

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin March 2018

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

OPEN LETTER FROM CHARITIES COMMITTING TO BETTER ACTION ON SAFEGUARDING

23 February 2018

As organisations whose core aim is to help the most vulnerable people in the world, we must always confront abusive behaviour and the misuse of power. When it comes from individuals within our sector it is a double betrayal, not just of the people we exist to serve, but of the British people in whose name we operate. Although this is only the action of a small minority of people, it is nonetheless an issue that we will not allow to go unaddressed.

There can be no tolerance for the abuse of power, privilege or trust within our organisations or in our work. We have an absolute duty to our staff, our supporters and, above all, the people we seek to help to ensure we do everything in our power to prevent, detect and eradicate unacceptable behaviour.

As we take every necessary step to right these deep wrongs, we also have a clear responsibility to ensure that the communities we seek to help are not the ones punished for our mistakes. The widespread distress and disappointment that we've heard in the past two weeks demonstrates that people feel profound compassion for those who need Britain's help. We must honour that instinct, and the rights and needs of the communities we work with, by continuing to deliver vital aid but also changing fundamentally.

Safeguarding is something that, as a sector, we have long taken very seriously and all our organisations have systems in place to prevent all forms of abuse and misconduct. However, we can never be complacent. We must do even more to protect the very people we were set up to help.

First and foremost we must continue to create an environment where people feel safe, and confident to report any behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable or which threatens them or their communities. That is why we are collectively announcing the following series of urgent and immediate measures:

- * We will all increase the resources we devote to safeguarding - meeting our responsibility to protect our staff and beneficiaries.
- * We will collectively review our current referencing systems so that people found to have abused their power or behaved inappropriately are not re-employed in the sector - including in INGOs, government agencies, the UN and other associated bilateral and domestic agencies.
- * We will work with these authorities and regulatory bodies to ensure any individual caught abusing their power cannot do so again.
- * We will work with the Government to ensure that we can overcome the legal and institutional barriers to rigorous background checks in the UK.

In taking these steps, we are also asking people to come forward to report unacceptable behaviour.

We hope these measures send a clear message to those who experience or witness any form of abuse - it is really important that they know that we will listen and we will take action. These actions are only the first step as, collectively and individually, we do everything possible to ensure that our organisations, our staff and the work we fund meets that most fundamental criteria for all charities - to serve people and not to exploit them.

Our collective mission is to do much more than that - the challenge we face in our own organisations is a challenge for the whole of society. This is something that requires leadership in every sector - and we ask people from all walks of life and all corners of our communities to help us to strengthen safeguards, tackle abuse and stand up for the vulnerable - and to call out inappropriate behaviour wherever we see it.

We are truly sorry that at times our sector has failed. We must and will do better.

Signed: ActionAid UK, Age International, BBC Media Action, Bond, CAFOD, CARE International UK, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide UK, Global Citizen, Islamic Relief UK, Mercy Corps Europe, Muslim Aid, Oxfam GB, Plan International UK, Practical Action, Save the Children UK, Start Network, Scotland's International Development Alliance, TearFund, UNICEF UK, VSO, WaterAid, World Vision UK

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34398>

"The right hates Oxfam because it is a voice for the voiceless," one agency head said. "It doesn't just help poor people, it asks why they are poor."

Paul Vallely, *The Tablet* 21 February 2018

Read Paul's article in full: http://www.thetablet.co.uk/features/2/12512/the-attack-on-overseas-aidoxfam-crisis?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=24%20February%202018&utm_content=24%20February%202018+CID_82b04d606ad9de25b304a81347f61a9c&utm_source=virtueMail%20marketing%20software&utm_term=by%20Paul%20Vallely

CAFOD STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Chris Bain, CAFOD Director 12 February 2018

"Recent news reports have raised disturbing questions about reported abuses by aid workers, causing significant worry and distrust in the UK public.

CAFOD has a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct breaching our *Code of Behaviour*, including fraud, abuse, intimidation and other acts. We have robust safeguarding and whistle-blowing policies and practices in place to ensure that vulnerable people are protected. Nonetheless, we are committed to regularly reviewing our procedures, and therefore are joining an initiative with other UK-based overseas development agencies and the Charity Commission to strengthen cross-sector information sharing and protection of vulnerable people.

The Times newspaper on 10 February 2018 wrote that a current CAFOD employee was named as an Oxfam staff member who had been working in Haiti in 2011, amidst accusations of sexual misconduct. We were not aware of allegations made against this employee and received two references, as standard practice, at the time of recruitment. Following concerns raised in this article, the staff member has been put on leave while we examine the issues raised and follow our *Code of Behaviour* protocol to determine next steps.

It is disheartening that the actions of a few unscrupulous aid workers may undermine trust in the life-saving work done by overseas development and humanitarian agencies, including CAFOD, working alongside some of the poorest communities and helping them live life to the fullest. Our commitment to them is steadfast, and we will continue to vigilantly prevent abuse by aid workers from happening, and ensure swift action when concerns are raised."

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34323>

VIEWPOINT: THE TRASHING OF OXFAM

Tricia Zipfel 19 February 2018

It has been beyond frustrating to watch the media, politicians and others trash Oxfam over the past week, in what feels like a feeding frenzy that now poses an existential threat to the organisation and possibly to the whole international aid effort. Oxfam does not deserve this, nor do the people at the centre of the storm, who have provided exemplary moral leadership for decades, but whose lives and reputations are being wrecked.

I was an Oxfam trustee in 2011 and served on the sub-committee that dealt with the Haiti crisis and its aftermath, so I know first-hand how seriously it was taken. With hindsight, we would all agree that we could have handled it differently/better. For example, we could have involved the police (though this was a country in melt-down after a devastating earthquake) and, in reporting to the Charity Commission and DfID, we could have been more explicit about the nature of the gross misconduct involved. But there was no attempt to 'cover-up' the issue.

Radical action was taken at the time, to address the problem overseas and in the UK, particularly in relation to volunteers and the shops, and as a result, Oxfam is now seen as a leader in safeguarding good practice. Obviously more could have been done - more resources provided. But Oxfam senior staff and trustees took the matter extremely seriously and worked hard to improve safeguarding policy and practice over the following months and years.

Andrew Hind, former CEO of the Charity Commission, has written as follows: ".....moral leadership at the top is unquestionably being demonstrated in the charity right now, just as it has been demonstrated in spades by Oxfam leaders for many years."

He points out that: ".....after Haiti, Oxfam established a head of safeguarding position, created a whistleblowing hotline, sent safeguarding training teams to country programmes and voluntarily included a detailed summary of reported safeguarding incidents in its published trustees annual report every year, available for all to read on the Charity Commission register of charities. Oxfam's transparency about the safeguarding issues it was having to deal with was second to none."

He also quotes research on safeguarding across the INGO sector, by Tuft University, that identified this as an "industry wide" problem. In that research, Oxfam's approach to safeguarding is highlighted as a "model of good practice" and other INGOs are urged to follow Oxfam's lead.

See: www.civilsociety.co.uk/voices/andrew-hind-oxfam-should-not-be-hung-out-to-dry.html

Megan Nobert, a human rights lawyer, who founded *Report the Abuse*, the first organisation to challenge the silence surrounding sexual violence in the aid sector, said that the incident in Haiti was "a catalyst for change within Oxfam, and they are now leading the way to address this issue within the humanitarian community."

