylum process so that it is built on a culture of compassion and practical response, rather than starting from an assumption of disbelief. Within the UK system of immigration detention is institutional violence and discrimination. We oppose indefinite detention, which we believe neither right nor necessary, and will work towards the closure of all detention centres. Other more humane policies are more effective and should be introduced.

"Our belief in every human being's equality leads us to oppose unjust deportations and removals, whether to the EU or to the wider world. The humanitarian risks of trafficking and unsafe passage lead us to work for new, peaceful, safer routes of migration including the introduction of humanitarian visas and improved rules for family reunion. To ourselves and wider society, we reaffirm our determination to acknowledge and dismantle discrimination in all of its forms, wherever it is to be found."

Read more about the *Sanctuary Everywhere Programme*: www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33937>

SYRIA: CHURCH ORGANISATIONS HAVE SAVED CHRISTIANITY FROM WIPE-OUT

Murcadha O Flaherty and Marcela Szymanski 4 December 2017

Aid to the Church in Need and other Church organisations have helped save Christianity in Syria from wipe-out, according to the Syriac Catholic Patriarch. Speaking at a meeting in Brussels about Syria in the aftermath of Daesh (ISIS), His Beatitude Ignatius Younan III said that since the war began in spring 2011 the Christian community had been under huge pressure at a time of mass migration and displacement. The Patriarch said: "We are the indigenous population but because we do not have our own militias or territorial ambitions, everyone thinks we agree with everything or are easy to overrun. For us it is a matter of survival. If it was not for the Church organisations such as Aid to the Church in Need we would be about to disappear."

The Patriarch made his comments to 30 representatives of European NGOs at the meeting co-hosted by ACN and the Commission of European Bishops' Conferences (COMECE). It comes after reports that up to two-thirds of Syria's pre-2011 Christian population had fled within five years - down to 500,000 - with governments and parliaments accusing Daesh of genocide against Church communities and Yazidis. But, with Daesh in retreat all over the Middle East, Syriac Catholic Archbishop Antoine Chahda of Aleppo told the ACN-COMECE meeting that an end to violence in many parts of Syria meant reconstruction should now begin in earnest.

An absence of conflict did not necessarily mean an end to the war, Archbishop Chahda said, explaining: "The signs of the destruction of the entire life of Aleppo are visible and painful, such as the empty factories where the rebels and their supporters stole all the machinery." We need the industrial leaders to come back and produce, to give a solid base to the reconstruction." The Archbishop and the Patriarch called for an end to sanctions against Syria, saying that the people who suffer the consequences are not high-level politicians but thousands of widows and orphans.

Syria is a priority country for ACN aid, with pastoral help and emergency support being rolled out in cities and towns all over the country. In Aleppo, thousands of people are receiving emergency food, shelter (rental costs), hot water (electricity subsidy) and up to 2,200 Christian families in the city are receiving medical aid. This Christmas, the charity is providing gifts for 1,500 Christian children in Aleppo, including a hat, socks, trousers, a shirt and a pair of winter shoes. In Azizieh, a mainly Christian district of Aleppo, ACN is helping with running costs for Our Lady's Secondary School, which was bombed several times, and the Lord's Care Orphanage as well as repairs to the Al-Yarmouk Youth Sports Centre, damaged by shells. ACN is also providing shelter for 340 families in towns and villages in southern Syria.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33930>

25th PAX CHRISTI ADVENT PEACE SERVICE

Ellen Teague 5 December 2017

"The Annual Pax Christi Advent Service last night was as prayerful and inspiring as ever - I find the event a 'must' to get me into the real spirit of Advent" said Fr Joe Ryan, the Chair of Westminster Justice and Peace. He described the "thoughtful Liturgy", with signs, symbols, scripture, readings and inspiring singing as "a tonic". The 'Market Place' afterwards was enjoyed too, "with stalls by different groups and refreshments after the Liturgy and the chance to meet up with friends was so refreshing."

