

Diary Dates:

14 May	National Justice & Peace Network AGM & Open Networking Day at CAFOD, Romero House, London SE1 7JB Speakers: Daniel McNamara and Katharine Copperthwaite from Prison Advice and Care Trust (pact) on experiences of children and young people who have experienced a family member being arrested, tried or imprisoned. http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/njpn-meetings/
15 May	International Conscientious Objectors' Day Annual gathering at the Conscientious Objectors stone, Tavistock Sq. WC1H 9EU at noon. in honour of COs past and present. http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/ Local events being planned for Cambridge, Norwich..?
21 May	Pax Christi AGM at Oxford Place Centre, Leeds, LS1 3AU Speakers Clive Barrett, Chair of Bradford Peace Museum & Lindis Percy of Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases. http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/
5 Jun	J&P Commission meets at Newmarket
23 Jun	Prayer for the EU referendum campaign: God of truth, give us grace to debate the issues in this referendum with honesty and openness. Give generosity to those who seek to form opinion and discernment to those who vote, that our nation may prosper and that with all the peoples of Europe we may work for peace and the common good; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. www.churchofengland.org
15-17 Jul	Justice, Power and Responsibility: How Can Democracy Work for the Common Good?: National Justice & Peace Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. For details and booking form, see http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/ Speakers: Jon Cruddas MP (developing a virtue-based model of politics), Jenny Sinclair (founder of Together for the Common Good), Takura Gwatinyanya (Caritas Harare, with interest in engagement of civil society in sustainable development projects) Global Justice Now - to be confirmed. The Conference provides an opportunity to explore the theme in related workshops, to meet other people involved in action for peace and justice, including representatives of a host of agencies who will have resources to browse and purchase. Young people especially welcome. Contact the Commission Chairman, Deacon John Bell, if you require assistance to attend.

Diocese of East Anglia



Justice & Peace Newsletter

May 2016

Syrian Refugees

As reported in a previous newsletter, refugees drawn from camps in Jordan and Lebanon have begun to arrive in our region and be housed in Cambridge and Ipswich areas under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. The Diocese has a network of Deanery and Parish Co-ordinators to provide a link between those able to offer assistance and local authorities willing to accept refugees. Commitments from local authorities include 50 from Cambridge and 200 from Suffolk over the 5 year period.

On Palm Sunday, a multi-faith march across Norwich city centre, which began at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, repeated calls on Norfolk County Council to pledge to welcome 50 Syrian refugee families to the city as soon as possible, echoing a plea from Pope Francis. The Cathedral Dean addressed the start of the march, organised as a result of collaboration of the Justice & Peace group with other faith groups in the city.

There has been J&P involvement in supporting those in camps in Northern France, with one Newmarket member volunteering in Calais for two weeks. <http://www.calaidipedia.co.uk/> provides up to date information on the Calais camp, thus ensuring that organisations transport only items that are really needed,

The Norwich group, in partnership with the Unitarians, is encouraging parishioners to produce knitted squares which can be crocheted together to make woollen blankets for babies and small children in refugee camps in France and Turkey. These are distributed through Knitting for Peace. The group is exploring ways to do more to address the plight of those in such camps.

Please support the **CAFOD Syria appeal**, <http://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Syria-crisis> which includes latest news and a **prayer for Syria**. "During the past five years we have been able to support our Church partners to help more than 100,000 Syrians directly, both within Syria and in neighbouring countries, with food, medical care, hygiene and children's education. Over 20,000 have been supported to find a safe place to live. And many more people have been reached through Caritas Internationalis, the Catholic aid network of which CAFOD is a member.

"The conflict in Syria is now the world's biggest and most urgent humanitarian crisis, a quarter of a million people have died in the conflict, since its start in March 2011", says Alan Thomlinson, CAFOD's Syria Crisis Manager.

See also <http://catholicnews.org.uk/Home/Featured/Refugee-Crisis-Open-Your-Hearts/How-Can-I-Help>

In recent weeks, a new scheme has been launched specifically tailored to support vulnerable and refugee children at risk and their families from Middle East and North

Africa in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – not from camps in Europe. It is anticipated that up to 3,000 individuals will be resettled in the UK over the lifetime of the current Parliament, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-scheme-launched-to-resettle-children-at-risk>

News reports on 4 May confirm that Government would no longer seek to overturn the Lord Dubs amendment to the **Immigration Bill**, which would allow some vulnerable children from camps in Europe to enter the UK, in advance of the HoC debate on 9 May.

