

Office Report

Annual General Meeting - 19 May 2012 The AGM will be held at St Nicholas of Tolentino Church, Lawford's Gate, Bristol BS5 0RE. Time: 10.30 - 4.00pm. Our speaker is Oliver McTernan, co-founder and CEO of *Forward Thinking*. We will cover the business Agenda in the morning and have our speaker and Mass celebrated by Bishop Malcom McMahon in the afternoon. Bristol Temple Meads is the nearest station. St Nicholas is about a 20 minute walk. For those driving there is parking in the school car park (access from Pennywell Road) then walk through the school grounds to the Church - parish hall at the rear.

The following items will be included in the Business Agenda

Notice of changes in the Executive Committee

- Arianna Andreageli will be standing down after her 4 year term. We thank Arianna for all her insights and input of these years.
- Emma Atherton has agreed to be co-opted on to the Executive Committee for a year. Emma, who has been involved in a number of Pax Christi's youth events is currently studying in the Department of Peace Studies, Bradford University. Member Paul McGowen from Coventry has agreed to stand for the Executive Committee. As well as involvement in local peace networks, Paul has been active with justice & peace for more than 30 years and is currently Pax Christi's representative in the Drones UK Network

Notice of change in subscriptions rates. These have remained the same since 1999. This is a proposal from the Executive Committee to be agreed at the AGM. It is proposed that the rates be amended as follows from the beginning of 2013

Category	Current	New
Individual	£18	£20
Family/small group	£22	£25
Student/low income	£ 8	£ 8
Organisation	£30	£30

Calling all 18 - 30s to the Pax Christi workcamp in Florence 9 - 13 July This international camp, on the theme Blessed are the Peacemakers, will be at Casa per la Pace, the Pax Christi Peace House in Florence. The programme includes workshops, prayer, reflection, work in the house and garden and lots of fun! Cost of food and dormitory style accommodation is £150.00. Travel to and from Casa per la Pace not included. Flights are to Pisa with bus or train connections to Florence. For more information and bookings contact Matt on 0208 203 4884 or education@paxchristi.org.uk

Volunteer Opportunities at the Pax Christi France Pavilion in Lourdes. 11 July and 29 August. The Pavilion is in the boulevard Rémi Sempé and volunteers are needed to greet people who visit the Pavilion, talk with them about Pax Christi's work and offer some activities. Accommodation and food provided, volunteers have to cover own travel costs. We can put you in touch with others who have volunteered if you want to know more. Contact: Françoise Boneu, Les Rocailles, 65710 CAMPAN, email: jacques.boneu@orange.fr and info here www.paxchristi.ccf.fr

Report on Jerusalem Petition Pax Christi was among a number of groups presenting a Petition to Mr David Cameron in Downing Street on Friday 30th March. It asked the UK Government to take action to prevent the destruction of Palestinian life in Jerusalem. Pax Christi, the Amos Trust, Architects & Planners for Justice in Palestine, Friends of Al Aqsa, Friends of Sabeel, Jews for Justice for Palestinians and Palestine Solidarity Campaign supported the petition. Thank you to those who helped collect more than 5,000 signatures.

Diary

21 May (Mon) International

Feast Day of Franz Jägerstätter, Martyr for Peace. Resource and prayer materials available from Pax Christi office and see more here <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/litgy1.php>

3 June (Sun) National

CAAT Christian Network - Arms Trade day of Prayer. Linked to International Day for Children as Victims of War - 4 June. More info: www.caat.org.uk

17 June (Sun) Chelmsford

Sport in the Service of Peace: ecumenical gathering in Chelmsford Cathedral, New Street, CM1 1TY with Bishop Stephen Cottrell. Starts 2.30pm. A service of prayer, music and drama in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games.

