

# Justpeace

## PAX CHRISTI

International Catholic Movement for Peace

Justpeace No 305 September-October 2015

ISSN0287-7647

### Taking the message of Christian peacemaking to young people

After the Pax Christi AGM in Liverpool in 2014 I received an email from a member in the Lancaster diocese who liked what our education work offered to young people and was keen to get us more involved in his diocese. Eighteen months later and Terry's tireless efforts have paid off massively. I spend about forty days in schools each year, running workshops and giving talks, and more of those days are now in Lancaster schools than any other diocese.

Perhaps the jewel in the crown of Terry's efforts is St Bede's school in Lytham which has taken the work of Christian peacemaking to its heart and become one of the latest Pax Christi Schools. Head of RE John Harding writes in this newsletter showcasing some of their work and the vision towards which they are moving.

The work of Terry in Lancaster demonstrates the tremendous value of getting our members involved in our educational work. We do not benefit from a huge advertising budget or a big staff but rely instead on word of mouth and local champions to connect with schools and support young people as they reflect critically on the demands of peacemaking in the modern world. There are lots of ways in which members can support and promote our peace education work in their local area: for example buying a copy of Teach Peace, the excellent set of assemblies produced by the Peace Education Network, for a local primary school; mentioning our wonderful new Sixth Form General RE syllabus to an RE teacher in your church; or giving the [enclosed] flyer about our work in schools to a governor, to bring to the school's attention. There are many more. I am always delighted to be invited to speak with local Pax Christi or J&P groups to explore possibilities in your area. Of particular concern to many parents at this present time is the issue of



*Matt Jeziorski speaking at our AGM*

military involvement in schools. The article by Ben Griffin of Veterans for Peace in this newsletter is important and timely. The schools work of Veterans for Peace is one of the best additions to the peace education world in recent times, and it continues to be a real privilege to work alongside them in schools from time-to-time.

At the moment our work with schools is booming but our school visits remain overwhelmingly in London and the South East, and the North West and North Wales. Our work is national and it would be a real triumph were our members able to help our schools work reflect national priorities. I do hope this newsletter and the resources it includes will inspire many members to do for their own diocese some of what Terry has achieved in his.

*Matt Jeziorski, School and Youth Outreach Worker*

### Support for the Christian Peace Education Fund

Our warm thanks go to Chris Gabbett, Head of Trinity School Leamington Spa, who walked the Camino Inglese this summer and at the same time raised more than £700 for the CPEF, which helps fund Pax Christi's education work.

His JustGiving page, should you wish to support Chris is [www.justgiving.com/Chris-Gabbett/](http://www.justgiving.com/Chris-Gabbett/).



Trinity School is the first Pax Christi school and Chris offers us great encouragement in our Peace Education work. In August Chris spoke at the Franz Jägerstätter memorial service where he reflected that on becoming head he searched for a subject which would be appropriate for all his pupils - both Catholic and not. The character and message of Franz appeals very much to all young people, he said, Franz is as relevant today as he was during the Second World War.

In June, Chris wrote an article, available on the members news page of our website, reflecting on Armed Forces day, the military and schools. This was to coincide with the launch of The Unseen March, a film produced by the Quakers. You can view it here <http://old.quaker.org.uk/unseenmarch>. Chris and Ben Griffin, also featured in this newsletter, are both interviewed in the film.

A leaflet telling you more about the CPEF is enclosed. Do pass this on to family or friends who may be interested in supporting this work.

## Vital Ground - schools and the military

In military terminology “Vital Ground” is defined as ground or terrain of such importance that it must be retained or controlled for the success of the mission. In the UK our schools and classrooms have become vital ground for the military and the purveyors of militarism.

Militarism is the belief or desire of a government or people that a country should maintain a strong military capability and be prepared to use it aggressively to secure or promote national interests. It also implies the glorification of the ideals of a professional military class and the predominance of the armed forces in the institutions, administration, policy and propaganda of the state.

In order to maintain positive attitudes within society towards militarism it is necessary to carry out continuous propaganda operations. The target audience for this propaganda includes young people. Military “Community Engagement Teams” are tasked with gaining access to schools, country fairs and other events that attract high concentrations of children. They have a large budget. They are interested not only in finding recruits for the military but also in grooming those who have no intention of joining to accept military values and thinking. Needless to say the “Community Engagement Teams” offer a narrow and dishonest portrayal of military life and war. You will not hear a word from them about the often devastating consequences for civilians who are on the receiving end of British military force. Nor will you hear about the possible negative outcomes for those who sign up for a military career; death, disablement and post-traumatic stress disorder. The aim is to build unquestioning support for the military war among the general population, especially the young.

In the UK it has become common for education ministers and the military to talk about instilling a Military Ethos in our schools. This is defined by its supporters in terms of teamwork, discipline, respect and loyalty. However the true nature of Military Ethos is sinister. It requires obedience without question. It requires loyalty to the gang no matter what happens, whether that be torturing detainees, killing prisoners of war or urinating on the dead. It requires the removal of the barrier to kill.



