

NJPN North West Justice & Peace E-Bulletin August 2016

The monthly e-bulletin for the North West, linked to the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN), is produced jointly by the dioceses of Lancaster, Liverpool, Salford, Shrewsbury and Wrexham. Please send diary dates to anneoc980@hotmail.com

ACTION AID BLOG: NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO STAND UP

However you voted last Thursday, events since the UK referendum results were announced have been tumultuous and shocking to say the least. Political resignations and in-fighting, the worrying rise of post-referendum racism, turmoil in the markets, and a country that seems to be pitted against itself, fractured along lines of geography, age and beliefs.

And there's a lot of anger. Young people, who saw themselves as European and looked forward to a lifetime of job opportunities and friendships that would have been unimaginable to their grandparents, are angry because they see their future diminished. Others, like those in Scotland and Northern Ireland, are angry because this vote has jeopardised a United Kingdom that was hard-won - or because they now face leaving the EU against their will. There are many who voted to stay because the EU has brought peace to a continent that has spent centuries at war, or because they see the EU as leading in the crucial global issues of international development, human rights and the environment - which they now feel is at risk.

But it's not only people who voted to stay who are angry. Many people who voted to leave did so because of anger - at the establishment, at the increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of an unaccountable few, at political parties who didn't listen to them, at an increased sense of being alienated in their own country.

These are the same drivers of poverty that we see in our work - inequality, discrimination against women, unresponsive governments, regressive tax systems, lack of decent jobs and investment in public services. These are the root causes of poverty that we are fighting across the world.

But we must remember that people are angry because they care. This is a debate over the future of the sort of country and the sort of world we want to live in, and it isn't just taking place in the halls of Westminster or the boardrooms of the City. It's taking place at dining tables, pubs, schools, water coolers, cafés, bus stops and living rooms up and down the country. More people turned out to vote in this referendum than at any election since 1992. More people are engaging in politics and in public life than I've seen in my lifetime.

So it's now, more than ever, that we all need to stand up and shape the environment we want our children to grow up in. Don't believe those who say there's nothing you can do. We need to harness this energy that has been created, to come together, to engage in a respectful, positive discussion and learn from what has happened.

Action Aid's mission is to change lives - for good. We've been fighting against the odds, against the powerful global systems that keep women and girls poor, since we started in 1972. We're certainly not going to stop now. We need to harness this energy that has been created, to come together, to engage in a respectful, positive discussion and learn from what has happened.

Girish Menon, Chief Executive, Action Aid UK 30 June 2016

<https://www.actionaid.org.uk/blog/news/2016/06/30/now-more-than-ever-we-nee-to-stand-up>

DON'T LABEL ME

I am 86 years old. When Jeremy Corbyn stood for the leadership of the Labour Party, I felt excited and enthusiastic hearing him express views similar to my own. For so long there had seemed to be little difference between the two main parties, but here was someone who was speaking out strongly on behalf of the disadvantaged and was committed to nuclear disarmament.

Previously I had voted for the Greens, but sadly they have little chance of success. Now perhaps, we could hope for a truly Leftist party. So, together with my husband, I paid my three pounds and voted for Jeremy. The reaction of my family and friends was laughter and incredulity, but soon I became aware of comments from other acquaintances who were dismayed at Jeremy's election. "Of course, it's all the young people voting for him", they said, and, "We have the Youth to blame for this."

I just smiled, then, but after the Referendum, in which I voted to remain in the European Union, I kept hearing young articulate people who had badly wanted to stay in Europe, complaining. "It's all the fault of the 'Old'", I began to feel a bit cross.

What right did people have to presume how I would behave, and to be certain that I would behave in a particular way just because of my age? I resented being stereotyped.

On reflection however, I realised that actually, for me, such attitudes are mildly irritating. But very many people are seriously hurt and indeed crushed by the stereotyping and labelling, and perhaps most of all, by the presumption of others which seem to occur regularly in our society. Those who happen to be black, physically or mentally disabled, lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans, asylum seekers, or simply non-conforming, are assumed to be somehow 'less' and expected to be stupid or dangerous.

I know how lucky I am. Being white, middle-class, and educated, the only label I am doomed to wear is 'Old', and frankly, I quite enjoy behaving in an unexpected and challenging way.

© **Anthea Dove** 18 July 2016. Anthea lives in Whitby with her husband Chris and has a large scattered family. She is a Catholic with a strong interest in social justice. A former teacher and a retreat-giver, she has written a number of books on different aspects of Christianity. She is still writing!

CALLS FOR A NEW APPROACH TO POLITICS AT NJPN CONFERENCE

Around 300 participants gathered at Swanwick this weekend for the National Justice and Peace Network's annual conference. The theme: **'Justice, Power and Responsibility; How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?'** had been chosen two years ago, but could not have been more relevant - given recent events.

The main speakers were: Jon Cruddas Labour MP for Dagenham and Rainham, Jenny Sinclair of Together for the Common Good, Polly Jones of Global Justice Around, Takura Gwatiyanya of Caritas Harare and Simon Barrow from the think tank Ekklesia.

Mr Cruddas opened the conference with a call for the creation of a virtue-based politics based on the common good - a more holistic vision of a person living in society, as part of community - rather than simply a commodified being, judged almost entirely on a transactional basis of money exchange. He said the Catholic Church is uniquely placed to enter the public square on these issues, with Catholic Social Teaching providing the blueprint for the development of such a virtue based model. "The virtue based model of justice can rehabilitate the political sphere," said Cruddas.

Jenny Sinclair, founder and director of Together for the Common Good, called for the establishment of a relationship based model grounded in the common good. "After Brexit we need an examination of conscience " she said. "It's time to climb out of our silos and see what else is going on - looking across sectors, and ecumenically - from parish to boardroom.' The special role of the Church is to encourage relationships between estranged groups, she said. "We must be clear where our centre of gravity lies - transcending party politics."

Calling for politics with primacy of the human person in relation with others, Jenny Sinclair said: "It's in my interest that you thrive." She said a challenge of working for the common good meant being prepared to work with any and everyone, from whatever walk of life. "It starts with conversation - locally, by people talking to each other. I cannot create the common good on my own, or by just talking with friends. To build a common good requires people who may disagree, and whose interests and circumstances are different, to encounter each other in relationship. The results are surprising, it's kind of alchemy," said Sinclair, who stressed that the demand was all the more pressing since the EU referendum, which had highlighted how polarised and excluded large parts of the UK have become. Echoing Cruddas, she asked whether "our notion of justice has come down to handing out bits of money."

Jenny Sinclair said the Churches are well placed to play "a special role in strengthening civil society... We can foster a culture of encounter, where people of different experience meet - at all levels and in all sectors. We can build the links between local institutions and between estranged groups," she added, reminding the audience how her father Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock had played just such a role a generation ago. Sinclair praised organisations promoting the common good in the world today, such as Citizens UK, the Church Urban Fund and the Catholic Worker movement. She concluded by saying that on an individual level we can all invest ethically.

"The biggest barrier to solving world poverty is the rapacious behaviour of big corporations," said Polly Jones, head of campaigns and policy at Global Justice Now. She went on to outline the dangers of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which would enable corporations to sue governments if they do something that cuts profits. "Under a similar agreement, the Egyptian government has been sued by waste and energy company Veolia, after it brought in a minimum wage. This was deemed to eat into profits. Polly Jones warned of the possible implication for the common good in terms of how these agreements can bite into public service provision. She described how the idea of trade agreements like TTIPS were born out of the financial crash of 2008, being sold by corporations as a way of enhancing growth in the world economy. "It has been about carving out new markets in areas where they were not able to trade before," said Jones. She also pointed to examples of how TTIPs and other such agreements being resisted, with 250,000 Germans coming onto the streets recently to protest about the agreement. "We have to find a way to enforce our standards on the corporation and cut their power," she said.

Besides the keynote speakers, there was a range of workshops on finance, media, campaigning, and women's issues. There were also activities for children and young people, and a panel discussion with Ealing Cllr Theresa Byrne, Simon Barrow, Fr Martin Newell and Pat Gaffney from Pax Christi. Mass was celebrated by Passionist priest Fr Martin Newell with music provided by an ad hoc group of singers, including five children, guitarists, violinists, flautists and a saxophonist, from several dioceses who played and sang beautifully - including a new setting for the psalm, composed by Sheena Field, St Hugh of Lincoln parish, Chesterfield.

On Sunday, Takura Gwatiyanya gave a moving account of his work in Zimbabwe with Caritas. The humanitarian NGO works in collaboration with local partners in a number of health, water, agriculture and food security programmes, as the country struggles to cope with extreme drought and economic hardship.

Alison Gelder from Housing Justice led the final 'action planning session' before the conference ended with a lively liturgy - accompanied by a film made by the children and the youth group.

Jo Siedlecka, Editor Independent Catholic News 17 July 2016

<http://indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30528>

Text of Jenny Sinclair's talk: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30530>

UN REPORT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALING THE UK

A United Nations report has revealed widespread human rights violations in the UK. A culture in which major violations are taken for granted may help to explain the sharp social divisions which have become clear over Brexit.

The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' concluding observations in a report on the UK, released in late June 2016, make for disturbing reading. They reveal a society where lack of basic respect for, and decency towards, those who are poor and/or in minorities is now commonplace. Some of the evidence has also been published, including from voluntary organisations working with those most affected.

A few positive measures over the past few years are recognised, including the Modern Slavery Act 2015. But the overall picture is bleak. Legal remedies are inadequate – and plans to repeal the Human Rights Act may make matters worse.