3 -9 July (Tues-Mon) Bath

Three Faiths summer school, theme 'Pilgrimage' hosted at the Ammerdown Centre, Radstock, Somerset. Costs £584.00. Bursaries available. Contact the centre on 01761 433709 or centre@ammerdown.org and www.ammerdown.org

6 & 9 August (Mon & Thurs) London

Annual Pax Christi vigils for anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Piazza, Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to help out please contact the office.

6 August (Mon) London

Guided walk along the Central London Peace Trail with Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati. Meet by Gandhi's statue in Tavistock Square WC1 at 1.30pm (following the annual 12 noon Hiroshima Day ceremony in the square). The trail goes down to Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Westminster, and ends at the Imperial War Museum. Drop out before the end if you need to.

9 August (Thurs) London

Annual memorial service to mark the execution of Franz Jägerstätter in the Crypt Chapel, Westminster Cathedral, at 6.30pm.

18 August (Sat) London

Guided walk along the Central London Peace Trail with Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati. Meet by Gandhi's statue in Tavistock Square WC1 at 10.30am. (See 6 August above)

24-27 August (Fri-Mon) Cheltenham

Racecourse
Greenbelt Christian festival of talks, music, worship and lots more, with speakers this year including John Dear sj, Mary Grey, John Bell, Giles Fraser, Ciaran O'Reilly and Ben Griffin of Veterans for Peace, Canon David Porter and lots more. Pax Christi will have a presence at the Festival. Bookings and more information here www.greenbelt.org.uk/

23 September (Sun) London

Children's Mystery Walk along the London peace trail - with puzzle books and clues. Best for 6-11 age group. Starts at Friends House, Euston Rd NW1 at 11am. Details: Movement for the Abolition of War 0203 397 3019 info@abolishwar.org.uk

29 September (Sat) Herts

Untold Stories from Israel-Palestine: a call to action for peace. Day led by Pat Gaffney, 11am -3.30 pm at Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, Bushey Heath. £10 donation. Email: bookings-finance@nilandcentre.co.uk tel. 0208 950 4000

Keep peace alive. Remember Pax Christi when making or up-dating your will

Please send me information on

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I enclose a donation of £_____ to support your work

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Return to Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY
Tel: 020 8203 4884 email: info@paxchristi.org.uk www.paxchristi.org.uk

Pax Christi - Our Values

Pax Christi members live by the biblically inspired values of **Peace, Reconciliation, Nonviolence.**

These values are supported by the witness of peacemakers down the ages and the experience of the Pax Christi community. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who are in sympathy with its values and work.

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Justpeace

PAX CHRISTI

International Catholic Movement for Peace

Justpeace No 288 May-June 2012

ISSN0287-7647

Militarism's impact on coastal communities

Last November while attending an international seminar on nuclear issues in Scotland I was a little puzzled as to why our South Korean friends were so keen to visit the Faslane peace camp and naval base. In our discussions a strong parallel emerged between what is happening in Faslane and in Gangjeong village on the island of Jeju, South Korea. Both are beautiful natural sites. Both have become strategic military locations - but are far from the decision-making centres of Government. Both have seen the growth of resistance and protest movements challenging the models of security that are being developed and highlighting the environmental costs and risks they bring. Pax Christi was alerted to this last year at our AGM when Prof Dave Webb, Chair of CND, asked our support for Korean peace activist, Professor Yang Yoon-Mo, who had been on hunger strike for 70 days.

Jeju has suffered under militarism before. Some have said its strategic location is part its curse; between South Korean mainland and Japan and 300 miles from Chinese mainland. During World War II it was taken over by the Japanese and islanders were forced work for the army. Then in 1948 the people of Jeju refused to support elections that would affirm the division of Korea. They were labelled as 'Red' and in US-supported actions 84 villages were razed to the ground. 30,000 people were killed. In 2005 Jeju was declared an Island of World Peace in commemoration of these tragic events. Today, another heavy hand touches the islanders with attempts since 2007 to build a 50-hectre naval base that will house 8,000 marines and up to 20 destroyers and several submarines. According to Dave Webb, under the South Korean-USA mutual defence pact and Status of Forces Agreement, the US can use any South Korean ports and airfields, and President Obama has declared the Asia-Pacific as a military "pivot" in his projection of power "to protect U.S. interests and investments." It is quite clear that the US will want to use the base to berth its Aegis missile defence ships and nuclear aircraft carriers.

