



Photo: Fairtrade Foundation

*God of wholeness
you have created
us bodily,
that our work and
faith may be one.
May we offer our
worship from
lives of integrity;
and maintain the
fabric of this
world
with hearts that
are set on you.*

Janet Morley,

All Desires Known, 1988

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Work is the Key

During much of human history the reality was not far from the assertion in Genesis that we would work by the sweat of our brow. For most people life was nasty brutish and short: The Beveridge Report of 1942 wrote of the need for the state to attack the 'five giants of Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness'. Out of this report arose the welfare state. As it approaches its own three score and ten, the welfare state has become itself something of a giant - bureaucratic complexity. Iain Duncan Smith had visited Easterhouse in 2002 and came away notably affected. With the arrival of the coalition government, he was the obvious choice for the Department of Work and Pensions. Within a couple of weeks of coming to power, he had produced the most extensive welfare reform policy since Beveridge. Among the ambitious and progressive recommendations were a Universal Credit to replace the more than thirty existing benefits; and the removal of anomalies that make it financially more rewarding to remain on benefits than to work. These plans were hobbled by the Chancellor's statement of intention to cut £11 billion from the DWP budget, with a further 7 billion trimmed by November 2010.

The plans are also hampered by a peculiar logic. First, you propose that many people are living in welfare dependency purely as a matter of 'lifestyle choice'. Your Alice in Wonderland solution is that in order to make people independent, you curtail or remove the welfare. Simple.

The root problem with the proposals, and the place where they lack any connection with Catholic Social Teaching is in their complete failure to recognise the difference between work

and jobs. Work is that which affirms, rewards and dignifies work undertaken for the Common Good. Jobs are all too often little more than wage slavery combined with a bit of displacement activity, frequently damaging to the Common Good. All work has elements we could probably do without, but if an occupation does not

recognise and affirm the dignity of those doing it, it is not real work. No real account is taken of what Ivan Illich calls 'shadow work': so-called 'women's work', unpaid, non-quantifiable work as home makers, carers and enablers which provides the foundation for society.

This policy is guided by a philosophy that to induce the well off to work harder you must pay them more, whereas to get the poor to work harder you pay them less. An ideological commitment to less government and lower taxes and the catch all excuse of recession is not a good basis for a compassionate approach to welfare and work.

Pay

- The **Minimum Wage** does not keep pace with rises in the cost of living.
- Millions of people face **pay cuts, pay freezes or unemployment.**
- Meanwhile, **bankers continue to receive astronomical bonuses.**



Photo: Church Action on Poverty

There is a better approach reflected in Catholic Social Teaching. 2011 is the hundred and twentieth anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*, the foundational encyclical. To celebrate its ninetieth anniversary, Pope John Paul II wrote *Laborem Exercens*:

'human work is a key, probably the essential key, to the whole social question, if we try to see that question really from the point of view of human good. And if the solution-or rather the gradual solution-of the social question, which keeps coming up and becomes ever more complex, must be sought in the direction of "making life more human", then the key, namely human work, acquires fundamental and decisive importance' (LE 3).

Tim Duffy, J&P Scotland

This is an edited version of an article from *Justice & Peace Scotland* Issue 6 2010. The full version is available on the website, www.justice-and-peace.org.uk. Hard copies may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX.



National Justice and Peace Network along with other Christian organisations and diocesan groups joined in the TUC *March for the Alternative* on 26 March, to protest at the disproportionate impact of cuts on the poorest in our society, and to call for alternatives such as growing the 'green economy'. Before joining the march, many attended a moving service at St Martin in the Fields to commemorate Archbishop Romero, who gave his life in the defence of the poor in El Salvador.



Speaking Personally: Kay Finnegan

Where do you think your commitment to justice and peace comes from?

I was greatly influenced by my father. During my childhood I was aware that two nights a week he was out on St Vincent de Paul business. I knew that he visited less privileged families than ours and that these visits entailed bringing material help. I was also aware that he was co-founder of our town's Trades Union Council and was very busy when all the local factories went on strike. He and the Parish Priest were involved in negotiations. I was impressed by his knowledge of the Church's Social Teaching and the periodicals he subscribed to. So, joining a congregation that worked with marginalised women just seemed the natural thing to do. In my early days in Religious Life I attended Juniorate studies in Portobello Road for two years. Sisters there were from 47 different nations and there were many missionaries. I was particularly disturbed by the problems of Rhodesia when Unilateral Independence was declared and concerned about the struggle for independence from colonial rule in Africa. I was in Kenya during the 70s and experienced for myself how the other half lives. Later I studied Liberation Theology and this blew my mind. I think all these experiences, plus our charism and apostolate, and the life of our founder, St Jean Eudes, have all moulded me into who and what I am.

