



'Communicating in a cordial manner means that those who read or listen to us are led to welcome our participation in the joys, fears, hopes and suffering of the women and men of our time. Those who speak in this way love the other because they care and protect their freedom without violating it.'

Pope Francis for World Communications Day

Dear Friends,

This is a shorter e-bulletin than normal (although some of you will breathe a sigh of relief, I'm sure!)

It has been a busy couple of weeks, and the Conference bookings have taken longer than I thought they would. If you haven't yet put your form and deposit in, please do so as soon as possible, as we are filling up fast. Don't forget to email it to my address - ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org, or you can still post it into Eccleston House and it will find its way to me, albeit a bit slower than by email!

If you want to know more details of our Conference, see Ellen Teague's article through the Columban Missionaries [website](#). I particularly like Christine Allen's (Director of CAFOD) words: - *"I am delighted to be speaking at the Conference, which is an inspiring reminder of how people up and down the country are working tirelessly to secure a better future for our common home."*

Don't forget, there may be help available if you would like to come but cannot afford it. This particularly applies to young people and students. Ask the question, and we will see what we can do.

The next e-bulletin should be out around the 4th June, so if you want anything shared, please make sure I have it by the 2nd June. Also, if you know of anyone with an interest in justice and peace issues, please share this e-bulletin with them. You never know, they may even want to subscribe themselves!

Wishing you a good fortnight,

Sharon

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*****ACTION OF THE WEEK*****



What can you do to help?

Can your Diocese, or local Council commit to being a Real Living Wage Employer?

Those of you who are regular readers will know that we had this as an Action of the Week around February/March time.

With the increase in interest rates, as well as the 10% increase in many food items, it is so important that everyone gets a fair rate of pay. It is not just a practical issue, but one that has a huge effect on the mental health of workers too.

[Living Wage Foundation writes:](#) - *This year the Living Wage Foundation launched a Living Wage Places Network, where Living Wage Place Action Groups from across the UK come together to share their knowledge and experience and learn from each other.*

The Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage Places scheme recognises and

celebrates areas that are going the extra mile by encouraging local employers to become Living Wage accredited and make the Living Wage the norm in their places. The real Living Wage is the only UK wage rate based on the actual cost of living, it's currently £10.90 an hour, and £11.95 in London.

Living Wage Places Action Groups are made up of partnerships between public, private, and third-sector Living Wage employers and civil society members who work together on 3-year action plans. There are now 16 recognised Living Wage Places across the UK, from the Royal Docks in Newham in East London to the Greater Manchester City region.

Last year four of the most established Living Wage Place Action Groups – Dundee, Salford, Cardiff and Bristol - renewed their commitment for another three years. At the Living Wage Places network launch in January, representatives from these groups shared why advocating for the Living Wage is vital for their areas and how to encourage more accreditations.

For more details, check out the link above, which includes details of a Network event on the 25th May.

What can you do to help? Ask questions of your parish or Diocese. Write to your Council. Form a group.

(for example, recently I told the cleaning company we use for our church hall that we are Real Living Wage employers, and as such, expect the cleaners that they use to be on at least £10.90 per hour...and the cleaners got a pay-rise! It is as simple as that!)

Thank you!

P.S. For inspiration, check out [Tyne & Wear Citizens](#), who sorted wages out in Sunderland!

In the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

NEWS AND COMMENT

1. Climate/Environment (includes **Actions** and **Events**)

The rubbishscapes of Essex: why our buried trash is coming back to haunt us

This is a horrifying story, reported on by [The Guardian](#), about what has gone on over the years, and the consequences it has had, and is still having. Made worse by the fact that this is my home county. It also makes you wonder how many other places have suffered in the same way. Click on the link above to read it.

Action - Rescue our Rivers

This action follows on from the article above...River Action write: - *Whilst leaders across the political parties are playing political games and shouting each other down in the corridors of power, our rivers are dying.*

Our rivers are on the brink of collapse plagued by a toxic cocktail of sewage, agricultural and chemical pollution. Give our rivers a voice. Sign now and join the mighty wave of people urgently calling for political leaders to act quickly and ambitiously to rescue our rivers.

