This year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of Pax Christi. It was an initiative in France in 1945 by two people, a teacher, Marthe Dortel–Claudot and Bishop Théas, to translate the words ‘Love your enemies’ into action and prayer. The courage and faith they showed in their witness for reconciliation and forgiveness in the bitterness between the people of France and Germany after the Second World War continue to inspire us, all these years later. They would be surprised at what has grown from their prophetic courage. Now, Pax Christi is an International Movement, but our strength, certainly in the British Section, remains in the grassroots action and witness of individual members. The photos and information overleaf will give you a flavour of this. We work within the Church and in the wider community, networking with other faith and secular organisations, to further the justice-based peace that the gospels speak of.

Our website gives a deeper sense of Pax Christi’s work and the resources produced to support individual members up and down the country. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the small team in the Pax Christi office – Pat, Fausta, Matt, Peter and Valerie, together with the office volunteers, who work so hard and creatively on behalf of us all.
Pax Christi by numbers

105 new members of whom 27 joined online
17 prayer and fasting vigils for Iraq & Syria
86 new parishes contributed to Peace Sunday. Total raised £112,843
149 Peace Sunday orders and 25,000 Pope Francis prayer cards sent out
23 stalls at conferences and diocesan events
41 days in schools and 12 other youth events
4371 General Election briefings distributed

Pax Christi through the year 2014-2015

May
Families of First World War conscientious objectors at special commemoration

June
Pax Christi International Peace Prize is presented to Jesuit Refugee Service Syria

September-October
Call for prayer and fasting for peace in Iraq, Syria, Palestine and Israel

November
Schools’ outreach programme in Manchester; Peace Education Network training: ‘Is there a problem with military in education?’

August
Greenbelt festival: young people take up peacemaking challenge of WW1 centenary

New members
Eleanor and Anna made these purses to raise funds for Pax Christi.

February
Ash Wednesday witness in Liverpool and London against nuclear weapons

January
Peace Sunday; ‘Wrap Up Trident’ message for Westminster

New member Mrs Hickey
‘I joined Pax Christi because I support any anti-war effort but more especially I like the way Pax Christi is run and value their information and publications.’

March
Burghfield blockade; Flame youth day at Wembley

April
Global Day of Action on Military Spending ‘Give Peace Budget’ ballot round the country