What for you are the most important areas of concern today?

The whole area of marginalisation and oppression of women at every level of society in every part of the world. And I think prostitution is one of the forms that the abuse and exploitation of women takes in a very overt yet hidden way. Also the violence that we do to each other and to the rest of creation. All the injustice in the world, all the people who are

dehumanised and impoverished at every level. You just have to look at the monopolisation of knowledge which keeps so many millions of people in ignorance and powerless, so that power belongs to the few.

What sustains you in your commitment?

I've taken a fourth vow as a Sister of Our Lady of Charity to be actively involved in ministry to vulnerable women to the end of my days. The vow doesn't feel like something I'm obliged to do. How can I describe it—it's almost as if a seed has been planted inside me and ever since it's just kept growing and become a vital part of who and what I am. I have a passionate desire for right relationship with and for everybody. I'm moved by people's pain and suffering. Secondly and just as importantly, I am sustained by my prayer life and prayers and example of other Sisters. As I grow older I am more aware of the need to open myself in prayer in order to be fed and sustained and transformed. And of course the women themselves are a huge source of inspiration, and give me so much.



What are your hopes for a Church like ours in the 21st Century?

I would like to see a real implementation of Vatican II. WE are The People of God. I'd like pastors to feed congregations with the Social Teaching of the Church. I'd like a Church that listens to and is more influenced by the People of God. A living, changing Church. A Church that is relevant. A Church that challenges injustices and that asks relevant questions.

Kay Finnegan is a Sister of our Lady of Charity. For the past ten years she has been working with women in prostitution and other vulnerable women in the Kings Cross area and as a Chaplaincy Volunteer in Holloway Prison. She is a member of the Conference 2011 Working Party.

Thoughts About 'Alternative Holidays'



In the recent Spring issue there was a note about 'alternative' holidays. On the websites of the three organisations mentioned—Traidcraft, Tourism Concern and Christians Aware Tours:

Christians Aware Tours website has a useful Action Cards page that covers fair trade, poverty, environment, refugees, child labour, debt and development, encouraging people to send cards of support or protest to recipients in the Action Card briefing. In May 2010 it highlighted the work Progressio is doing with Malawian farmer Angelina Ngoza, helping her to 'go organic', helping her to feed her six children *and* end dependency on big business.


Traidcraft works 'with local partners in long term relationships ensuring local

people benefit economically and socially from our visits'. It claims their holiday packages provide an opportunity to learn not only about different peoples and their cultures, but also about the issues affecting them. Should you choose one of their holidays, you are invited to offset any environmental impact by making an optional donation of 1% of the booking cost to Traidcraft's environmental fund. Your holiday will also contribute over 60% of the land only portion to the local economy, while a minimum of 4% goes to producers and projects visited. Yet although Traidcraft acknowledges that flying had a highly damaging impact on the environment its 'Meet the People Tours' fly to sixteen countries, all of them long-haul flights halfway around the world. In most cases there are also additional internal flights. For many reasons, both environmental and otherwise, I have serious reservations about this one.

Tourism Concern describes itself as a campaign-based organisation that works with partners in the South 'who are fighting for communities that are struggling with the impact of tourism development'. It supports the work of NGO's and communities 'finding their own solutions for tourism related poverty and exploitation'. The organisations ethical practices are said to include adopting low impact 'green' policies and practices. Although Tourism Concern doesn't offer holiday packages per se, its website has a comprehensive section on how to avoid guilt trips that is well worth consulting. There are, however, no concrete statements about the impact of flying on the environment. This is, in fact, my one caveat. That said, the section on guilt trips highlights an Ethical Travel Guide that may well address the issues in greater detail.

Diana Mills

The Future of *livesimply*

 The *livesimply* project which began at the end of 2007, originally for one year as a call to Catholics to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor, has now come to an end. However, the concept is being carried forward through four strands:

- The Catholic Social Teaching website, maintained by Progressio, www.catholicsocialteaching.org.uk;
- The *livesimply* Parish Award scheme to be launched by CAFOD on 20 May, to help parishes become more environmentally responsible;
- The Live Simply Youth Network, made up of agencies involved in youth ministry or projects, which aims to ensure that justice and peace issues are given a high profile in youth activities in the Church;
- Networking, which is being carried forward through NJPN's Open Networking Days and weekly E-Bulletins— of course, NJPN believes that it has been doing *livesimply* for over 30 years!



A co-ordinating group made up of the bodies mentioned above, is chaired by Rev Dr Martin Poulson SDB.