Read her article here: www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/feb/17/oxfam-scandal-does-not-justify-demonising-entire-aid-sector

SEE ALSO: Sabita Banjeri's blog: <https://orumai.org/2018/02/17/the-oxfam-i-know-facts-rights-and-wrongs/>

Maggie Black's article in the New Internationalist: <https://newint.org/blog/2018/02/15/trashing-of-oxfam>

and Patrick Cockburn in The Independent: www.independent.co.uk/voices/oxfam-prostitution-scandal-haiti-aid-workers-why-there-abuse-charity-a8214316.html

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34363>

A WORD ON OXFAM

Peter Kyle 13 Feb 2018

I was an aid worker for almost a decade. From my experience the vast majority of frontline aid workers are extraordinarily professional and caring, choosing to put their expertise and experience to use in the most difficult situations.

There's another side that I saw too though. In some truly extreme situations, such as in sudden refugee crises, humanitarian disasters or areas of conflict and war, there is chaos, stress and lawlessness that is really hard to imagine if you've not experienced it. Our job as aid workers was to bring stability and security to people who had lost everything, including their human dignity. A small number of dysfunctional people, who probably could never really survive a steady job back home, seem to thrive amid the chaos and dysfunction of a disaster. I noticed some of them travelled from one disaster to another and rose quite high in the ranks. They were a nightmare to deal with, unreliable and made very poor decisions.

I remember a doctor for a well-known large charity coming up to the small team I was with, wearing a bloodstained doctor's uniform, and said: "It's boring here you'll hate it. You should get over to Asia. That's where the blood and guts are." We were standing in a refugee camp with over a thousand destitute women and children, many with gynaecological problems caused by the rape and abuse they experienced as they fled (rape was used as a weapon during the Balkan war) and very few knew if their husbands and adult male children were alive or dead as they had either been detained or remained to fight. People like him should never be working with vulnerable people and aid agencies need to get better at weeding them out and getting better-suited people in. It's tough. In this country we struggle to get great maths teachers into challenging schools so imagine the difficulty of getting brilliant doctors, who might have families and dependents of their own, to go to extremely dangerous and life-threatening places to practise medicine.

I never became cynical because I saw so many lives transformed and I saw first-hand just what can be achieved through sensitive and professional aid work. Because of Britain's aid and disaster support there are thousands and thousands of people alive and prospering who would otherwise be impoverished or dead so please don't become cynical either. In all my time I never saw or heard rumours about the criminal activity being uncovered today. It disgusts me to hear it though. Heartbreakingly, sexual exploitation and rape of children can exist in any organisation if we do not proactively protect young people and have proper systems and procedures in place. Jimmy Savile taught us that. So if it happens here where we have a mature civil society and a world-class police force, imagine how difficult it is to get this right in a war zone or disaster area. But just because it's difficult doesn't mean it shouldn't happen. Aid agencies and government must work to change culture to become more open, co-operative and sharing of best practice. What is tragic about Oxfam's failure to act is that as well as the tragedy of already vulnerable people becoming victims, predators and corrupt people have escaped justice. And also, keeping it hushed up has denied other organisation the opportunity to learn from the mistakes that led to this happening.

I fear that threats to cut Oxfam's funding will only exacerbate this. The message to other organisations is: "If you have this problem and make it public, we will cut your funding." And the people who will suffer most from funding cuts are already-damaged communities being supported by the good work being done. Government must act as a mature partner. We need to know everything and we need to learn from it. In the future I believe the public will forgive organisations who own up to mistakes, providing they are open and honest and prove they have learned from them. But they will not forgive cover-ups and hiding the truth.

Aid does work. It really does. Thanks in large part to Britain, 8 out of the 15 fastest growing economies in the world are in Africa. Also in Africa, deaths from malaria and communicable diseases are plummeting, as is infant mortality and death from famine and war. Education, life expectancy and economic prosperity are all rising. Britain hasn't had to intervene with our military in Africa since Sierra Leone. And the Balkans, where I spent a lot of time, is now unrecognisable to how I remember it as war ravaged and desperate.

I will be pushing as hard as I can for reform of our large aid agencies but I will defend what they do and the work of all decent aid workers with everything I've got. Former aid workers like me and many hundreds of brilliant ones out there now in the front line have been bitterly let down. For them and the thousands of desperately vulnerable people who look to us for help, we must get this right. And we will.

Peter Kyle is the Labour MP for Hove and a former aid worker.

Read in full: www.brightonandhove-news.org/2018/02/13/a-word-on-oxfam-by-hove-mp-and-former-aid-worker-peter-kyle/

CAFOD NEWS

CAFOD has been awarded match-funding by the Government for three months from 13 February. So, donations to CAFOD for Lent Fast Day made between 13 February and 12 May will be matched by the UK Government, up to a total value of £5m. Funds raised during this period will need to be sent to CAFOD by 1 July 2018. If someone gift-aids it as well, a donation of £4 is doubled to £8 and then made into £9 by Gift Aid. £4 to £9 – what a difference! Please do all you can to promote this for our sisters and brothers who need it so much in the Lenten Collection or another event (e.g. a soup lunch) in the three months!

TWO OF OUR WORLD GIFTS ARE WORTH DOUBLE THIS LENT!

If you or people in your parish are thinking of buying any World Gifts this Lent, perhaps as birthday or Mother's Day presents, then can we recommend our Healthy mum and baby (£30) and Seeds of hope (£5) gifts? Because they both feature stories from Zimbabwe, and are part of our Lent appeal, the money you donate for the gifts will be matched by the UK Government, so we would receive £60 and £10. **Read more here:** <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/World-Gifts>

VATICAN: CARDINAL NICHOLS LEADS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

9 February 2018: Law enforcement officers, Bishops, religious sisters and international organisations from across the world gathered in the Vatican for the fifth Santa Marta Group conference to update and share good practice in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery.

This year's conference focused on regional realities with tailored solutions to human trafficking in each continent. With input from every continent, each region discussed their experiences, both the successes and challenges they face, with growing collaboration identified as a priority in neighbouring countries where the challenges are similar.

Education and economic opportunity is the focus on the supply side from countries of origin and the need for a strong legal framework, accountability and active citizenship on the demand side in countries of destination. While there are significant similarities in approaches to combating human trafficking across regions, the need for local action was emphasised, recognising the significant levels of internal trafficking taking place.

The conference also featured contributions from international agencies, introducing the role of the private sector and the importance of transparency in supply chains. Practical ways to address difficult to track human trafficking, such as slavery within seafaring, were also discussed.

A challenge to the group was to increase their accountability through greater transparency with the media, both on work done and long term strategy. An example was shared from the UK, where Church and Law Enforcement partnered with a media outlet (the Evening Standard) to raise awareness of human trafficking, investigate cases of modern slavery and propose solutions through a round table chaired by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Cardinal Nichols, President of the Santa Marta Group, in his address to Pope Francis, drew attention to the need to always remember the victim at the centre of this evil crime; the enslaved person who demands our action in combating trafficking. Cardinal Nichols said: "Our Santa Marta Group meeting has been a hard look at one of the dark faces of globalisation: the scourge of human trafficking and modern slavery. In contrast, Holy Father, we thank you for the many ways in which you make visible the truly human face of our world. Constantly in your actions and words, you remind us that the well-being of the human person must always be at the centre of every endeavour."

For Cardinal Nichols' full address go to: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34307>

For more information on the Santa Marta Group go to: www.santamartagroup.com

POPE: 'TACKLE MODELS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT PRIVILEGE PROFIT OVER PERSONS'

9 February 2018; Pope Francis met with Santa Marta Group members at the conclusion of their two-day conference that sought to build on a partnership founded in 2014 to fight human trafficking and modern slavery. He thanked the group for its work and its commitment to keep victims at the heart of its response to these global crimes. This year's conference focused on regional realities with tailored solutions to human trafficking in each continent.