Around 200 people were there this year - at St Aloysius Church in Euston on 4 December - and I am one of those who never misses a service which brings out the Advent themes of *'Waiting'* and *'God with us'* in the context of today's world. There is a lot of contextual theology in there! Coming at the end of a year which has seen an upsurge in military tension around the world and huge numbers of refugees fleeing war zones, this popular service, with its focus on the peacemaking message of Advent, felt particularly poignant. It reflected the longing for peace in our world and the Advent call to be prophets of peace.

The service was organised and led by Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi UK, and she said afterwards: "We try and amplify the views of marginalised people in our world". There was signing by the Westminster Deaf Service. Julie McCann led the singing with the choir and musicians, adding much to the celebration. Music by Bernadette Farrell and Marty Haugen, with strong social justice components, featured prominently. A song of peace in Hebrew was haunting and beautiful. An arrangement of the words of *The Magnificat* by Owen M Alstott went alongside a prayer by Joan Chittister asking Mary, "wellspring of peace", to be our guide. The congregation joined in with great gusto - including Pax Christi supporters from around England, CAFOD staff, many religious and priests involved in the Justice and Peace mission.

Fr Gerry McFlynn of the Irish Chaplaincy did one of the readings. Audrey Campbell could not be there because she died suddenly a few days earlier, and we prayed for her and her husband Frank who used to travel up from Southampton for the service nearly every year - both warmly remembered in the hearts of the Pax Christi community.

We sang and prayed, focusing on four themes: *Israel/Palestine*, *Seeking Asylum*, *Women*, and *Peacemaking in our World*. Halfway through the service we were invited to move to focal points around the church on the four themes and light candles. *'Wait for the Lord'* was sung quietly by the choir. On the first theme, I was touched by the photos of Palestinian villages which have been intimidated by settlers and some have been hounded out. One photo showed a village I visited with Pax Christi two years ago and where we were so kindly welcomed by the community. The *'Women'* area showed photos of women, many of whom I am privileged to know, and highlighted their words of reconciliation and peace. *'Peacemaking in our world'* contained news from Pax Christi partners, such as the National Justice and Peace Network and the Columbans, and their work for peace. Afterwards the candles from each focal point were brought back to the centre.

There were readings and prayers from Isaiah, Ephesians, and John Henry Newman. Also, a reflection from an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine, who accompanied a Palestinian shepherd as he was moved off lands his family had accessed for generations by Israeli settlers. There was an extract from a talk by Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego, who attended the recent Vatican Conference on nuclear disarmament where Pope Francis condemned the possession of nuclear weapons. He said, "Pope Francis was clear that because of the significant risks of even an anticipated or accidental war, and of the gargantuan and devastating effects of nuclear war, and of provoking other nations to perhaps use them, the possession itself of these weapons is now condemned, regardless of the intention".

Many participants - and certainly myself - stocked up on Christmas presents at the *'Market Place'* which offered goods from Pax Christi and its partners in Bethlehem, Traidcraft, Zaytoun products from Palestinian, London Catholic Worker, Jesuit Refugee Service, WoW Bags from Hanwell parish, Women at the Well, Little Sisters of the Poor and St Joseph's Pastoral Centre. There was also mulled wine and mince pies! They received reminders of future events, such as Peace Sunday on 14 January 2018 (see below -Ed.), for which Pax Christi provides excellent materials. And there was Bruce Kent handing out leaflets about a concert in his parish of St Mellitus, Tollington Park, at 8pm on Sunday 10 December, with the proceeds going to the Comboni Sisters work among refugees on the margins of Jerusalem.

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33935>

Peace Sunday 14 January 2018 - the theme chosen by Pope Francis is *Migrants and Refugees – Seeking Peace*

In his message Pope Francis says: "All indicators available to the international community suggest that global migration will continue for the future. Some consider this a threat. For my part, I ask you to view it with confidence as an opportunity to build peace."

Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace works all year around to promote peace. Each year Pax Christi produce resource materials to help communities in England and Wales celebrate Peace Sunday. These include homily notes, prayers, ideas for working with children. **These resources can be found here:** <http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/peace-sunday/>

Please help us by promoting Peace Sunday in your own parish and community.

www.paxchristi.org.uk

<https://twitter.com/paxchristiuk>

<http://facebook.com/PaxChristiUK>

Support our work: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/>

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE NJPN ENVIRONMENT GROUP

- **The Columbans have launched a young people's journalist competition 'Migrants are our Neighbours':** <http://www.columbancompetition.com/>
- **Columban creation-centred Advent materials** - download free at: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33837>
- **CAFOD's 'Power to Be'** campaign has received 26,000 responses, which will be passed on to Melanie Robinson, the UK's representative at the World Bank. See **'Power to be'**: <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns>
- **Caritas Internationalis** is currently campaigning on **Migration**: <http://www.caritas.org/what-we-do/migration/>
- A new **'Share the Journey'** campaign on refugees and migrants has been launched - <http://www.caritas.org/2017/09/media-advisory-pope-francis-will-launch-caritas-share-the-journey/>
- A **Fairtrade letter to Sainsburys** has been taken up by many J&P groups: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Sainsbury-s-blow-to-Fairtrade>
- **Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)** The **Laudato Si'** pledge is still being pushed. It is endorsed by Pope Francis- <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/> The GCCM has launched a new **Advent toolkit** with **"5 ways to 'green' your Christmas"**, an Advent calendar, a children's colouring book, and a Novena. <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/advent/>
- **NJPN Conference 20-22 July 2018.** National Justice and Peace Network - in partnership with Housing Justice, Church Action on Poverty, Prison Advice and Care Trust - will run the conference: **'It is in the shelter of each other that the people live'** to explore the meaning of 'home' in the context of being a church of the poor. The NJPN Environment group suggested:
 - There is something about contact with gardens and access to green areas in Britain
 - Planet Earth is our common home – link with *Laudato Si'*
 - Linking in with *'Share the Journey'* on refugees
 - There is attention to traditional J&P process – group formation / the pastoral cycle - whilst acknowledging there are new means of engaging people
 - If NJPN is looking towards the 2019 and 2020 conferences the group suggests an overall environment theme for one of them. There was concern that there is still so much to do to raise awareness of Creation Care and it falls to NJPN to make the fundamental links between education, lifestyle, economic structural change and liturgy, along the challenging lines of *Laudato Si'.*
- **Live Simply Award Update**
30 parishes have now achieved the award, with 52 more parishes registered and 111 signups expressing interest - virtually all dioceses now have parishes involved. <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-campaign/Livesimply-award>
- **Green Christian Joy in Enough** – Conference report: <http://www.greenchristian.org.uk/event-report-the-big-workshop/>
- **Green pilgrimages** - The notion of green pilgrimages has received growing attention in recent years. The European Green Pilgrimage Network (EGPN) is a faith-led network of pilgrim places, pathways and cities in Europe that are committed to promoting green, or environmentally friendly, pilgrimage. Its vision is that pilgrims leave a positive footprint on the earth, and that pilgrim places become models of care for the environment. <http://www.greenpilgrimageeurope.net/>
There are now more walking and cycling pilgrimages – for example the Catholic People's Week cycling and walking weeks.
- **Plastics, especially single-use.** Plastics are symptomatic of our lack of sustainability. Excellent info and campaign at: <https://news.sky.com/feature/sky-ocean-rescue-10734494>
<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/what-we-do/oceans/plastics/>
<https://skyoceanrescue.com/>
- **Cambridge Carbon Footprint** <http://cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/> This is an excellent project in East Anglia which raises awareness of climate change and supports people to move to low-carbon living.
- **Read more** about climate change, theology, ethics, spirituality and advocacy on the website of ECEN, the European Christian Environmental Network. <http://www.ecen.org/content/climate-change-and-climate-justice-ecumenical-ethical-approach>
- **Buried in the budget:** renewables support frozen until 2025 – Unearthed <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2017/11/22/oil-diesel-plastic-learned-budget-2017/>
- **Laudato Si'** Resources and Links for parishes and schools <http://www.columbans.co.uk/news/laudato-si-resources-and-links-for-parishes-and-schools/>
- **Pamphlet from CTS** titled **'Catholics and our Common Home'**, written by Sr Margaret Atkins. <http://www.ctsbooks.org/catholics-and-our-common-home/>

