



I expected the *liveit!* event held recently in Manchester to be a lively event and it was. It proved to be a lively day, a whirl of non-stop activity: speakers, singing, and drama; and it succeeded in attracting a large number of young people – there was barely a grey head to be seen!

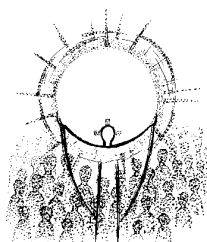
So it might seem somewhat surprising that, for me, the main message of the day is summed up in Jim O’Keefe’s quotation from Karl Rahner: ‘Christians of the future must be contemplative or they won’t be Christians’. This was echoed by other speakers at the event: John Sentamu exhorted us to ‘put God first’, Mary Colwell spoke of the importance of mindfulness, Tina Beattie spoke of the need to have ‘an interior attitude of who I am’ and Pat Gaffney of the need to ‘let go and become vulnerable’. Jim O’Keefe challenged us to ‘allow the plight of the cosmos to seep into our being’. Kathleen asked us, ‘What is enough?’ and David Wells ‘With whom do we stand?’

If we take such questions seriously and prayerfully, they are likely to change us and thereby change the world. The newly-produced *livesimply* anthology¹ provides a valuable tool for such reflection. It’s a rich mixture of practical tips (including a bread recipe), prayer, personal experience, and weightier – but accessible – theological articles. As the blurb on the back puts it:

“livesimply is about being true to who we are. It is not just about what we do; it is basically about what we are. It is a mind-set, a way of being. Its starting point lies in the very heart of God.”

¹ *livesimply* Edited by Annabel Shilson-Thomas
Canterbury Press/CAFOD £9.99

“The Ascension is Christ’s return
to the heart of all creation
where he dwells now
in glorified humanity.
The mystery of his Presence
is hidden throughout creation
and in every part of it.”



Thomas Keating, OCSO *The Mystery of Christ*
The Ascension of the Lord is celebrated
on 4 May this year.

Suggestions for Action & Reflection

- Pray for our Diocesan Catholic Children’s Society: that its recent bids for funding are fruitful so that it can continue to support disadvantaged families in our diocese.
- Contact your local Primary School with information on how to become a fairtrade school www.fairtrade.org.uk. (The J&P Commission has recently given all Catholic Primary Schools in the diocese information).
- Buy a copy of the *livesimply* anthology and read a page or two each day. Pass it around your J&P group, taking it in turns to share an extract each meeting.
- Grow something - even if its only mustard and cress on a saucer! Thank the God of Life as you watch it grow. If there are children in your life, plant with them and thank God for their lives.
- Let the Commission know what you are up to in your work for justice and peace. We’d particularly like to know what parishes are doing to welcome people from Eastern Europe. We want to collect examples of good practice which we can then publicise.
- Sign Campaign Against Arms Trade’s petition to enable it to keep up pressure for transparency after winning its judicial review when the High Court ruled that the Government acted unlawfully when it curtailed a corruption investigation into BAE Systems’ Al Yamamah arms deals with Saudi Arabia. www.caat.org.uk/campaigns/controlBAE/petition/petition.php.
- Pax Christi produces regular email Action and Reflection sheets. Contact Ann Gill Ann.Gill@btinternet.com if you would like to receive these.
- Register for this year’s National J&P Conference - details from Joan.
- Ask yourself:
‘What is enough?’
‘With whom do I stand?’

DIARY

APRIL

19 National Newman Conference Catholic Migrants - Opportunities & Challenges
Speakers: Francis Davies & Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue. St Ambrose College, Hale Barns. Contact Peter Havard 01625 585474.

22 Liverpool *The Lady of Burma*. This play written by Richard Shannon tells the inspirational true story of Aung San Suu Kyi
Unity Theatre Tickets £8.50 Concessions £6.50. Booking 0151 709 4988.

25 Macclesfield *The Work of CAFOD in Mozambique*. Speaker: Bridget Costello, CAFOD Schools' Advisor. Community Room, St Edwards, London Road, Macclesfield SK11 7RL. After 7.00 p.m. Mass (approx. 7.45 p.m.) All welcome. Contact Ian Stewart 01625 888290 i.stewart777@btinternet.com for details.

25 Heswall *Black Gold: the Scandal of the Coffee Trade*. This film recently received an international award for its exposé of the exploitation of coffee growers by the multi-national coffee trade. Linda Tiongco, Christian Aid's regional officer, will lead a discussion after the film. Admission free.
Organised by Wirral Trade Justice in conjunction with Christian Aid.
Contact Jack Heery 0151 648 1930 jackheery@phonecoop.coop www.wtj.org.uk

29 Shropshire Churches Together AGM
Speaker: Dr Isobel Carter of the *Keep Shropshire Warm* project. St George's Church Pontesbury. Contact Ged Cliffe 01691 831374ged.cliffe@tiscali.co.uk

MAY

11-17 Christian Aid Week
Look out for Quiz Aid in various locations across the country on May 16th.

8 Altrincham Greater Manchester Churches Together Annual Ecumenical Assembly *Serving the God of Creation*. Speaker: Professor J. Michael Davies (A Rocha UK). 7.30-9.15 p.m. St Alban's (CofE), Lindsell Road, West Timperley, Altrincham WA14 5NX.

12 Newman Association *Peace People: Franz Jägerstätter and Other Stories*. Speaker: Valerie Flessati. St Teresa's, Wilmslow. Eucharist 7.30, talk, 8.15. Visitors welcome. Contact Chris Quirke 0161 941 1707.

18 Birmingham *Journey to Justice: Breaking the Chains of Global Debt*. From 12.30, International Convention Centre.

Celebrate... 10 years since the Birmingham formed a human chain around the G8 when 70,000 people demanded the rich countries drop the debt

Discover... the impact of debt cancellation so far

Demand... a lasting solution to the debt crisis

www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

Special 11 a.m. Mass at St Chad's Cathedral.

JUNE

2 Manchester *The Lady of Burma*. This play written by Richard Shannon tells the inspirational true story of Aung San Suu Kyi
Lowry Studio. Tickets £12.00. Booking 0870 787 5780.

7 Newman Association *Restorative Justice*. Speaker: Charles Perryman. St Teresa's, Wilmslow. Eucharist 7.30, talk, 8.15. Visitors welcome. Contact Chris Quirke 0161 941 1707.

5 World Environment Day www.unep.org/wed

8 Campaign Against Arms Trade Christian Network Day of Prayer 020 7281 0297.

16-22 Refugee Week Refugee Council 020 7346 6752.

28 J&P Walk - Just for fun! Contact Joan for details.

JULY

6 Day for Life www.dayforlife.org

13 Sea Sunday www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

18-20 National J&P Conference *Hear My People Cry* Speakers: John Battle, Dr Patrick Riordan, SJ, Sr Margaret Scott, ACI. Swanwick, Derbyshire. Contact 020 7901 4864 or Joan.

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

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www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

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