

Justice and Peace

Issue 94 Summer 2016

In this issue

<i>Noon in Galilee, dawn by the Japanese sea, The Spirit hovers silently, while the Enola Gay drones away. Four men on a mountain top; 350,000 down in the valley. The Son of Man and a bomb Christened 'Little Boy'. Silently the cloud descends; just as silently a parachute unfurls. Four men see nothing but Jesus, while 75,000 never see again. Whiter than any new bleached cloth the face of Christ, brighter than a thousand suns the flash. "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." This is the nuclear age, be very afraid. And the clouds weep their atomic rain. Christ is transfigured and the world transfixed, the dawning of the light of Christ, the beginning of the nuclear winter. The date of both – August 6</i>	
Rev. Bob Esdaile From Pax Christi 'prayers for Hiroshima Day 70 years on.'	
	❖ A guide to refugees, asylum seekers & migrants 2
	❖ 'Welcoming the stranger' Liverpool J & P Commission AGM 3
	❖ NJPN conference at Swanwick 3
	❖ EU Referendum 4
	❖ Election reflection 5
	❖ CHAS Diamond jubilee challenge 5
	❖ Book review - 'Foxes have holes' 5
	❖ No future for Trident 6
	❖ 'Non-violence and Just Peace' Report on Pax Christi conference 7
	❖ Supporting peace and justice in Israel/Palestine 8
	❖ Open Bethlehem - film and campaign 8 & 9
	❖ TTIP and CETA update 10 & 11
	❖ Destitution in UK: Rowntree Foundation report 11
	❖ Dates and addresses 12

Archdiocese of Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission

Diocese of Shrewsbury Commission for the Promotion of Justice, Peace & Social Responsibility



WELCOMING THE STRANGER

A guide: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants.

One of the priorities for the Liverpool Justice and Peace Commission this year was to do something useful to help to reduce some of the confusion and misinformation that surrounds the Refugee and Asylum Seeker situation. We are very glad to have produced a 52 page booklet which has been published by Churches Together in the Merseyside Region (CTMR). The guide was a real ecumenical project, written by a subgroup of the Justice and Peace Commission which includes members of the Anglican diocese, with Together Liverpool influential in the key decision to include illustrations. We think it is ground-breaking in the way that it brings together clear information, stories, info-graphics, prayers and a list of useful contacts. We hope that it will help churches and other groups find a way to respond positively to the refugee crisis.

The ten easy to read sections begin with explanations of how the words 'asylum seeker', 'refugee' and 'migrant' are used, before exploring the reasons why people flee their countries in the first place. The booklet gives important factual information and busts myths that have grown up to describe this national and global crisis. Importantly the document offers clear guidance and support to help church communities and others to offer practical help as they seek to welcome the stranger.

The booklet intends to *"inspire us to 'see, judge, and act', a process, in the Christian tradition, of reading and responding to the signs of the times. We aim to provide the basic information which will allow the reader to inquire further, and judge the matter for themselves, so that we can respond and act as Christians to the plight of asylum seekers and refugees."*

One of the most moving sections of the booklet is the collection of stories from actual refugees and asylum seekers. The stories and the straightforward information make the booklet an easy to understand and easy to use guide for anyone who feels overwhelmed by the current crisis. The stories are backed up with photographs; the facts are supported by diagrams.

The call for action to all churches and communities include:

- Helping new arrivals to integrate into local communities
- Donating money to groups and charities who help asylum seekers and refugees
- Donating clothes and goods to these organisations
- Volunteering to develop skills, like teaching English to asylum seekers and refugees
- Helping asylum seekers with transport costs, like buying saver tickets or travel passes
- Campaigning and adding our Christian voices to the local and national picture
- Praying and reflecting, and keeping the issue in the forefront of our minds
- Supporting the City of Sanctuary and Places of Welcome local and national movements

The booklets were produced primarily for church groups and have been distributed to all the parishes that have asked for them in either the CoE or RC dioceses, to the reformed churches and to the Quakers. Copies were made available during the Christ Mass at both cathedrals and will be available in the Metropolitan Cathedral during Year of Mercy pilgrimages. They have proved popular outside church circles and have been welcomed by local authorities and refugee groups. Requests for copies have come from places as different as Huddersfield, Leeds, Luton, Plymouth, Salford, Southwark and Westminster.

We printed 20,000 copies and have less than a third of them left. The booklet can be downloaded from the archdiocesan website www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/refugeesituation and printed copies are available from LACE.

This is the most expensive project the J&P Commission has ever been involved with and it was only possible because of funding from both dioceses and CTMR. To make a second edition possible, we are asking groups outside the CTMR region for £1 per copy and for postage.

"When Pope Francis reminded us of our duty to respond to the refugee situation he touched our hearts and our consciences. This booklet will help to remove some of the confusion surrounding this complex situation so that we will be better informed. We can then hope to make wise decisions about how to use our resources in the face of this continuing crisis." Archbishop Malcolm McMahon Archdiocese of Liverpool

Editor: This is an excellent most helpful publication. Please take time to look at it and encourage others to do the same.