Pope Francis spoke to delegates at the Apostolic Palace and finished by imparting God's blessing on those present and their families. The full text of his address follows:

Dear Brother Bishops,

Dear Friends,

I am happy to greet you, the members of the Santa Marta Group, at the conclusion of your Conference, which is devoted this year to providing a worldwide perspective on human trafficking and modern slavery. As leaders in law enforcement, research and public policy, and pastoral assistance, you offer an essential contribution to addressing the causes and effects of this modern-day scourge, which continues to cause untold human suffering.

It is my hope that these days of reflection and shared experiences have brought into clearer light the interplay between the global and local aspects of human trafficking. Experience shows that such modern forms of slavery are far more widespread than previously imagined, even - to our scandal and shame - within the most prosperous of our societies.

God's cry to Cain, found in the first pages of the Bible - "Where is your brother?" - challenges us to examine seriously the various forms of complicity by which society tolerates, and encourages, particularly with regard to the sex trade, the exploitation of vulnerable men, women and children (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 211).

Initiatives to combat human trafficking, while concretely aimed at dismantling criminal structures, must increasingly consider broader issues associated, for example, with the responsible use of technology and the communications media, to say nothing of exploring the ethical implications of models of economic growth that privilege profit over persons.

I trust that your discussions in these days will also help to raise awareness of the growing need to support victims of these crimes by accompanying them on a path of reintegration into society and the recovery of their human dignity. The Church is grateful for every effort made to bring the balm of God's mercy to the suffering, for this also represents an essential step in the healing and renewal of society as a whole.

Dear friends, with gratitude for your commitment and cooperation in this vital area, I offer my prayerful best wishes for your continued work. Upon you and your families, and upon all those whom you serve, I invoke the Lord's blessings of wisdom, strength and peace. And I ask you, please, to remember to pray for me.

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34308>

CHRISTIAN ARMS TRADE ACTIVISTS FOUND NOT GUILTY FOLLOWING DSEI PROTEST

Henrietta Cullinan writes: This month (February 2018) I was among eight members of *Put Down the Sword* and *London Catholic Worker* found not guilty of willful obstruction of the highway following our nonviolent direct action outside the Excel centre in East London, during the setting up of the DSEI arms fair.

For me, this was a dizzying turn of events, since up to now, in similar trials, no matter how sympathetic the judge, I have been found guilty. Considering eight of us did really block the highway, and at least one car really did have to turn around, it seemed miraculous that the charges were dismissed. But the law is more complicated than a policeman just telling you you've prevented a vehicle from moving freely. As the trials continued, several others were found not guilty, and, at the time of writing, most further trials have been dismissed.

The Defence and Security Equipment International exhibition (DSEI), one of the largest arms fairs in the world, is a government sponsored trade exhibition. Here arms companies display not only conventional handguns, tanks and missiles, but also, most sinisterly, equipment used for creating hard borders and for policing civilian demonstrations. Leaders and military personnel attend from up to fifty countries, some of which, Pakistan, Turkey, Bahrain, are on the FCO's own watch list. Others are currently engaged in conflict: Saudi Arabia leads the bombing campaign in Yemen, where many thousands of civilians have been killed since hostilities began and air strikes on civilian facilities have led to a humanitarian crisis.

With Nora Ziegler, Jo Frew, Chris Cole, Nick Cooper, Tom Franklin, Louis Durton, Sam Donaldson, I was involved in direct action on the *No Faith In War* day of protest. This was the second day in a week of protests, organised under the umbrella of *Stop the Arms Fair*, intended to draw attention to the depravity of profiting from war and the humanitarian costs of conflict.

The site chosen for our direct action was a dual carriageway that leads to the eastern entrance of the Excel Centre and several associated hotels, to the north of Royal Victoria Dock.

The four of us arrived by car and scrambled out onto the road, where we lay with our arms in 'lock-on' boxes. We were placed under arrest almost immediately, but there followed a period of about ninety minutes, while police operatives cut us out. A bit later the other four suspended themselves over the same road, using climbing equipment. Throughout the day members of Pax Christi, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Quakers and other groups prayed, sang, and staged a dramatic 'wedding' of death and the arms trade.

The intention was to transform the road from a highway carrying weapons, into a place of prayer and peace. It was to reclaim the space from the mundane business of transporting weapons for hearing the word of God. I thought of the way sites of suffering are often places for churches, such as Tyburn convent at Marble Arch.

At the time I didn't feel all that prayerful lying in the road. Staring up at the sky hurt my eyes. I felt uncomfortable and cold, with my arm trapped inside a piece of plastic drain pipe. I dreaded being cut out and began to curse the friend who had made such a thorough job of the lock-on tube, with its layers of cement and chicken wire. It felt a bit like being at the dentist.

Several months on and it was time for us to represent ourselves in court. Only one of us four who 'locked on' had representation from a lawyer who reminded us it was not for the police to tell us how to protest. I had no argument with the facts of the case, although this didn't stop the prosecution, in her cross examination, wondering why our prayer space needed to involve 'concrete'. I intended just to say how I felt and my motivations for taking the action I did.

I explained that as a Christian I was strongly opposed to the arms trade, and the arms fair as its most visible aspect. Any organisation that designs, makes, sells weapons intended to kill and maim is committing murder. Our government's involvement in the arms trade is making murderers of us all. Pope Francis has spoken out repeatedly against the arms trade, for instance, saying in June 2017, 'It is an absurd contradiction to speak of peace, to negotiate peace, and at the same time promote or permit the arms trade.'

All of us spoke in court of how our experiences had inspired our actions; Jo Frew and Nora Ziegler talked of living with asylum seekers who have fled the very conflicts that are fuelled by the arms trade. Jo Frew spoke of the fact the arms trade profits from the refugee crisis twice, once in selling arms to the countries that the refugees are fleeing from and then selling security equipment to border police and those creating 'hard borders'. Some spoke of the 'democratic deficit' that means the arms fair continues to be supported despite questions in parliament, all party parliamentary groups, letters to local MPs. Even Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London has said he is opposed to the arms fair but in his current position has no power to stop it taking place.

The judge told us he would give his verdict the next week, so the weekend, the fifth Sunday of ordinary time, when we heard from St. Paul, in 1 Corinthians vv 16 – 19, '*Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.*' As people asked me what I wanted to happen, what I hoped for the verdict, this seemed like a very good reminder of the reasons for our protest on *No Faith in War* day.

In giving his verdict, the district judge, Angus Hamilton said a protest can be 'tiresome and inconvenient', but this doesn't mean it's unreasonable. The judge said that the police hadn't respected our rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, described by articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention. He said our action was the 'epitome of peaceful protest.'

With the charges dismissed, I walked out of the court reinvigorated for the task ahead, that is to make sure in 2019 there is no arms fair. As many trials have been discontinued and many more groups have been found not guilty, for various different reasons, I believe it is vital we continue to call out the arms trade for what it is, in whatever way we can.

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYERS AT THE MOD

Jo Siedlecka 15 February 2018

A record number of people braved freezing rain to take part in the annual Ash Wednesday procession and prayer vigil outside the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, London. Their message was clear: get rid of nuclear weapons/support the Nuclear Ban Treaty! Organised by Pax Christi, Christian CND and London Catholic Worker, participants included students from Trinity Catholic School, Leamington Spa, members of the National J&P Network and Westminster J&P, Assumption Sisters, Columban missionaries, Passionists, St Louis Sisters and a number of other parish and faith groups from around the country. Representatives from a South Korean peace organisation and Japanese Buddhist monks and nuns from the Battersea Peace Temple also took part.