New books:

- **Earth's Cry: Prophetic Ministry in a More than Human World** by Jan Morgan Cascade Books 1498231004
- **Creation Care and the Gospel: Reconsidering the Mission of the Church** Edited by Colin Bell and Robert S. White Hendrickson Publishers 9781619707252
- **Climate Change Cultural Change** Edited by Anne Elvey and David Gormley-O'Brien Mosaic Press 1498269278
- **Care for Creation: A Call for Ecological Conversion** by Pope Francis Orbis Books / Alban Books 9781626981898
- **Video: Women and Climate Change** <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/climate-change>

FAITH COMMUNITIES GATHER IN WIRRAL TO CONSIDER MULTI-FAITH RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Liz Atherton, Arts & Wellbeing Coordinator | Faiths4Change writes: As part of Interfaith Week 2017 (12-19 November) people from different world faith communities and organisations from across the Liverpool City Region and neighbouring areas came together in common cause around climate change at the Merseyside Maritime Hub Birkenhead .

Peter Scott, Professor of Applied Theology at the University of Manchester, introduced the event sharing his thoughts and raising a series of questions about the role of faith communities as part of the wider response to climate change. Participants then took part in three workshops focused on energy; water, waste & carbon footprint and wider community influence and activism.

"Coming together around climate change during Interfaith Week gave us the platform to get to know each other, share our beliefs and actions and welcome each other in community. Building trusted relationships is key to creating sustainable communities where people of different faiths, beliefs and values can live together in harmony with each other and the environment", said Annie Merry, CEO of Faiths4Change. "The workshops helped show the wealth of local experience and how we all have a contribution to make. It was really good to listen to and share ideas and actions with people from different Muslim, Christian and Hindu communities."

The event is the first step to a collaborative, active city region wide multi-faith approach to climate change enabling local people of different world faiths to continue sharing and connecting with each other and the wider communities in which they are rooted. Going forward, people are working together to create a communication group to keep the energy, sharing and actions going across the city region. It was supported by Wirral Council in recognition of the links already made between faith communities and climate action in Cool the climate change strategy for Wirral. Faiths4Change is an active participant in the Cool Wirral Partnership, the group set up to champion local climate action in Wirral. The event was built on collaborative working with many partners from across the Liverpool City Region including Wirral based fuel poverty charity Energy Projects Plus and environmental community group Planet Heswall. Merseyside Environmental Trust, Wing - Merseyside's women in faith group and Merseyside Council of Faiths provided funding and communication support. Emansys, – a private sector waste and health and safety business – provided expert facilitation, alongside Energy Projects Plus and Planet Heswall.

Faiths4Change is a North West wide charity working with faith based and local communities to create partnership approaches to transforming relationships, skills and neighbourhood environments. www.faiths4change.org.uk T: [0151 705 2111](tel:01517052111)

CLARE DIXON HONOURED IN EL SALVADOR

During the Romero Trust pilgrimage to El Salvador, Clare Dixon was awarded the José Simeón Cañas Medal for Extraordinary Merit in recognition of her commitment and work in support of the people, the Church and the Society of Jesus in El Salvador and Central America. The award was made during a special ceremony at the Jesuit University in El Salvador. Clare has been Head of CAFOD's Latin America programmes for nearly 40 years - and since 2005 she has been Secretary of the Archbishop Romero Trust. The pilgrimage was organised by Anthony Coles and led by Clare Dixon, Bishop Rawsthorne and Julian Filochowski.