Liverpool Justice & Peace Commission Annual Assembly
WELCOMING THE STRANGER **Saturday June 25th**



at LACE Conference Centre, Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA
10.00 – 4.00 Registration from 9.30

Prayer: Fr Tom Cullinan; stories from Asylum Seekers and Refugees; Speaker: Fr Damian Howard SJ; insights from Councillor Frank Hont and others. Practical workshops and informative market place. Hot lunch provided. Suggested donation £10.

Contact : Steve Atherton Tel: 0151 522 1080

email: s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

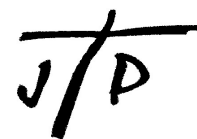
“The refugee crisis is one of the most urgent facing our region, our nation, our country and our world. As a church we are called and moved to respond to help those in need. We must work together, as together we are most effective. That is why I am happy to support this initiative by Churches Together in the Merseyside Region, to help the local churches to work together to welcome and help a stranger in need.”
Bishop Paul Bayes, Diocese of Liverpool

“As human beings, we recognise that those who arrive seeking refuge in our country, need to be welcomed, supported and helped to integrate within our communities. As Christians, we can be a key catalyst in developing ‘communities of welcome’ by both developing our buildings as places of welcome, but also working with others within our neighbourhoods to provide opportunities for integration and relationship building.”

Rev. Phil Jump, North Western Baptist Regional Minister

National Justice & Peace Network 38th Annual Conference

Organised in partnership with NJPN Environment Group, Ekklesia,
Together for the Common Good



*Justice, Power and Responsibility: How Can Democracy Work for
the Common Good?*

Friday 15 - Sunday 17 July 2016

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

SPEAKERS: Jon Cruddas MP is the Labour member for Dagenham and Rainham, having first been elected for Dagenham in 2001. From 2012 to 2015 he was in the Shadow Cabinet as Policy Co-ordinator for the Labour Party. Influenced by Catholic Social Teaching, he is developing a virtue-based model of politics.

Jenny Sinclair is the daughter of the late Bishop David Sheppard, who had a celebrated working partnership in Liverpool with Archbishop Derek Worlock and Free Church leaders. Four years ago she felt moved by the Spirit and founded a project, Together for the Common Good, to help establish a dialogue with all people of good will aimed at change. See www.togetherforthecommongood.co.uk

Takura Gwatinyanya is the Program Manager of Caritas Harare. His special interest is in the implementation of sustainable development projects that promote engagement of civil society through public and private partnerships.

Nick Dearden has been Director of *Global Justice Now* since 2013. In his previous post as Director of Jubilee Debt Campaign, he built relationships with campaigners in the global south. Current priorities include campaigning against TTIP and other damaging trade treaties, and for food sovereignty.

CONFERENCE CHAIR: Christine Allen, Director, Policy and Public Affairs at Christian Aid. Christine was Executive Director of Progressio for 10 years and was part of the LiveSimply Executive.

Panel Discussion: Chair: Simon Barrow, Writer, commentator, theologian, journalist; Co-Director of the Christian think-tank, Ekklesia

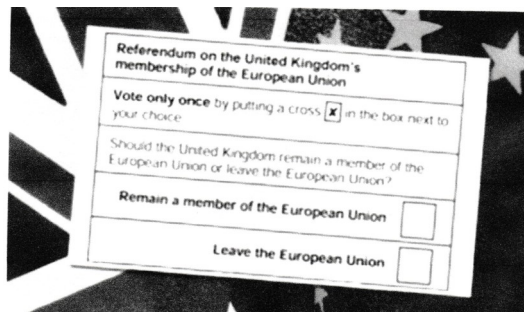
More details and booking form available from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX
020 7901 44864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk or download <http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/>



EU REFERENDUM

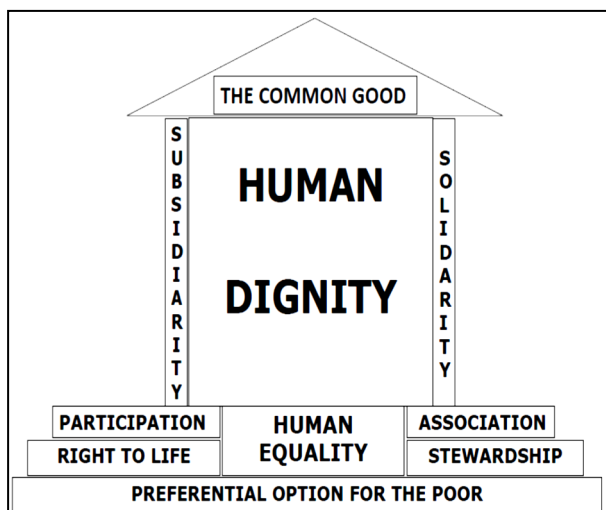
Steve Atherton writes:

Faith is not a private matter that can be kept in a box reserved for private piety. We must get involved in society. On June 23rd we will have the chance to vote in the IN/OUT referendum on membership of the European Union. I imagine that most people already know how they will vote because most of us make decisions with our hearts rather than with our heads. That's why the media and politicians tend to appeal to emotions rather than reason when they want to influence us. *



In my own case, it's hard to imagine voting for Brexit because I was a student at the time of the previous referendum and have been passionately pro-European ever since. In discussions on the EU, I think of the two world wars and am thankful that disagreements can now be settled without recourse to slaughter; I think of the minimum wage and employment protection and other social justice measures that the EU introduced and the UK resisted; I think of the EU social fund that rebuilt large parts of the North West of England. When I hear bitter complaints about Brussels inefficiency I think that it's a price worth paying while we pursue the reforms needed to remove bureaucratic red tape.