To read more about their petition, and to add your name through 38 Degrees, click [here](#).

Hunger in East Africa to hit new peak with one person likely to die every 28 seconds

This sobering report from Oxfam published on the 17th May was calling on the UK Government to urgently increase funding ahead of the G7 leaders' summit, which started on the 19th. Oxfam report: - *Climate-induced drought, compounded by ongoing conflict and high food prices, has left over 40 million people across East Africa facing severe hunger - up by nearly two thirds from last year - with 85,000 people in South Sudan and Somalia on the brink of famine.*

[Read the full report.](#)

Action - Janet Vaughan from Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission has suggested that we might like to contact our MP, asking them to do something about it. Let us know how you get on.

Action - Choose Loose

If you haven't done so already, please add your name to this petition from [Everyday Plastics](#), asking UK supermarkets to remove plastic packaging from five fruit and vegetable products - Potatoes, apples, bananas, carrots and onions.

Personally, I think it should be removed from everything fresh like that - I hate shrink-wrapped Broccoli as you cannot see how dry the head is until you take the wrapping off.

Action - Don't bank on plastics

In a different approach to the plastics situation, [Just Money Movement](#) is asking us to sign their petition calling on HSBC to lead by example and stop funding the producers of single-use plastics.

Event - Catholic Social Action Network on Environment: Investments as a force for good?

Thursday 15th June at 6.30pm online

The Archdiocese of Liverpool has arranged this event, and they write:
- This is a special one off event that focuses on the relationship between investments and environment. We will be inviting speakers to explore both sides of the argument, and seek to find ways forward in this complex area.

For more information and to book your place, go to [Eventbrite](#).

Buying Fairtrade

Obviously, we were all very sad to see Traidcraft go, but there are plenty of other places that sell Fairtrade products. [Fairtrade Foundation](#) have various headings on their website on buying Fairtrade goods. They have highlighted where you can buy Fairtrade beauty products, and I was very surprised that Primark was listed. You don't have to spend a fortune to do yourself, and the planet, some good!

Event - Northern Dioceses Environment Group - Thursday 8th June - 10.30am - 3.30pm

The NDEG write: - *This is an in-person and open to all meeting, so please encourage friends and colleagues to attend. We have chosen Wheeler Hall at St. Anne's Cathedral, Leeds because it is only a 10 min. walk from Leeds railway station and in the hope that you will be able to join us in person as we have not met together for quite some time.*

We have an exciting programme for the meeting that includes expert inputs from the national perspectives of the Catholic Church on climate action, as well as an insight from the Executive Member for the Climate Emergency with Leeds City Council - plus an interactive creative activity and the opportunity to share progress towards 2030!

[Book through Eventbrite.](#)

2. Peace

Conscientious Objectors Day

[ICN](#) have covered Conscientious Objectors Day, which took place last week, on the 15th May. The ceremony in London remembered all those who have maintained the right to refuse to kill. The names of 85 Conscientious Objectors were read out and white carnations were laid on the memorial stone in Tavistock Square.

To read more about the history of the Day, access the [Peace Pledge Union website](#).

Poetry in Times of War

[Mill Hill Missionaries](#) share this poem from Ilya Kaminsky, who is Ukrainian and deaf. They write: - *His collection of poems entitled 'Deaf Republic' was finished before the war in Ukraine broke out. Yet he manages to evoke the war in a breathtaking way.*

Ilya currently lives in the United States.

Christian CND: Reflections from Hiroshima

Liddy Buswell, Christian CND's Outreach Manager, has just returned from Hiroshima, where she attended the G7 Youth Summit.

She has written an article through [ICN](#) telling of her experience there, and that her main takeaways were of peace and hope.

The G7 Summit in Hiroshima – A strategic opportunity to make significant progress on the abolition of nuclear weapons

Pax Christi write: - In the lead up to this weekend's G7 Summit in Japan, our Chair Ann Farr and our Chief Executive, Andrew Jackson, joined others from Pax Christi sections in signing a letter from Pax Christi International to Japan's, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

The letter commended Prime Minister Kishida on choosing Hiroshima as the venue for the summit and encouraged him in his aim of using the summit to urge the G7 leaders to address the continuing threat to the world posed by nuclear weapons.