The medal which is a very special distinction was instituted in 1980; and this is only the 21st such medal to be awarded over these years. The medal citation states that Clare Dixon was awarded the medal for her:

- Generosity and dedication to the poor throughout Latin America, especially in the countries of Central America, supporting their struggles in defence of human rights and dignity for forty years;
- The solidarity she has shown through the support to numerous initiatives and works of the Society of Jesus in Central America;
- The continued accompaniment to the UCA for more than 30 years and her contribution in favour of the social outreach work of the University, especially in defence of the cause of the martyrs;
- The exemplary faith, hope and love which she has always shown in her work, especially in support of Monseñor Romero throughout his time as Archbishop and latterly in the foundation of the Romero Trust in Great Britain, to make known his life, his work and his legacy. <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33896>

PHILIPPINES: HUMAN RIGHTS PRIEST KILLED

Dan Bergin 5 December 2017

A retired parish priest who devoted his life to his parishioners, and working for justice and peace, was shot dead in the Philippines on Monday night. Fr Marcelito Paez, 72, was killed by gunmen on a motorbike as he was driving home in Jane, in Nueva Ecija province in Central Luzon. Police said bystanders saw a motorbike following Fr Marcelito's car and witnessed the shooting. They rushed the priest to hospital but he was declared dead on arrival, with multiple bullet wounds.

Bishop Roberto Mallari San Jose diocese said the killing as "brutal and cowardly." Fr Marcelito had served as a parish priest for 30 years. After his retirement in 2015 he continued to work as coordinator of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines in Central Luzon. He was also involved in campaigns to protect the right of the poor and farmers.

Bishop Mallari said Fr Marcelito has given his whole life for the people. During the Marcos dictatorship he opposed the construction of the controversial Bataan nuclear power plant because it was located in an earthquake zone. The plant was not built. Bishop Mallari said it was "a challenge for us priests, to be ready to stand up for truth, justice and for the good of the people especially to those who have no voice."

The '**Promotion of Church People's Response**' group, issued a statement condemning the killing saying Fr Marcelito was well known as an advocate of human rights, peace and justice "not only in the diocese but throughout the country." <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33938>

TEXT: HOMILY BY FR DAVID STEWART SJ AT WORLD AIDS DAY MASS

Father David Stewart SJ, gave the following homily at the World AIDS Mass on 4 December 2017, at Farm Street Jesuit Church, London.

Pope Francis said, in a powerful and outspoken intervention reported on Friday, that "The presence of God today is also called 'Rohingya'. This of course was the word that he had carefully avoided using while he was in Myanmar - this came in Bangladesh, to where he had next travelled. The report had it that he next said: "Maybe we can't do much for you, but your tragedy has a place in our hearts. For those who have hurt you, and above all the indifference of the world, I ask your forgiveness." Those are words that cannot be ignored. What is the presence of God for us - where does that God want to be found? And for what indifference do I, do you, await forgiveness?

We know, if we were following the reportage of his Asian visit, that he had prudently circumvented using that word Rohingya out of diplomatic deference to his hosts, although plenty of activists and advocacy organisations had expressed their disappointment that he didn't use the word. This may or may not be justified criticism; but he did encounter a group of Rohingya refugees personally in, by all accounts, a most moving encounter. This might not be good enough for everyone but it's pretty good for me.

Reaching out, touching, dialoguing, in front of cameras and sound-recorders, that encounter says so much of what we try to do and be as followers of Christ. For it is Christ-like. That's why it cannot be ignored. Here, gathered for this Eucharist for World AIDS Day, where so many of us in this gathering are touched and affected, in one way or another, by HIV/AIDS and the stigma that hangs around it, we can legitimately ask if the same reaching out is evident towards those affected by this awful virus. How can it, how can the people who still suffer from it in various ways, still be ignored? But we are gathered here also because we are people of hope, Advent people, people of a promise once made and to be fulfilled; indeed already being fulfilled if presently visible only to those who have eyes to see its fulfilment.

Matthew's Gospel, which is the reading for 4 December (8:5-11), is so apposite to our purposes and prayers on this day. It's a foretaste of the mission to the Gentiles and St. Matthew deliberately paired it with the immediately preceding cure, of a leper and before another cure, of a member of Peter's family - lepers and foreigners, outsiders, are given prominence in the Kingdom. If we look at the world and its people through God's eyes: we see no boundaries or distinctions, just people to be loved, whose tragedy has a place in God's heart.