The founding fathers of the EU were familiar with the Cardijn 'See – Judge – Act' framework and used the principles of Catholic Social Teaching in designing the union. It's clear that the original intention of the EU was to protect human dignity, to promote the common good with subsidiarity and solidarity integral to the European project. Even the European flag has Catholic roots, being inspired by the stars around the feet of Mary.



The telling argument for Brexit would be if these principles of the common good, human dignity, fraternal solidarity, subsidiarity, mutuality and social harmony were not borne out by what actually happened in member states. The example of what has happened to Greece shows that the EU solution has not prevented massive poverty among ordinary citizens. Have the founding principles been abandoned?.

Some respected Anglican commentators are calling Brexit "The second reformation" and are casting Brussels as the new Rome that has to be defied and resisted. That isn't an argument that particularly appeals to Roman Catholics!

Now, having admitted my point of view, I have a duty to test my opinions by listening to those with whom I disagree. I want to put my cross on the ballot paper with an open mind.

Finally, most of the public discussion about the referendum is framed in terms of economic benefits to the UK with very little said about philosophical or wider ethical issues. Whatever the outcome of the referendum, neither the geographic proximity of the UK to the rest of Europe will change nor the need to have shared responses to such issues as trade, refugees and terrorism. If staying in means that we still have to shape the EU along with others, then leaving means that we will have to engage with "partners" who will be less inclined to give us what we want. The point is that it takes two to partner, and we simply do not know what can be guaranteed.

*The first draft of that paragraph included 'We should resist the temptation to take our ball back and go off to play in the darkness on the outskirts of Europe.' but I only include it here to illustrate how easy it is to become emotional and use pejorative language in place of reasoned argument.

The Church of England and the Church of Scotland offer a very interesting website to discuss European issues in the run up to the EU referendum: www.reimaginingeurope.co.uk

The best book on the subject is *A Soul for the Union* by Ben Ryan (pub Theos)

AN ELECTION REFLECTION

Anne O'Connor writes:

The May elections threw up very little in the way of change except UKIP's first success in Wales winning a total of six seats. As one voter interviewed on the BBC news explained: 'it was all about immigration and keeping jobs secure for Welsh people.'

As many of the national newspapers commented on 7 May, the real winners were two very different people who share a common touch and a humble background: Ruth Davidson, leader of the Scottish Conservatives, and Sadiq Khan, the newly elected London Mayor.

The Times opinion page said: 'The winners were not the parties but two individuals, Ruth Davidson and Sadiq Khan, whose local victories will have national implications. For all the confidence of Jeremy Corbyn's supporters that a radical left-wing programme is a path to power, Labour did disastrously in Scotland while Ms Davidson made history by leading the Conservatives into second place behind the Scottish National Party. Mr Khan made history, too. He is not just London's first Muslim mayor. At a stroke he has become the most prominent Labour moderate in the country.'

The Daily Mail said: 'Ms Davidson shows what can be done by a Conservative candidate with the common touch who fights with straightforward courage and zest for what she believes in. It certainly helped that she could by no stretch of the imagination be written off as a toff.'

'So London now possesses, in Sadiq Khan, its first Muslim Mayor: a striking demonstration to the rest of the world of the city's tolerance, which enables anyone to rise to the top.'

Here, then, are two remarkable victories, both with record-breaking polling figures, sending a clear message that many in Britain regard the personal qualities and charisma of the candidate far to outweigh the fact that one is an openly gay woman and the other a Muslim man. We can only hope and pray that the American people will look beyond the inflammatory rhetoric of Donald Trump that plays to the lowest common denominator and vote with equal courage and good sense in the US Presidential elections. Never has a knight on a white charger been more needed.

CHAS

60 years fighting homelessness and housing need Can you accept the Diamond Jubilee Challenge?



2016

1956

This year is the diamond jubilee of the Catholic Housing Aid Society (CHAS). 60 years ago, two women set up CHAS to make available deposits for families living in slums to be able to afford a decent home. In 2003, CHAS merged with the Churches National Housing Coalition, and Housing Justice was born.

Alison Gelder writes: Throughout 2016 we will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of the Catholic Housing Aid Society. Our work today is very much about encouraging churches to develop services for homeless people, as well as supporting them in upholding standards of excellence. The diamond jubilee challenge is a set of resources which encourages groups or churches to reflect on housing need today.

www.housingjustice.org.uk/pages/diamond-challenge

CHAS60th



Book review: 'Foxes have holes: Christian reflections on Britain's housing need'

Launched by Ekklesia at Manchester Cathedral on April 14th 2016, the book is a direct response to the UK's housing crisis that is seeing citizens priced out of affordable homes, the collapse of social housing and a rise in homelessness. This collection of essays provides a brief history of British housing, demonstrating why Christians should care. It considers the role of local authorities and housing associations and includes reflections on changing cityscapes and the use of open space. There are essays on housing in rural communities, a theology of housing, and the impact of an inflated housing market. Contributors include Bishop David Walker, Andrew Francis, Helen Woolley, Helen Roe and Paul Lusk.