The letter points out that the G7 summit is a strategic opportunity for leaders to build on previous declarations, particularly those made at the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in August 2022, and reminds them of Pope Francis' declaration in Hiroshima in 2019 that it is not just the use of nuclear weapons that would be immoral but their possession.

Full details of the letter are available through their [website](#).

The return of US nuclear weapons to the UK

Again, Pax Christi have shared this, and they write: - *Many will remember that, following persistent campaigning, US weapons were removed from the UK in 2008. Their return would be an escalation of the presence of nuclear weapons in Europe - a dangerous step against the background of the war in Ukraine and the threat of the use of nuclear weapons that comes with it.*

CND have produced a very helpful briefing note on this issue, ['NATO nukes](#)

[in Europe'](#)

On Saturday the 20th May they joined with CND and others at the entrance to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, to demonstrate against the return of US nuclear weapons to UK soil.

3. Refugees/Migrants

Archbishop of Canterbury on the 'Illegal Migration Bill'

[ICN](#) have reported the full text of Justin Welby's speech to the House of Lords on the 10th May. I am not going to bother printing the Prime Minister's response as we have all heard it through the news.

Event - Love the Stranger - this Wednesday, 24th May.

London Churches Refugee Fund are advertising this event, taking place on Wednesday 24th May at 7pm at Church of the Immaculate Conception, Mount Street, London W1K 3AH.

[More details through the Westminster Justice and Peace website.](#)

Refugee Week 19 - 25 June 2023

Refugee Week this year has the theme of Compassion. For resources and information, please see the [website](#).

4. Palestine/Israel (includes Events and an Action)

Gaza Strip's escalating violence wreaks havoc on children

[Vatican News](#) writes: - *The escalating violence in the Gaza Strip not only continues to kill and injure countless children; it also has devastating long-term effects on their well-being, mental health, and education.*

They quote Pope Francis, appealing for peace there: - *"May weapons be silenced, because arms can never obtain security and stability. Rather, they only succeed in destroying any hope for peace," he said.*

Nakba 75: Personal Perspectives

Embrace the Middle East write: - *The 15th May 2023 will mark 75 years since Israel became an independent state, the realisation of a dream of many for a homeland where Jewish people could feel safe, but also an event Palestinians remember as the Nakba (Catastrophe).*

We asked our partners, who are predominantly Palestinian, to reflect on what this 75th anniversary means to them. We are sharing their responses in this blog series: Nakba 75 - Personal Perspectives. Their desires for their children's safety and freedom echo in history. Our hope and prayers are for a future where all peoples of the Holy Land can live in safety and freedom.

[The full blog is available here.](#)

Event: An Eye Witness account of my time as an Ecumenical Accompanier in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The Balfour Project are hosting this webinar on Tuesday 6th May at 3pm. This will not be recorded, so if you want to listen to it, please book your place now. [Details here.](#)

Pax Christi vigil at Foreign office in memory of Palestinian American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh

The Catholic Network report on the silent vigil that members of Pax Christi took part in outside the Foreign Office on the 11th May, the first anniversary of the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh.

For more information on Shireen and her death, and for links on how you can participate, [click here.](#)

5. Government urged to work with black church leaders on policy-making

Premier Christian News have reported on this new manifesto from the National Church Leaders Forum (NCLF), which represents black Christian

voices. With a general election in the next year or so, they want to put themselves forward as an *'active participant in shaping policies affecting Britain's black community and other minorities.'*

The full article is available [here](#), and a link to the NCLF website and manifesto is [here](#).

(My thoughts are that I wonder if the Government listen to any church leaders, bearing in mind the flack that the Archbishop of Canterbury got concerning his speech to the House of Lords.)

6. African bishops urge G7 to cancel 'unpayable debt'

Vatican News report on that the bishops representing Caritas organisations of 23 African nations have appealed to the G7 leaders to address Africa's food and climate crisis, and increasing poverty.