International aid is sometimes used to finance human rights violations. At home, tax cuts and loopholes for wealthy individuals and companies have left less money to support those who are disadvantaged and marginalised. Austerity measures have hit disabled people, women and children particularly hard.

Legal aid cuts have restricted access to justice in areas such as employment, housing, education and benefits.

Asylum-seekers have been barred from working and been expected to live on a daily allowance that does not meet their needs.

Young and disabled people and ethnic minorities are especially likely to be unemployed. Those in paid work are often in precarious jobs, including temporary employment or zero-hour contracts. Migrant workers face even worse working conditions than average. Attacks on trade union rights have further hit workers.

Social security changes, including the bedroom tax, mean that many women, children, disabled people and low-income families do not get enough to meet their needs.

Though there is a national strategy on gender-based violence, disabled women and girls are not adequately covered.

In general, there has been a failure to tackle poverty – and removing child poverty targets has made matters worse.

Many live in inadequate accommodation, in part because there is not enough social housing and often unaffordable private rents. There are not enough sites for Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities. Homelessness has risen, affecting mostly single persons, families with children, victims of domestic violence, disabled people and asylum-seekers.

There have been rising levels of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Migrants, asylum-seekers and Roma, Gypsy and Traveller communities cannot always access the healthcare they need. Mental health services are under-resourced, as is social care for older people.

Inequalities in education persist, especially for low-income families and some ethnic and religious minorities.

The report makes detailed recommendations on how these injustices can be set right. Yet the government is unlikely to act unless there is greater pressure from within the UK and there is a risk that matters may become even worse. Stark social divisions and gaps in understanding have become apparent during the debate over whether the UK should leave the European Union and after the result was announced.

A society has been created in which certain 'types' of people's humanity has been routinely undervalued. Many have been left insecure, in some cases lacking safety, food or shelter. This may have embittered some and deepened prejudices, especially in the light of a stream of propaganda from various politicians and media outlets trying to justify such abuses.

Yet a drive for human rights for all has the potential to bring together some of those who feel outsiders in today's UK. This may mean confronting austerity and combating discrimination, rather than turning on others in even worse situations. Taking on powerful institutions rather than vulnerable minorities can seem daunting but is ultimately more fruitful.

Faith and belief-based groups and other people of goodwill may have an important part to play in helping to share information and understanding and seeking change.

***The UN's observations can be found here:**

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGBR%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en

© *Savi Hensman* 30 June 2016 <http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/node/23226>

Savitri Hensman is an Ekklesia associate and respected commentator on welfare and other issues.

A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Affleck's Palace, the renowned Manchester indie craft and clothing emporium, has painted the tread of its steps in bold capitals stating (from the bottom up): no racism, no homophobia, no sexism, no transphobia, no disablism, no alterophobia, no violence, love, peace, with the first step proclaiming 'take a step in the right direction.'

CARJ STATEMENT: AFTER THE REFERENDUM - SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER

It is only days since most of us were shocked by the results of a referendum which put the UK on track to leave the European Union. The months leading up to the referendum saw an increasingly polarised debate in which 'immigration' became a focus of disagreement and discord. Many migrants and refugees, even those long settled here, became nervous. Some with anti-migrant sentiments may have felt that the result of the referendum gave them permission to speak and act against their neighbours. Police have acknowledged a 57% rise in reported hate crime since the referendum. These developments are especially disconcerting, as the UK had long been seen as a very diverse society at ease with itself. In 2009 the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) recognised this.

CARJ wishes to acknowledge and to celebrate all that has changed for the better over the past 25 years and the progress that we have all made toward becoming a truly inclusive Church in a truly inclusive society. Overt discrimination has been made illegal and largely banned from mainstream society. People of diverse backgrounds now live and work in all sectors of society. Educational disadvantage is being steadily overcome. Our churches and schools are now communities of every language, nation, colour and culture. (*The Changing Face of Britain, 2009*) This positive achievement was especially evident in London - which may be the most cosmopolitan city in the world. London's rich diversity, at ease with itself, was evident to the world during the 2012 Olympics. Recent events have seriously disturbed any complacency on our part, and they may have begun to undermine our positive achievements. We come out of the recent referendum more conscious of our divisions and more uncertain about our 'common values'. Now, we must devote ourselves to the long term aim of restoring community, taking seriously the concerns of all those who feel they have been left out of the country's economic progress. We must also address the immediate challenge of an increase in 'hate crime'.

We welcome the recent statement on 'hate crime' by Home Office Minister Karen Bradley, and her announcement that the government will shortly be publishing a Hate Crime Action Plan. We also welcome the unanimously positive response to her statement by Parliamentarians from across the political spectrum. Hate crime has long been recognised as an important challenge. The UK has strong legislation to deal with it, dating back to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Coalition Government 2010-15, developed an action plan to oppose hate crime which was spelled out in *Challenge It, Report It, Stop It* (March 2012). The plan included a strategy to address three key issues - prevention, reporting and response to hate crime. In May 2014, the Government reported on progress. We await the new Hate Crime Action Plan, hoping that it will build on the past and help us to face our new challenges together. Undoubtedly, the new Action Plan will acknowledge the importance of local communities, voluntary associations and faith communities in addressing the challenges we face today. This is important. There are churches across the country who can influence their local communities. We have other assets at hand in this effort. True Vision is a police funded website designed to provide information about hate crime <http://www.report-it.org.uk/home> and organisations like Hope Not Hate <http://www.hopenothate.org.uk> have taken a lead in this area.

Finally, although CARJ is a relatively small organisation, we have extensive networks of people in local areas, working with others to build a more just, more equal, more cooperative society. We concern ourselves with a variety of issues facing marginalised communities - housing, education, poverty, criminal justice, etc. We are also available to support anyone who is trying to prevent hate crime or to re-build an atmosphere of mutual respect in our society. Please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Mrs Yogi Sutton, Chair of CARJ Trustees, Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ), 2 July 2016
info@carj.org.uk

NEW PRIME MINISTER ABOLISHES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DECC)

Angus Brendan MacNeil MP, Chair of the Energy and Climate Change Committee, issued the following statement on 14 July 2016 in response to the announcement that the Department of Energy and Climate Change is to be abolished:

"The Government has announced that it will abolish the Department of Energy and Climate Change and transfer its functions to other Government Departments, notably the new Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The exact details remain unclear.

My Committee's reports have recently identified serious concerns about reduced investor confidence in the UK energy sector. An historic agreement at COP21 in Paris last December still requires ratification, and the fifth carbon budget is still yet to be set in law. While Members of my Committee differed in their views on the European Union, the immediate impact of the vote to leave has been to amplify uncertainty at a time when major investment is needed to deliver affordable, clean and secure energy. In this context, I am astonished at the Prime Minister's decision to abolish DECC.

DECC's disappearance raises urgent questions. To whom falls the central statutory obligation, contained in the Climate Change Act 2008, to reduce the UK's carbon emissions by 80% from their 1990 baseline? Which Department will take responsibility for the energy and climate aspects of negotiations to leave the EU? Who will champion decarbonisation in Cabinet? Who will drive innovation in the energy sector?

Turning to my Committee and the crucial role we play in scrutinising the Government's energy and climate change policies, we are established under Standing Orders of the House of Commons. There will be no immediate change to our remit, operations or membership, which can only be done by order of the House. I am immensely proud of our work over the last year to hold the Government to account on achieving a balanced energy policy, setting the agenda on an innovative future energy system, and influencing the Government's long-term approach to climate targets. Over the coming weeks I will speak to colleagues to explore how we can ensure that effective Parliamentary scrutiny on the crucial issues of energy and climate change continues."

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/energy-and-climate-change-committee/news-parliament-2015/abolition-of-decc-chairs-statement-16-17/>

GREENPEACE STATEMENT

14 July 2016: The appointment of Theresa May's top team brings uncertainty for the protection of our countryside and wildlife as well as the UK's status as an international leader on tackling climate change according to Greenpeace analysis. On the appointment of Boris Johnson, David Davies and Liam Fox, the environmental organisation expressed potential concern given their voting record and links to climate sceptic funders and think tanks. EnergyDesk analysis shows that David Davies has also taken funding from Michael Hintze and voted against the environmental agenda, voting against decarbonisation targets and in favour of cuts to subsidies for renewables.

Liam Fox has spoken out in favour of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and claims it will not affect environmental standards. Fox has backed Heathrow expansion and has voted against decarbonisation targets, against variable taxes based on carbon emissions and against the development of a strategy for carbon capture and storage in the UK. Fox, embroiled in scandals over funding, also took £10,000 in May from Alexander Temerko, prominent Tory donor and director of energy firm OGN, which builds oil rigs as well as £30,000 in the last year from the Keltbray Group, which has worked on infrastructure projects including Bradwell nuclear power station.

The analysis also shows Boris Johnson has taken donations from Michael Hintze, who also funds Nigel Lawson's climate sceptic thinktank the Global Warming Policy Foundation. However, Boris Johnson does some favour for being an advocate for solar power. John Sauven, Greenpeace Executive Director said: "The voting record and affiliation with climate sceptics of key cabinet appointees are deeply worrying. They show a lack of understanding posed by climate change to the UK and the world. If we are to continue to have a key global role in environmental action, we need urgent reassurance from the new government that the hard won progress on climate and renewables targets, air pollution and the protection of wildlife will not be sidelined or abandoned in the Brexit negotiations."

The breakup of DECC will see the remit for climate change subsumed into the emergence of a new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Welcoming the new minister, Greg Clarke, John Sauven, said: "The Energy and Climate Change Department has been broken up and put back together without the name 'climate change'. Although, some might say 'what's in a name', there is a very real worry that the progress made on tackling climate change could be relegated to the bottom of the in-tray. Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy must have green innovation and job creation at its heart."