The book concludes with a ten point action plan that lays out positive steps to tackle the housing crisis.

You can now order books via Amazon. If you would prefer not to use Amazon you can order via the office, paperback (£11.99) or Ebooks (£2.99). Please email ekkleisia.office@gmail.com





NO TO TRIDENT

DEFENCE DIVERSIFICATION AND DECENTRALISED ENERGY TRANSFORMATION SEMINAR

June 24 1:25pm-3:25pm Room 301, Level 3, Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities are hosting a special seminar on how defence diversification and decentralised energy could be the new motor for future UK industrial policy. The meeting will include a discussion on how to move the Trident replacement debate on to other important issues.

The speakers include Alan Simpson, sustainable economics advisor to Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell; Steve Schofield, advisor to The Less Network and an international expert on the benefits of defence diversification; Sean Morris, Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Secretary; Peter Burt, Nuclear Information Service Research Manager and Ali Abbas, Manchester Friends of the Earth Group Co-ordinator.

The event is free to attend but places are limited and on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend please email your details to Sean Morris: s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

JULY 13 TAKE THE STOP TRIDENT MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT

Come and tell your MP why you want them to Stop Trident at a Lobby of the House of Commons

Make an appointment with your MP: <http://bit.ly/1qSVEvX> Full details of lobby at www.cnduk.org/stopt Trident lobby

NO FUTURE FOR TRIDENT?

At the end of February Dr David Hookes from Scientists for Global Responsibility came to talk to the Stockport for Peace group. After his retirement, he became an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Liverpool University's Computer Science Department. Politically, he is a member of the Labour Party and a life-long trade unionist and socialist.

The central theme of the talk was: there is no future for Trident because it has become obsolete and does not work.

The effectiveness of Trident as a weapons system depends on the submarines carrying the missiles being able to move stealthily undetected around the seas. It also depends on effective systems to protect them. If adversaries can confidently track the submarines as they move around the oceans then they are a very poor platform to carry strategic weapons. The argument applies to the present Vanguard class submarine with space within to carry 16 Trident missiles or future submarines still being designed which Dr Hookes referred to as 'The Successor'.

Immobilising a submarine in the ocean does not carry the same strategic risk as attacking the UK itself, making it a far more attractive proposition for any aggressor seeking to neutralise the UK's nuclear deterrent.

Dr Hookes quoted from the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) report 22 January 2016:

"Submarines could be picked up and tracked soon after leaving port or when discovered in the open ocean. Underwater drones, far smaller than their prey, do not require the same levels of power as large manned submarines, and it cannot be long before they will be able to match the (walking to jogging) speed of the Vanguards on patrol for months on end, using solar or other rechargeable battery sources."

"Technologies evolve and adapt, and the pace of this is speeding up. Submarines may well have been the ideal platform in the past, but they will not be in future. It is only a matter of when that future emerges, and the evidence suggests that it is closer than many would have us believe."

He then gave the scientific details of the four main technologies that are being developed to track submarines.

Because the non-scientists found it difficult to keep up with this part of the talk, Dr Hooke offered the group a copy of his Power Point presentation of the talk for general distribution. If you would like this please email:

marianet@tiscali.co.uk

We were then reminded of past successful campaigns and encouraged to continue to work to ban nuclear weapons.

Biological weapons - banned 1972 Chemical weapons – banned 1993 Landmines – banned 1997

Cluster bombs – banned 2008 NUCLEAR WEAPONS – banned ?????

Finally Dr Hookes raised the subject of unemployment if the Trident system and its successor are scrapped. He suggested that the North West of England grew into the first industrialised region in the world on the backs of African slaves using the products of their labour: Cotton, Sugar, Tobacco, etc. We could invert this historical process by contributing to a development plan for Africa drawn up jointly with African communities, their scientists and engineers. This should offer alternative path to sustainable development based on solar energy.



NON VIOLENCE AND JUST PEACE:
Contributing to the Catholic Understanding of and Commitment to Nonviolence

Report from the Pax Christi Conference in Rome on 11th April 2016



Jan Harper writes:

Neither passive nor weak, Jesus' nonviolence was the power of love in action. In vision and deed, he is the revelation and embodiment of the Nonviolent God, a truth especially illuminated in the Cross and Resurrection. He calls us to develop the virtue of nonviolent peacemaking.

Clearly, the Word of God, the witness of Jesus, should never be used to justify violence, injustice or war. We confess that the people of God have betrayed this central message of the Gospel many times, participating in wars, persecution, oppression, exploitation, and discrimination.

We believe that there is no "just war". Too often the "just war theory" has been used to endorse rather than prevent or limit war. Suggesting that a "just war" is possible also undermines the moral imperative to develop tools and capacities for nonviolent transformation of conflict.

We need a new framework that is consistent with Gospel nonviolence. A different path is clearly unfolding in recent Catholic social teaching. Pope John XXIII wrote that war is not a suitable way to restore rights; Pope Paul VI linked peace and development, and told the UN "no more war"; Pope John Paul II said that "war belongs to the tragic past, to history"; Pope Benedict XVI said that "loving the enemy is the nucleus of the Christian revolution"; and Pope Francis said "the true strength of the Christian is the power of truth and love, which leads to the renunciation of all violence. Faith and violence are incompatible". He has also urged the "abolition of war".