They write: - *The three-day summit bringing together Heads of State and of Government of the world's most advanced democracies (United States, Canada, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom) kicked off on Friday, May 19, with an agenda focused on Russia's aggression against Ukraine, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, climate change, development, food security and global health in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Ahead of the meeting, the bishops representing Caritas organizations of 23 African nations appealed to the governments of the seven most developed countries to deliberate concrete measures to help Africa address the multiple crises it is currently facing.

Their statement is available [here](#).

We still need a debt jubilee: 25 years on from the Birmingham human chain

Tim Jones, from Debt Justice, recounts the day, on the 16th May 1998, when over 70,000 people joined together around Birmingham to call for debt cancellation. They surrounded the G8 summit that was taking place in the city calling for debt cancellation for 52 impoverished nations by 2022.

You can read Tim's blog on the event, and the outcomes, [here](#).

7. News from Catholic Aids Prevention and Support (includes Events)

The charity Catholics for AIDS Prevention and Support (CAPS) celebrates 20 years of their HIV peer support ministry, PositiveFaith.

Since 2003 CAPS has been a voice for people living with HIV in the church and across the country the members of PositiveFaith provide practical, emotional and spiritual support for each other. To commemorate '20 Years of PositiveFaith' CAPS is holding 3 public events this year.

15th June - The Power of Peer Support will explore how the meaningful involvement of people with HIV offers solutions to the challenges of HIV in society.

9th September 2023 - Making Faith Sense of HIV will examine issues at the intersection of faith and HIV.

3rd December 2023 – Our World AIDS Day Online Service will bring together healthcare professionals, people living with HIV, the Christian community and many friends and supporters to share experiences and thoughts on the ongoing challenges presented by HIV/AIDS.

Join CAPS in celebrating this remarkable milestone and experience the power of community and support in the lives of people living with HIV.

For more information or to register for the events, please visit the PositiveFaith website's events page: <https://www.positivefaith.org.uk/events>

8. Britain Today

Fair Fares in the North East, thanks to students!

Those of you who attended our Networking Day back in February would have heard about this campaign that was being led by the pupils of St Thomas More High School in North Shields.

We have been delighted to read the news that their campaigning has paid off and as of this month, Arriva Buses have announced that all young people from 17 to 20 would only have to pay £1 for each one-way ticket.

The full story of their endeavours is available to read through [Church Action](#)

[on Poverty.](#)

Congratulations to the pupils and everyone in the Diocese who helped them with their campaign!

Caritas Salford says urgent action needed after latest poverty figures show 10.9m now struggling to pay bills

The Catholic Network report that Patrick O'Dowd, Director of Caritas Salford, is calling for urgent Government action after the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) have reported that the number of people struggling to pay bills has gone up 3.1 million in the past year (it is now 10.9m, compared to the figure in May 2022 of 7.8m).

Inflation has caused goods on average to rise at least 10% in the past year; those with mortgages and those who rent have seen their payments increase substantially; and let's not even mention the energy costs.

It really is a shocking situation in a country that used to be termed a 'first world country.' The full article can be read [here](#).

9. Persecution

How Nigerian Government is Overspending to Cover Up Christian Persecution

According to a Catholic human rights defender, many activists no longer criticise the Nigerian Government as they have been 'bought.' The full story is available through [ACI Africa](#).

Leave No One Behind

Dr Philip Crispin, through ICN, has written this article concerning a film that Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) have made, showing the dire situation that Christians and other persecuted groups are facing in Afghanistan since the Taliban took over.

CSW are urging church groups to show the film, and invite your MP to the screening. The article and relevant links can be found [here](#).

Christians detained in China for 'illegal' church activities released on bail

[Premier Christian News](#) report on the news from CSW that three men, who had been arrested last August for arranging a gathering involving prayer and free bible and music lessons for young people, have now been released on bail. The article explains the strict rules in regard to any forms of religion in China, and in particular the fact that under 18's are blocked from church activities.

