

Peace Education Report for the Pax Christi AGM 2026

Below is a summary of the work during the year from the beginning of May 2025 to the beginning of May 2026. It covers education outreach, including work in schools, networks we are involved in, resource production and the Peace Pairs project.

Education Outreach

I have worked with around 37 schools in a number of different ways over 29 days.

Most school visits have been for workshops or talks, which have covered topics such as the work of Pax Christi, nonviolence and human security. I have visited mainly secondary schools, but I have also worked with primary schools and colleges. The majority have been faith schools, although two of the schools were non-faith. A majority of the schools we were invited into for Pax Christi workshops or talks were schools that I had visited before, but taking into account all the work with schools there was a fairly even split of schools that I had worked with before or that were new. I see being invited back into schools as a sign that our work is appreciated by staff and pupils and there are now schools I am regularly invited back into.

Some of the more unusual days include working with a secondary school to welcome some of their feeder primary schools for a day ran by the chaplaincy, a 'Faith in Action' day with schools in the Northampton diocese, a panel for sixth form students looking at conflict and reconciliation and a stall at an 'expo' of different Catholic organisations for a school Mission Week. I also joined a school for their annual sixth form conference at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick.

This year I collaborated with the Columbans and the SVP on the 'Called to Action' project. The project brings together schools in three different hubs, in Clifton diocese, Hallam diocese and Brixton, three times over the year. Each organisation leads one session at each hub, looking at either social action, advocacy or fundraising as a way to put our faith into action through the lens of the organisation's work. This has enabled us to work with new schools and schools we may have not reached before, as well as working with a number of schools in the one day who can then share this with others.

I have made an effort this year to email university chaplaincies with an offer to support them or offer a workshop. I haven't had much success, but I have made contact with the National Coordinator for Catholic Chaplains in Higher Education and discussed ideas for what Pax Christi could offer to universities and how they could share this information.

In March I led an afternoon session with Early Career Teachers in the Birmingham Diocese about how the work of Pax Christi fits into the Religious Education Directory. We have resources linked to the directory on our website.

I also joined the Preston Impact Youth Group on their annual residential at Castlerigg Manor, leading an input on peace in our communities, and led a day retreat for a confirmation group in London.

Networks

Pax Christi co-chairs the Peace Education Network (PEN) with Quakers in Britain. We have three meetings a year, two online and one in-person, which include skill shares and a business meeting. These are valuable ways to support each other, network and learn as peace educators. We were grateful for a grant from the Christian Peace Education Fund which enabled us to produce a bilingual Welsh and English version of our Teach Peace Secondary brochure (5 lessons with resources have also been translated). I joined the Peace Pledge Union on a stall the National Education Union's

annual conference on behalf of PEN to promote the Teach Peace Secondary resources. It was also a good opportunity to talk to teachers and see how we could support them.

We are a member of the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFED) and joined them for their annual gathering in November. I also produced a resource for one of their projects which I will report on below.

I have supported Million Minutes by giving input at their residential weekend at Savio house as part of their *Agents of Change: Youth Leadership for Peace and Justice* programme, supporting a group of young people to be leaders for peace and justice. I have also worked with them to create a resource for their *Celebrating Young People: Revival* project looking at peace for their sessions on Catholic Social Teaching.

We have also supported FaithJustice as one of their partners. I joined in one of their podcasts on Christian responses to militarism and joined one day of the Peace Pilgrimage to DSEI.

Resources

In terms of resources, I produced a resource for secondary schools for the Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action. For Peace Sunday I created a form time resource for secondary schools, a children's liturgy resource and an *Activities and Prayers for Children* resource.

CYMFED runs the 'Faith in Action' awards, for children and young people to put their faith into action through service and leadership in their parishes, schools and community. As part of the award they have various reflection points and I produced a resource for a reflection point on love looking at it through the lens of being peacemakers and working for peace. This award runs in many schools and dioceses around the country, and so allows more schools to engage with our work than I might be in contact with.

I have been working with the Leeds Justice and Peace Commission to produce resources for schools and parishes for a project in the Leeds Diocese using ginkgo trees to explore issues around nuclear weapons, the environment and hope.

Peace Pairs Project

With the support of Sr Katrina, we started the Peace Pairs project last year with five intergenerational pairs. The project has invited pairs to meet regularly to discuss and explore their calling to work for peace and Gospel nonviolence. Each pair has been asked to develop something to share what they have been discussing and exploring over the year. We plan to formally evaluate the year to see what we have learnt from it and how we could take this forward in the future.

Education Strategy Group

With the support of the Executive, the Education Strategy Group is there to support me, the education worker, in ensuring the education work fits into the strategic overview of Pax Christi. On this group are myself, Jennifer Rowlands, Sue Grubic and Sr Katrina Alton and I have been grateful for their advice and enthusiasm.

I will be leaving my role after the AGM, but I am very grateful for all the support I have received from the members, executive committee and other staff members over the years. Looking to the future, I am leaving handover notes and would recommend that anyone taking up the role continue the work with the networks I have been a part of and that they make contact with the National Coordination of Chaplains in Higher Education.

We are grateful for the support of the religious orders that donate to our work and also to the Christian Peace Education Fund for their contribution in funding this role.

Aisling Griffin, Schools and Youth Education Worker: education@paxchristi.org.uk