We propose that the Catholic Church develop and consider shifting to a Just Peace approach based on Gospel nonviolence. A Just Peace approach offers a vision and an ethic to build peace as well as to prevent, defuse, and to heal the damage of violent conflict. This ethic includes a commitment to human dignity and thriving relationships, with specific criteria, virtues, and practices to guide our actions. We recognize that peace requires justice, and justice requires peacemaking.

Living Gospel Nonviolence and Just Peace

In that spirit we commit ourselves to furthering Catholic understanding and practice of active nonviolence on the road to just peace. As would-be disciples of Jesus, challenged and inspired by stories of hope and courage in these days, we call on the Church we love to:

Continue developing Catholic social teaching on nonviolence. In particular, we call on Pope Francis to share with the world an encyclical on nonviolence and Just Peace;

Integrate Gospel nonviolence explicitly into the life, including the sacramental life, and work of the Church through dioceses, parishes, agencies, schools, universities, seminaries, religious orders, voluntary associations, and others;

Promote nonviolent practices and strategies (e.g., nonviolent resistance, restorative justice, trauma healing, unarmed civilian protection, conflict transformation, and peace-building strategies);

Initiate a global conversation on nonviolence within the Church, with people of other faiths, and with the larger world to respond to the monumental crises of our time with the vision and strategies of nonviolence and Just Peace;

No longer use or teach "just war theory"; continue advocating for the abolition of war and nuclear weapons;

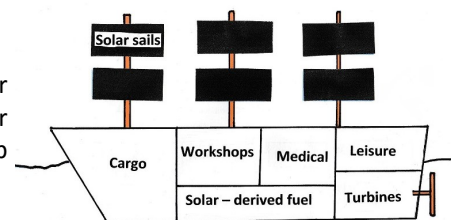
Lift up the prophetic voice of the church to challenge unjust world powers and to support and defend those nonviolent activists whose work for peace and justice put their lives at risk.

In every age, the Holy Spirit graces the Church with the wisdom to respond to the challenges of its time. In response to what is a global epidemic of violence, which Pope Francis has labelled a "world war in instalments", we are being called to invoke, pray over, teach and take decisive action. With our communities and organizations, we look forward to continue collaborating with the Holy See and the global Church to advance Gospel nonviolence.

No future for Trident continued from previous page

The North West could become a power house for solar-based technologies for sustainable development funded by the cancellation of Trident and funds for mitigating climate change. Dr Hookes then offered his vision of a solar ship which he would like to see in future on the oceans of the world.

Marian Thompson





Heald Green and Marple Justice and Peace groups.

SUPPORTING PEACE WITH JUSTICE IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

This meeting, held at Christ Church, Heald Green on 7th April, 2016, was a joint meeting, organised by two ecumenical Justice and Peace Groups. It was advertised within the five Heald Green churches, in Marple and in the magazine "MouthPeace" and was hosted by Christ Church Catholic Church. The meeting was planned as a learning opportunity, so that the Marple group could explain why, after a period of study and prayer, they had decided to become a "Committed Kairos Community"

The speakers were well prepared and had good resources and the meeting was well attended. The evening started with Christian Aid prayers for the Holy Land, in which all were invited to join. One of the closing responses was "Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli, but pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts. Amen."

Most of the people who were present will probably feel that they learned something they did not know about the Holy Land and that our guests from Marple spoke sensitively about the issues involved. Sadly, however, the meeting was disrupted by a small group of people who, throughout the evening, interrupted our guest speakers, making loud and abusive comments and even accusing the speakers of lying. Those of us who had come to learn were largely prevented from doing so and we felt embarrassed by this rudeness.

Since both Marple and Heald Green Justice and Peace groups are ecumenical, we are all used to working and praying with people who do not agree about every aspect of Christianity but we have now realised that most of our meetings and activities normally keep us all within our "comfort zone". On this occasion, however, we were disturbed at encountering such a level of hostility from visitors.

The Kairos documents, written by Christians, deal with Israeli/Palestinian issues – they can easily be read on and downloaded from the Internet. They have been studied over several years by the Marple group. It should always be possible for divergent views to be expressed, but in a non-confrontational manner. Many Jewish people regularly express concern about some of the actions of the present Israeli government in Israel/Palestine – they surely cannot be accused of anti-semitism.

It is sad that two ecumenical Justice and Peace groups could not hold a joint meeting to share ideas, without being interrupted. Perhaps our best answer will always be to continue to speak out for Justice and to pray for Peace wherever there is a need and especially in the Holy Land.

Ann Taylor

'OPEN BETHLEHEM': The Film

At the end of April the film 'Open Bethlehem' was shown at Marple Methodist Church to over 80 people. It was an informative and moving film made by Leila Sansour, a daughter of Bethlehem. She left the city as a teenager thinking that Bethlehem was too small and provincial. She never wanted to return. However the death of her father, founder of Bethlehem University, and a man regarded as a hero by his town's folk brought her back. To make the film was to be her tribute to him.