At a liturgy in Embankment Gardens, ashes were blessed by Arundel & Brighton priest Fr Rob Esdaile, and distributed before the group processed to the MoD, led by Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi. On arrival they placed a large sheet of sackcloth directly in front of the entrance, with the word REPENT written in ashes.

On 7 July 2017, 122 countries voted in favour of the first-ever treaty Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty at the UN. 73 did not. That meeting was boycotted by all nuclear-armed nations the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel.

During a time of silence, participants tied ribbons to the railings in front of the MoD - white for those who have signed and black for those who didn't. They then prayed for a conversion of heart, saying: "Grant us the wisdom and courage to turn back to you, to abolish nuclear weapons and to seek true security built on justice, respect for human life and the protection of creation in accordance with your will." After a reading from Joel Chapter 2, a member of Christian CND read: "Possession of nuclear weapons is now unequivocally condemned by Pope Francis and many other Christian and religious leaders. Yes our nation holds them ready, a threat of unspeakable humanitarian crimes to be done on our behalf; and cannot think beyond outdated cold war deterrence policy. Are we ourselves thus enslaved by nuclear weapons, possessed by them in so many ways?" This was followed by a litany of prayers as crosses and banners were held high.

The event concluded with a reading of an extract from Pope Francis' Message for World Day of Peace 2018:

"The threat of their use as well as their very possession, is to be firmly condemned. For they exist in the service of a mentality of fear that affects not only the parties in conflict but the entire human race. International relations cannot be held captive to military force, mutual intimidation, and the parading of stockpiles of arms. Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security. They cannot constitute the basis for peaceful coexistence between members of the human family, which must rather be inspired by an ethics of solidarity."

And the following passage from the Faith Leaders on the Nobel Peace Award to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons:

"There is a need for creative political leadership to ensure that any attempt to justify the threat of mass destruction in any circumstance is wholly rejected. A world free of nuclear weapons achieved by building on established international norms is a global public good of the highest order. No country or government must allow itself to be left behind. Therefore, we call on the UK government to add its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

Participants took sunflower seeds home to plant as a symbol of a nuclear-free world. Several more peace events will be taking place throughout the year. **For more details check ICN's Listings page or see:** <http://paxchristi.org.uk>

Read an interview in the Mirror with Bruce Kent about 60 years of CND here: www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/tories-called-communists-opposing-nuclear-12028243

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34344>

PUPILS TO TACKLE GLOBAL INJUSTICE

The Anglican Bishop of Stockport, Rt Revd Libby Lane, has welcomed a new global justice scheme launched this January by Christian Aid in partnership with the Church of England which aims to empower a new generation of children to respond to poverty and injustice. The scheme, **Global Neighbours**, is designed to support primary schools' work with pupils on global citizenship and aims to develop their understanding of global poverty and justice, the Christian call to tackle injustice and their own ability to bring about change as confident agents of change. Schools are now being encouraged to register for the scheme and take advantage of the free resources on the *Global Neighbours* webpage with ideas on how to incorporate global justice learning into the curriculum, worship and school life throughout the school year.

Bishop Libby said: "This partnership with Christian Aid provides an exciting new opportunity for us to work together to deliver an education that is deeply Christian and serving the common good. Children are keenly aware of deeply troubling issues in the world today. Using Christian Aid's extensive experience of tackling poverty and the systems that cause it, *Global Neighbours* will help children recognise injustice and understand the Christian call to act on it. My hope, and that of the Church of England's Education Office is that this scheme will help pupils to be confident agents of change and provide them with real opportunities to transform lives and communities. It is tremendously exciting to see how schools have already embraced the opportunities in the pilot phase and how it has helped nurture pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. I will be encouraging schools and parishes to work together to help make the most of the opportunities *Global Neighbours* brings. I hope this initiative will create a new generation of informed and courageous children able to share in addressing the many issues our world faces."

Christian Aid Regional Coordinator for Cheshire, Becky Hurst said: "We are delighted to have the support of Bishop Libby and look forward to working alongside parishes and schools. Many schools are already engaging with issues of injustice and poverty and our vision is that this scheme will affirm and recognise what they currently do and provide impetus to take that engagement to a new level."

Any primary school can now register for the scheme without any cost or obligation and download the free handbook from the website: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/schools/global-neighbours-practical-guide-primary-schools>

Anyone interested in finding out more about the volunteer Christian Aid Teacher role can visit www.christianaid.org.uk/volunteering/become-christian-aid-teacher or contact the North West office on 01925 573 769.

Look too at CAFOD'S Education resources for Primary Schools: <https://comeandsee.cafod.org.uk>

NEW BISHOP OF LANCASTER NAMED

12 February 2018: Pope Francis has named today, a priest of the Diocese of Lancaster as the seventh Bishop of the Diocese: Canon Paul Swarbrick.

On receiving news of the appointment Bishop Michael Campbell said: "I am delighted to welcome Canon Paul Swarbrick as my successor as Bishop of Lancaster, and I thank our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for naming Canon Paul as the seventh bishop of the Diocese. The news of Canon Swarbrick's appointment will give much pleasure to many, both within and beyond the Diocese. A native son of the Diocese of Lancaster, Bishop-Elect Swarbrick comes to the office of bishop with considerable pastoral experience, having served since his ordination in a number of parishes here in the Diocese as well as a long period as a *fidei donum* priest in the Diocese of Monze, Zambia. I know he will use these gifts to the great advantage of the priests and people of Lancaster, who will be well-served by their new Bishop.

"I wish Canon Swarbrick every blessing as he assumes this new and challenging ministry as Bishop of Lancaster, and assure him of the prayers of all of us that he will prove to be a true shepherd after the heart of Christ."

Bishop-Elect Paul Swarbrick, 59, from Garstang has been a priest of the Diocese for over 35 years. Born on 2 July 1958 to George Vincent Swarbrick and Alice Swarbrick (Horn), Canon Paul Swarbrick has three sisters and one brother. He went to primary school in Garstang and then on to Lancaster Royal Grammar school before training for the Priesthood at Ushaw College, Co Durham. Ordained priest on 10 July 1982 at Ss Mary & Michael's church, Garstang, he would go on to serve as Assistant Priest at St Mary, Kells, Whitehaven (1982-1983), St Maria Goretti, Preston (1983-1984), St Cuthbert, Blackpool (1984-1990) where he was also Chaplain to St Mary's Catholic High School, Blackpool before volunteering to serve on the missions in Monze Diocese, Zambia (1990-2005).

Upon his return from Zambia he assisted at English Martyrs, Preston (2005-2006) and for a few months at Mater Amabilis, Ambleside until he was appointed Parish Priest of the Sacred Heart, Preston whilst also in charge of St Walburge, Preston (2007-2010). In 2010 he was appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady & St Michael, Workington - now the enlarged parish of Christ the Good Shepherd, Workington-Harrington where he currently serves - and is also the local Dean (Vicar Forane) for West Cumbria. In 2015 he was made a Canon of Lancaster Cathedral Chapter.

Upon hearing of his appointment Bishop-Elect Swarbrick commented: "The Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams, has informed me that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has named me Bishop of Lancaster in succession to Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. I give thanks to God for His unfailing care for the Diocese of Lancaster. In accepting the decision of His Holiness I must, first of all, acknowledge the example Bishop Campbell has given. He has been a faithful and generous Shepherd of the Lord's flock.