Walking in solidarity with refugees: This summer, wherever you are going, CAFOD invites you to walk in solidarity with those seeking refuge from conflict, poverty and climate change. Take a look at the seven stage pilgrimage resource at <http://cafod.org.uk/pray/year-of-mercy> . Please order five cards (maybe more) to collect personal messages of hope for refugees, which CAFOD will then share from <http://tinyurl.com/LampedusaCross>

Laudato Si'

There has been J&P involvement in responding to the encyclical with study groups etc in Norwich, Newmarket, Stowmarket, Wells and more. Study guides are available from <http://cafod.org.uk> and <http://www.columbans.co.uk/>

One possible outcome is the live simply award, <http://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/How-to-campaign/Livesimply-award> for communities who can show how they have been living simply, in solidarity with people in poverty and sustainably with creation, with the Cathedral parish exploring the possibility and Stowmarket well advanced towards the award.

'Six Haikus (3 line poems) for an Environmental Plan', inspired by Laudato Si' are displayed in the narthex at Newmarket.

Chris Fegan of Catholic Concern for Animals <https://catholic-animals.com/> spoke in Cambridge on mankind's fundamental relationship with the natural world as addressed by Pope Francis in the encyclical.

OTHER NEWS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

Bury St Edmunds: A series of Lent talks were held over four weekends, with Maria Elena Arana of CAFOD, Sr Pat Robb on Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Dr. Carrie Pemberton-Ford on human trafficking and Deacon Alan McMahon on Proclaiming Liberty to Captives.

Ipswich Deanery: Stephen Matthews of CAFOD has provided ideas for future action. Actions include taking items to Calais and involvement in the Ipswich Night Shelter, also providing support for Apostleship of the Sea, FIND (Families in Need) and ACN.

Cambridge: There has been J&P involvement in Cambridge Churches Homeless Project, with OLEM providing providing a meal and a safe place to sleep one night each week during the winter.

Norwich: The Cathedral of St John the Baptist hosted the Pax Christi Icon of Peace, <http://paxchristi.org.uk/resources/pax-christi-icon-of-peace/> , for a week in early March, with a talk by Pat Gaffney on how symbols and images can open the door to the process of peacemaking and sessions led by the Prayer group and J&P group on forgiveness and reconciliation.

Newmarket/Mildenhall: The group hosted a 'Fairtrade Lunch' during Fairtrade fortnight, produced 'Stations of the Cross through poetry' & continues to publish monthly 'J & P Matters'.

Purchasing Fairly Traded Products:

The 2016 Fairtrade Fortnight press release indicated only a slight decline in the UK Fairtrade market from £1.7 billion in 2014 to around £1.6 billion in 2015, explained in part by a 36% decline in sugar sales due to changes in EU market regulations*.

Supermarkets stock a range of fairly traded products, most commonly tea, coffee, chocolate, bananas and wine, see www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/buying-fairtrade Several **cafés** etc serve Fairtrade beverages#. As with supermarkets, it is important to purchase these and encourage expansion of the range of products available.

Specialist retailers stock a much wider product range, including craft items.

Dedicated organisations like **Traidcraft**, established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, go beyond the standards demanded by the Fairtrade Mark by:

- working with producers before they achieve Fairtrade status, helping them reach necessary standards
- investing in training and business development for producers
- committing to working with producers long-term
- lobbying governments to improve justice in trade
- developing new Fairtrade products

Traidcraft has produced a leaflet entitled 'Not all fair trade is created equal' which can be downloaded from www.traidcraft.co.uk/resourcesearch "....things like justice, fairness and dignity are fundamental to the way we work.We work with smaller, more remote, more marginalised and poorer producers." In 2014, Traidcraft worked on 37 projects in 22 countries to benefit almost 678,000 farmers and artisans, see <http://tinyurl.com/z4t4819>

*The livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, many supplying the UK for 50 years or more, are at risk with phasing out of the EU cap on beet production. For details, see the **Sugar Crash** report <http://tinyurl.com/nz9xgg4> Purchasing Fairtrade sugar, and products that contain it, will support farmers as solutions are sought.

#Fairtrade tea is grown both by smallholder farmers and on estates. The full benefits of Fairtrade accreditation are not realised when many growers sell <10% of tea on Fairtrade terms, not helped by changing tastes in the UK leading to a continuing decline in tea consumption. It would help if the producers of big brand teas enhanced their ethical policies to incorporate Fairtrade.

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