Armed with her camera and a dilapidated family car that kept breaking down, Leila planned to make an epic film about a legendary town in crisis. The film spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of astonishing beauty and as well as political strife under occupation. The film draws from 700 hours of original footage and some rare archive material. In fact the making of this film has led to the creation of the largest visual archive of Bethlehem in the world and plans are currently being discussed with University College London (UCL) to turn the collection into a museum. The film includes shots of the partition wall weaving its way around homes and businesses, the cut down ancient olive trees and the Israeli settlements that now surround Bethlehem.

But just few months into filming Leila's life and the film took an unexpected turn when cousin Carol, Leila's last relative in Bethlehem, persuaded her to stay to start a campaign to save the city. As the pair launched OPEN BETHLEHEM, Leila finds herself trapped behind a wall in the very place she so much wanted to leave. The face of Bethlehem is changing rapidly with potentially detrimental consequences. Reports predict that if trends continue the Christian community of Bethlehem, a city that provides a model for a multi faith Middle East, may be unsustainable within one generation. Leila's plan to stay a year has stretched to seven and her commitment is now to the campaign 'OPEN BETHLEHEM' and its distinctive Bethlehem Passport.



'OPEN BETHLEHEM': The Campaign

The campaign wants to see Bethlehem continuing to be an open city, a home to ancient and diverse communities without the Israeli Wall stifling its population. The vision for the future sees Bethlehem as a free and flourishing centre within a vibrant and sovereign Palestine.

Campaign Values (Taken from the website)

The plight of Palestine influences and poisons world politics, creating huge rifts and long term instability. We are driven by a need to see this changed.

We value the basic rights of all human beings. We want to see Palestinians able to live with their human rights upheld and respected.

We value community, diversity and plurality. For many centuries Bethlehem has existed as a multi faith and multi ethnic society in which people from different ethnic origins and faiths have coexisted peacefully and prosperously. We want to see this protected and given the opportunity to flourish, to serve as a model for the future of a very troubled region.

We seek always to act collaboratively with integrity, respect, openness, clarity and decisive leadership. Our people are expected to be pragmatic and outcome-focused, highly professional and motivated; people who are flexible, will take the initiative and accept direction as needed, striving for excellence in everything they do.

We recognise the role and value of all other national and international agencies working towards the same end, and for its own part the campaign strives to work in a complementary and unique way that is differentiated from and does not replicate the work of other organisations, working in a different mode and addressing needs that would otherwise remain unmet.

We value creative and innovative ways of communicating that are designed to be effective and have greater impact in sensitizing and educating audiences. We aspire for our media to be pioneering, bold and thoughtful, attractive, engaging, authoritative, inspiring and influential.

For more see www.openbethlehem.org/the-campaign

THE BETHLEHEM PASSPORT

This has been crafted as a beautiful object with deep watermarked pages, and a design that features both the Star of Bethlehem and the figure of St George – Al-Khadr – the patron saint of Palestine. The citation inside the Passport reads:

"In that the bearer of this passport is a citizen of Bethlehem; that they recognize this ancient city provides a light to the world, and to all people who uphold the values of a just and open society; that they will remain a true friend to Bethlehem through its imprisonment, and that they will strive to keep the ideals of Bethlehem alive as long as the wall stands; we ask you to respect the bearer of the passport and to let them pass freely."

This is given to individuals from all walks of life, and includes dignitaries, ordinary citizens, Christians, Jews and Muslims. They are united by their passion for Bethlehem and are prepared to act as ambassadors to champion the cause of Open Bethlehem and work towards the realisation of the vision. As ambassadors they are expected to commit to an active involvement in the campaign, which may include:

Organising and hosting film screenings; Speaking at events; Fundraising;
Engaging community and political representatives; Organising fact finding tours to Bethlehem

Bethlehem Ambassadors are accorded with an honorary citizenship of the city of Bethlehem, formally conferred with the granting of a Bethlehem Passport, which acknowledges their contribution and confirms their pledge to act as an Ambassador for the city. So far, the passport has been granted to more than 500 people around the world, including: Archbishop Rowan Williams Pope Benedict XVI Archbishop Desmond Tutu President Jimmy Carter

Malala, the youngest ever Nobel Prize Laureate, and her father Ziauddin Yousafzai, the United Nations Special Advisor on Global Education, are the newest citizens and ambassadors of Bethlehem.

"I feel very happy that I got the opportunity to see Open Bethlehem and also met the producer and director of the film Leila. The film artistically is moving and powerful. It makes you cry. It speaks for the freedom of people to have the right to live together no matter what their religion or nationality is. The film somehow had similarities to my life as well. My father inspired me to believe in the power of our voice and so did Leila's great father." Malala Yousafzai

All those wishing to support the work are invited to consider becoming a Bethlehem Ambassador.

See www.openbethlehem.org/our-ambassadors1.html



Marian Thompson writes:

In MouthPeace we have been keeping an eye on **TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)** even though it is not much in the public domain. In December 2014 (MouthPeace issue 88)^{*} there was a detailed explanation of TTIP. One of the primary concerns expressed by Terry Green from Chester World Development Forum was the secrecy of the negotiations. Would the treaty bring benefits for us all or just more power to big corporations? Nobody really knew. But encouraged by **STOP TTIP (<https://stop-ttip.org/>)** people began to read around the subject and discuss it in their groups. **CETA (The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement)** being negotiated between EU and Canada also came to notice. CETA negotiations are further on than TTIP and could be ratified later this year – see below.