"I must confess to being in a state of surprise and shock at my appointment, and to a feeling of great inadequacy when faced with what lies ahead. Since my ordination to the Priesthood at Garstang in July 1982 this was never something I expected or feel prepared for. I have given my acceptance in a spirit of profound humility, deeply conscious of my unworthiness and sinfulness. It is a call to follow Jesus with greater trust and more generous love, ever mindful of what He has done for me and, ultimately, the fullness of Life He calls me to share.

"I beg your daily prayers, your patience and your collaboration; our mission is to make our Lord Jesus Christ more widely known and loved in the Diocese of Lancaster. I draw on the example of so many saints and martyrs, as well as on the witness and memory of my own wonderful parents, grandparents and family. Faced with so much that is unknown and uncertain I am comforted by the presence of the Good Shepherd who has promised never to forsake His flock. I will serve to the best of my ability."

Bishop-Elect Swarbrick will be ordained Bishop and take possession of the Diocese at St Peter's Cathedral, Lancaster on a date yet to be confirmed. Bishop Michael Campbell OSA, now 76, offered his resignation/retirement upon on reaching 75 years of age - a normal canonical requirement for all Roman Catholic bishops. Until Bishop-Elect Swarbrick's Ordination Bishop Campbell has been appointed by Pope Francis as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese.

For more information, see: www.lancasterdiocese.org.uk
www.facebook.com/LancasterRCDiocese/

A NEW PHILANTHROPY FOR FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 26 FEBRUARY TO 12 MARCH 2018

The University of Glasgow retail company is trail blazing with its sale of Fair Trade, sustainable bags and purses made in Malawi because instead of pocketing the profits, it is using them to fund female scholarships at the College of Medicine in Malawi. In September, an order of 300 items - a padded reversible messenger bag, suitable for women and men, a safari bag and a purse, all with university logos, went on sale and after three months a third had been sold.

The products are made by a Women's Enterprise and registered charity (2014) called Chanasa (Compassion), based in the poor suburbs of Blantyre, the 2nd city of Malawi. Its reputation of fulfilling orders, which has included the SOKO Fund, a small Scottish charity that provides female university scholarships in Malawi, the College of Medicine 25th Anniversary products and products for the Ministries of Gender and Transport, all in Malawi, is being built.

Chifundo UK, a sister charity (registered 2015) is agent for Chanasa and wishes to promote the sale of products in Scotland and the rest of the UK as a means of funding female school, university/college scholarships in Malawi, without necessarily incurring any costs for school, universities, colleges and companies, who decide to sell them.

Matthew Williams, the University of Glasgow Retail Manager said, 'Chanasa products are attractive and well made and we are pleased to be able to practice the philanthropy, for which this university and the city of Glasgow has always been known.'

Enquires with email to: www.chanasachifundomalawi.org Susan Flynn (Chair Chifundo UK)

LIVERPOOL PARISH WINS LIVESIMPLY AWARD

1 February 2018: Local church recognised for commitment to environment in eco award

Parishioners from a local church community in Ormskirk have been rewarded for their efforts to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in poverty as they receive the livesimply award from the international development charity CAFOD. Members of the community from St Anne's, Ormskirk, have been busy planning and completing initiatives to change their everyday actions to become more environmentally friendly and in solidarity with people in poverty.

Last July, the church held a weekend of events which saw the parish sharing a lunch with a group of local asylum seekers, the children's group creating environment-themed artwork and other members of the community making individual pledges to go green. As well as this, the church hold annual collections for Asylum Link Merseyside, a charity supporting asylum seekers, and have hosted a Fairtrade breakfast, a 'swap shop' and even organised a botanical survey of the church gardens.

Fr Godric Timney, parish priest at St Anne's, said: "I am delighted that St Anne's has been awarded the livesimply award by CAFOD. "For many years our parish has contributed thousands of pounds to the work of CAFOD and over the past year a group of committed parishioners has been encouraging us live simply by avoiding waste and using our resources thoughtfully. Receiving an award is but a stimulus to taking Pope Francis' constant encouragement to care deeply for our environment."

Paul Kelly, a livesimply assessor for CAFOD, said: "Congratulations to St Anne's parish in Ormskirk at becoming the Archdiocese of Liverpool's first livesimply parish. Starting with a livesimply weekend last July the parish has involved many of its 600 Mass-goers in a wide range of initiatives. Working towards participation in the Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme for Syrian refugees will be a major commitment to living in solidarity for the next 5 years. Well done Ormskirk!"

CAFOD supports people living in poverty across Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. No one wants to live on handouts, so CAFOD focuses on helping equip people living in poverty with the skills and opportunities they need to live with dignity, and in a crisis supports local organisations to provide food, water and shelter to people who have lost everything.

To find out more about CAFOD's livesimply award, visit: cafod.org.uk/livesimply

LIVE SIMPLY THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE

The latest discussion resource from the Liverpool Archdiocesan Justice and Peace Commission and CAFOD Liverpool is out!

It's a great way to bring people together at Lent and reflect with others on the issues facing our world in the light of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*. With five themed 1½ hour sessions, they can be used as a weekly resource or as one-off sessions, with Gospel readings, modern stories, reflections from Pope Francis, time to think and pray and the chance to take practical steps with others too. Not to be missed!

They are available as a download with a poster or as copies from: s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk 0151 522 1080 at about £1.30 each to cover printing and postage. These are used across the world so don't miss out!

PACT LAUNCHES DIGITAL PRISON VISITORS' GUIDES AND MAP

20 February 2018: The Prison Advice and Care Trust (Pact), a national charity which supports prisoners, people with convictions and their families, today launched digital Prison Visitors' Guides for a number of prisons across England and Wales.

The digital guides, which feature on an interactive map, offer the most up-to-date information available for visitors on selected prisons in England and Wales, including how to book a visit, dress code, how to stay in contact after the visit, what identification is needed and what items may be brought in for children and babies.

Prison visits can be a daunting process for adults and children alike, and the rules can vary widely depending on which prison you are visiting. Pact's guides answer common queries and ensure the most sought after information is clearly available in one place, making it easier for all visitors to access and minimising the number of people who are turned away from visits for avoidable reasons.

The launch of the online Visitors' Guides supplements the wide range of resources available in the newly developed children and young people's section of Pact's website and information and guidance that is available for prisoners' families and friends. Pact also runs a free, confidential helpline service staffed with trained volunteers who can offer practical and emotional support to anyone who is affected by the criminal justice system.

Pact continues to work alongside families affected by imprisonment to ensure the guides remain current, consistent and accessible. An easily printable PDF version can be downloaded at the bottom of each page and the web page itself can be translated into any language at the click of a button on the bottom of the page.

If you see any information that requires updating, please email us on visitorinfoupdate@prisonadvice.org.uk and we will endeavour to make any edits within seven working days.

Call the Pact Helpline: 0808 808 3444

Prison Visitors Guides: www.prisonadvice.org.uk/prison-visitors-guides

Children and Young People's Section: www.prisonadvice.org.uk/children-and-young-people

Pact: www.prisonadvice.org.uk

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34375>

HOMILY TEXT: MGR KEITH BARLTROP AT FUNERAL MASS FOR BRIAN ARMSTRONG

Mgr Keith Barltrop gave the following homily at the Funeral Mass of Brian Armstrong on 16 February at Farm Street Church. On 30 April 1999 a young neo-Nazi, who it turned out had already carried out two race hate crimes in London, and who is now safely under lock and key in Broadmoor until at least 2049, planted a nail bomb in the Admiral Duncan pub not far away from here in Soho, killing three people and wounding 70 others. It was one of those defining events which in many ways changed the relationship between the gay community and wider society, and one of whose effects was the setting up of a support group for LGBT Catholics, which, after various twists and turns, finds itself warmly hosted here at Farm Street parish.