In early March blasting of the Gureombi (sacred, unique volcanic rocks) began and protests increased. Trident Ploughshare founder Angie Zelter was in Jeju at the time and reported that Professor Yang Yoon-Mo was on hunger strike again while in prison. He declared: "if Gureombi lives, I live. If Gureombi dies, I die. Do not cry for me. Cry for the future generations who may not be able to feel the beauty of Gureombi... this commitment is a call from God." The island is also a UNESCO World Heritage site with a unique eco-system.

The people, the local economy and life-style, the natural environment are all under threat. Christians have been fulsome in their campaigning with priests, nuns and lay-people taking part in protests and being arrested. Mass is often celebrated in the open air on the Gureombi rocks. The Columban Fathers and the Jesuits are among those involved and in March arrest warrants were issued for Fr Joseph Chong-uk Kim SJ and Protestant Reverend Lee Jeong-hun. Another outspoken catholic priest, Father Bartholomew Mun Jung-hyun, received an 8-month suspended sentence in March



Celebrating Mass on the Gureombi rocks. Taken by Angie Zelter

In March, the president of the Korean bishops' conference Bishop Peter Kang U-il criticised South Korea's decision to proceed with the construction of the base saying, "The government is acting like it hasn't heard and is going ahead with what it's calling a 'national project' but the argument that a project is justified simply because the state is carrying it out is something you would have expected in the era of totalitarianism. In a democratic government, you can even stop or turn back a national project you've started if there is resistance from citizens or objections from a lot of people. It is essential that the naval base plan be abandoned, for the sake of Jeju residents and the whole of the Republic of Korea".

Pax Christi International has made representation to the President of the Republic of Korea and the British Section joined a protest at the Republic of Korea Embassy on 9 May.

Pat Gaffney

What you can do

Pax Christi partner in Korea, Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (SPARK) has asked for the following actions:

- **Write to** Embassy of the Republic of Korea and ask them to stop the construction of the base.
- **Write a message** of solidarity to Bishop Peter Kan-U-Il, president of the Bishops' Conference of South Korea. Email catholic-cheju@hanmail.net
- **Sign** the AVAAZ Petition http://www.avaaz.org/en/save_jeju/
- **Find out more**, including further actions that can be taken: www.savejejuisland.org and reports from Angie Zelter's visit here www.tridentploughshares.org

Water, conflict and justice

Kenya - where conflict over resources leads to murder... and then forgiveness

"When I saw my brothers' bodies, I wanted to take revenge," says David Lodonya. "But after a few hours, I had suicidal thoughts. Things have just gone too far." I meet David in the village of Longewan in north-west Kenya. He's been at work on his vegetable plot, just outside a large greenhouse. The sun is shining, maize is growing above head-height, and - apart from the occasional bleat of a goat - the fields around us are silent and still. It's strange to think that this village was recently a battleground.

For years, David made a living from his herd of 300 cows and goats. "For me," he says, "my animals were my bank: school fees for my children, food for my family." But season after season of failed rains took a heavy toll. As water sources dried up and grazing land became scarce, many of David's animals died. Then, one day, he went to the market in a nearby town, leaving his two brothers to look after what was left of his herd. When he returned, the animals were gone, and both his brothers had been shot dead. His brothers were victims of an increasingly violent conflict between the people of Longewan and those of the neighbouring village. Faced by desperate needs, and with animals dying at an alarming rate, both communities were carrying out regular cattle raids.

