



A Century of Peacemaking

As the country prepares to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, it is salutary to remember those who have witnessed against a culture of conflict.

On the morning of 28th June more than 60 people from across the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood gathered in London's Tavistock Square to undertake a day-long Peace Walk through the city to commemorate peace-making between 1914-2014.

Why 28th June 2014? The day marked the 100th anniversary of the assassination in Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which set off a chain of events that led to World War One. It was also Armed Forces day in the UK. The walk was a counter-witness to the prevailing culture of war and militarism.

"If we want peace we have to work for peace and be encouraged and inspired by those peacemakers who have led the way over the past 100 years," said the organisers - the J&P Commissions of the three Dioceses, and Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace.

The walk began in Tavistock Square with a visit to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and the memorial to Conscientious Objectors. The group moved on to Red Lion Square, where statues commemorate Bertrand Russell, a founder of CND, and politician Fenner Brockway who was imprisoned as a conscientious objector during WW1. At St. Martin in the Fields the group remembered Edith Cavell, the nurse who tended wounded soldiers of all nationalities and was executed by the Germans in 1915 for giving refuge to escaping soldiers.

Other sites visited commemorated Anne Frank, Rev. Dick Sheppard, and the 20th century martyrs including Oscar Romero and Martin Luther King, depicted on the front of Westminster Abbey. The inclusion of the Suffragettes memorial in Victoria Street and Emmeline Pankhurst's statue at Westminster called to mind that peace is not just the absence of hostilities but depends upon a just and equal ordering of society.

Pax Christi member Martin Birdseye reflected: "The evidence of human courage, perseverance and

often heroic progress towards a more peaceful world is all right there, in our city".



Remembering nurse Edith Cavell

The walk ended at the Tibetan Peace Garden in Lambeth where Archbishop Kevin McDonald joined the group and offered the peace prayer which Pope Francis had used at recent meetings in Israel/Palestine. The group prayed together for the inspiration and energy to be peacemakers before making their way home with a gift of white poppy seeds which they were encouraged to plant, as a symbol of peace, in their own home or church garden.

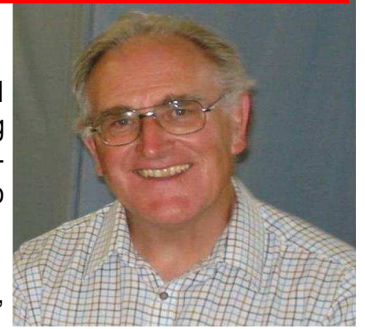
The walk was based on *Peace Trails through London* by Valerie Flessati, available from Pax Christi. www.paxchristi.org.uk.

Conscientious Objectors Day

On 15th May, International Conscientious Objectors Day, a ceremony was held in central London to commemorate those who refused to take part in the carnage. Being a Conscientious Objector was not an easy option. Several were sentenced to death. Many were imprisoned. Some served on the battlefield as medical orderlies. All faced ostracism and derision.

The annual commemoration at the memorial stone in Tavistock Square had a special poignancy this year as more than 300 people gathered to hear the families of 65 conscientious objectors of World War One give the peace witness of their relatives. After each family said a few words about their grandfather, uncle or cousin, they placed a white carnation - the symbol of conscientious objection - by the granite stone memorial. Many held up a photo of their relative, mostly young men in their early 20s. A banner behind them showed images of some of the 20,000 conscientious objectors of the First World War.





At our last Justice and Peace Commission meeting, one of the things we remarked was the amount and the variety of work being done by so many people. Much of this work is supporting and encouraging others. Many of us have spent time reflecting on and discussing the beautiful messages and challenges in the Joy of the Gospel presented to us by Pope Francis. We still have much to do in order to unpack the various powerful messages there.

Our TVs still tell us of the great sufferings of so many in parts of our world. In Africa, the Middle East, and areas not in the news, there is much suffering and injustice. We see people being massacred, made homeless, refugees and the many other human afflictions. Modern day slavery, that is human trafficking, is still a major concern.

We continue to be aware, show solidarity and support those who try to help the human condition of those in need. The shame of war and violence is brought home to us as we hear the stories of World War I being re-told.

May we have the courage to walk alongside those who suffer injustice and continue to show solidarity.

Kind regards, and hopes you get a summer break.

Joe Ryan



SOAS Fair Trade Report and the Benefits of Fair Trade

A recent Government-funded report by University of London's School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) has suggested that the benefits of Fairtrade do not reach very far. But this was a limited study for just one type of project in two countries, Ethiopia and Uganda. In response Michael Gidney, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation has issues a strong rebuttal:

"Fairtrade acknowledges that landless agricultural workers are a most disadvantaged group and therefore a difficult group to reach. SOAS's new report highlights the need for a concerted, systematic and coordinated effort to improve conditions for temporary and casual workers. These most vulnerable of people are being failed by all parties – local and international governments, trade unions, NGOs and companies. Fairtrade is committed to playing its part in addressing the associated challenges ahead.

Fairtrade aims to work with farmers on Fairtrade-certified small farms to ensure that secure and stable incomes meet their needs and those of the workers. The SOAS report fails to recognise this. If a farm is selling a small fraction of its produce as Fairtrade and the rest on the conventional market, there is very little of the extra money from Fairtrade sales to go towards projects like healthcare and sanitation. Fairtrade works incrementally – it is trade, not aid, after all.

Fairtrade cannot solve all the problems of rural development. Our aim is to reach more people and deepen the impact that Fairtrade can have. To make progress we need to increase the market for Fairtrade products. This is something that we are committed to, in order to achieve greater benefits for farmers and workers in developing countries.

When people reach for a product with the FAIRTRADE mark, they are making a proven difference to the lives of the people who produce them. To have an even greater impact we need more of those customers – and more companies and donors – to back Fairtrade.

Countering Political Extremism

In June the Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) participated in the *Stand Up to Racism* Conference at the Trades Union Congress, to discuss the significant increase in UKIP support and far right party MEPs in the European Parliament, following the European elections in May.

In the lead up to the 2015 General Election, faith communities are urged to do what they can to counter the prevailing negative public perceptions around migration, which present it as a problem and a threat to economic prosperity and social cohesion, and strongly promote a more positive understanding of the value of migration and ethnic diversity.

Bethnal Green Parish Connect-2 Ethiopia

Two Ethiopian priests paid a visit to a Bethnal Green churchgoer who has been supporting their village. Abba Solomon and Abba Teum, from Sebeya in northern Ethiopia, were welcomed by volunteers from the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) at Romero House in Lambeth recently.

Among them was Cate Tuitt, a member of Our Lady of the Assumption church who has been supporting the community for the past year through CAFOD's Connect2 programme. She said: "We feel very privileged that Abba Solomon came to visit us. We've loved receiving letters and photos from our faraway friends so to finally meet him and hear in person about the families we've come to know and the struggles they face is amazing.



"Through Connect2 we really feel like we're getting to know the families from Sebeya and how our support is making a difference to their lives." The initiative brings schools and parishes in the UK together with communities in developing countries to gain a mutual understanding of each others' lives, learn and forge stronger ties.

One Climate One World

Last November I was a part of a group of Pilgrims that visited El Salvador on the Romero Trust Pilgrimage.

During our Pilgrimage we visited a community in a remote part of the west of the country, called Puentecitos.

We were invited by the community to celebrate the opening of a bridge that CAFOD partners helped to build. This is a very inaccessible area and, for the final bit of our journey, we had to travel up hills in the back of an open truck and walk through muddy paths and forest.



We stopped to officially celebrate the opening the bridge, which will mean that community will no longer be cut off during the rainy season. We met a 66 year old woman, Mercedes Garcia, who was born and has spent her whole life in the village.

She explained to us that without the bridge many of the children in the village had to climb trees in order to cross the flooded roads on their way to school. She told us this was very dangerous as the water could be over 10ft deep during the rainy seasons. The rainy season used to last for 4 months, but recent changes in the climate meant they were now getting 6 months of heavy rain and perhaps 6 months when children might find it too



difficult to get to school.

The new bridge had been built by the community with the support of CAFOD's partner the Jesuit Development Service who work with those in abject poverty. We all joined together in a prayer led by Bishop John Rawsthorne to bless the community and the bridge and officially open it. Bishop John described CAFOD as the bridge between poor communities across the world and people in England and Wales.

The local catechist, the representative of the community, thanked the Bishop and CAFOD and said they would pray for the people in England and Wales who had helped them. Mercedes added that the Jesuits had given the community the confidence to build the bridge, and having built it, the community would be more willing to take on other projects.

In addition to immediate practical help CAFOD is also campaigning to address the causes of the extreme weather conditions which are having such a dramatic effect on the lives of the poor.

We hope you will join us in our campaign to combat climate change called **One Climate, One World**. Together, we've got the power to tackle climate change. For more information, visit cafod.org.uk/campaign.

If you would like to learn more about the community in Puentecitos in El Salvador and their lives contact the CAFOD Westminster office and ask about signing up for Connect2 El Salvador. Further details are

on our web page see: cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Parish-fundraising/Connect2-sign-up

Tony Sheen

Harvest Fast Day 2014

Friday 3rd October.

It is hoped that Fast Day envelopes and speakers may speak at Masses during the weekend of **28th September**, with a retiring collection held for CAFOD on the weekend of **5th October**.

Please could you make sure that these dates are in your parish diaries?

Forthcoming CAFOD Events

Harvest Volunteers Morning

Saturday, 6th September

CAFOD Westminster invites you our Harvest Volunteer morning here at the Church of Christ the King, Oakwood, N14 4HE, where we'll be taking a thorough look at the background of the forthcoming Harvest Fast Day. Guest Speaker Tania Dalton, from CAFOD's Latin America team, will be sharing her perspective of how CAFOD's work is helping to bring an end to hunger in many communities across Latin America.