It's no exaggeration to say that Brian Armstrong, whose funeral Mass we celebrate today, was at the very heart of that group for much of its life.

In one of the Bibles I have at home the passage from Romans which was our second reading today is headed up, "The Marks of a True Christian," and it would be hard to think of a better phrase to sum up Brian. Every phrase of that reading, not just the obvious one about hospitality, could be said of him: love that is genuine, showing honour to others, being ardent in spirit to serve the Lord, contributing to the needs of the saints: a term St. Paul frequently uses to describe the Christian community, all of whom are called to be saints even if we haven't quite got there yet.

No-one would claim that the LGBT group which meets here at Farm Street is made up of saints in the conventional sense of the word. Its members bear the scars that are all too often inflicted on gay and transgender people, sometimes sadly by a Church which has only just begun to learn how to understand them and minister to them, but also by a world which, while now granting them legal freedom and social acceptance, is woefully unable to offer them the resources needed for a true sense of self-worth and joyful meaning in who they are.

Brian had his share of those weaknesses and scars, and it is a great comfort to know that he is now in the loving presence of one whose own hands, feet and side still bear the mark of the scars we inflicted on him, but scars that are glorified. It is a great comfort also to reflect on the tremendous outpouring of love and concern that his illness and death brought about in so many members of this group who went to visit him or sent messages of prayerful support to him and his partner Philip. Just as it was a tragic death that brought this group into being in 1999, so Brian's untimely death has greatly strengthened it and given a great example to all who care to see of what a true Christian community, warts and all, can look like.

Less than two months after the Admiral Duncan tragedy, another death occurred in London, that of Cardinal Basil Hume, who had done so much to help LGBT people feel welcome in the Church and to move forward the way the Church speaks about them. As he lay dying, he was asked what he thought awaited him the other side of death, what the judgment of God would be like. He replied: 'I believe I shall whisper into the ear of a merciful and compassionate God the story of my life which I had never been able to tell.'

When someone comes to die, whether they are famous like Cardinal Hume, or just an ordinary saint like Brian Armstrong, there are many things we could say about them. But there are some things even those closest to them did not quite grasp, and which they did not perhaps understand themselves. It is not just that God understands all these things, but that he sees us in a completely different light to the way we see each other and ourselves; in fact Scripture tells us he will give each of us a new name. Until we learn Brian's new name in heaven, we remain profoundly grateful to God for lending him to us for a few years, and teaching us so much about the marks of a true Christian.

Source: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/34356>

JOHN MAHONEY (1940–2018)

John Mahoney is truly the kindest man I know. We've been acquaintances for a number of years—he lives a few blocks from me in Oak Park, Illinois, an artsy, historic suburb (birthplace of Ernest Hemingway, we like to brag) just west of the Chicago city limits—and his unflinching magnanimity is well known in our community. But it wasn't until we had a discussion about his spirituality over lunch at a local Italian joint one day that I came to realize that being charitable is, for John, an act of faith.

Most people know John as the dad—Martin Crane—on the television show *Frasier*, a role he played for eleven years, until the sitcom ended in 2004, and for which he won an Emmy. But he is also a Tony-award-winning stage actor, a member of Chicago's renowned Steppenwolf Theatre Company since 1979 and has appeared in a dozen films.

Of course, those are just characters, and most aren't anything like the real John Mahoney. "I'm more spiritual than anything else, and Christianity is probably the most important facet of my life," he tells me. "I try to live my life in a way that is definitely spiritually based. I pray a lot. It's the first thing I do when I get up in the morning, and it's the last thing I do before I go to bed. I have a little mantra that I say probably twenty or thirty times throughout the day: 'Dear God, please help me to treat everybody—including myself—with love, respect, and dignity.' That's why it's important for me to be liked. If people like me, it means I'm treating them well and it's sort of proof that I'm doing the right thing," he says. "I try to be charitable. I think that's the greatest virtue.

When John talks about the importance of being kind, his mind drifts back to a time well before he was an actor, a vocation he chose to pursue full-time at the age of thirty-seven. Born in Manchester, England, the sixth of eight children, John emigrated to the United States when he was nineteen, joining the Army for three years before becoming a citizen and enrolling in Quincy College, a Franciscan school in downstate Illinois. He worked his way through college as an orderly in a local hospital. "I must have given a thousand enemas and catheterized a thousand people. I just think that somehow being around all that sickness and illness, yet seeing people's resilience and faith, I noticed that the people to emulate were the people who loved, and loved God, and loved their fellow man, and weren't selfish," he says.

"Charity is more important than telling the truth. I think sometimes the virtue is making sure you don't hurt anybody's feelings, as opposed to patting yourself on the back saying, 'Oh, well, I had to tell them the truth,'" he says, as he begins to tell the story of a patient who was in the last days of her battle with cancer. "She was in excruciating pain. She had grey hair but had always wanted to have red hair, so one day the nurses said, 'Would you like us to dye your hair for you?' When they finished, it looked kind of carrot, but she was thrilled that before she died she was going to have red hair. She just loved it."

But then, her daughter showed up at the hospital for a visit and threw a fit, telling her mother that her hair looked ridiculous and raising holy hell with the nurses for making her mother look like a clown. "One of the nurses said, 'Your mother's dying. That's what she wanted. Why are you so cruel? Why are you saying that to her?' And the daughter said, 'Well, I can't lie to her, can I?' Yes. She could have. It would have been much more charitable to say, 'Oh, how pretty!' even if you hated it. If I go to see a play and somebody's not very good in it, or it's not their best work, I would never tell them that. I mean, why? All you're doing is being proud. You're congratulating yourself for always being truthful." John's raspy voice sounds genuinely pained. "When they asked Jesus what the greatest virtue was, he said it was to love God with all your heart and soul and to love your neighbour as yourself. Sometimes to love your neighbour, you have to tell a lie. And I don't think there's anything wrong with that."

John's focus on kind living evolved over time. "I was very, very self-centered when I was young," he says. "I thought the world revolved around me. It even affected my work when I became an actor. I used to think about how great I had to be and how wonderful I had to be on that stage instead of honoring the playwright or honoring the screenwriter and becoming a part of something that was wonderful."

While he can't put an exact date on it, John believes his mind began to change when his heart did, around the time he had what he describes as an "epiphany" in a Roman Catholic church in downtown Chicago around 1975. "I was in the Loop, and I went into St. Peter's and went to Mass, and it was just about the most emotional thing that ever happened to me. I don't know where it came from, I just had a little breakdown of some sort, and after that, made a conscious effort to be a better person, to be a part of the world, and to try to revolve around everyone else in the world instead of expecting them to revolve around me."

"I think maybe it was the intercession of the Holy Ghost," he continues. "I've always prayed to the Holy Ghost for wisdom and for understanding and knowledge. I think he answered my prayers when I stopped in the church that day. My life was totally different from that day on. I saw myself as I was, and I saw into the future and saw what I wanted to be. And I sort of rededicated myself to God and begged him to make me a better person. It wasn't fear of hell or anything like that. I just somehow knew that to be like this, like what I was, wasn't the reason I was created. I had to be better. I had to be a better person. And I think I am now. I like myself," he says, breaking into one of his patented head-back-eyes-closed-mouth-open laughs.

