

Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace Commission

QUICK NEWS NETWORK

Issue 1:2008

January/February 2008

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but for an open ear

Words from the psalm set for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. God asks for an open ear. We are challenged to open our ears and listen. If we do, what might we hear? And what prevents us from hearing?

We might hear anew the joys and sorrows of those who live in our world, those near to us and those far away. We might tune in more deeply to our own needs; the more I know myself, the more I am free to listen to others.

Where do we hear the voice of God? In scripture... Church... in nature: the bulbs pushing their almost impossible way through the wet earth...in the painful reality of the stories brought to us on our television and in our newspapers...and in the inspiring examples of people who live out their Christian hope.

An open ear....

This newsletter and the J&P Calendar can provide many 'voices' for you to hear. Church Action on Poverty's newly produced *Just Church*



S 29

module is an excellent resource to use in a group. The resources are available to download from CAP's website www.church-poverty.org.uk. The *liveit!* event in Manchester (14-15 March) would be a good place to take your young people. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has recently sent out a resource pack to parishes to raise awareness about the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill currently passing through the UK Parliament. You may wish to respond to it www.catholic-ew.org.uk/.

I attempt to be an open ear for those involved in J&P in the diocese and would welcome news of your activities – large and small - successful and disappointing.

In *Just One Year*, Timothy Radcliffe reflects on 'ordinary time', time when we are "ordered, meaning pointed, away from ourselves. We are ordered towards each other, and we are ordered towards God". Perhaps, in these weeks of ordinary time, we could be justice-and-peace people by de-waxing our ears and attempting to hear more deeply.

Just One Church: Prayer & Worship through the Christian Year Ed. Timothy Radcliffe, DLT, CAFOD, Christian Aid, 2006

Picture from *Where the is no artist* Petra Rohr-Rouendaal



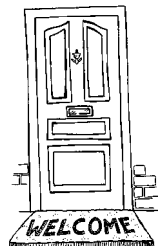
NEW OFFICE FOR SHREWSBURY DIOCESE

It's wonderful at last to be able to report that Shrewsbury Diocese now has it's own CAFOD Diocesan Office which can be found at:-
27A Downsfield Road, Chester, Cheshire CH4 8HH; (next to St Clare's church)
Tel: 01244 677594
Email:shrewsbury@cafod.org.uk.

The other exciting news is that from 28 January '08, Sue Bownas, our CAFOD Diocesan Manager, will be joined, three days a week by CAFOD Diocesan Officer, Elizabeth Aiello. They hope very much that this new office will soon prove to be a useful meeting place for supporters and volunteers and will become the point of contact for CAFOD' s work in the diocese.

Office hours are Monday - Friday from 9.30am - 5.30pm. Sue and Elizabeth will endeavour to ensure that one of them is there to greet you or to take your query but there will inevitably be occasions when this isn't possible so if you are planning to visit please call them first to check.

They look forward to welcoming you to the Chester Office and/ or to hearing how they can help.



Food for Thought...

"The countries of the industrially developed world profit immensely from the sale of arms, while the ruling oligarchies in many poor countries wish to reinforce their stronghold by acquiring ever more sophisticated weaponry. In difficult times such as these, it is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of nuclear arms. At a time when the process of nuclear non-proliferation is at a stand-still, I feel bound to entreat those in authority to resume with greater determination negotiations for a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons."

Pope's World Peace Day Message (S 14)

The whole document is available on Pax Christi's website: www.paxchristi.org.uk

D I A R Y

JANUARY

- 18-25 Week for Prayer for Christian Unity**
"Pray without Ceasing." CTBI 0207 654 7254
www.ctbi.org.uk
- 27 Holocaust Memorial Day** www.hmd.org.uk
- 27-3 Poverty and Homelessness Action Week**
Opening Doors, Opening Hearts Church
 Action on Poverty/Housing Justice
- 27 Homelessness Sunday** Housing Justice
 020 7723 7273.
- 30 MEETING CANCELLED Homelessness & Poverty Week Meeting** Hoole URC,
 Chester, Contact Pam Price 01244 341554.

FEBRUARY

- 3 Poverty Action Sunday**
 Church Action on Poverty 0161 236 9321.
- 7 Newman Association Kyrie Eleison: Mercy, Peace, Righteousness & Truth** Speaker:
 Giles Hibbert, OP. St Teresa's, Wilmslow.
 Eucharist 7.30, talk, 8.15. Visitors welcome.
 Contact Chris Quirke 0161 941 1707.
- 15 CAFOD Lent Fast Day** CAFOD 020 7733 7900.
- 24 Liverpool J&P Commission Annual Memorial Lecture: Salaam, Shalom, Peace.**
 Speaker: Archbishop Patrick Kelly. 2.00-4.00 p.m. at LACE, Sefton Park. Contact Steve Atherton 0151 522 1080/1.
- 25-9 Fairtrade Fortnight** Fairtrade Foundation
 020 7405 5942.

MARCH

- 7 Newman Association Scandal Must Come: The Church, the Press, and Offence.**
 Speaker: Austen Iverleigh. St Teresa's, Wilmslow. Eucharist 7.30, talk, 8.15. Visitors welcome. Contact Chris Quirke 0161 941 1707.
- 7 Women's World Day of Prayer**
God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding
 prepared by the women of Guyana.
 01892 541411 www.wwdp-natcomm.org

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Chester Town Hall Award-winning film *Black Gold*, an eye-opening expose of the multi-billion dollar coffee industry.

14-15

liveit! An event to celebrate the *livesimply* challenge. Manchester New Century House. On-line bookings and information at livesimply.org.uk 0870 879 1006.

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Easter Sunday

APRIL

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

MAY

- 11-17 Christian Aid Week**
- 7 Newman Association Peace People: Franz Jägerstatter 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 Journey to Justice: Breaking the Chains of Global Debt**
www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk

JUNE

- 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.

JULY

- 6 Day for Life** www.dayforlife.org

J&P AREA MEETING

Just Church

This meeting will introduce the **Just Church** Programme, recently developed by Church Action on Poverty to encourage and enable churches to take action on issues of poverty.



Monday, 11 February 7.30 - 9.00

**St Ann's, 29 Vicarage Avenue,
 Cheadle Hulme SK8 7JW**

Contact Joan.

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

Justice and Peace Coordinator:
 Joan Sharples, 16 Wellington Road,
 Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7BH
 Tel 01270 620584

joansharples620@btinternet.com

www.jp-shrewsburydiocese.org.uk

*The Diocese of Shrewsbury
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