The Roman soldier in this story had already been touched by this; intuitively? to his own surprise? We don't know. We do know that the faith of this Roman, we may say, just blew Jesus away! God's mercy is unconditional, we like to say, but there is, if not a condition or a limiting factor, a potential hindrance - humility, or the lack of it. The centurion recognised not only his own lack of faith, as he thought, but also his unworthiness - he said it! His moving words, the words of a Gentile, an outsider, have made their way into our Christian liturgy! He was praying without knowing it! And in recognising this that Roman uncovered, unveiled a faith at a much deeper level that certainly amazed Jesus and certainly amazed this man himself - did he premeditate any of this, or did it all just well up from a deep place within his heart, his soul? It is that same place in each heart that every human tragedy should occupy; of the Rohingya refugee, of the stigmatised person living with HIV/AIDS, of any child of God hurt by the indifference of the world. The presence of God today is also called the person living with HIV/AIDS.

We who gather here for an event like this do so in part because we know that we need to bring the Gospel and the world closer together. We know how important it is to live positively. Why? Because we are certain, in our faith, that the church's legacy of faith has something important, something valuable, to say to the world. We even go so far as to say that we think we have something that the world needs, even if it doesn't know so, by and large. There is no interest in establishing a theocracy but we are here because we feel ourselves called to mediate God's mercy that that Roman centurion, in Matthew's story, instinctively knew was available to all; and so he took that chance on Jesus. We have seen God's Spirit at work in others; some of us have experienced the consolation of that spirit-filled Christian ministry and we have known that our tragedy, or that of someone we love, has a place in God's heart.

Great examples of that ministry can be seen in the excellent new digital resource called positivefaith.net, of which we'll see more later - it really is very, very good. It shows that the Christian's way is a way of the heart, of prayer and ministry, for that is a way that opens us to an evangelising mission of compassion for all the world. Pope Francis again, in *The Joy of the Gospel (Evangelii Gaudium)*, exhorting us to become missionary disciples - "Spirit-filled evangelisers are evangelisers who pray and work (...)"

What is needed is the ability to cultivate an interior space which can give a Christian meaning to commitment and activity. Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the Word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervour dies out. Do we remember to say our prayers? The presence of God today is also called everyone who suffers AND everyone who ministers with that fervour that only prayer can maintain. Through this the promise, the Advent promise, will be fulfilled. Then, with all the friends of Jesus, we too can be amazed when we see such faith.

LINKS

Catholics for Aids Prevention and Support www.caps-uk.org/

LGBT Catholics Westminster Pastoral Council www.lgbtcatholicswestminster.org

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33959>

THINGS TO SEE IN MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL

If you enjoy art exhibitions you may like to visit

SHIPWRECK DRAWINGS - Cecily Brown brings together a series of drawings of wrecked ships and their passengers. Taking inspiration from Old Masters, notably Delacroix, this exhibition re-examines representations of maritime tragedy throughout history at a time when images of shipwrecked refugees are so prevalent.

At The Whitworth, Manchester 17 November 2017– 15 April 2018 www.whitworthmanchester.ac.uk

SURREALISM IN EGYPT: *Art et Liberté* - A new exhibition of more than 100 paintings, photographs, drawings, archival documents and film, many previously unseen in UK, traces the history of the politically engaged collective of artists and writers who lived and worked in Cairo in the late 1930s until the late 1940s. They were challenging the mainstream populist art of the time.

"When we seem to be witnessing a rise in populism and national sentiment often accompanied by a xenophobic rhetoric, it is very timely to be reminded of the example of *Art et Liberté* who fought against the segregation of people and the confinement of individuals within national and political labels" says Till Fellrath, the exhibition curator.