Defra has a new Secretary of State, Andrea Leadsom. John Sauven, Greenpeace Executive Director said: "Andrea Leadsom will be responsible for the safety of the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. Her advisors at the late department of energy and climate change were able to persuade her that climate change was a real threat. We hope that she'll be an equally fast learner when her new advisors give her the talk about the necessity of protecting our birds and the bees."

Chris Grayling as the new Transport Ministers raises questions over Heathrow expansion. He voted to rethink the 3rd runway in 2009, but was also apparently urging Cameron to reconsider his opposition to Heathrow expansion.

In response to Philip Hammond's appointment and interview on the Today Programme (14/7), John Sauven said: "Philip Hammond could be a positive influence in this government, but he should break from George Osborne's obsession with large scale, foreign investment in energy projects. Instead, he should champion investment for homegrown renewable energy enterprises and technological innovation. This would bring jobs, a boost to the economy and a revitalised manufacturing sector. But, Greenpeace was disappointed to hear that despite the National Audit Office's revelation that Hinkley Point C power station will cost consumers £30 billion in subsidies, Philip Hammond today reiterated support for the project."

The campaigning group is calling the new government to come clean on its commitment to combating climate change, ensuring protection for the countryside, air and water quality and increasing investment for homegrown renewable energy businesses within the first 100 days of office.

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/media/press-releases/greenpeace-reacts-appointment-theresa-may%E2%80%99s-cabinet-and-demise-decc-20160714>

• **See also FAREWELL DECC, CUT OFF IN YOUR PRIME by James Murray, Business Green** 14 July 2016

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/blog-post/2464995/farewell-decc-cut-off-in-your-prime>

CHRISTIAN AID PRAISE NEW GOVERNMENT'S CARBON BUDGET

21 July 2016: Christian Aid has praised the new Government for a solid start on climate change, as the Fifth Carbon Budget passed both Houses of Parliament less than a week after the new Prime Minister was appointed. Responding to the successful passage of the budget through Parliament, Christian Aid's Principal Climate Change Adviser Dr Alison Doig said: "Historically the UK has been a global leader on climate change, in part thanks to the Climate Change Act and the carbon budgets which guide our low carbon development. It is encouraging that Theresa May's new Government has reaffirmed its commitment to decarbonise our economy in the lowest cost way amid the uncertainty of Brexit."

The Fifth Carbon Budget sets out the carbon reduction that the Government must ensure happens by 2032. The Government set the level in line with the independent Committee on Climate Change's recommendations. Dr Doig continued: "We also look forward to seeing the Government's Low Carbon Plan this year. This will set out the actions the Government will take across Whitehall to ensure the UK achieves the targets required by the Fourth Carbon Budget up to the mid-2020s. Christian Aid is also calling on the Government to ratify the Paris agreement on climate change - agreed by over 190 countries last year. Dr Doig said: "The UK had a vital role in delivering the UN climate agreement in Paris last year. Other countries, including France have ratified it, it's now time we did the same. As one of the most important agreements for the safety and prosperity of the world it's important that it is ratified as quickly as possible and we can set about implementing it." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30555>

SIXTEEN CATHOLIC DIOCESES MOVE TO GREEN ENERGY

Sixteen of the 21 Catholic dioceses in England and Wales are moving to 'green' energy. In *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis encourages all communities to look at ways in which they can lower their carbon footprint. The new alliance between Interdiocesan Fuel Management Ltd (IFM) and Churchmarketplace (CMP) means that more than 3,200 parishes will be buying electricity from 'green' suppliers of renewable sources - and seeing their bills lowered. IFM is a fuel procurement company which was set up by a number of Catholic dioceses in 1994. Eight dioceses have been procuring energy from Churchmarketplace, a collaborative buying group serving the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

The new alliance was formed six months after the exemption from Climate Change levy was withdrawn from renewable electricity bills, a development which meant that all dioceses were facing an increase in their electricity costs. There was also a premium cost attached to purchasing renewable electricity which meant that the dioceses previously outside of IFM could face significant costs in moving to renewable energy. By combining the buying power of all 16 dioceses together, significant savings were achieved that offset the impact of Climate Change levy as well as making renewable energy available to all at a manageable price. The premium for purchasing renewable energy through IFM is about £5 per meter per year compared to about £49 per meter per year outside of the contract, a total saving of more than £180,000 for all dioceses. The 16 dioceses served by the agreement are Arundel and Brighton, Birmingham, Cardiff, Clifton, East Anglia, Lancaster, Leeds, Liverpool, Menevia, Middlesbrough, Northampton, Nottingham, Plymouth, Salford, Shrewsbury and Westminster. Both partners in the alliance hope that the remaining five dioceses will soon join the buying group so they too might enjoy the same benefits gained from obtaining their energy on a 100 per cent renewable tariff.

In addition to the work being carried out among the parishes, CMP and IFM are now exploring how their new partnership can replicate the successful collaboration the parishes are enjoying for Catholic schools, academies and universities. By pooling together the huge volumes of energy, CMP/IFM's intentions are to make renewable energy an affordable option for all Catholic organisations in England and Wales.

Jenny Williamson, director of Churchmarketplace, said: "We are delighted to have partnered with IFM, another Catholic organisation to deliver an affordable renewable energy solution for parishes. We look forward to doing the same for Catholic schools with IFM, stronger together."

Carol Lawrence, director of Interdiocesan Fuel Management Ltd, said: "This agreement is great news for Catholic parishes throughout England and Wales. Both IFM and CMP have been for a long time deeply committed to helping parishes to have access to affordable renewable energy. Our new partnership helps to advance that objective in harmony with the teaching of Pope Francis on the care for the environment. It is a real breakthrough and it puts us in a strong position to expand these highly valuable services to other Catholic institutions."

For further information see: www.churchmarketplace.org.uk
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30533>

ECONOMIC JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Ellen Teague writes: The latest monthly round-up of news from the Churches and other sources in the areas of economic justice, human rights and environmental sustainability is now out.

- **The Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility (ECCR)** has been looking at Churches' ethical investment, policy in relation to destructive extractive industries, conflict minerals and disinvesting from fossil fuels, along with other issues.
- **The University of Cambridge** has rejected calls to divest its £5.9bn endowment from fossil fuels, as students, academics and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, have called for.
- **The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland** has voted not to invest in companies whose major business depends on the extraction and sale of the most unclean energy sources. It has also agreed to ask its investor trustees to engage with firms to encourage them to move away from fossil fuels and to invest instead in renewables and a more sustainable future.
- **The Anglican mission agency Mission to Seafarers** has launched a Corporate Partnerships Portfolio with suggestions for how the maritime industry can deliver on corporate social responsibility.
https://gallery.mailchimp.com/743c4e2f545c38c20428fe64a/files/ECCR_Newsletter_June_2016_final.pdf

STUDENT FILM AWARD WINNER 2015 LAUNCHES NEW FILM

Just over 12 months ago Robyn Forsythe won the Insight Student Filmmaker Award with a synopsis for a film called **Never Land**, asking "Amidst the shouting of uninformed opinions, it is near impossible to understand what the facts really are about global warming. What is the truth? Is it too late? And where does faith fit in amongst all this?" *Never Land* follows 9-year-old Noah in Boscawen, who is terrified of rising sea levels and wakes up one day to find the whole world flooded. The film opens up the important discussion of environmental issues, as well as asking where faith fits in – not only when it comes to global catastrophes, but in our lives. The film stars Marcus Brigstocke, Keeley Hawes, Brian Bovell and John Nettles.

http://www.jesuit.org.uk/student-film-award-winner-2015-launches-new-film?utm_source=Jesuits+in+Britain&utm_campaign=6bf68ad7e8-JIB_160621&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_22ed05a35f-6bf68ad7e8-87595669

Read more and see stills from the film plus trailer: <http://www.unionpictures.tv/never-land/>

BREXIT COULD DESTROY BRITAIN'S STATUS AS A SCIENTIFIC SUPERPOWER, GOVERNMENT WARNED

Brexit could "break" Britain's knowledge economy unless the Government can negotiate a deal that preserves many of the benefits of being in the European Union, the chair of the Commons' Science and Technology Committee has warned. Conservative MP Nicola Blackwood urged Science Minister Jo Johnson to argue within new Prime Minister Theresa May's Government for the need for an immigration system that would allow EU scientists to continue to work in the UK and for British academics to retain access to European research grants. But Mr Johnson, who campaigned to remain within the EU, was unable to give her reassurances that EU citizens would still be able to come to the UK in significant numbers after Brexit.

Mrs May has talked about getting immigration down to the tens of thousands and there are currently some 43,000 people from other EU countries working in British universities. Europe provides about £1bn a year in research funding to the UK through schemes that are open to non-EU members to join, but the terms of such a deal would have to be negotiated.

At a Science and Technology Committee meeting, Ms Blackwood told Mr Johnson: "Can I ... plead with you to make the case within Government, not only that issues such as continued access to Horizon 2020 [a funding scheme] are maintained and collaboration [is maintained] and the right kind of immigration system that benefits our science and higher education sectors are in place, but also that the science and innovation community is at the heart of the exit negotiations, as you've been saying is important, because I think this will be make or break for our knowledge economy going forward." She also said she hoped Mr Johnson would continue in the Government, saying he had been "an outstanding minister for science."