David speaks with quiet dignity about finding his brothers' bodies. At first he was shocked, then angry, and then, after a few hours, he fell into a state of despair. "I went home and told my wife to pack her things and go to her mother's home," he says. "She begged me to tell her why. I told her that I was going to kill myself."

David's wife Susan and the village elders persuaded him that life was worth living that night. But, with the conflict getting worse, David and Susan were forced to leave the village. Life on the move was hard. They lived in temporary shelters made of plastic sheeting, sometimes going for two days without food. Their eldest daughter was born in the bush, on a plastic sheet, with only David to help with the delivery. She nearly died of pneumonia soon afterwards. "Sometimes only God knows how we make it through," he says quietly.

An extraordinary transformation

Today David and his family are back in Longewan, and working hard to rebuild their lives. David is one of 40 former herders in the village who've taken up small-scale farming, thanks to a greenhouse, a dam and an irrigation system built by CAFOD partners in the Diocese of Maralal.

For reflection

Water problems of our world need not be only causes for tension; they can also be a catalyst for cooperation ...

If we work together, a secure and sustainable water future can be ours.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, 2002

In a few decades, the relationship between the environment, resources and conflict may seem almost as obvious as the connection we see today between human rights, democracy and peace.

Wangari Maathai, speaking in the 1980s

All praise be yours, my Lord, through Sister Water, so useful, lowly, precious and pure
Canticle of all Creatures, St Francis of Assisi

Creator of the waters, source of life, we confess our incapacity to face the many distortions of our world, including the misuse of water. But we also confess our tendency to establish limits to your free gift of love for everyone. Forgive us when we become a disruption to your kindness and justice.

From World Council of Churches, Water in the Desert service

"Before, rearing animals was the only way I made a living," says David. "Then the Diocese came and helped us set up farming. We get good harvests, and have been able to make profits from the crops we've sold. The dam makes a big difference. Before when it rained we weren't prepared. But now we can preserve the rainwater."

Even more importantly, the diocese organised peace meetings between David's village and their neighbours. "The first meeting was very tense," says David. "We looked at each other with all the suspicion in the world. We couldn't sit together. You would look at someone who you knew had raided you and get very angry. During one of the first meetings, someone was shot 100 metres away. Everyone ran home to get their guns."

"With time, we started to get to know each other a bit. Now you see people from both communities talking in corners and sharing cigarettes. I've changed my opinion. From meeting them, we realised we could work together. Today both communities have given up entirely on the raids. We are grateful for the efforts of CAFOD in making that happen."

David introduces me to his wife Susan and his four young children. They live in a simple hut, and their lives are far from easy. But they're determined to build a better future. Today, because of the farming project, they are self-sufficient and have enough to eat. But more importantly, because there's peace, they are full of hope. "Through my Catholic faith," says David, "I am trying to forgive people who killed my brothers. I have learnt that they are human too."

Nick Harrop, CAFOD

Find out about CAFOD's Thirst for Change campaign here:
www.cafod.org.uk/thirst



Wells for India's struggles in Rajasthan.

For almost 25 years Wells for India has been working in the semi-desert, water-stressed state of Rajasthan, in North-west India. Our goal has been to achieve water security for the most vulnerable village communities: only then can health, education and improved animal husbandry be addressed. Often development and peace with justice are kept separate. Although aid agencies are whole-heartedly committed to development and poverty eradication, they do not always make link poverty eradication and work for peace with justice.

Globally India is regarded as an increasingly economically powerful country. "Shining India" contains some of the wealthiest people of the world. Yet, as a recent Save the Children report showed 5,000 children die every day of malnutrition. The status of women in Rajasthan is an international issue. According to its own government patriarchy, caste-based discrimination, high illiteracy and high rates of poverty seem pervasive. Women continue to be seen as burdens. There are nine hundred and ten women for every thousand males in the population - although in some areas, according to Action Aid, the ratio is far worse. Female infanticide is a serious issue, as well as anaemia, poor nutrition, maternal mortality, child deaths from water-related diseases are all factors.