At The Tate Liverpool 18 November 2017 –18 March 2018 www.tate.org.uk

FILM: *JUST WALK FROM LONDON TO JERUSALEM*

To mark the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, hundreds of campaigners walked from London to Jerusalem - 3,300km, across 11 countries in 147 days, to ask for full equal rights for everybody who calls the Holy Land home.

The Amos Trust has just released a short film on the walk. See: <https://vimeo.com/242913350>

To look at more images from the final stage of *Just Walk*, including Banksy's *Refugee Tea Party* and the walkers arriving in Jerusalem, please click on this link: www.amostrust.org/amos-palestine/change-the-record/just-walk-gallery/

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/33927>

BOOK REVIEW

POVERTY SAFARI: *Understanding the Anger of Britain's Underclass* by Darren McGarvey

People from deprived communities all around Britain feel misunderstood and unheard. Darren McGarvey, aka Loki, gives voice to their feelings and concerns, and the anger that is spilling over. Anger that he says we will have to get used to, unless things change.

He invites you to come on a safari of sorts: a Poverty Safari. But not the sort where the indigenous population is surveyed from a safe distance for a time, before the window on the community closes and everyone gradually forgets about it.

"I know the hustle and bustle of high-rise life, the dark and dirty stairwells, the temperamental elevators that smell like urine and wet dog fur, the grumpy concierge, the apprehension you feel as you enter or leave the building, especially at night. I know that sense of being cut off from the world, despite having such a wonderful view of it through a window in the sky; that feeling of isolation, despite being surrounded by hundreds of other people above, below and either side of you. But most of all, I understand the sense that you are invisible, despite the fact that your community can be seen for miles around and is one of the most prominent features of the city skyline."

"Part memoir, part polemic, this is a savage, wise and witty tour-de-force. An unflinching account of the realities of systemic poverty, Poverty Safari lays down challenges to both the left and right. It is hard to think of a more timely, powerful or necessary book." - J.K. Rowling

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CHURCH SUPPORT

Sarah Thorpe is Dementia Enabler in the Diocese of Lichfield. She is supporting churches in northern Shropshire in becoming more dementia-friendly churches at the heart of dementia-friendly communities. She recently ran a very informative and practical four-week course at Church Aston.

Sarah is willing to share the dementia-friendly churches material that she is using. For example, one document is a simple "Passport", as a tool to have a discussion about favourite hymns, services, prayers and Bible verses, as well as significant spiritual occasions, people and places. It was created to support people living with dementia – but in fact it's been used effectively with a whole range of people. It can be filled in with someone living with dementia to share preferences and significant aspects of their lives which, as time goes on, might prove extremely valuable to those caring for someone.

Sarah's got a Dropbox folder of material relevant to dementia-friendly churches – if you'd like her to send you a link to the folder, just drop her a line: sarah.thorpe@lichfield.anglican.org

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2017 DECEMBER

- 12 Time Out on Tuesdays** – Input and silent prayer time. The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, L15 6TW 10am-4pm. Cost £10. Tea and coffee, bring your own lunch. 0151 722 2271, email: winniececnacle@gmail.com
- 14 CAFOD Carols** St Teresa's, College Rd, Upholland, Nr Wigan WN8 0PY 7.30-9.30pm (but get there early if you want a seat) Local Primary schools, musicians from St John Rigby, a CAFOD partner, mince pies, craft stalls.
- 14 Greenhous Cars and Commercials** festive carol service in conjunction with Telford Elim Community Church at Trench Lock, Hadley, from 6:30pm hosted by Pastor Leslie Burke. Carols, mince pies, mulled wine, tea and coffee, craft activities for children.
- 18 International Migrants' Day** www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/
- 27 TWO CAFOD Fun Runs - Bollington:** St Gregory's Parish Hall, Wellington Road, Bollington, Macclesfield, SK10 5JR www.stalbanmacc.org.uk/bollyfunrun2014/
- **Liverpool:** Wavertree Athletics Centre, Liverpool, L15 4LE <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Liverpool-fun-run-2017>