*Ben Griffin running a schools workshop*

Veterans For Peace UK is an ex-services organisation of men and women who have served in every conflict since World War 2. We run a schools workshop programme aimed primarily at 12 to 18 year olds, to encourage pupils to think about the different reasons why young people join the military, whether that be because of unemployment, low wages, poor qualifications or more ideological reasons. We talk about what happens to young people during military training with a focus on the fundamental changes necessary to turn a young civilian into a soldier and the true nature of military ethos. Through our own experiences we talk about the dark reality of modern warfare. We aim to give children an insider's view of military life and war so that they are better equipped to recognise and challenge militarist propaganda.

**Ben Griffin in founder of Veterans for Peace UK.**

Find out more here <http://veteransforpeace.org.uk>

## Resources



There are lots of teaching resources in the Peace Education section of our website [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)

The Work of Christian Peacemaking - a Sixth form General RE Resource  
Comprising 6 lessons that investigate various themes of Christian peacemaking this syllabus enables

the learner to think critically about the theology and scripture that informs the work of Christian peacemaking

**Franz Jagerstatter - A story of remarkable faith**

Franz believed he could not be faithful to Jesus and fight for the Nazis and was executed for his refusal to fight. This workshop explores Franz's story and what he can teach us about the Christian vocation to peacemaking.

**Teach Peace - Assemblies and Reflections on Peace and Peacemaking** Produced by the Peace Education Network and available from [www.peace-education.org.uk](http://www.peace-education.org.uk)

**Coming soon...**

**Fly Kites not Drones** - produced by Drone Campaign Network, Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Pax Christi, and the Quakers this teaching resource helps children and young people to grapple with the morality of drone warfare [www.flykitesnotdrones.org](http://www.flykitesnotdrones.org)

**Pax Christi and our Work for Peace** - a lesson for GCSE Religious Studies where students can study the work of organisations who work for peace. Available from our website soon.

**School Workshops**

Our talks and workshops are available all over the country to encourage and support students to think critically about work for peace.

[www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/school-speakers](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/school-speakers)

## Pax Christi at St Bede's School

Our Pax Christi journey began with an introduction from Terry Mattinson who amongst many things is a Youth Worker in the Lancaster diocese. In 2014, Terry coordinated some inspiring visits to a number of high schools across the diocese for Matt Jeziorski.

At the end of the visit the pupils of St Bede's were left with a real question: "what next?" The important part for us at St Bede's was that this journey would be pupil driven. So far that is very much how it has been. As a result of the inspiration which the pupils felt from the visit they made the question their own. They spent time together reflecting and asked what would be their best way forward in creating a movement towards peace and what legacy they could leave to the school, their families, their local communities and in the world.

Our pupils' reflections were inspiring because, without realising it, they echoed the Gospel, which emphasises the importance of actions and not just words. The pupils concluded that if they are to make an impact they should above all be known by their actions. Pupils from years 7 to 11 produced two wonderful brainstorming ideas, which were presented firstly to the Head and then to the whole Governing body of the school. These focused on 1) Why become a Pax Christi affiliated School? 2) What will make us a Pax Christi affiliated School and how will this be seen?

Whilst we know that all schools should already in their day to day life, work for peaceful relationships. For us, being a member of Pax Christi is yet another reminder of the importance of the Gospel message of Peace, which we profess. It reminds us of Peace that is based on justice. It encourages us to promote reconciliation and nonviolence. Pax Christi

as a world-wide movement for peace helps us, as a school community, to feel the fraternal love, the solidarity that the life-long work of a peacemaker needs. The pupils of St Bede's wanted one of their legacies to be that membership of Pax Christi would create life-long peacemakers.

Pupils use their membership of Pax Christi to hold events which encourage celebrating the life and witness of peacemakers. Pupils have provided workshops, for feeder primary schools on the understanding of sustainable living in our environment.

St Bede's was already a blessed place for positive relationships; but Pax Christi has helped us to grow even more into living the Gospel, supporting relationships rich in forgiveness and growth in self-giving: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:34-35). The wonderful support and backing of the Head and Governing Body of this student venture has meant that the message of affiliation is embedded in what it is to 'Be a Bede' in our community. Staff have worked with pupils to integrate Pax Christi modelled material into KS3 Schemes. We have also made good use of Pax Christi resources in Citizenship, Assemblies, Prayer and Liturgies.

If I were to ask another school about becoming affiliated to Pax Christi then I would certainly ask them to try and find a reason of "why not?" If a school wants to bring the person of Christ further into the life of their school then they can certainly do it through the action of becoming a peacemaker who serves, "I am among you as one who serves" (Lk 22:26-27).

*John Harding, Head of RE, St Bede's High School, Lytham*

## Diary

### 26 September (Sat) London

Pax Christi day conference on 'Women and peacemaking - personal and political: finding energy today, following the women of 1915'.

10.30-5pm at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2H 8EP. Speakers and discussion on Peacemaking and... Global Solidarity / Politics / Personal Life / Militarism. Co-sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Details on Pax Christi website.

