

### Back to Basics ...

"Have an entry level to your campaigns" was the advice given by *People & Planet's* Head of Campaigns, James Lloyd, in a recent copy of *Green Christian*<sup>1</sup>. He stressed the need to 'keep on explaining the basic injustice' in order to keep bringing new people into campaigns, and warned against focusing all our energy into pursuing one particular policy which might result in 'an exclusive in-crowd lobbying MPs, doing actions etc., and alienating others so people get left out'. It struck me as wise advice. Perhaps J&P Groups could use it to reflect on ways in which they might engage others in simple actions which don't expect too much commitment.

This issue of *Quick News Network* covers a diverse range of issues. It's all too easy to feel overwhelmed by what Pope John Paul II referred to as 'the culture of death'<sup>2</sup>. We must do what we can, however little that might seem. There are many ways to further the 'culture of life'. Some of them involve writing to MPs, getting involved in understanding complex issues, but we must not overlook the life-giving effect of our ordinary actions in our everyday lives - the friendly smile, the encouraging word, the offer of help can also be expressions of the New Life of Jesus which we celebrate this Easter.

<sup>1</sup> *Green Christian* Spring/Summer 2006, the magazine of *Christian Ecology Link*

<sup>2</sup> Pope John Paul II *Evangelium Vitae* 1995, Bishops Conference of England & Wales *Cherishing Life* 2004

### Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill

The Assisted Dying for the Terminally Ill Bill, which aims to legalise assisted suicide, receives its second reading in the House of Lords on 12 May.

*Care Not Killing*, a new alliance bringing together human-rights groups, healthcare groups, palliative-care groups, faith-based organisations and concerned individuals, is urging people to write to their MPs to express their opposition to the Bill. We are urged to write to Members of the House of Lords to urge them to attend the debate on 12 May and to oppose the Bill. (It is suggested we choose Peers with a surname beginning with letters close to the letters of our own surname.)

For more information, contact *Care Not Killing Alliance* 020 7633 0770 [www.carenotkilling.org.uk](http://www.carenotkilling.org.uk).

News from

#### JUBILEE DEBT CAMPAIGN (U.K.) - Chester

Stressing the importance of continued pressure to achieve debt cancellation Peter Linsey writes: *If the rich nations cannot be forced, cajoled, shamed into fulfilling the promises they have already made on debt and going much further to respond to the well documented and affordable totals of Debt Cancellation which are desperately needed, then there is little chance that the Millennium Goals can be met*".

The Jubilee Debt Campaign has

- launched a new petition (enclosed).
- Postcards to be addressed to Hilary Benn (available from Jubilee Debt Campaign 020 7324 4722 [www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk](http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk))

See also AGM 5 May - overleaf.

### MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY - *Did It Work?*

An independent evaluation has commended the public motivation achieved by MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY which 'managed to make almost everyone in the country aware of the campaign' and 'inspired many to participate - many for the first time'. Real achievements had been made on debt and aid, although there was little to show on trade. The seven-page executive summary of the evaluation is available from Joan.

### Hope for the Planet Pack Environment Sunday 5 June, 2006

Includes a CD Rom with service orders, OHP originals, specially written songs, music, visuals, drama sketches, PowerPoint presentations, and a bible-study course. A DVD of inspirational material is also included. £10.00 (p+p included) from A Rocha, 13 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex UB1 3BL <http://en.rocha.org/uksunday/index2.html>

### Every Click Counts at the Catholic Children's Society

You can now help raise money for Catholic Children's Society (Shrewsbury Diocese) just by searching the web! [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com) is an internet search engine with a big difference - it donates half its revenues to charity!

Just click on [www.everyclick.com/uk/catholicchildrenssocietyschrewsburydiocese](http://www.everyclick.com/uk/catholicchildrenssocietyschrewsburydiocese). It doesn't cost the society or the user a penny, so please use it to support the society which has as its mission: "in the spirit of the Gospel to work with children and families to build strong supportive communities where they are currently disadvantaged". To find out more about the inspiring work of the society, look at its website [www.cathchildsoc.org.uk](http://www.cathchildsoc.org.uk).

# D I A R Y

## APRIL

**29** **Timperley** St Hugh of Lincoln, 314 Manchester Road. **Reconciliation: The Heart of Peace**, a day of reflection based on the Pax Christi Icon of Peace. Led by Ann Gill & Joan Sharples. 10.30-2.30. Bring packed lunch. Contact Joan .