More than Gold - the Olympics and Justice and Peace

James Parker, the Catholic Church's national Executive Director for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, is keen for diocesan Justice and Peace networks and others to know about some of the projects that they can engage with in the lead up to, and during the 2012 Games. The majority of

Justice and Peace initiatives are being undertaken ecumenically under the name of the churches' umbrella charity *More Than Gold* (see www.morethangold.org.uk).

More Than Gold created its own specific Social Justice Team in 2009. The following five topics were highlighted as being of key concern by the Christian community:

Homelessness * Human Trafficking and Prostitution
Fair Trade* Environment
Sacred Truce of Olympic Peace

A programme of awareness and response is presently being developed to address these concerns.

Alongside this engagement with other churches, the Catholic community also wishes to ensure that more people, and especially the young, are aware of and informed about matters of justice and peace. With this in mind, four key projects are underway:

Hundred Days for Peace in Schools and Parishes: a project for schools to reach out in their locality and engage with fifty days of peace before the Games (Friday 08 June 2012) and a similar one for parishes to do the same fifty days after the end of the Paralympics (Sunday 28 October 2012) – see www.peacelegacy.org.uk for more details

Peace Vigil: gathering together leaders and members of many faiths and of none at a Vigil of Peace on Saturday 09 June 2012 in the centre of London, as a combined witness to the global community that people of religious belief and of none are praying for, and actively working towards, peace throughout the Olympic and Paralympic Games and beyond.

Olympic Peace Concert: bringing together some of the top names in contemporary music to highlight the increasing problem of knife and gun crime in our land, and the atrocities of injustice and conflict across the globe.

Human Trafficking, the Sex Trade and Child Labour: the *Union of Catholic Mothers* and *Catholic Women's League* are working with religious orders, and are in the process of inviting different men's organisations in the Catholic Church to join them, in promoting a competition for young people in secondary schools, sixth form colleges and universities. These Catholic organisations will be encouraging young people to create a 4-5 minute DVD which can be used as a future resource to educate the Catholic community and others on the 21st Century realities of this modern day slavery.

For more information, or to get involved, please visit www.morethangold.org.uk, www.peacelegacy.org.uk or email james.parker@cbcew.org.uk.

Summer 2011 Action Highlights

—See Diary for full details

There's plenty to keep you busy from May to September:

Environment: The *livesimply* Parish Award scheme will be launched on 20 May; can you encourage your parish to take part and see how it can reduce its carbon footprint? 5 June is World Environment Day and Environment Sunday, a good opportunity to get your parish to start thinking about the environment. You can also find lots of interesting conferences on environment and faith issues on the Christian Ecology Link website.

Peace: International Conscientious Objectors Day 15 May and Franz Jägerstätter Feast Day 21 May; World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel 29 May—4 June; Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations 6 and 9 August; Peace One Day 21 September.

Racial Justice and Human Rights: CARJ conference on the role of Catholic schools; Refugee Week 20—26 June; Racial Justice Sunday 11 September, the theme is Combatting Human Trafficking.

International Development: Sit down with your MP and take the message of global poverty to the heart of government over a cup of tea as part of Tea Time for Change, 9 June.

Festivals, peace camps, summer schools, pilgrimages are all happening over the summer, a chance to be re-inspired—not least at THE conference of the year! Details below.

Arms Trade: The Defence and Security Equipment International Arms Fair will take place in London in September. CAAT will be holding a Day of Action, you can find out about preparation days for this on their website. CAAT Christian Network will have a day of prayer on 11 September.

*Here's a way you could have some fun this summer and raise a bit of money for NJPN—**Raise a Glass for Justice and Peace** one midsummer evening—with Fairtrade wine and fruit juice of course—and take donations for NJPN. If you'd like to give it go contact the office.*



NATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE NETWORK
Annual Justice & Peace Conference



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Information
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NJPN, 39 Eccleston Sq.
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15—17 July 2011
The Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire

DIARY

This is a selection of dates. Find more on our rolling calendar and via links to organisations on our website, www.justice-and-peace.org.uk, where there are also links to many of the organisations listed below.