Before John goes onstage each night, he says a prayer. "'Most glorious Blessed Spirit, I thank you for all the gifts and talents that you've given me. Please help me to use all these gifts and talents to their fullest. And please accept this performance as a prayer of praise and thanks to you.'

We're finishing up lunch, and our conversation about faith is winding down. John hurries out for a couple of minutes to feed the meter where his car is parked a block away. When he returns, he's got something else he wants to tell me. "I was just thinking how wrong it is to second-guess God. Everything I've ever wanted in my life, I got. Everything—except a wife and family," he says, with a hint of sadness in his eyes I'm not used to seeing. "But had I had a wife and children I probably would be dead by now."

He's not exaggerating. In the late 1980s, John was diagnosed with cancer. He says if he hadn't been so happy with his life as a full-time actor, he probably would not have had the will to fight the disease. He'd made the leap of faith several years before the diagnosis, when he left a job he hated as an editor in Chicago. "I was finally doing the one thing that I wanted to do. I was gloriously happy and joyful for the first time I can remember. I was just walking down the street, clicking my feet in the air, thinking, I'm a working actor in Chicago. I get paid for this and I love it!"

"And then I got struck with cancer. I was determined, because my life was finally so great, that I didn't care. I was going to go ahead. I had a colon resection, and I'll tell you something that very few people outside my life know: I had a colostomy. I've had it for almost twenty years now. The doctors at the hospital said they were amazed at how fast I recovered. I was out of the hospital in a week, and the following week I was in Paris wrestling Harrison Ford under a table shooting a movie. I was so thankful for the life I had, and I've had almost twenty glorious years since that," he says. "I see that when the one thing came along that would finally fulfill me as a human being—acting—I was able to do it because I wasn't married with children. There would have been mortgages and tuitions and things like that, and I never would have been able to just throw away my job to get seventy-five dollars a week at Steppenwolf. I had to sell almost every piece of furniture I had. I was sleeping on the floor. Sold all my records, all my books. But I was so happy. I finally understood why God withheld a wife and children from me."

"I've achieved remarkable success, and I think it all goes back to my faith, especially after I became an actor and realized that was God's plan for me and surrendered myself to it joyfully," he says. "It enabled me to shrug off the disappointments because I figure the only reason I didn't get a part was that something better is awaiting me. Unless there was a plan for me, God would not have let me quit my job at thirty-seven to become an actor where at any given time 95 percent of the union members are out of work. So I might be disappointed I didn't get a part, but I'd think, forget it. There must be something better up ahead. And there always was."

Adapted from: *The God Factor: Inside the Spiritual Lives of Public People* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006) by Cathleen Falsani Possley

COALITION PETITION FOR LARGE ONGOING GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS CUTS

24 February 2018: Dear Justice and Peace contacts,

Please ask all your members to sign the new petition by seven Friends of the Earth groups plus UK Youth Climate Coalition, to ask selected multinationals to make EARLY AND LARGE greenhouse gas emissions cuts. Throughout the world more and more wildfires, droughts, and floods show that we must take urgent action to achieve a safe and healthy climate. 382 people have already signed. Christian Aid is also publicising the petition. **Please sign at:** <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/big-business-save-our-climate-1>

Why these 3 companies? HSBC are investing far too much in dirty energy, raising global temperature, thus making severe weather more frequent. Unlike some other banks, HSBC invest much less in solar or wind energy, which are now good value.

Npower are mostly owned by RWE, Europe's most climate-harmful electricity generator, which uses a lot of coal. You can switch to another company which uses clean energy.

Danone sells bottles made of unrecycled plastic (Evian, Volvic), and too much climate-harmful produce.

Once they shape up, we'll target other irresponsible companies. You can suggest some.

There is additional info, and an animation, at www.climateserious.org #climateserious

Find us on Facebook and Twitter: @climateserious

Many thanks, **Tim Root, Co-ordinator Muswell Hill & Hornsey Friends of the Earth**

BOOKS

Reimagining Britain: Foundations for Hope by Justin Welby

Published: 08-03-2018 Hardback ISBN: 9781472946072 Bloomsbury Continuum

In a time of political turbulence, and as the Welfare State totters under the strain in a country that has changed dramatically since 1945, Archbishop Justin Welby sets out to identify the values that will enable us to reimagine, and to enact, a more hopeful future. The thesis is that the work of reimagining is as great as it was in 1945, and will happen either by accident – and thus badly – or deliberately. The author draws on Britain's history and Christian tradition to identify this country's foundational values, and the building blocks necessary to implement them in a post-Brexit, multicultural society.

He explores the areas in which values are translated into action, including the traditional three of recent history: health (especially public, and mental), housing and education. To these he adds family; the environment; economics and finance; peacebuilding and overseas development; immigration; and integration. He looks particularly at the role of faith groups in enabling, and contributing to, a fairer future. When so many are immobilized by political turmoil, this book builds on our past to offer hope for the future, and practical ways of achieving a more equitable society.

"[T]his call to a strong sense of national narrative, collective responsibility and a shared moral code is both powerful and timely."
– **Rabbi Lord [Jonathan] Sacks**

"This is a book bristling with energy and ideas. Written against a wide canvas of historical narrative and critique, it is a fast-moving appeal for the fashioning of deeper virtue, expressed in action, in the form of a shared narrative of our identity and purpose."
– **Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster**

"An important contribution to understanding how the UK can not only move forward but flourish by reimagining its narrative of hope." – **Bishop Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop-elect of London**

Where We Are: The state of Britain now by Roger Scruton

A double meaning lies at the heart of Roger Scruton's latest book, on post-Brexit Britain. We instinctively read the "where" of the title as temporal: where are we now after the vote, its implications sinking in, and its consequences playing out? We soon realise, however, that Scruton means it spatially: where we are in Britain, and how attached and committed we are to this place — because it is only through attachment to place that we can forge the solidarity that we lack, and need, right now.

Those familiar with Scruton's work will recognise a familiar elegiac tone, not naïve or reactionary, as his critics would have it, but romantic and yearning. Politics, he notes, presupposes a shared identity. It makes little sense to talk about what we should do, if we have no coherent idea of who we are; and who we are is ineradicably tied to where we are.

This is a "pre-political" issue that should transcend the political spectrum. George Orwell, of whom conservative Scruton has long written warmly, is favourably cited, in spite of his deep-rooted socialism, while the apostles of the free movement of capital and labour, usually placed on the political Right, are intelligently criticised. Scruton's conservatism is beholden to no modern political agenda, grounded as it is in deeper commitments to nation, landscape, monarchy, common law, and Established Church. In his sights are the "oikophobes", Scruton's neologism for those who fear and loathe the idea of home and what it demands of us. It is their ideas that grub up our roots and prevent others' sinking them, replacing the stability of institutions and traditions with the shallow and undemanding "freedoms" of multiculturalism.

Readers may cavil with Scruton's unduly romantic and uncritical patriotism, and Christian ones will feel uneasy at the instrumentalisation of the faith, a buttress to support the nation rather than a thing of intrinsic value, let alone one that might challenge and undermine the nation. But he gets far more right than he gets wrong. Embodied beings as we are, we need the security of place to flourish. Even if we don't agree with or like one another, we can at least recognise the mutual benefit of a shared, peaceful, and orderly environment. Where we are profoundly informs who we are, and our post-Brexit analysis would benefit from careful attention to what we have inherited from, and what we owe, to this "little world".