Newsletters/Reports

(please note that any events advertised in individual newsletters will not necessarily be also advertised in our Events section unless specifically requested by the organisation)

10. Boaz News May 2023

Showcasing the work that they have been involved in, and what they have got coming up. [Read it here.](#)

11. Joint Public Issues Team May 2023

This newsletter has everything - campaigns, events, dates for your diary, and a last opportunity to apply for their internship. [Available here.](#)

12. Just Money Movement

Various events and details of their campaigns [here.](#)

13. Christian CND

Find out what they did in Japan, and see details of the forthcoming Peace Pilgrimage, amongst other things. Read it through this [link.](#)

14. Global Justice Now Impact Report 2022

Global Justice Now have a lot to be proud of from 2022. Details are [here.](#)

15. Joy in Enough May 2023

Lots of links to good articles, and to their Plenty! facilitator training. Read it [here](#).

16. Caritas Diocese of Plymouth May 2023

Some interesting articles and events. Click [here](#).

17. Student Christian Movement May 2023

Very interesting newsletter on what they have done and are doing. [Well worth a read](#).

EVENTS (in chronological order where applicable)

18. 22nd May - CAFOD

[CAFOD parliamentary reception 2023: Politics for the Common Good](#)

19. 23rd May - 6.30pm - Together for the Common Good

Just Economy: how can the economy be reordered to work for the common good?

20. 23rd May - Archdiocese of Birmingham Justice and Peace Commission

7pm - Catholic Social Teaching in our society today

Footnote: If you are planning on coming to the NJPN Conference, this may be an interesting starter...

21. 24th May - 6pm - 8.30pm - PACT

[Sir Harold Hood Memorial Lecture, London](#)

'Is there a Christian answer to the problems of the Criminal Justice System?'

22. 24th May - 6pm - 7.30pm - Transform Trade

Transform Trade and the future of Traidcraft

23. 27th May - 10am - 11.30am - Catholic Association for Racial Justice

[Webinar Series: - The Changing Face of Britain - A Brief History 1947-2023](#)

24. 1st June - 7pm - 8.30pm - Scottish Laity Network

[The Synodal Journey - Insights from North America](#)

25. 2nd - 4th June - World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM)

[Annual Conference: How the Light Enters: Contemplative Wisdom for Flourishing in our Broken World](#)

26. 6th June - 7pm - Middlesborough Diocese Justice and Peace Commission

Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture: 'Signs of Hope in a Troubled World'

We are delighted to welcome Christine Allen as this year's speaker for the Anthony Storey Memorial Lecture.

Christine has been the Director of CAFOD since the spring of 2019. She had previously held leadership positions at two faith-based international development organisations for the previous seventeen years – namely Christian Aid and Progressio.

She brings a wealth of energy and experience to her work and plans to use the lecture to explore what it means to be a sign of hope at many different levels; and where we get our inspiration from to be signs of hope; whilst referencing the work of CAFOD- its supporters and partners and the wider influence of the church as a witness to hope.

We have again decided to arrange the lecture on Zoom and we are repeating last year's timing of a weekday evening which seemed to work well. To register for the lecture please email bhungin@yahoo.co.uk

27. 8th June - 7pm - 8.30pm - Scottish Laity Network

[The Synodal Journey: Insights from the General Secretariat](#)

28. 10th June - JPIT/Church Action on Poverty/APLE collective

[Dignity for All Conference](#)

29. 10th June - Diocese of Brentwood

[10am - 2.30pm Caritas Networking Day \(Diocese of Brentwood\)](#)

30. 10th - 18th June - Great Big Green Week

[Details here.](#)

31. 11th June - Tax Justice Sunday

[Details here](#)

32. 15th June - 3pm - PositiveFaith

[The Power of Peer Support](#)

**33. 15th June - 7pm - 8.30pm - Catholic Association for Racial Justice
Webinar Series - Persistent Inequality and Racism over the past 75 years**

(various other dates are also listed on the above link)

34. 15th June - 7pm - 8.30pm - Scottish Laity Network

[The Synodal Journey: Insights from the German Synodal Pathway](#)

35. 19th June - 6pm - Christian Life Community

[The Circular Economy webinar: What is it? How can I engage with it?](#)

36. 20th June - PACT Westminster Supporters Mass and Roadshow

Details to follow

37. 22nd June - Scottish Laity Network

[The Synodal Journey: Insights from Latin America](#)

38. 23rd June - 7pm - 8.15pm - Seeking Sanctuary

[Webinar - A Radical Spirituality of Welcome](#)

39. 29th June - 7pm - 8.30pm - Catholic Association for Racial Justice

[Combatting Racism - different approaches over the past 75 years](#)

40. 15th July - 10am - 1.15pm - PACT

Birmingham JustPeople Roadshow

41. 21st - 23rd July - NJPN Annual Conference

Sustainability? Survival or Shutdown

42. 23rd - 28th July - Christians Aware Summer School

This year we aim to raise awareness of the interconnectedness of all life on earth, and to increase our commitment to its flourishing. [More details here.](#)

43. Various dates - Meditatio Centre, London

Our friends at the Meditatio Centre London have a full programme of events (you may remember they held a workshop at the NJPN Conference last year). Check out details [here.](#)

The Last Word

44. Burning disagreement: the Witch Trials of J.K. Rowling

Many of us of over a certain age (and possibly younger people too) have thrown our hands up in despair and confusion at the gender reassignment and gender ideologies coming from our youth. When you get told by a teenager to 'respect their pronouns' and you have absolutely no idea what they are talking about. When you get criticised for calling someone a he or she, when they are quite clearly a 'they'. When someone says to you 'they were doing their hair' - and you ask, 'what, so and so and their mum' and you end up getting shouted at, as you should know that your daughter was talking about her friend, singular....yes, this is all personal experience here, and one that my poor old brain struggles to process.

If you recognise anything in the above paragraph, Jon Kuhrt from [Grace + Truth](#) has written a good article, recommending the podcast "The Witch Trials of J.K.Rowling." It covers J.K. Rowling's well-published views, but it also gives the view of those who disagree with her (and indeed he found the 'experiences and reflections of the trans people moving and powerful.')

His last few paragraphs are very thought-provoking and we would do well to heed them, in whatever line that we are following: -

It is impossible to pursue justice without provoking disagreement. But activism corrupts when it loses humility and the possibility of redemption. As the Hebrew prophet Micah succinctly put it:

‘Act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God’

We must disagree – even on this most sensitive of subjects – without seeking to silence, threaten or destroy others. To do so is not just wrong but counter-productive. To deny the legitimacy of questions, debate and discussion is to fan the flames of extremism.

So whatever your views or experiences, I would recommend this podcast. We can all benefit from listening to that small and inconvenient voice which says

‘think again, look more deeply, consider this’.

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NEWS LINKS

Independent Catholic News

Find Justice and Peace stories at:

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/justice-peace-environment>

[Sign up](#) to receive these regularly.

Catholic Communications Network
Find news stories at www.catholicnews.org.uk

Latest Zenit Headlines [here](#)

Vatican News homepage: www.vaticannews.va

World Council of Churches
<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/>

UK Parliament News
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/>

Follow us on Twitter: @NJandPNetwork

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About these E-BULLETINS

The items above are emails received from around the Network which may be of interest to those involved in working for justice and peace.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of NJPN.

To **unsubscribe** from these mailings, email ebulletin@justice-and-peace.org with “unsubscribe” in the subject box. We also welcome your **feedback** at the same address.

Forwarding these emails: Please feel free to forward these emails on to your contacts – *but please remember to tell them to contact YOU if they want to unsubscribe!*

Urgent Actions:

We sometimes receive emails that need immediate action and cannot wait for the weekly bulletin. To receive these items email the same address with “**urgent actions**” in the subject box.

If you appreciate these bulletins, help to keep them coming by donating to NJPN:

*Send cheques payable to NJPN to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.
Make a regular donation by **standing order**: Download standing order/membership forms from <http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>*

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As a small charity NJPN relies on donations from its members and friends, as well as grants for specific work or projects, if you feel you are able to make a contribution you can either:

make a bacs payment to our account: Sort code 16-31-15 account 10089516 reference Donation
with your surname or our CAF donate
page: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8130#!/DonationDetails>