Earlier in the hearing, she had asked Mr Johnson, brother of the pro-Brexit Tory MP Boris Johnson, to describe the sort of system he would like to see to enable EU citizens to come to Britain to work in science. But he said: "You are tempting me to get involved in the detail of our future immigration policy, which would be very unwise. The [former] Home Secretary [Theresa May] has a tremendous amount of expertise on immigration policy and I don't think she would appreciate me freelancing on the day of her arrival in Number 10." Mr Johnson also said he was aware of anecdotal reports that British scientists were already facing "discrimination" from EU institutions acting as if Brexit has already happened.

The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills has issued an email address for academics to report such incidents and set up a special unit to monitor the situation. "We have been very clear that there should be no discrimination against UK institutions, soft or hard," Mr Johnson said. He added that he had been in touch with Carlos Moedas, the European science commissioner, who had issued a statement "reassuring UK researchers that their validity for Horizon 2020 remained unchanged." Mr Johnson repeatedly sought to reassure the science community, saying the Government was "fully committed" to maintaining the UK's status as a "science superpower." "That's how we see ourselves as a country," he said.

Dr Mike Galsworthy, programme director of Scientists for EU, a pro-Remain campaign group now trying to raise awareness of the importance of science, welcomed Ms Blackwood's "make or break" comment. "It's heartening that the chair [of the science committee] understands the magnitude of what the science community is facing," he said. But he also called for a "Plan B" in case there was an "impasse over freedom of movement." Dr Galsworthy also called for Mr Johnson and Life Sciences Minister George Freeman to remain in their posts. "They have shown they understand the issues and can represent the community well," he said. "We need stability and continuity now, rather than more chaos in the mix."

Ian Johnston Science Correspondent, The Independent 13 July 2016

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/brexit-eu-latest-news-uk-science-economy-break-superpower-status-government-warning-a7134381.html>

- An official parliamentary petition has been set up: "We require any Brexit deal preserves UK access to EU collaborative R&D programs." If the petition receives 10,000 signatures the government will respond to it; if it receives 100,000 signatures then it will be considered for debate in parliament. 90% of UK academics feel that Brexit will move UK down from 2nd leading science country (after US) by several notches, due to inability to access substantial EU funding as well as the obvious potential for visa restrictions. **The petition can be found at:** <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/150220>

DIE-IN' AT LONDON SCIENCE MUSEUM

Demonstrators staged a 'die-in' protest at the Science Museum as it hosted an arms trade dinner to welcome military delegations from around the world in advance of the Farnborough International Airshow (FIA). Up to 100 people attended the protest organised by the Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) on Monday (July 11) evening. Protestors managed to delay the setting-up for the dinner, many arms dealers were turned away and some catering staff walked off shift when they learnt who they would be serving food to. At the protest's peak four entrances to the museum were blocked, so CAAT members were able to come face-to-face with military delegations. www.caat.org.uk/sciencemuseum

CONCERN OVER ACTIVITIES FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN AT FARNBOROUGH INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW

Forces Watch Press Release 13 July 2016

"Associated events at the Air Show include a major arms fair, civil aerospace exhibition and hosting of military delegations from some of the world's most repressive regimes. Most of the world's major arms companies also have a presence exhibiting a range of weaponry including drones and missile systems. There are over 60 exhibiting companies involved in the production of missile systems alone. Events on Futures Day (Friday, 15 July) are aimed at students in schools, universities and youth associations aged between 11-21. The day affords weapons manufacturers unique PR opportunities, including showcasing arms to children."

Read more: <http://www.forceswatch.net/news/concern-over-activities-school-children-farnborough-arms-fair-2>

TEXT: PAT GAFFNEY SPEAKS OUTSIDE PARLIAMENT AHEAD OF TRIDENT VOTE

Many hundreds gathered outside the Houses of Parliament for about three hours on 18 July, ahead of the vote on the renewal of Trident in the House of Commons. Pat Gaffney, General Secretary of Pax Christi, gave the following address:

"So many messages. So much energy. Such creativity. Students, faith groups, trades unions, scientists, and all of our traditional peace groups gathered here tonight. A powerful reminder of all the cooperation and good things to be grateful for in these past months. We have lobbied and written letters. We have taken part in vigils and protests. We have prayed that our Government will have the wisdom and integrity to vote against the renewal of Trident tonight.

Faith groups, including Pax Christi, the Quakers, Christian CND, Buddhists, Anglicans, Methodists are here tonight carrying a clear message "NO FAITH IN TRIDENT." We carried this same message through the streets of London in February and at AWE Burghfield in June. Last week we stood here in the Square during the Lobby of Parliament when this message was taken to our MPs. We have NO FAITH IN TRIDENT.

It is indeed an act of 'faithlessness' to claim that we can be protected with a weapon of mass destruction. People of faith say it is never permissible to use nuclear weapons or to threaten to commit mass murder with nuclear weapons. The very existence of nuclear weapons is an affront to and a theft from the poor and vulnerable of our world. In recent days these messages have been affirmed in statements from Church leaders which have also been communicated to MPs. Let me share some with you.

The Catholic Bishops of Scotland said: We urge the Government of the United Kingdom not to invest in a replacement for the Trident system and to begin the process of decommissioning these weapons with the intention of diverting the sums spent on nuclear weaponry to programs of aid and development. Church of Scotland said: We should be building peace through strong and courageous leadership and not by commissioning more nuclear weapons. The Baptist, Methodists and URC have said that the proposals to renew the Trident nuclear weapons system are "unwarranted" and "unethical." Roman Catholic Bishops England and Wales have urged that the decision taken tonight will include the intention and the steps to achieve our undertaking under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which obliges us to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Whatever happens tonight, our Members of Parliament have heard legal, humanitarian and moral arguments against Trident. I wonder if they are truly aware of the gravity of their decision? They cannot say they were uninformed! They cannot say the people were silent. We have shared our views and our visions. And whatever happens tonight, we have a community of people ready to respond in whatever way is needed. So, when the vote NOT to replace Trident is carried we will be ready for the next step. We will be there to ensure that the money, resources, skills, technology of TRIDENT are rapidly turned to meet the needs of the poor and used to prevent conflict and address the real threats to our earth and her people."

<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30535>

- MPs voted to renew Trident by 472 votes to 117 with 140 Labour MPs going against Jeremy Corbin to support the government.

BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Trident nuclear submarines carry up to 24 nuclear missiles. Each missile is 7-30 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Ahead of the vote on the renewal of Trident in Parliament on Monday, 18 July, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales today published the following statement on Friday, 15 July, 2016 at 5:58 pm on their website:

"Ten years ago, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales issued pastoral guidance on the morality of nuclear weapons, which stated that: 'The very existence of nuclear weapons has always posed grave moral questions. Their uniquely destructive power means that they belong in a different category from any other weapons... Our judgement is that, by decommissioning its nuclear weapons, the UK now has a unique opportunity to offer the international community an approach to security and legitimate self-defence without the unconscionable threat of nuclear destruction. At the same time it could give a new impetus to the wider process towards total nuclear disarmament.' That course of action was not taken.

We recognise the grave responsibility for national security that rests with our government and our parliament. We know that those charged with making the decision on whether to renew the UK's nuclear weapons programme will reflect seriously on whether their possession acts as an effective deterrent.

We ask them to reflect too on the view that the use of nuclear weapons can never be morally justified as their use would cause the mass deaths of innocent civilians and does not fit within the Just War tradition. Such use could never be a proportionate response.

When Pope Francis addressed the United Nations, he concluded: "An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction - and possibly the destruction of all mankind - are self-contradictory... There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in light and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons."

Parliament now has an opportunity to reinforce the extension and implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to which the UK is a signatory, and which obliges all who possess nuclear weapons to work towards their elimination. We pray that the decision taken by Parliament will include the intention and the steps to achieve that undertaking: the complete elimination of these weapons.

Rev Christopher Thomas, General Secretary, on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, 15 July, 2016
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30519#.V4kZzkekkeI.facebook>

COMMENT

It is good that the Bishops of England and Wales have finally put out a statement, but so late - on Friday... too late to be included in parish newsletters, and be part of Christian formation discussions or engagement with our MPs – it's as if they did not wish anyone to know about it ... I am reminded of the parable that Jesus told, that should be very familiar to all of the Bishops in the Church, of the foolish bridesmaids that were left out of the wedding party for lack of being ready in time with the oil for the lamps ... well our Bishops have had as long as everyone else to come up with not just a press statement, but also a pastoral letter about it to inform and light the faithful path on these matters, and they have only done so too late to be relevant - their light is too weak and came too late, just what Jesus said would be an irrelevant thing to do, lighting a candle and placing it under a bucket.

Deolinda Eltringham, Herts

TRIDENT WMDs REMAIN IMMORAL, WASTEFUL AND REDUNDANT

It is almost certain that the Westminster Parliament will this evening approve the expenditure of what will apparently be £31 billion immediately, and some £205 billion in the long run, on a renewed Trident nuclear missile system. I say "apparently" because, astonishingly, the sums involved (eye-watering as they are) have still not been properly pinned down in terms of through costs, and are likely to escalate way beyond what is being talked about at present.

The Conservative government, along with its Labour and DUP allies on this issue, is determined to spend obscene amounts of money on Weapons of Mass Destruction, primarily because of the prestige and influence it supposedly gives the crumbling UK on the world stage. The cover for this involves claims about "defence needs" and "national security" which have been ripped to shreds, not only by seasoned anti-nuclear campaigners, but by the government's own National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review (NSSDSR), by former Conservative Defence Secretary Michael Portillo, by senior military figures, by former United Nations weapons inspector Hans Blix, and by the Conservative chair of the influential Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, Sir Crispin Blunt MP, among many others.

NSSDSR, the government's senior advisory body, which it is choosing to ignore in a flurry of soundbites, concluded recently that there is "no direct threat to the UK or its vital interests from states developing weapons of mass destruction." Its exhaustive review listed international terrorism, cyber-attacks, public health scares and natural hazards among the many greater threats than nuclear war. Indeed, far from making the country safer, a new generation Trident theoretically makes the UK a target for the minority of world states possessing nuclear weapons. In addition, the threat of a nuclear terrorism, misfiring, or of an accident involving nuclear weapons is very real.

Trident is also an issue of basic belief, both for Christians and people of other faith traditions, and for ethical humanists. Justin Kenrick, writing for *Bella Caledonia*, observes that it is "a perverted potlatch, snake oil, charm to ward off evil. Like a protection charm that is worn around the neck while leaching poison into body and brain." Evidence of this came in the Prime Minister's unwavering response to SNP MP George Kerevan's telling question in the Commons this afternoon, when he asked Theresa May if she would be prepared to push the UK nuclear button to incinerate 100,000 or more innocent men, women and children in an instant. Unflinchingly, she replied "Yes!" This is quiet immorality on a monumental scale. In fact, the decision would not be in the PM's hands. Technically and politically, the "independent deterrent" is not finally under Britain's control, as the independent investigative journalists of *The Ferret* have spelled out. The country was misled on Brexit, and is being misled again on Trident and WMDs.

The semblance of democracy in this Parliamentary vote is a fig leaf to cover a culture of deception, profiteering by the military industry, vanity and hubris on the part of senior politicians, and a public anaesthetised by the way even the BBC (which has a duty of impartiality rooted in its public service ethos) refers to "the Trident nuclear deterrent" as if this was a fact. On the contrary, it is one of the key issues of dispute. Prime Minister May defended her willingness to commit mass murder by immediately adding that the purpose of deterrence was that she would not have to do so. But that in itself is a contradictory position. Deterrence is a dangerously unstable game of multiple bluff based precisely on the fact that she would commit such an indefensible act -- and, notwithstanding a pre-emptive 'first strike', would do so under conditions which would not save a single life, but would simply add to the sum of human annihilation and misery.

Britain's nuclear weapons, situated in Scotland against the democratic wishes of the population, parliament and government there, are not only wasteful (at a time of huge cuts to basic services) and redundant (from a military and strategic point of view), they are also fundamentally immoral. The churches have pointed this out in no uncertain terms.

Though the majority of trade unions oppose nuclear weapons, it is sad to see the leaders of UNITE and the GMB urging support for Trident on the basis of jobs. Since the 1976 Lucas Aerospace workers' alternative corporate plan in the face of arms industry redundancies, there has been a huge amount of research into alternative production and employment. The money saved by scrapping Trident dwarfs what is needed to ensure the security of the jobs it secures immediately, and those down the supply chain.

The root issue remains, however, that the use or threatened use of WMDs is a crime against humanity and is illegal under international law. The vote in the House of Commons to ignore this and press ahead regardless will bring more shame on a deeply soiled institution. But it does not end the struggle to rid the world of WMDs. It merely shows how necessary and tough that struggle against a culture of expensive, misguided death-dealing is.

© **Simon Barrow** 18 July 2016 <http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/node/23273> Simon Barrow is director of Ekklesia.

CHRISTIAN GROUPS RESPOND TO CHILCOTT REPORT

Christian peace campaigners have welcomed the release of the *Chilcot Report* into the 2003 war on Iraq, which directly caused the deaths of many thousands of people and destabilised the region - leading to the deaths of millions and conflicts continuing today. The report states: "We have concluded that the UK chose to join the invasion of Iraq before the peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted. Military action at that time was not a last resort."

Barbara Kentish from **Westminster Justice and Peace** said: "The report confirms what many of us suspected for many years - that the decision to attack Iraq was simply wrong. On that cold February day in 2003 when more than one million of us went on the streets to try to prevent disaster, we never envisaged SUCH disaster. Though we did not know that there was no imminent threat from Saddam Hussein, we knew the peaceful options had not been exhausted. The glorification of this war, as of subsequent military adventures in the Middle East, has been disgraceful. We need to put more resources into peace education and anti-militarism."

Bruce Kent, vice chair of CND said: "There is much justified anger about Tony Blair's role in launching in 2003 the disastrous war on Iraq. Had most of us been familiar with the UN Charter, the illegality of that 'war' would have been obvious from the outset. Article 42 of the UN Charter says plainly that the only body explicitly authorised to take military action, if all else fails, is the Security Council. It is not there to be implied or assumed by others from previous Security Council resolutions. Unhappily there is massive public ignorance about the Charter. In all my years I have never heard it mentioned in a sermon or a Pastoral letter. I have never seen a copy available in the church porch. We can indeed blame Blair. But we, of the universal church, are not free from blame for our own culpable ignorance."

Symon Hill, Co-ordinator of the Peace Pledge Union, said: "We are pleased to see John Chilcot drawing attention to the flimsiness of Tony Blair's case for war. But Blair did not invade Iraq single-handedly. Blair could ignore the British public because he knew soldiers would do what they were told. If we are to learn lessons from the Iraq war, let's recognise that democracy is not served by the existence of a large body of people who are required to obey orders without question, even orders to kill. No institution should be immune from criticism. The armed forces - rooted in violence, hierarchy and the recruitment of vulnerable teenagers - must be challenged." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30457>

Read the *Chilcot Report* in full here: <http://www.iraqinquiry.org.uk/the-report>

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT: A PERSONAL RESPONSE TO CHILCOT

Before John Chilcot took to the stage on Wednesday (6 July, 2016) to deliver his long expected report, I was filled with cynicism. I was convinced that the pre-publication hype would merely be the establishment's way of rapping Tony Blair's knuckles. When it came out, I imagined the document would be faintly critical, but that would be it.

So when I turned on the livestream my expectations were exceeding low. However, within seconds, I was pleasantly surprised with the unusual sensation of my jaw dropping as I realised for once my cynicism was totally unjustified. In the politest, most gentle of tones, the former civil servant took apart the politicians, intelligence services, and military for their appalling failures, with his carefully understated but devastating critique. As many of us argued at the time, there was no 'imminent threat' from Saddam Hussein and the UK rushed to war before all the options for peace had been explored. Tony Blair's actions undermined the UN Security Council, and his government's lack of planning for post-invasion Iraq led to the predictable rise of militias and Al Qaeda. The war took the lives of at least 150,000 Iraqi civilians, displaced a million and resulted in the deaths of 179 UK soldiers who should never have been there in the first place. And that's only a few of the highlights.

I was somebody who actively protested the war (and Tony Blair's preceding ones in Afghanistan, Kosova and Sierra Leone) but I feel nothing but sorrow that Chilcot's judgement vindicates all of us who tried to stop the disaster. If only the intelligence services and military leaders had resisted Blair's mission, if only the media (who in typical fashion have now turned like hyenas on the man they once feted) had been more challenging, if only the entire Labour Party, instead of a small group of rebels had shown backbone... The results could have been so different.

I began writing my novel '*Echo Hall*' a year after the war had 'ended'. At the time, the conflict felt too close to write about, and besides I had good plot reasons for setting the novel in the recent past. So my story began in 1990 during the build up to the 1991 Iraq War. And yet as I began to develop it, going back in time to previous wars (World War 1 and World War 2), the current situation in Iraq was always in my mind.

In 2003/4, I used to receive a regular email bulletin from Jo Wilding, an activist living in Karada, the district which lost 250 people in last week's truck bombing. Each post provided heartbreaking detail about the disintegration of civil society in Baghdad. These were made all the more poignant by the fact that at the time, we lived opposite Molesworth airbase where intelligence analysts produced reports that led to military actions contributing to the chaos that Jo was describing. (Julia Guest's searing film of Jo's time in Iraq, *A Letter to the Prime Minister* is still worth watching now.) Over the next decade the war never felt far away. In 2006 our friend Norman Kember was kidnapped and we learnt a little of the anxiety that ordinary Iraqis feel every day. (We are thankful that Norman was released. His fellow hostage Tom Fox was not so lucky, he died another victim in the pointless war).

We went on marches and vigils, and once my husband Chris had a brief fortnight in prison following an act of civil disobedience. When we moved to Oxford, I would watch, from my office at the county council, military planes carrying troops to Iraq. Sometimes, inquests for dead soldiers were held in the coroner's court at the base of our building. I'd walk into the hushed cafe filled with families and friends whose grief was tangible, and know the war was very close. All of this informed my writing. I didn't need Chilcot to tell me that the 2003 invasion was "an intervention that went badly wrong with consequences to this day": we've been seeing this for years. But it did confirm that my theme that unresolved conflict always resurfaces in the next generation was correct. Though I was writing about the past, I could see the direct link between the conflicts we witness today and those that preceded it. That a line can be drawn back from the mess of modern day Iraq through the 2003 and 1991 wars, the British occupation in World War 2 and post World War 1, to the Sykes-Picot agreement that started this whole sorry affair.

My novel is called '*Echo Hall*' for a reason; history repeats itself time and time again. It was more than ironic that Chilcot's critique of the military mistakes that led to the unnecessary loss of life, happened to be published in the same week we remember that other colossal military mistake, the Somme. Rudyard Kipling's words in '*A Dead Statesman*' written in 1919, could have been written about both situations. It was more than ironic that the report was published in the week we remembered the victims of the 7/7 London bombs and Baghdad experienced a terrible terrorist attack by ISIS. The consequences of the invasion continue to what end?

I don't believe that fiction changes the world, but I do believe it helps us understand it. It is my hope that *Echo Hall* can help us all try to make sense of it. Because there's one thing I am sure of – we cannot afford to keep making the same mistakes over and over again. We really do have to find another way.

© **Virginia Moffatt, Chief Operating Officer of Ekklesia** 8 July 2016 <http://www.ekkleia.co.uk/node/23244>

• It took me ten years to write '*Echo Hall*' and two years to get a publishing deal with the crowdfunding publisher '*Unbound*'. I believed it was relevant when I began it. I believe it is even more so today. If you would like to help make it happen, please visit <https://unbound.co.uk/books/echo-hall> and pledge your support. Many thanks, Virginia Moffatt.

CHILCOT - THE SADDEST TRUTH

As the Chilcot report was released, bereaved relatives of soldiers who died in Iraq uttered terrible truths. Reg Keys, whose son Tom was killed, said, "Unfortunately and sadly my son died in vain" as he was "deployed on the basis of a false premise". Another relative said their loved one had died, "unnecessarily and without just cause or purpose".

This realisation, that in a democracy young men and women can be wrongly sent to die and to kill for their country is heartbreakingly sad, but hugely significant. And it has profound implications for our attitudes to war and remembrance. Until it is widely acknowledged that lives lost in war are sometimes simply squandered, not just in history but in modern conflicts, we will fail to see military action as at best a grave last resort, and always a sign of failure.

If we are to learn from the disaster of Iraq, future remembrance events really need to reflect the fact that whilst every person killed was a precious human being who can never be replaced, whilst they gave their lives in good faith and with courage, whilst their deaths leave a pain that can never be healed for their families, their lives were not always sacrificed in a just or glorious cause. Sometimes their lives were sacrificed because of the hubris of a politician, or the incompetence of an administration. Remembrance, if it is to be true, needs to acknowledge that.

A more honest style of remembrance will help to give us a more realistic and questioning attitude, and perhaps save future generations of young people from wrongly believing that if their government sends them to put their lives at risk, they must always be doing so with just cause. <http://www.ekkleia.co.uk/node/23234>

© **Bernadette Meaden, Ekklesia associate and regular contributor.** Follow Bernadette on Twitter: [@BernaMeaden](https://twitter.com/BernaMeaden)

• **Read Green Party MP Caroline Lucas' speech to the 2003 demonstration against nuclear weapons here:** <https://www.carolinelucas.com/latest/my-speech-to-the-biggest-demonstration-in-british-history>

VATICAN ENVOY TO UN SPEAKS ON HYPOCRISY OF COUNTRIES WHO TALK PEACE BUT SELL WEAPONS

The broken Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and ongoing Syrian crisis were among topics touched on by the Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in statement on Tuesday, 12 July. In his statement to the UN Security Council during an open debate on '*The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question*' Archbishop Bernardito Auza reiterated Pope Francis' denouncement of those responsible for the Syrian crisis, especially those who provide weapons to fighters.

"Pope Francis denounces in the strongest possible terms all those responsible, from whichever side of the conflict in Syria they may come, for the senseless slaughter of civilians," Archbishop Auza said. "The Pope also denounces those who supply substantial amounts of money and weaponry to the fighters who kill and maim the innocent population and destroy civilian institutions and infrastructure," he added. "One cannot but lament the duplicity of simultaneously talking peace while supplying arms to those who kill, on every side of the conflict."

See Archbishop Auza's statement in full here: <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30505>

I WENT TO THE MARKET PLACE TO BUY BLOOD

I went to the market place to buy blood.
They showed me,
the most expensive one came from Paris,
the next came from Brussels.

I said, show me something cheaper.
They showed me the blood of Pakistan and Turkey,

I said, what about this? What's the cost of this?
He said nobody cares for this blood,
nobody wants it.
It's free and flows every day.

I cried, and asked, whose blood is this?
They replied, "The blood of Iraq."
#MyChildrenOfIraq #prayforiraq #allivesmatter

Later that night
I held an atlas in my lap
ran my fingers across the whole world
and whispered
where does it hurt?

it answered
everywhere
everywhere
everywhere

Warsan Shire
Somalian poet

extract from
What they did yesterday afternoon

• **Dr Caroline Hull, NW Manager for Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**, is heading to Iraq in early September. Caroline plans to visit various projects supported by ACN and to gather personal witness from Iraqi Christians struggling to survive in desperate circumstances. On her return, Caroline hopes to present some illustrated talks about her trip. If your parish, school or group would like to host a talk, please get in touch. 07815 538425 caroline.hull@acnuk.org | www.acnuk.org

PEACE PILGRIMAGE: FUNDRAISING FOR PEACE EDUCATION WORK

Pax Christi's Pat Gaffney is taking part in a peace pilgrimage to Vezelay, France to commemorate the 70 anniversary of the post-war pilgrimage for peace. Pat is raising money for the Christian Peace Education Fund. To sponsor her please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/z93lyuy>

Should any of you be 'moved' to undertake a sponsored activity you can raise money via JustGiving for the Christian Peace Education Fund... we have an account. Just let us know! Pax Christi 0208203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk
<https://twitter.com/paxchristiuk> <http://facebook.com/PaxChristiUK>

Support Pax Christi's work: <http://paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/>

HELP US CHANGE THE STORY

The stories we hear and the stories we tell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda. The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees. In the 1930s the *Kindertransport* saved the lives of Jewish children from Germany. In the 1970s the UK welcomed Ugandan Asians fleeing Idi Amin's regime, and in the 1990s we opened our doors to Kosovan refugees.

Today, more than 65 million people are displaced globally. Forced from their homes by violence, fear, desperation, or poverty, each person is made in God's image, and is deserving of safety, freedom and hope. In a society divided over immigration, our message of shared humanity is more important than ever. Yet, refugees are often portrayed negatively in the media. We are told that they are drain on our economy and that we should be fearful about the impact of immigration on our communities. We hear far less about the positive contributions that refugees make, how historically refugees have enhanced our society, and about the willingness of local people to make refugees welcome.

Here in the UK, faith communities are at the heart of a different story, galvanising local support to find homes for people forced from their countries by violence and conflict and now languishing in desperate situations. As one of the world's richest countries, the UK has a legal and moral responsibility to protect those fleeing from violence. But so far, the response of our government has not matched the scale of the crisis, nor the compassion of those who have already opened their homes to refugees. Instead, poor countries - like Lebanon and Iraq - are hosting 86% of the world's refugees.

We believe that everybody deserves a safe place to call home, and we stand for a UK that refuses to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people seeking sanctuary. We are urging that the UK government must commit to host at least double the number of refugees it has currently promised, and do more to ensure safe and legal passage for those escaping violence to travel to and through Europe. On 19 September 2016 President Obama will host a high-level meeting to address large movements of refugees and migrants, with the aim of bringing countries together behind a more humane and coordinated approach. Before then, we need to change the story.

Eirlys Jessop, Regional Coordinator Christian Aid

Find out more at www.christianaid.org.uk/changethestory and urge your local newspaper to *Change The Story* about refugees.

LANCASTER IN BLOOM FOR REFUGEES

Florists from north-west England came together to produce floral displays to raise money to support displaced and refugee families in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East. The event, entitled ***The Work of Your Hands***, took place from 25th - 27th June 2016 at Lancaster Cathedral, organised by Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need. Nearly 1,000 people visited from all over north-west England and Wales to see floral arrangements which focused on the history of the charity and its work. The flower festival raised more than £6,000 which ACN will use to support three families of five in Syria and Iraq for one year each. Much of the fundraising came from the sponsorship of the paper flowers in the ACN Prayer Garden set up inside the cathedral, by benefactors who donated to 'plant' a bloom in memory of family or friends. Messages of support and inscriptions in memory of a loved one or a private intention were also added to paper leaves in the garden. The three-day event was attended by students of the Cathedral Catholic Primary School in Lancaster. Year Six pupils created six window boxes inspired by the charity's Child's Bible - *God Speaks to His Children*, which were on display and raised over £500 through the initiative '*Prayers from Our Hearts*', available to primary schools wishing to support ACN's work with refugees and displaced people in the Middle East.

Dr Caroline Hull, ACN's North-West Manager, described the success of the event. She said: "*The Work of Your Hands*' has been a wonderful experience from start to finish. We've had so much support from the flower clubs and florists who worked to create the stunning displays and from the clergy and parishioners at Lancaster Cathedral who made us feel so welcome and provided such warm hospitality. When we contacted florists and flower clubs throughout the region and sent each group a theme and a bit of background information about our charity, we never dreamed that displays of such beauty and insight would be the result. From the two floral pigs rooting at the feet of the Bacon Priest to the stark simplicity of the red arrangements in the display about persecuted clergy around the world, *The Work of Your Hands* drove home the powerful message of ACN: Persecuted Christians need our help and together, through prayer, information and action, ACN and its many benefactors can ease the plight of the suffering Church." **Report from Clare Creegon. Aid to the Church in Need:** www.acnuk.org
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30447>

CATHOLIC PARISHES JOIN PILOT SCHEME TO ASSIST SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILIES

Bishops and Catholic parishes have welcomed the government's launch today (19 July) of a 'community sponsorship scheme' for Syrian refugees. The scheme gives parishes the chance to get involved in personally welcoming and supporting Syrian refugees as they arrive in the UK and then helping them to take the responsibility for their own resettlement and integration in a community. The first families to arrive under the community sponsorship scheme will arrive later this summer. A parish in Salford diocese will be the first to take part in the scheme. The Catholic Church, led by Caritas Salford, has been heavily involved in the putting together of this scheme and those involved have thanked Richard Harrington MP, and his team, for their hard work in bringing this scheme to fruition. Community sponsorship is the best way of channelling the outpouring of support, concern and generosity across the country for vulnerable Syrian refugees made homeless and destitute by conflict and war.

Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, said: "Last year, Pope Francis invited every parish, religious house and monastery in Europe to respond to the growing refugee crisis by offering a place of sanctuary to families fleeing from war and persecution in their home countries. The Pope called on our generosity and solidarity to recognise and act upon our common humanity. Now we are all able to take up that call with the launch of the community sponsorship scheme for Syrian refugees. Catholics have been keen to get involved in helping to resettle refugees in the UK, responding to the situation with kindness and compassion as we are called to when confronted by those in need. However, that generosity needs to be channelled and we are therefore delighted that community sponsorship is being launched in the UK by the government; Catholic charities have been involved with shaping the scheme and we already have groups keen to sign up and help. This innovative scheme will enable everyone to get involved with welcoming refugees, offering a very real and tangible way for people to help new arrivals settle into their communities. Caritas Salford is leading the way for the Catholic community, with St Monica's parish in Salford Diocese part of the pilot scheme. I encourage all those parishes and groups who are keen to help to contact their Diocesan Refugee Co-ordinator or Caritas Social Action Network (who are able to give full details on a national level) to get further details on how they can assist in this sponsorship scheme, which is the best way of helping those Syrian refugees in need."

Sean Ryan, the responsible officer for the community sponsor St Monica's, said: "The Catholic Church has been heavily involved in putting this together and after a huge amount of work, both the Home Office and the local authority are ready to give the go-ahead. We now look forward to receiving the first families later this summer. There has been a lot of interest from other Catholic parishes and groups who want to get involved. They have been calling us and also Caritas Salford, where Mark Wiggin has been at the forefront of this project, so St Monica's should be the first of many parishes take on the resettlement of Syrian families.

Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford, said: "I am delighted that St Monica's parish in Flixton is now able to welcome a Syrian refugee family through the government's community sponsorship as it launches this week. We are always called to respond to hatred with love, to be dedicated to justice and to respond to need with generosity. It is a source of pride that the parish of St Monica's has worked so hard to get everything ready to be part of this pilot scheme. There is tremendous generosity throughout the parishes and St Monica's, as host for the Syrian family, has shown how this generosity can be channelled into care for those people who have lost everything. Caritas Salford has also played a key part in sponsoring the parish and offering guidance throughout. Our hope is that through this pilot scheme other parishes and groups can be encouraged and inspired so that the terrible suffering of many Syrian families can be alleviated."

For more information see: www.maranathacommunity.org.uk or www.caritassalford.org.uk or www.csan.org.uk
<http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=30540>

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET MENTAL HEALTH GET DROWNED OUT BY BREXIT

As she entered Number 10, Theresa May announced herself as a social reformer committed to tackling the inequalities and injustices that persist in Britain. This was a welcome statement of intent, albeit one that will be overshadowed by the Brexit negotiations and economic instability that look set to dominate the early part of her premiership. Keeping unfashionable social issues high on the political agenda will be tough, and the record of the previous Conservative governments hardly inspires confidence. But if she really hopes to secure a legacy as a bold reformer and a champion for those left on the margins of society, May must succeed where her predecessor fell short by showing the drive and ambition to act on her promising early rhetoric around mental health. The challenge was succinctly put on the steps of Downing Street: "If you suffer from mental health problems, there's not enough help to hand."

Mental health has always been the 'Cinderella service' in the NHS, accounting for around 13% of NHS funding despite making up a quarter of the burden of illness. People with mental ill health do not enjoy the same rights of access to evidence-based treatment, close to home and on a timely basis, as those with physical conditions. All too often they are denied the treatment they need, or are shunted across the country in search of a hospital bed during a crisis.

The Liberal Democrats spearheaded a genuine momentum for change in the Coalition Government. One of my proudest moments as a minister was launching a new five-year blueprint for transforming mental health services for children and young people, backed by £1.25bn in funding. We delivered a historic agreement on transforming mental health crisis care. And critically, we introduced the first ever access rights and maximum waiting time standards in mental health, guaranteeing fast access to effective treatment for people with common mental health conditions and psychosis. The mission to achieve genuine equality for mental health was taking shape, and David Cameron's majority Conservative Government had a solid platform to build on. But he depressingly failed to continue this progress – and indeed, the momentum has stalled more dramatically than most of us anticipated. Promised investment in children's mental health care failed to materialise in the scale promised. The scandal of sending people long distances from home to receive treatment is as widespread as ever.

In February, the Mental Health Taskforce delivered a landmark strategy for ending the historic discrimination against people with mental ill health in the NHS; five months on, the Government has still not set out how it intends to ensure that this vision becomes reality. Most outrageous of all, there is evidence of a failure to properly implement the flagship new access standards in mental health which came into force in April. In contrast, performance against key targets in the physical health system continues to be examined in forensic detail every week in the Department of Health.

Britain needs a Prime Minister who will place mental health at the heart of their agenda. My challenge to Theresa May is to seize the initiative and make this a key priority for her government. We cannot afford to let mental health get drowned out by Brexit and the wider chaos that has engulfed our political system. If the moral case for action is not compelling enough, then the estimated £105bn annual economic cost of mental illness will surely be a test of the pragmatism so often celebrated by May's colleagues. Her maiden comments as PM hit the right note as she identified poor mental health care as a leading social malaise. While it remains to be seen whether she lives up to the weight of expectation that will now follow, some have already suggested that she will pursue her priorities with greater resolve than her predecessor – giving pride of place to policy rather than PR, substance over style. It's the sort of gritty determination that the mental health community could welcome after a year of inertia from Whitehall. May has a historic opportunity to be remembered as the Prime Minister who made a profound difference to the lives of the one in four people who will suffer from a mental illness. Let's hope she doesn't squander it. **Norman Lamb MP** 14 July 2016
http://www.writeyou.co.uk/we_cannot_afford_to_let_mental_health_get_drowned_out_by_brexit

LAITY MUST MAKE ITS VOICE HEARD SAYS FORMER PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

Mary McAleese, former President of Ireland (1997-2011), says it is essential for the future of the Church that the laity speaks out and is able to enter into dialogue with the bishops. In conversation with journalist and broadcaster Clifford Longley at Westminster Cathedral Hall on 23 June in a meeting organised by ACTA Southwark, Mrs McAleese shared her views on how the Church is responding to the vision for it set out by Pope Francis. She told the audience of nearly 150 how, at the end of her second term as President, she felt compelled by the sexual abuse crisis in the Church to go to Rome to study Canon Law in an attempt to discover how such things could have been allowed to happen. What she found during her time there convinced her that both culturally and organisationally the Church was not properly equipped for its leadership role. While she welcomed the new direction given by Pope Francis, she expressed concern that the management structures and practice were not yet in place to bring it into effect. "When you discover a matter that needs investigation," she said, "the standard approach in civil society is to set up a representative group of people with relevant knowledge and expertise to examine the facts and put forward a 'white paper' that can then be discussed with those in authority, laws amended where necessary and an appropriate action plan implemented. Warm words alone are not sufficient."

She was also highly critical of the lack of consultation of women in the Church, most obviously by celibate bishops discussing Marriage and the Family. To deny a consultative role to half the members of the Church in this way deprives the Church of many gifts. Responding to questions from the floor, she relayed her anguish on first hearing from her son the distress he had suffered from being gay. She emphasised that young people do not choose to be gay and highlighted the difficulty for Catholics when they discover that the Church they belong to treats them as 'disordered' or worse. Commenting on her time at the Pontifical Gregorian University, she criticised what she referred to as "the outdated clericalist training" of priests which does not adequately prepare them for collaborative ministry as envisaged by Vatican 2. She had no easy solutions to offer but said that there was a responsibility on the lay members of the Church to contribute to discussions on the development and implementation of Church teaching and that it was vital for the Church for that voice to be heard.

<http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/11-news/323-laity-must-make-its-voice-heard-says-former-president-of-ireland>

PREPARING FOR CREATION TIME

Ellen Teague writes: Eco-Congregation Scotland has resources for **Creation Time 2016** (1 September - 4 October, Feast of St Francis). The material, from an ecumenical writing group, follows the theme, **'Followers of Jesus, Caring for Creation'**. In 1989 the Ecumenical Patriarch suggested that 1 September, the first day of the Orthodox Church's year, should be observed as a day "of protection of the natural environment." Ten years later the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) widened this proposal, urging churches to adopt a **Time for Creation** stretching from 1 September to the feast of St Francis on 4 October. This was endorsed by the 3rd European Ecumenical Assembly in Sibiu, Romania in 2007, recommending the period "be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change."

- **Download resources for Creation Time at:** <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/creation-time/>
- **Liverpool J&P and CAFOD's prayer resource for Creation Time** is available from the J&P office. The resource aims to stimulate reflection, prayer and discussion by putting together the Sunday Gospel readings, excerpts from **'Laudato Si'**, and stories from home and overseas. It is designed for use by parish groups. **Contact** s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk 0151 522 1040 www.liverpool-catholic.org
- The Justice and Peace Group of St Alban's Macclesfield have issued a warm invitation to their parish and others to join in some or all of this period of daily reflection, enjoyment and action as stewards of creation. With this in mind they have published a calendar **"Celebrating the Season of Creation Day by Day."** Details Keith Taylor 01625-429915 SKeithTay@aol.com.

Lancaster Faith and Justice Administrator Margaret McSherry adds: Last year Pope Francis established 1 September as the **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. The annual Day of Prayer is inspired by his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared earth. Pope Francis calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."