Reviewed by Nick Spencer, Research Director at Theos.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

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/

6 Fairtrade Producer Visit to Chester 10am-11.30am Wesley Church Centre, St. John Street, Chester, CH1 1DA. Plans are underway for the Fairtrade Steering Group to host a visit by Marcial, a banana producer from Panama. The day will include a talk/presentation at Wesley Church Centre, to be followed by a visit to the Fairtrade shop at Wesley and to *And Albert*, and in the afternoon a school visit and visit to the University. Watch out for further details! www.chesterwdf.org.uk

8 International Women's Day

10 Fairtrade Family Fun Day 10.30am-3pm at Storyhouse, Hunter St, Chester CH1 2AR. Organised by Cheshire West and Chester Fairtrade Steering Group – art activities, tastings and samples, literature to take away, photo matching activities, plus a storytelling session in the Storyhouse den area. Further info: heather@cheshiredec.org

10-11 Faith for Life Course 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

13 Accra: City for People or Profit? 5-6pm Best Building CBB116, University of Chester, off Parkgate Road, Chester CH1 4BJ. Dr Tom Gillespie, Global Development Institute, University of Manchester will talk about his research work, considering solutions to the homeless crisis in the Ghanaian capital. Arranged by International Development Studies. Visitors welcome. 01244 512190

13 CWDF Forum Meeting 6.45-9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin St, Chester CH1 2BN. Speaker Mike Johnson, Chair of Chester & Wrexham Group of Amnesty International. Mike will give a presentation about the activities of the local group and how these tie in with the ongoing campaigns of AI at national and international levels. Further info: 01244 350323

13 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: winniecenacle@gmail.com

16 Silenced Voices - Exhibition, Talk and Discussion on Syria with *Rethink Rebuild Society* - a voice of the British Syrian community 10am-7pm Multimedia Exhibition. Talk by a former detainee followed by discussion. 7.30pm at Stockport Quaker Meeting House, Cooper St, Corner of Higher Hillgate/Longshut Lane, SK1 3DW. Refreshments available Free - All welcome. Stockport Peace Forum jointly organised with Stockport Amnesty Group

16 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

16-18 Boundaries, Borders and Identity Catholic People's Week Monastery of Our Lady of Hynning, Carnforth. Info and bookings: Breideen Murtagh BHW2018@catholicpeoplesweek.org.uk

18 38th Annual Romero Mass 11am St Charles and St Thomas More, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 9PG. Hospitality after Mass. *Prophets... of a Future not our Own* by Steve and Anne Atherton will tell of their recent Romero Pilgrimage to El Salvador. Steve has offered to give a talk illustrated with slides to any group/parish who is interested. Tel: 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

19 Romero and the Social Challenges of El Salvador Today Talk by Rubén Zamora, a distinguished Salvadorean diplomat, academic and social democratic politician with close links to UK at Liverpool Hope University at 7pm.

21 Fly Kites not Drones dronescampaignnetwork.org.uk

22 World Water Day unwater.org/worldwaterday

24 38th Anniversary of the Death of Archbishop Oscar Romero romerotrue.org.uk

24 Earth Hour wwf.org.uk/earthhour

24 Ecumenical Quiet Day for everyone at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW 10am-4pm. Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Cost £10. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. For more information or to book: Tel 0151 722 2271 email: winniecenacle@gmail.com

25 March –1 April Holy Week Student Cross Holy Week pilgrimage, 11 groups from different starting points will each carry a cross, arriving in Walsingham on Good Friday. The pilgrimage has taken place every year since 1948. Each group collectively carries a large wooden cross as a witness to the people that they pass on the way to Walsingham. Pilgrims are welcomed, accommodated and fed by kind-hearted churches along the route. A chance to celebrate Easter in a unique way, by living Holy Week in community, celebrating liturgy and tangibly walking with Christ towards the joy of the Resurrection. www.studentcross.org.uk

APRIL

13 Time Out on Tuesdays (see 13 March)

16-22 Global Campaign on Military Spending demilitarize.org.uk/paxchristi.org.uk

28 Ecumenical Quiet Day (see 24 March)

28 Coffee Morning for Fashion Revolution Week 10am – 12pm Hoole URC, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3NT. **Fashion Revolution** is a non-profit global movement which campaigns for systemic reform of the fashion industry with a focus on the need for greater transparency in the fashion supply chain. Chanasa products from Malawi, plus cakes and preserves on sale. Proceeds will be used to empower girls and women in Malawi through the creation of sustainable fair-trade textile products and by funding their education. Chifundo UK 01244 381490

MAY

8 Time Out on Tuesdays (see 13 March)

8 CWDF Forum Meeting and AGM 6.45-9pm The Unity Centre, Cuppin St, Chester CH1 2BN.

12 NJPN AGM & Open Networking Day London (venue tbc) 10.30am-4pm justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn/meetings/

14-20 Christian Aid Week christianaid.org.uk

15 Conscientious Objectors' Day paxchristi.org.uk

26 Ecumenical Quiet Day (see 24 March)

JUNE

12 Time Out on Tuesdays (see 13 March)

23 Ecumenical Quiet Day (see 24 March)

23 Liverpool J&P Annual Assembly, LACE 10am-4pm. More info: 0151 522 1080 s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

30 Friends of Sabeel & Kairos Britain Conference 10am-5pm Oxford. Main speaker : Revd Naim Ateek, prominent Palestinian Theologian, Father of Palestinian Liberation Theology, the founder of Sabeel Theological Center Jerusalem, a co-author of the Palestinian Kairos Document, and the author of several important books such as Justice and Only Justice and A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation. More details: www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk/events/251/friends-of-sabeel-uk-kairos-britain-conference-2018-oxford/

• 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

2018 ANNUAL JUSTICE & PEACE CONFERENCE: *'In the Shelter of Each Other the People Live'*

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 July 2018
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

How do we build a church and a society with the marginalised, the excluded and the most vulnerable at its heart?

What does 'home' mean for those who are homeless or struggling to keep a roof over their heads, for those who have fled their homes, for those who are rejected or don't 'fit in'?

And for the comfortable and secure, is it a space to defend or to open in welcome?

Can we recognise that it is only in relationship with each other and with the earth that we share that we can all be truly 'at home'?

SPEAKERS

Rev Al Barrett is Rector of Hodge Hill Church, a Church of England-URC ecumenical partnership in east Birmingham. He lives on a diverse outer estate on the edge of the city, and has been involved in a journey of community-building there, with friends and neighbours, for the last 7 years. He writes and teaches a bit, blogs irregularly at www.thisestate.blogspot.com, and recently finished a PhD, seeking to develop 'a radically receptive political theology in the urban margins'.

David McLoughlin teaches at Newman University.

He is a theological resource person for Caritas Europe, CAFOD, Pax Christi, the J&P network and various groups of Religious. He is a founder member of the Movement of Christian Workers and an active member of their Birmingham revue of life group for 30 years. He explores the relationship between theology and everyday life and offers radical readings of the Bible for Christian activists.

Sarah Teather has been Director of Jesuit Refugee Service UK since January 2016.

She served for 12 years as MP in North West London. She stood down in 2015 and worked with JRS International, visiting refugee projects around the world, before taking up her present post.

John Grogan MP, a Catholic, was elected in 2017 as Labour MP for Keighley and Ilkley, having previously been MP for Selby before boundary changes abolished the seat.

He is committed to issues of social justice and peace, voting against Trident renewal.

The Conference will be chaired by Housing Justice

CELEBRANT: Fr Colum Kelly, Apostleship of the Sea port chaplain for Immingham.

PLUS *Just Fair Market Place* *Workshops* *Festival* Programmes for Children and Young People

Information and booking forms available at: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/

or for more information contact: The Administrator, NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX,

Tel: 020 7901 4864; Email: admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk