

What's it all about?

One of the most important documents of the Second Vatican Council, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church and the World (1965) proposed the creation of a body which would "stimulate the Catholic community to foster progress in needy regions and social justice on the international scene". The Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace was set up to "promote justice and peace in the world in the light of the Gospel and the social teaching of the Church".

In Shrewsbury Diocese, Rt Rev Joseph Gray set up a J&P Commission in 1984.

The current Commission has sixteen members and a full-time Coordinator.

It has links with the National J&P Network www.justice-and-peace.org.uk, and through the Network with national organisations working for justice and peace.

Current Priorities include

- Promoting reflection and action on issues:
Live Simply The Proper Use of the Earth's Resources
Who is my Neighbour? Global Displacement
Set All Free Conflict-Peace Building
- Engaging with the Diocese through our website, newsletters, and annual report
- Encouraging new and existing J&P groups and work with young people
- Networking with diocesan agencies and services and, also, with ecumenical, interfaith and secular groups who share our vision
- Nurturing the formation of individuals and groups on J&P-issues, scripture, and Catholic Social Teaching.

Justice & Peace Commission

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

Sue Bownas
(CAFOD Diocesan Manager)
Ged Cliffe
Margaret Cook
Michael Crawley (Secretary)
Ged Flynn
(Director, Catholic Children's Society)
Ann Gill (Treasurer)
Bernice Halson
Bryan Halson
Anne O'Connor
(Responsibility for Youth)
Bernard Payne (Vice Chair)
Mike Simpson
Ann Taylor
Marian Thompson (*MouthPeace* Editor)
Cyril Towse
Tony Walsh (Chair)
Anne Westmacott

Coordinator: Joan Sharples
16 Wellington Road,
Nantwich
Cheshire CW5 7BH
01270 620584
joansharples620@btinternet.com

Underlying all our work is a commitment to

- promoting truth and countering misinformation
- considering the gender, race, and special needs concerns implicit in all our work.
- working with all those with whom we share a vision

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice & Peace Commission



REPORT 2006 - 2007

Vision:

A diocese fully engaged with the call of God to be a people of justice and peace.

Purpose:

As Christians, we are called to try to live out God's will. God calls us to act for the common good and the good of all creation. The main task of the members of the Commission is to answer that call personally and to engage the diocese in doing likewise, in the light of scripture and Catholic social teaching.

In the past year the J&P Commission, through its members and Coordinator, have:

- Produced quarterly ***MouthPeace*** mailings.
- Produced quarterly ***QuickNews***
- ***Network*** mailings and a J&P Calendar and contacts list.
- Submitted articles to ***The Shrewsbury Voice***.
- Ensured that its website was maintained and regularly updated.
- Sent a J&P poster to all parishes.
- Held a study day: ***Focus on Human Rights & Refugees***.
- Held a study day: ***Prepare to Live Simply***
- Given a presentation ***Living the Gospel in Today's World*** in four parishes.
- Arranged a day on nonviolence ***From Violence to Wholeness***.
- Held an Advent Reflection: ***Jerusalem, Take off Your Dress of Sorrow and Distress***.



Refugee Day: Tony Walsh, Louise Zarré, Niall Cooper



Live Simply Day: Ann Taylor, Marian Thompson, Ian Linden, Joan Sharples, Sue Bownas, Bernard Payne

- Organised a Day of Reflection using Pax Christi's **Reconciliation: the Heart of Peace**.
- Held two J&P Area Meetings in the north-east of the diocese: on CAFOD's campaign, ***Unearth Justice*** and on the Churches Together in England ***Set All Free*** initiative.
- Arranged a country walk—an opportunity for informal conversation.
- Liaised with Bishop Brian Noble and CAFOD to promote the ***livesimply*** initiative.
- Promoted fairtrade goods in parishes.
- Organised a 'gold action' as part of CAFOD's current campaign.
- Promoted "fairtrade towns".
- Contributed to Cheshire Churches' Fairtrade Newsletter.
- Spoken in schools on fairtrade and other issues.
- Produced a leaflet for parishes and schools in the diocese, containing information and contact details on

initiatives concerned with issues related to refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants.

- Reviewed resources for Church Action on Poverty
- Written a reflective article for the twentieth anniversary edition of ***Vocation for Justice***.
- Assisted the diocesan group, ***Catholics for Racial Harmony***, in organising a Racial Justice Sunday Mass.

A major concern for the Commission, during this time, was a review of its work. It agreed a vision and purpose (see overleaf) and formulated a new Three-Year Plan for April 2007-2010.

During the year ...

- New J&P groups have started in Bridgnorth and Altrincham, Northwich, and a CAFOD/J&P Group in Runcorn.
- People in J&P Groups have been active in promoting fairtrade, writing Christmas cards to prisoners of conscience, making links with overseas projects, collecting goods for homelessness projects, working with interfaith groups ...



J&P Walk