- **To access resources go to** <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/environment-group/>
- **CAFOD has prepared resources for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2016 at:** <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/World-Day-of-Prayer>
- **Columban JPIC service for the World Day of Prayer for Creation 1 September 2015 at:** <http://www.columbans.co.uk/news/world-day-of-prayer-for-creation-an-ecumenical-service/>

Pope Francis prayer - a Christian prayer in union with creation taken from *Laudato Si'*

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love.
Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,
help us to protect all life to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you! Amen.

SOUNDS OF PEACE

Peace One Day has partnered with Musicians without Borders to create the Sounds of Peace initiative. The initiative aims to harness and utilise the highly significant power of music in enhancing community togetherness, tolerance, empathy and peace by devising and e-distributing a community music workshop toolkit/lesson plan. The highly experienced community music lead trainers at Musicians without Borders have created and developed content for this toolkit/lesson plan, and Peace One Day is proud to present this as an incredibly relevant and effective way of celebrating Peace Day, 21 September. The toolkit/lesson plan consists of very easy-to-follow steps that anyone, not only musicians, can use to lead the workshop in their classrooms, communities, families, groups, etc. The aim is to benefit groups and individuals worldwide, giving a tool to enhance community togetherness, tolerance, empathy and peace through a community music workshop when marking Peace Day.

<http://www.peaceday.org/get-involved/music-dance/sounds-of-peace>

Musicians without Borders uses the power of music to bridge divides, connect communities, and heal the wounds of war. They work in the Balkans, the Middle East, Central Africa, and Western Europe. They train local musicians and community leaders to use music as a tool for social change. Their long-term commitment allows their participants the time to develop skills and talents, process grief and loss, and build bridges of reconciliation in societies divided by recent or ongoing conflict. Their professional trainers are specialised in running community music projects with people dealing with trauma, fear and isolation as a result of war and conflict. They work closely with local musicians and organizations to build sustainable projects in response to local needs. From successful projects they develop models, methodologies and trainings to adapt for other regions.

To find out more about Musicians without Borders' work, go to: <https://www.musicianswithoutborders.org/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

4 "Was it worth it?" Romy Tiongco reflects on his 9 years as Mayor of Damulog in the Philippines. 7.30-9pm Hoole URC, Hoole Road Chester, CH2 3NT. Romy was one-time Regional Co-ordinator for Christian Aid in the NW, and an active supporter of Chester World Development Forum. He is back in the UK for a few weeks, and this evening will give us the opportunity to hear of his inspirational work of reconciliation and development at local and wider levels in the Philippines. Organised by MuCAARD-UK, 01244 320562.

5-8 BIG RIDE 2016 – for Palestine. Route Liverpool to Birmingham. The Big Ride is an initiative by supporters of the Palestinian people which combines a love of cycling with practical solidarity and awareness raising, especially around the plight of children in Gaza. This year a number of regional bike rides include a 4-stage route from Liverpool to Birmingham, with a focus on the arms trade. Further information at www.redspokes.co.uk/bigride or www.liverpoolfriendsofpalestine.co.uk or email chesterfriendsofpalestine@hotmail.com

6 Carlisle Unity Festival Carlisle City Centre 10am-5pm – fostering good relations and celebrating diversity in the city.

6 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Flower Memorial 8pm at The Groves, Chester. Annual gathering for readings and silent reflection and the dropping of flowers on the river. To remember all those who died and suffered as a result of the atomic bombs dropped in 1945, and in the firm belief that it must never happen again. Organised by local Quakers. Contact 01244 679051.

6&9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki paxchristi.org.uk Opportunity for you to have stalls/vigils/services/prayers for peace in your community or public space. Please let us know of your plans and we will add them to our events listing on the website. We will have our annual vigils on both days outside Westminster Cathedral from 10am - 5pm. Let us now if you can help out. **Find resources here:** <http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/prayer-and-seasonal/>

7 Pax Christi Liverpool remember **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

9 Commemoration of the execution of Blessed Franz Jagerstatter. Pax Christi are holding an ecumenical service in the Crypt Chapel, Westminster Cathedral at 6.30 pm, followed by the interfaith pilgrimage to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park for Nagasaki day commemorations. <http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/peace-people-2/blessed-franz-jagerstatter/>

SEPTEMBER

1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Campaigning-news/World-Day-of-Prayer>

1 Anniversary of the tragic death of Aylan Kurdi

7 First anniversary of Syrian resettlement scheme

8 Housing Justice Roadshow Wrexham, St Giles church. Our roadshows are meant to show local churches how, using any of our three projects, and working in partnership with various stakeholders in the region, they can make a significant contribution towards addressing the housing crisis. Partnering with us for this event will be Gweini which serves the Christian voluntary sector in Wales, as well as Wales & West housing association. View the flyer and programme of the event here:

http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/data/_resources/673/WREXHAM-ROADSHOW-PROVISIONAL-FLYER-PROGRAMME.pdf

Book your place here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/housing-justice-roadshow-wrexham-homelessness-housing-need-and-the-role-of-the-church-tickets-26327447103>

8 Money Talks? Christian action on money and debt in local communities public lecture 5-6.30pm by Prof John Barclay 'Debt, Gift And Reciprocity: from Charity to Co-Interest in the New Testament'. St John's College, Durham University (see below)

9 Money Talks? day conference 9.30am-4pm St John's College, Durham University. The conference will include findings from participatory research with local churches and groups across the North East of England and London between 2015 and 2016. National and regional organisations supporting responses to debt and financial issues will be present alongside local churches, charities and academics to share perspectives and consider collective actions. Funded by the William Leech Research Fellowship. To book your free place on the public lecture and/or the day conference, or for further details on the programme, please use the following weblink: <https://moneytalksdurham.eventbrite.co.uk>

10 "Jump for Jamie" 11am-4pm Halkyn Church, Halkyn, CH8 8BU. A sponsored abseil to raise money for the charity *Jamie's Fund* and their project to rebuild the Mental Health Unit in Kisiizi, Uganda (with which the Countess of Chester Hospital has links). Raise a minimum of £50 sponsorship and abseil 60ft down the tower of Halkyn Church! www.jamiesfund.org.uk 01352 741646.

10 Citizens planning a National Sanctuary Summit

13 CWDF Forum meeting 6.45-9pm Regular bi-monthly meeting at The Unity Centre, Cuppin Street Chester, CH1 2BN.

An open meeting, for all our groups and individual members to discuss future campaigns. Contact 01244 350323

www.chesterwdf.org.uk

15 CAFOD Furness meeting St Mary's Parish Centre, Barrow 7-8.30pm

17 Rooted and Grounded in Love: a prayer taster day St Mary's Church & Ambleside Church Centre, Ambleside, LA22 9DH 10am-4pm. Keynote Speaker: Roy Searle of the Northumbria Community, **Loving God and Loving Others - the Great Commandment and the Great Commission**. Roy will help us explore how love of God relates to living missionally; alone and together. **Workshops:** • Prayer Stations - Creative Reflective Spaces • Christian Meditation • Exploring and Experiencing Celtic Spirituality • Praying with Music • Emotion and Spirituality • Cumbria Church Leaders - A number of Cumbria's Church Leaders will share their own spiritual journeys in discussion groups, including the Anglican, Methodist, Orthodox and Salvation Army Leaders. Cost: £12 (please notify us if reduced rate needed) Book by email: lkctic@yahoo.com or call Helen on 07503 931196

17 NJPN Networking Day 10.30am-4pm at St John the Evangelist Church Hall, South Parade, Bath BA2 4AF. Speaker: Phil McCarthy, Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) – **Working together to seek a holistic approach to current issues**. Plus opportunities for networking with justice and peace activists from around the country and updates from national agencies. Contact Ann Kelly admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk 020 7901 4864 or see www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/

17 National global action day in advance of the **UN Summit** (see below 19 September)

19 UN Summit on refugees and migrants <https://refugeesandmigrants.un.org>

20 CAFOD Carlisle meeting New Waterton Hall, Carlisle 7-8.30pm

21 Peace One Day <http://www.peaceoneday.org>

26 CAFOD Preston meeting St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Preston 7-8.30pm

29 "Climate Change – Why should you care?" Macclesfield Library Jordangate, SK10 1EE 7.30 pm. A simple and compelling presentation of the facts about global warming, by Colin Fenwick Bsc, based on five years of research. This event is organised by St Alban's J&P Group and supported by HOPE (the grouping formerly known as Churches Together in Macclesfield). Details: Keith Taylor 01625-429915 SKeithTayl@aol.com.

OCTOBER

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

8 Journeys to Justice, a joint J&P/Caritas,Salford /CAFOD conference at Holy Cross College, Bury 11am-4pm. Details to follow. Get the date in your diary!

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

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

22 Advance notice: Joint environmental event between **F&J Lancaster** and **J&P Liverpool** at Storey House, Lancaster.

THREADING DREAMS EXHIBITION Liverpool Town Hall 10am-4pm each day

Monday 15 – Thursday 25 August and also Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 September
An exhibition of textiles and embroidery from the Sreepur Village Bangladesh

Handmade cards, silk scarves and other gifts for sale – all proceeds to the 600 children and 150 destitute mothers who live at Sreepur and to the street children project that we operate in the slums of Dhaka
Free entry

Details: Rubina Porter rubina44@btinternet.com

- Many items taken from the daily e-bulletin Independent Catholic News www.indcatholicnews.com or from Ekklesia www.ekklesia.co.uk both invaluable free resources for up-to-date J&P news, events and in-depth articles. Sign up for comprehensive weekly e-bulletins from National J&P Network 020 7901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

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