There are now 500+ organisations and groups including Global Justice Now (formerly World Development Movement), 38 Degrees and War on Want campaigning against TTIP and CETA. In February 2015 about 130 people went together to Brussels to lobby their MEPs prior to a vote in the European Parliament in May 2015 about supporting continuing negotiations. (MouthPeace issue 89)^{*}. A Stop TTIP petition was launched. In October 2015 this had 3,263,920 signatures from within 23 member states of the EU and this petition was then handed to European Commission officials. But this gesture seemed to fall on deaf ears as the negotiations apparently continued in secret. However the campaigning against TTIP also continued. More signatures were collected were collected on the petition.

On his visit here in April 2016, President Obama who is very supportive of TTIP used it together with CETA (under the euphemism ‘trade deals’) as one of his reasons for Britain remaining in the EU. Equally some Brexit supporters suggest that being free of TTIP is good reason to leave the EU. Surely such an important vote as a referendum should not be a single issue consideration? After UK, President Obama went to Germany to meet Angela Merkel, another supporter of TTIP. Why this visit? Why now? President Obama has only a few months left in office and he would like the legacy of these trade deals. But progress is slow and, once he has left office, the future is anyone’s guess. All leading presidential candidates have expressed some opposition to the current free trade agenda, with even free trader Hilary Clinton saying she’s deeply uneasy about certain aspects of TTIP. That could be the reason Obama came to Germany – to speed things up.

Public support for TTIP is falling in both U.S and Germany. A survey recently conducted by YouGov for the Bertelsmann Foundation showed that only 17% of Germans believe in TTIP, down from 53% in 2014. In United States a recent poll showed only 18% support compared with 55%

in 2014. Over half the respondents there said they did not know enough to voice an opinion. The documents were still only available to a limited few. In February 18th 2016, *The Guardian* reported : Our MPs are allowed access to the documents but can only take a pen and pencil into the room where they are viewed, electronic devices including phones, laptops, tablets or cameras are NOT allowed. Similar conditions apply to MEPs who would eventually be voting on TTIP.

On Monday May 2 Greenpeace Netherlands leaked the documents. They did so ‘to provide much needed transparency and trigger an informed debate on the treaty’. They can be found for those who have considerable spare reading time to download on <https://ttip-leaks.org/>

On May 4 Guy Taylor of *Global Justice Now* wrote: ‘The texts confirmed exactly what everyone feared about the deal with its massively pro-corporate provisions on display for everyone to see. The following day the French government launched one of the most high profile attacks on TTIP ever seen. France’s lead trade negotiator, Matthias Fekl, now thinks talks will be halted. He argues that the EU has bent over backwards to offer the US what it wants but the generosity has not been reciprocated. This is reflected in the leaks which hit the headlines on May 2. The leaks contain indications that the EU’s precautionary principle (not allow things on the market until proven safe) may be sacrificed in favour of the US so-called ‘scientific principle’ (don’t ban anything from sale until it is proven dangerous).

The news from France is already causing arguments and tension in the European Commission. The UK camp will be livid, with David Cameron having previously claimed that TTIP was his own idea. Last year he announced he wanted to put rocket boosters under the negotiations, I suspect next week he’ll be wanting to fit stabilisers.

While TTIP may be on the ropes, we still face a grave danger from CETA, a similar deal that’s a lot closer to being ratified and implemented between the EU and Canada. CETA is effectively a backdoor to TTIP, with any US corporation operating in Canada able to exploit its provisions to sue EU governments should they take decisions that may impact on expected profit margins.’

CETA will go to the EU Council (of all EU governments) for ratification in June, and be formally signed in September. It will then go to the EU parliament, where a vote is expected next January or February. Things are beginning to look shaky for this deal too.

^{*} To be found on www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk under MouthPeace back issues.

Continued on page opposite

DESTITUTION IN THE UK

A new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), was published on 27 April 2016. Destitution is the most severe form of poverty in the UK and means someone cannot afford the basic essentials they need to eat, keep clean and stay warm and dry.

The total number of destitute people in the UK, including UK citizens, is not currently measured by the government. The report was commissioned by JRF in response to perceptions that extreme poverty had risen in recent years. It has been conducted by experts at Heriot-Watt University with advice from a wide range of experts and service providers across the UK, and has taken two years to complete.

The report found that 1,252,000 people, including 312,000 children, were destitute at some point in 2015 and calls on the Office of National Statistics to begin officially tracking the number of destitute people in the UK. Government, businesses, communities and individuals need to work together to provide better support for people in crisis, as well as reducing the costs of housing and basic essentials as well as creating better jobs that pay sufficiently.

The summary and full report can be read at: www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk

“TIME OUT ON TUESDAYS” An ecumenical quiet day for everyone
14 June, 12 July, 13 September, 11 October, 13 December

10 – 4 pm at The Convent of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Lance Lane, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 6TW
Input and time for individual quiet prayer and reflection. Tea & coffee provided. Bring your own lunch. Cost £10

People power? *Continued from the previous page*

Firstly, Romania, in dispute with Canada over visa issues, has threatened to veto CETA at the June meeting. Next, the Walloon parliament voted a critical motion on CETA that could tie the hands of the Belgian government and force its abstention.