The morning will be from 10am-12.30pm. Contact CAFOD Westminster for further information or to book a place 020 8449 6970 or westminster@cafod.org.uk

Pope Paul VI lecture

Friday, 7th November

This year's Pope Paul VI lecture will be taking place on the evening of Friday 7th November, and the speaker will be Bishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo – the Argentinian Bishop-Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. He will speak around the theme of sustainable development. Further details regarding time and venue to be announced.

Understanding CAFOD Day

Saturday, 24th January 2015

CAFOD Westminster invites you our next Understanding CAFOD Day on Saturday 24 January 2015 at Amigo Hall in Lambeth, London SE1 6HR. This day is a must for any new volunteer giving a full overview of our work overseas and how you can get involved as a volunteer here in the UK.

The Welfare Myth

Two-thirds of UK government spending now goes on the welfare state and where the money is spent - healthcare, education, pensions, benefits – is the centre of political and public debate. Much of that debate is dominated by the myth that the population divides into those who benefit from the welfare state and those who pay into it – “skivers” and “strivers”, “them” and “us”.

For our Annual Study Day in November this year Professor Sir John Hills, Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion at the London School of Economics, will help us to explore this ‘myth’ and show how we are all likely to depend on welfare at some point as our lives change.

Annual Justice & Peace Day

The Welfare Myth of ‘Them and Us’

Saturday 8th November
10.30am-3.30pm

St John Vianney Parish Centre,
West Green Road London N15 3QH

Speakers:

Sir John Hills

*Professor of Social Policy,
London School of Economics
Director of the Centre for Analysis
of Social Exclusion (CASE)*

Helen O’Brien

*Chief Executive Officer,
Caritas Social Action Network*

Herts Area Networking Day

The Two World Wars: Warnings From History

Saturday 13th Sept. 9.30 – 3.00pm

Our Lady Queen of Apostles,
141 Woodhall Lane,
Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3TP

.Speakers:

Lydia Safir

Imperial War Museum

Scott Albrecht

London Catholic Worker

Justice & Peace Diary

August

Mon 4th **War no More - War Never Again** silent vigils to mark the anniversary of start of First World War. 12.00-2.00pm on steps of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2. Look out for vigils in other localities or organize one in your own area.

Wed 6th – Sat 9th **Hiroshima / Nagasaki Commemorations**

Wed 6th **Hiroshima Day Commemoration**. 12.00noon-1.00pm at the commemorative cherry tree in Tavistock Square, WC1. Organised by London Region CND. Contact david.lrcnd@cnduk.org 020 7607 2302.

Wed 6th **Annual Pax Christi Hiroshima Vigil** Westminster Cathedral Piazza 10.00am - 5.00pm (prayers at 11.30am & 3.30pm). Contact Pax Christi 020 8203 4884 or info@paxchristi.org.uk for information.

Sat 9th **Annual Pax Christi Nagasaki Vigil** Westminster Cathedral Piazza 10.00am – 1.30pm. See 6th August above.

Sat 9th **Franz Jagerstatter Memorial Service**. 6.00pm Sacred Heart Chapel, Horseferry Road SW1P 2EF.

Sat 9th **Nagasaki Day Interfaith Peace Walk** to London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park SW11 and floating of paper lanterns on the river. Follows Franz Jagerstatter memorial (above). Contact Pax Christi 020 8203 4884 or info@paxchristi.org.uk for information.

Weekend 22nd-25th **Greenbelt Festival** of Christian Arts - Boughton House, Kettering, Northamptonshire. Bookings at 020 7329 0039 boxoffice@greenbelt.org.uk General enquiries: info@greenbelt.org.uk For more information see www.greenbelt.org.uk

September

Mon 1st Sept – Sat 4th October **Time for Creation** – A season for promoting environmental awareness, see www.oikoumene.org (Events) for information.

Sat 6th **CAFOD Harvest Volunteers Morning** taking a look at the background of the forthcoming Harvest Fast Day. See CAFOD column on page 3 for details.

Sat 13th **The Two World Wars – Warnings From History** Herts Area J&P Network Meeting—see panel to left.

Sun 14th **Racial Justice Sunday** See www.carj.org.uk

Sun 21st **Peace One Day (UN International Day of Peace)**
See www.internationaldayofpeace.org, or www.un.org/events/peaceday

Sun 21st **Finsbury Park Community Fun Games** 1.00-4.00pm at Finsbury Park N4 (Softball Field, North side of Park) Registration from 12.00 noon (Advance notice by 9th Sept for 7-a-side football). Contact Justice & Peace Office.

Sun 21st – Sat 27th **Week of Prayer for Peace in Israel/Palestine**
See www.paxchristi.org.uk/wall1.php.

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