## MAY

**5** **Chester** St Columba's, Newton Lane. 7.30 p.m. Chester Jubilee Debt Campaign AGM and talk by Romy Tiongco on the effect of the debt crisis on the Philippines. 01244 383877.

**11** **Chester** Centre for Religion & the Biosciences/Chester Theological Society 'I Knew Him by His Voice' -

*Pythagoras' Friend: Can Animals be our Friends?* Stephen Clark, Professor of Philosophy, Liverpool University. Rm 0.02, Beswick, University of Chester main campus, Parkgate Road. £2.50.

**12** **Sandbach** Wesley Centre, Wesley Avenue. 7.30 p.m. **Hope for the Planet** Presentation by Rev Dave Brookless, Director of A Rocha UK, a movement of Christian-inspired environmental projects. 01270 764076.

**13** **CAFOD Campaign Conference (See Box)**

**13** **Helping the Helpers** Talks & workshops: supporting one another; destitution; new legislation; preparing for Refugee Week.

Organised by the National Catholic Refugee Forum. Grimshaw Room, St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham B4 6EU. 11.30-4.30. 07871 646224.

**14-20** **Christian Aid Week** 020 7620 4444

**20** **Focus on Human Rights & Refugees (See Box)**

**20** **CAFOD Campaign Conference (See Box)**

**21** **Politika@Alexander's Café Bar** Rufus Court, off

Northgate Street, Chester. (Political talk, social action & music.) Hosted by Stop the War Coalition. Contact Bernard Payne (01244 350323).

## JUNE

**5** **World Environment Day (UN)** www.unmeditation.org

**11** **Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer** 020 7281 0297

**19-25** **Refugee Week** 020 7346 6752

**25** **Politika@Alexander's Café Bar** Rufus Court, off Northgate Street, Chester. (Political talk, social action & music.) Contact Bernard Payne (01244 350323).

## JULY

**21-23** **National J&P Conference** *The Desert Will Bloom - Scattering Seeds of Hope* 020 7901 4864.

**21** **Politika@Alexander's Café Bar** Rufus Court, off Northgate Street, Chester. (Political talk, social action & music.) Hosted by Chester Women's Aid. Contact Bernard Payne (01244 350323).

## AUGUST

**6 & 9** **Anniversaries of first use of atomic weapons at Hiroshima & Nagasaki.** **Pax Christi** 020 8203 4884 & CND 020 7700 2393.

## SEPTEMBER

**10** **Racial Justice Sunday** CARJ 020 8802 8080 CCRJ 020 7620 4444

**21** **Global Cease Fire Day** 020 7456 9180 www.peaceday.org

## FOCUS ON ... HUMAN RIGHTS & REFUGEES

### Speakers:

**Louise Zanré**  
(Jesuit Refugee Service)  
**Niall Cooper**  
(Church Action on Poverty)  
**Mary Horbury**  
(National Catholic  
Refugee Forum)

**Saturday, 20 May, 2006**  
**10.00 - 3.30**

**Wistaston Hall,**  
**89 Broughton Lane,**  
**Crewe CW2 8JS**

Places are limited and booking prior to the event is essential. Forms from Joan.

## J&P Walk

**Saturday, 10 July 10.00**  
**Marbury Country Park**

Meet at the main car park at the Anderton Boat Lift, Northwich CW9 6FW at 10.00 a.m. for a gentle morning walk, led by Tony Walsh, followed by lunch at *The Stanley Arms* 01606 75059 (adjacent to car park). Contact Tony 0151 355 6419.

## UNEARTH JUSTICE

**CAFOD's** new campaign *Unearth Justice* will expose how extractive industries - those that exploit non-renewable resources such as oil, gas and gold - frequently damage the poor communities in which they operate, and highlight ways we can act to change the situation.

The Campaign will be launched at events in

**London, 13 May; Bury, 20 May.**

To register, contact 020 7326 5692 www.cafod.org.uk/conference .

The Welsh launch will be at the **Pantasaph Family Day (North Wales)** on 13 May.

Contact 01978 355 084.



Please send me your dates and news, so that they can be included in future editions of the **Quick News Network** mailing.

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**www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk**

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