One problem with EU trade deals is that they can come into effect even without a vote in member parliaments. Under something known as ‘provisional implementation’, CETA could take effect in Britain early next year without a parliamentary vote here. In fact, even if the British parliament voted CETA down, the corporate court system would still stay in effect for 3 years! The June meeting is the last chance governments have to block these processes.

At the end of April, the Dutch parliament voted for a non-binding motion to reject this provisional implementation. The Netherlands might yet hold a referendum on CETA too.

With the EU referendum approaching, in the UK, is David Cameron really going to attend an EU meeting and support the idea that CETA come into effect without a parlia-

mentary vote? On June 28/9 the EU Council will see European governments come together to ratify CETA. Although final government approval is expected in September, the June meeting is the last chance for European governments to raise serious objections

The EU Council could agree on 'provisional implementation' for CETA - a process which allows the European Commission to bring trade deals into effect before national parliaments have had the chance to debate - and reject - an international treaty. This means that the vast majority of CETA could be legally binding as early as next Spring, long before the British parliament has examined the deal or arrangements have been made to leave the EU if that is decided. This would include the now infamous corporate court system. In other words, a corporate case could be brought against the British government before Parliament has ratified CETA.

If TTIP is now looking in doubt we need to double our efforts to prevent CETA coming in by the back door. You can email David Cameron on the *Global Justice Now* website: www.globaljustice.org.uk/tags/ttip
(at the bottom of Nick Dearden's April 29 article)



Advance notice: Autumn series of CAFOD Quizzes.

They are September 16th, October 14th, and November 25th. They are all Fridays at 7.30pm and will take place at 7.30pm in Our Lady's parish centre, with Fairtrade refreshments provided at the interval. The entry fee is £3.00 for adults and £1 for children. All money raised will go to CAFOD's Connect 2 Ethiopia project. For further details contact Tony Walsh on 0151 355 6419



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

11 Laudato Si' The focus of this session will be reading and discussing the actual text. Led by Steve Atherton. All welcome 12.45 – 2.15 (Mass: 12.00) St Marie on the Sands, Seabank Rd, Southport PRO OEJ

12 Wirral Coastal Walk from Seacombe Ferry round to Thurstaston Country Park. You can choose to walk or sponsor a walker. Phone 0151 632 5504 if you are interested in supporting CAFOD's Syria Crisis Appeal.

14 Time Out on Tuesdays see page 11

20 – 26 Refugee Week <http://refugeeweek.org.uk>

24 Box Tale Soup & Stone Flowers—A Little Bite Music. Music Action International present a brand new, original piece of theatre created by the award winning Box Tale Soup and refugee music collective Stone Flowers 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

22 Feast of St Thomas More This feast day is an opportunity to remember in prayer the many people worldwide who suffer in prison for their beliefs.

Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org.uk
Christians Against Torture: www.acatuk.org.uk

25 'Welcoming the Stranger' Liverpool Justice and Peace Annual Assembly 10.00 – 4.30

Registration from 9.30 LACE Conference Centre Croxteth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA Details on page 3

26 International Day in support of Victims of Torture The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) offer a range of resources including a campaign guide, posters and logos, factsheets, a global reading, and other materials: www.irct.org/our-work/day-against-torture-on-26-june.aspx

JULY

9 Liverpool City of Sanctuary Fair 10:30am to 4:00pm at Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane, Liverpool L1 3BT. Local community Volunteer Organisations are coming together to tell you about their work with stalls, information sharing, networking + children's activities – Why not drop in for a chat or stay for the day—refreshments served.

10 Sea Sunday Seafarers are commonly recruited from poorer countries where wages are lower. The Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain, reaches out to seafarers that visit our ports each year, offering pastoral and practical support and care. "This year is The Mission to Seafarers' 160th Anniversary and we are celebrating Sea Sunday on 10 July to give thanks for Mission work then and now". www.missiontoseafarers.org/
www.seasunday.org/about-sea-Sunday

12 'Time out on Tuesdays' see page 11

13 Stop Trident Mass Lobby House of Commons www.cnduk.org/get-involved/events see page 6

15 – 17 38th Annual National Justice & Peace Conference at Swanwick. 'Justice, Power and Responsibility: How can democracy work for the Common Good?' Booking forms from NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX 020 7901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk or download <http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/> See page 3

AUGUST

6 & 9 Anniversaries of the first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima & Nagasaki More information and prayer resources from Pax Christi: www.paxchristi.org.uk or 020 8203 4884 Front page reflection

SEPTEMBER

13 'Time out on Tuesdays' page 11

21 Peace One Day - An annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence is organised by Peace One Day, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness of peace issues. www.peaceday.org/global-campaigns

OCTOBER

7 Talk by Stephen Twigg MP on the wide-ranging work of the Commons Select Committee on International Development, of which he is Chair. An open meeting arranged by Chester World Development Forum. 7pm Binks Building, University of Chester CH1 4BJ. www.chesterwdf.org.uk

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*Copy date for next issue
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send in reports of events
and dates for the diary*

The opinions expressed in MouthPeace are the views of the individual contributors or organisations concerned and do not necessarily reflect those of the Justice and Peace Commissions of the dioceses of Shrewsbury and Liverpool

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