



# Shrewsbury Diocese Justice and Peace Commission QUICK NEWS NETWORK

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July/August 2009

## Looking back...

March, 2010, marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Commission's formal inauguration by Bishop Gray. The world has changed in many ways since then, nevertheless the aims which that first Commission had of 'advising the diocese regarding J&P issues, promoting study and action, increasing awareness of social teaching, liaising with others' have a familiar sound. The Commission hopes to celebrate its anniversary with a diocesan celebration on Sunday 13 December, so mark this date in your diary.

## Looking at the present...

A year ago the J&P Commission sent questionnaires to all the parishes in the dioceses in an attempt to gain a clearer picture of J&P activity within the parishes in our diocese. We had an excellent response, receiving replies from 35% of parishes. Collating and analysing the data was done by a small group of Commission members and took some considerable time and energy. Commission member Margaret Cook compiled a thirteen-page report, together with a summary version. It is hoped that this will appear in the September edition of *MouthPeace*. Both the summary *Answering God's Call* and the full report *Report of the Findings from the Questionnaires sent to Parishes in June 2008* are available on the J&P website.

'Answering God's Call' is a phrase from the purpose statement which the J&P Commission put together three years ago. To be responsive to God's call we need to listen to the voice of God. We hear God speak to us through our life experience, through scripture and through the world around us. And the world around us is changing.

## Looking to the future...

'Reading the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel' *Gaudium et Spes, 1995 (#4)*, seems to me, to be at the heart of our J&P work, bringing our life experience and our faith into conversation with each other and discerning God's call to action.

- Listening to the conversations of friends and neighbours, reading to the media, what 'signs of the times' do you hear? What are people happy about? What are they worried about?
- What helps you to interpret them in the light of the gospel?
- How are you an agent of change, bringing hope to situations of despair?

The J&P Commission is inviting groups and parishes to 'read the signs of the times' during the autumn and feed these back to the Commission in order to inform its planning. If this is something you, your group, or your parish would like to do, we would be glad to hear from you.

## Caritas in Veritate

**Pope Benedict**, too, has been reading the signs of the times and has produced his first encyclical on social issues **Caritas in Veritate (Love in Truth)**. The key phrase in the document is 'integral human development', 'the development of the whole man and of all men'. The full encyclical can be found at [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va). Vatican and CAFOD summaries of the document are available from Joan.

**Progressio** the international charity formerly the Catholic Institute for International Relations has produced a booklet of reflections on the encyclical. Further copies are available at <http://www.progressio.org>.

**Progressio** is "a progressive international charity with Catholic roots that enables poor communities to solve their own problems through support from skilled workers". It is also engaged in lobbying decision-makers to change policies that keep people poor. Its vision is for every person in the communities where it works to have choices and opportunities, to have their human rights respected, to have their basic needs met and to live a fulfilled life. It tackles poverty by:

**Changing lives** - Enabling poor communities to solve their own problems through the placement of 100 highly-skilled development workers from around the world.

**Changing minds** - Working with local people and also lobbying decision-makers, to challenge the structures and relationships that combine to keep people poor.

**Mobilising people** - to act, because every step, however small, helps to achieve lasting change.



## THE WAVE

We are encouraged to flood the streets of London on Saturday December 5th and send a clear message on Climate Change to the Government as they prepare to attend the Copenhagen Climate Conference on December 11th to 14th.

**What:** Ecumenical service, followed by a fun and peaceful march around the Thames.

**Where:** Service at Westminster Methodist Central Hall.

**When:** Service at 11am, march departs at 1pm.

**Who:** You – and your friends, families and parishes.

Sign up now [www.cafod.org.uk/copenhagen](http://www.cafod.org.uk/copenhagen)

**To prepare** write to your MP - letter suggestions from CAFOD or Joan.

For transport from Shropshire contact Jo Pattison on 01743 232670.



# DIARY DATES

## AUGUST

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

## SEPTEMBER

**12 South Shropshire Interfaith Forum** trip to 3 places of worship in Wolverhampton: a Hindu Temple, a Sikh Gurdwara and a Muslim Mosque. Contact Peter Cope 01588 673463.

**14 Racial Justice Sunday**  
CARJ 020 8802 8080  
carj.co.uk

**19 Cross - Cultural Christ**  
Churches Together in Cheshire Forum Keynote speaker: Professor Gerald J. Pillay (Liverpool Hope University) Foxhill Conference Centre Tarvin Road, Frodsham, WA6 6XB 2009. 9.30 am - 1.00 pm £10.00.  
cheshire-churches-together.org.uk/index.html

**20 Shrewsbury Climate Change – On Yer Bike!**  
There will be a gathering of bikes in the Market Square in Shrewsbury on Sunday September 20th between 2.30 and 3.00 in the afternoon, with the intention of cycling to The Quarry (park) for a picnic. This is the first Shropshire publicity event in the run up to the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December.

**21 Global Cease Fire Day**  
020 7456 9180 peaceoneday.org

**25 Chester Fairtrade Wine Tasting & Quiz Evening** St Columba's Hall, Plas Netwon.

Contact 01244 317381.

**26 Bridgnorth CAFOD Event** to explore the work of CAFOD. St John the Evangelist WV16 4ER  
10am – 1.30pm

## OCTOBER

**2 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day**

**12-18 Global Debt Week**  
Jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/  
debtweek

**16-18 Stand Up and Take Action 2009**  
standagainstpoverity.org

**17 International Day for Eradication of Poverty**  
unmeditation.org/

**17 Birmingham J&P Assembly** *Economics: 'God or Mammon?'* 10.30-4.30. St Peter's School, Solihull.

**18 Micah Sunday** Micah Challenge UK 0207207 2730  
micahchallenge.org.uk

**18 Telford & Wrekin Interfaith Group Prayers for Peace** Meeting Point House, Telford, 7.30 p.m.  
Contact 01952 591508.

**18-25 One World Week** *Hungry for One World*  
oneworldweek.org

**18-25 Week of Prayer for World Peace** 0208 968 4340

**24 United Nations Day**  
unmeditation.org/

**31 Marple Bridge Eco Day**  
Explore Climate Change. How is it affecting us? What can we do to help ourselves and the planet? St Mary's Parish hall, Hollins Lane, SK6 5BB. 10.30-3.30. Bring packed lunch.

## DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY Catholics for Racial Harmony

### Racial Justice Mass

followed by light refreshments

**St John the Evangelist,**  
Bebington Road, New Ferry CH62 5BJ  
(map available at  
www.stjohnnevang.co.uk)

**Sunday, 13 September, 2.30**

All are welcome.

### NJPN Quarterly Meeting Saturday 19 September

10.45am-4.00pm

**Venue:** Evron Centre,  
1 Adswood Lane West,  
Stockport, SK3 8HT

**Speaker:** Ian Guest

**Subject:** Financial Inclusion

For more details

www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

### Shrewsbury Diocesan J&P Commission

#### CAFOD livesimply Creation Walk

a liturgy in which we will consider how our way of life and our actions affect ourselves, our global neighbours, and God's creation itself.

**All Saint's, Carrington Lane,  
Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale M33  
5WL**

**Saturday 9 October  
10am - 1.00**

Followed by a shared lunch.

Contact Anne O'Connor

### EMAIL UPDATES

Ann Kelly (National J&P Network) distributes weekly email updates on J&P issues. To receive a sample, contact Joan.

Please send me your dates and news, so that they can be included in future editions of the **Quick News Network** mailing. If you would prefer to receive Quick News Network electronically as a pdf in future, please email me and let me know.

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