2018 JANUARY

- 9 Chester World Development Forum** *Climate Change, & Displacement*. Sarah Rowe, Christian Aid Campaigns Strategy Lead will talk on these key campaign themes for 2018. 6.45-9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin St Chester, CH1 2BN 01244 350323
- 9 Time Out on Tuesdays** see 12 December
- 13-14 Faith for Life Course** begins Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport. This course does what it says in the title and has even been described as 'life changing.' More details from Steve Atherton s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 14 Peace Sunday** <http://paxchris.org.uk/newsand-events/peace-sunday/>
- 14 World Day of Migrants and Refugees** w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/papa-francesco_20170815_world-migrants-day-2018.html
- 18 -25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** *'That all may be free'* <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/> Material for 2018 was produced in the Caribbean and uses Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression.
- 19 CAFOD Quiz Night** for CAFOD's Connect 2 Ethiopia project. 7.30pm Our Lady's Parish Centre, Ellesmere Port Town Centre, Fairtrade refreshments at the interval. Entry £3 adults, £1 children. More details: contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419
- 21 LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE 2018 ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE: "Towards social and solidarity economies?"** Given by Dr Peter North, the talk will include consideration of the church's role in creating supportive communities. At LACE, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA 2-4 pm. More details from Steve Atherton 0151 522 1080/1 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk
- 26 CWDF Forum** meets Chester MP Chris Matheson. This informal meeting is being arranged in association with the University's International Development Society. 7-9pm, Best Building CBB116, University of Chester, off Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day** hmd.org.uk/
- 28 Racial Justice Sunday: CARJ** <https://www.carj.org.uk/events/>
- 28 Homeless Sunday** www.housingjustice.org.uk/Event/homeless-sunday-2018

FEBRUARY

- 6** Talk by Matt Jeziorski from Pax Christi at St Monica's, Appleton, Warrington WA4 3AB. 7:30 (after 7:00pm Mass) All welcome!
- 8 Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking** [http://catholicchurch.org.uk/Home/Featured/Day-of-Prayer-for-Victims-of-Human-Trafficking/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://catholicchurch.org.uk/Home/Featured/Day-of-Prayer-for-Victims-of-Human-Trafficking/(language)/eng-GB)
- 10 NJPN Open Networking Day**, Holy Cross, Wellington Road, Leicester LE1 6HW 10.30am-4pm. FareShares East Midlands will speak on *We believe no good food should go to waste. Saving food and changing lives*. There will be opportunities for networking with justice & peace activists from around the country and to get updates from national agencies. All welcome. Contact NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, Tel 020 7901 4864, Email admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk
- 11 Church Action on Poverty Sunday** *Voices from the Margins*. Throughout his ministry, Jesus listened to people who were on the margins of his society. He made visible those who were overlooked, and gave them hope. Our churches are called to follow Jesus' example: to listen to voices from the margins and make them heard, so that things can change. **Resources** for the Sunday available from: <http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday>
- 13 Time Out on Tuesdays** see 12 December
- 14 Ash Wednesday**
- 16 CAFOD Quiz Night** see 19 January
- 26-11 March Fairtrade Fortnight** www.fairtrade.org.uk/Get-Involved/Currentcampaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight

MARCH

- 2 Women's World Day of Prayer:** prepared by the Women of Suriname: *All God's Creation is Good*. www.wwdp.org.uk/
- 10-11 Faith for Life** see 13-14 January
- 13 Accra: City for People or Profit?** Dr Tom Gillespie of the Global Development Institute of the University of Manchester will talk about his research work, considering solutions to the homeless crisis in the Ghanaian capital. Talk arranged by International Development Studies, visitors welcome. 5-6pm, Best Building CBB116, University of Chester, off Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ. More details: www.chesterwdf.org.uk or contact Terry Green (Chair) 01244 383668, email terry@tdgreen.f9.co.uk
- 13 Time Out on Tuesdays** see 12 December
- 16 CAFOD Quiz Night** see 19 January

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com an 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 0207 901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk
- The views expressed in this bulletin are not necessarily those of NJPN*