All this is closely related to the desperate search for water - the responsibility of women. The daily struggle for water, fuel, minor forest produce, fodder for animals and a small daily wage, in addition to endless household chores, and perhaps violence at the hands of a drunken husband, the fear of abuse or even rape (especially for Dalit women, formerly 'untouchables'), are realities for Rajasthani women.

One story illustrates how many of these factors coalesce. In 2010 on an annual visit we were taken to a remote area in the hills of southern Rajasthan, by one of Wells for India's partners, Rajasthan Bal Kalyan Samiti. Water-harvesting had just begun. Over the last 23 years, we have regularly visited very poor rural communities and seen the suffering of people as well as their courage and perseverance. But here we encountered communities poorer than we had ever seen before. No agriculture was possible. Water had to be carried from a distance of 5 km. People were

Resources for peacemaking

www.nerc.ac.uk is maintained by the National Environmental Research Council. It carries information on research projects related to the environment. PDF documents can be downloaded from this website and many are said to be suitable for schools.

On www.reliefweb.int a large number of regularly updated maps are accessible on which environmental disasters, either natural or man-made. The Pakistan floodwaters of 28/9/2011 show up on a map and can be seen to have receded on another dated 10/3/2012.

An audio link on www.abc.net.au/rural/telegraph/content/2012/s3456726.HTM discusses water problems in Australia. 'It's been said that if it wasn't for federation the states would be at war over water. South Australia continues to argue for more water down the Murray. New South Wales is clashing with Queensland and claiming downstream water rights while South Australia is arguing their case for upstream water rights.'

Victoria and New South Wales are still arguing over the Snowy river.'

A video trailer on YouTube is part of the website www.indigenouspeoplesissues.com. Water extraction in the Amazon Basin in Brazil, for commercial soybean cultivation, was protested by indigenous peoples, blocking a highway in 2006. This is documented in the trailed film 'Owners of the Water'.

Amnesty International UK has a special 'Water Rights' page on its website, www.amnesty.org.uk/water. In their leaflet 'Share the water, protect the human', they state: 'There's water for Israeli swimming pools but none for Palestinian reservoirs.' The website makes the statement: 'Water and sanitation projects in Gaza, which is isolated by the Israeli blockade, are on hold because no materials for construction and maintenance are allowed in. Over 90 per cent of tap water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption because it is contaminated by seawater and sewage.'



Children of the village, Kuttermaria - "They murdered the dog" in South Rajasthan.

constantly hungry. For nine months people subsisted on a few chapattis a day; for the other three months just water and buttermilk. Children constantly went to bed hungry. Infant mortality was high. Sickness without medical help was a permanent feature.

This near starvation, we were told, had an effect on community relationships. People were constantly in conflict with each other. In fact the name - in English - in one village was "They murdered the dog", and another "They murdered the sheep". There was a police station near by but the police were afraid to interfere with this community-in-conflict. We hoped that project interventions would eventually turn this misery around. Certainly the following year there were signs of progress, and less migration in search of work. Yet we did not see any great change either on the water or educational fronts or in the people's sense of wellbeing. The situation highlighted, first, that change comes slowly and has to be worked for holistically; and secondly, that technical solutions to water shortages must be accompanied by justice and conflict resolution.

Mary Grey, Wells for India.

Read more here: www.wellsforindia.org/

Oxfam have organised a Water Week for young people. In Scotland from 11-17 June and in England from 2-6 July: 'Young people are encouraged to Learn Think Act. As they learn about water vulnerability, students are inspired to take action! See the website on www.oxfam.org.uk for more information.

Look at Progressio's Waterproof Campaign that aims to ensure that water is put on the Agenda of the June 2012 Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. www.progressio.org.uk/waterproof

Read the Operation Noah Ash Wednesday Declaration: *Climate Change the Purpose of God - a Call to the Churches*

www.operationnoah.org/read-the-declaration

Arn Dekker