MAY

- 13 London, Heythrop: Vocation for Justice 25th Anniversary: vocforjus@aol.com
- 13-14 London: Peace History Conference: 01908 511 948; Lesley-Docksey@abolishwar.org.uk
- 14 **NJPN AGM & Networking Day**, London 'Creation Theology': 020 7901 4864; admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk
- 14 End the Siege on Gaza—Free Palestine www.palestinecampaign.org; 020 7700 6192
- 15 International Conscientious Objectors Day: www.wri-irg.org
- 19 London: Identity, Achievement and Active Citizenship through Catholic Education: www.carj.org.uk; 020 8802 8080
- 20 Bristol: Launch of **Livesimply** Parish Award: 020 7095 5417; marana@cafod.org.uk
- 21 Franz Jägerstätter Feast Day: Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884; info@paxchristi.org.uk
- 21 Birmingham: CAAT Action: Arms Show or Baby Show? www.caat.org.uk; 020 7281 0297
- 24 International Women's Day for Disarmament www.ifor.org/WPP/networking_may24.htm
- 28 London: Pax Christi AGM: www.paxchristi.org.uk; 020 8203 4884
- 28 York Minster: Big Environment Celebration www.christian-ecology.org.uk; 0845 459 8460
- 29-4 June: World Week for Peace in Palestine Israel www.oikoumene.org

JUNE

- 4 Portsmouth: Bruce Kent: 'Where to for the Peace Movement?' vida.henning@ntlworld.com
- 5 World Environment Day/Environment Sunday www.christian-ecology.org.uk; 0845 459 8460
- 9 London: Lobby for International Development, Tea Time for Change: 020 7095 5416; www.cafod.org.uk/teatimeforchange
- 15 London: Housing Justice Conference www.housingjustice.org.uk; 020 7920 3295
- 18 Brentwood: Peace Study Day: Pat Gaffney & Valerie Flessati davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org; 01277 265 252
- 18 Liverpool: Volunteer Mission Movement Information Day www.vmm.ie; 0151 291 3438
- 18-19 Leamington Peace Festival: www.peacefestival.org.uk; 0845 388 4207; stalls@peacefestival.org.uk
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 20-26 Refugee Week: www.refugeeweek.org.uk/
- 25 Norwich: Peace Camp and Peace Cycle www.norwichpeace.org; 07828 278 444

CAFOD North East Pilgrimage

- 20-25 June Leeds Diocese: leeds@cafod.org.uk; 0113 275 9302
- 26 June-2 July: Middlesbrough Diocese: Middlesbrough@cafod.org.uk; 01904 671 767
- 1-9 July Durham to Holy Island: 0191 373 5001 hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk
- 9 July Holy Island Pilgrimage

JULY

- 1-31 London: Exhibition: The Earth's Third Pole www.freetibet.org; 020 7324 4605
- 4 Menwith Hill: Independence FROM America Day www.caab.org.yk; 01423 884 076
- 7-8 Aberporth: Protest: Stop Weapons Development in Wales www.bepj.org.uk
- 9 CAFOD Campaign Energiser Day jbuchanan@cafod.org.uk; 0207 095 5416
- 10 Sea Sunday www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk; 020 7012 8602
- 15-17 Swanwick, Derbys: Annual Justice & Peace Conference www.justice-and-peace.org.uk; 020 7901 4864
- 16 Cardiff: Vincentian Justice Day www.vip-gb.org/justice; 07432 128 280
- 18-24 Ely: The Environment and Rural Issues: Christians Aware Summer School: www.christian-ecology.org.uk; 0116 254 0770
- 25 Day for Life: www.dayforlife.org (to be confirmed)

AUGUST

- 6 & 9 Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations: www.cnduk.org; 020 7700 2357/ www.paxchristi.org.uk; 020 8203 4884
- 26-29 Greenbelt 2011: www.greenbelt.org.uk; 020 7374 2760

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Brentwood: CJSR Annual Conference: Susie Brouard davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org; 01277 265 252
- 10 Southwark: Training Day on parish groups: office@southwarkjandp.co.uk; 020 7928 9742
- 11 Racial Justice Sunday: www.carj.org.uk; 0208 802 8080
- 11 CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer outreach@caat.org.uk; 020 7281 0297
- 13-16 London: DSEI Arms Fair: www.caat.org.uk; 020 7281 0297
- 13 Stop the Arms Fair Day of Action
- 21 Peace One Day: www.peaceoneday.org; 020 8948 0545
- 24 Sheffield: **NJPN Open Networking Day** www.justice-and-peace.org.uk; 020 7901 4864
- 24 Brentwood: Mass for Families: davina@dioceseofbrentwood.org; 01277 265 252

DONATE TO NJPN: By cheque payable to NJPN to the address below, online at www.cafonline.org/donate, put National Justice and Peace Network in the Find a Charity box. To make a regular donation by **Standing Order**, contact the Administrator or download the Membership Form at www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

The National Justice & Peace Network encourages and facilitates communication and networking between Catholic/Christian individuals, groups, and organisations (both lay and religious) who are working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation at grassroots, diocesan, national or international level.

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