### 26 September (Sat) Leeds

Half-day conference about Palestine 10.30-1.30pm Oxford Place Centre, Oxford Place. Organised by Leeds Pax Christi and the Justice and Peace Commission. Book a place: [jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:jandp@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

### 2 October, London

Pax Christi will hold a vigil of prayer and fasting between 10.00-5pm, opposite Downing Street, in a call for peace in the Middle East and solidarity with refugees fleeing war. This is International Day of Nonviolence. Contact office for more information.

### 3 October (Sat) Bexhill

Give peace a chance - sharing day. 10.00-4pm, Bexhill Friends Meeting House, Albert Road, Bexhill. Presentations on Justice & Peace, World Peace Café discussion and more. Contact 01424 214327

### 3-11 October National

Drone Week of Action with national event 'Scones not Drones' at RAF Waddington, Lincolnshire 12-3.00pm. More here <https://dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com/>

### 9-10 October (Fri-Sat) Manchester

Peace History conference at Friends Meeting House. Subjects will include the Chinese Labour Corps in the First World War, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Arming All Sides: research by Campaign Against the Arms Trade. More details from Greater Manchester & District CND [gmdcnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:gmdcnd@gn.apc.org)

### 11-18 October National

Week of Prayer for World Peace. Resources here [www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com](http://www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com)

### 15 October, London

Fly Kites not Drones, workshop run by the Peace Education Network. 2-4 pm, Argyle Primary School, Tonbridge Street, London WC1H 9EG. For teachers and those who work with young people. Bookings via [education@forceswatch.net](mailto:education@forceswatch.net)

### 31 October (Sat) London

'Minority and Identity in the 21st Century' day conference of Christians Aware with Faith Matters. 11-4.30pm at Christ Church, 27 Blackfriars Rd. SE1 8NY. £5 fee. Register in advance: [Amanda@christiansaware.co.uk](mailto:Amanda@christiansaware.co.uk) Tel 0116 254 0770

### 7 November (Sat)

Christian CND Annual General meeting. Venue to be confirmed. [www.ccmd.gn.apc.org](http://www.ccmd.gn.apc.org)

### 8 December, (Tue) London

Pax Christi's annual Advent Peace Service will be held at St Aloysius Church, Euston, London followed by an alternative Christmas Market with fair trade goods, items for Palestine and more. All welcome.

## The Peace Education Network

Pax Christi are members of the Peace Education Network - the national UK network bringing together people and organisations committed to education for peace. As well as providing a forum to share information and resources, the network produces resources, organise professional development events, and advocates for the increased role of peace education in our schools. For more information about the Peace Education Network, our members, resources, and events, visit [www.peace-education.org.uk](http://www.peace-education.org.uk)



## Looking Ahead 2016

### Pax Christi - Peace Sunday 17 January 2016

Please ensure that the date is in your parish diary and start planning now. The donations we receive from parishes are essential in keeping us going throughout the year. Pax Christi will be sending materials to every parish in England and Wales at the end of November and materials will be on our website. We know from experience that more happens in parishes when our members take initiatives to ensure that prayers, resources etc. are used! If you are not already a parish Peace Sunday contact but would be willing to take on this role, please contact Fausta on 0208 203 4884 or here [admin@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:admin@paxchristi.org.uk)

The theme that Pope Francis has chosen is "Overcome indifference and win peace". The press notice says: Peace is to be worked at: it is not something that one gains without efforts, without conversion of mind and heart, without a sense of creativity and positive engagement in discussion. Given the current state of our world we should be able to make much of this message and of the link between the arms trade, war and the refugee crisis - reminding us that to win peace we must work to end both the causes of war and eliminate the tools of war.

### Year of Conscience

2016 is being called the 'Year of Conscience' because it marks the centenary of the introduction of conscription - and the first legal recognition of conscientious objection - in the Military Service Act. Plan an event in your area to honour those who said 'No' to war. Some groups are organising for 2 March (the date conscription came into force) and others working towards International Conscientious Objectors' Day on 15 May. Let's make 2016 significant in towns and villages across the country. If you are planning an event let us know by contacting Peace Pledge Union [jan@ppu.org.uk](mailto:jan@ppu.org.uk), they will set up a map showing locations of events.

### Plan a local ceremony

If you don't have a firm plan why not start organising something now, together with other local groups? There are many forms a commemoration might take:

- Unveil a plaque to honour the COs or plant a tree in some relevant location. A plaque was recently unveiled in Glasgow to those who opposed the First World War... and a petition has been accepted by Edinburgh City Council proposing that a plaque be erected there.
- Hold a silent vigil or a meeting with speakers, poetry, music, picnic...
- Have a public reading of the names of all the local First World War COs of your town, county or borough. (Information is available from the Pearce CO Register on the Imperial War Museum's website 'Lives of the First World War' or the PPU website 'Remembering the Men Who Said No'.)
- Invite descendants / families of WW1 COs to take part if possible (as we did in Tavistock Square in 2014)
- Make sure you tell the press, BBC local websites etc.

You can find resources to help you here

<http://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/first-world-war-peace-plans/> and here [www.abolishwar.org.uk](http://www.abolishwar.org.uk). Pax Christi has a list of the Catholic COs of the time which we can email to you on request to the office.



### Follow Pax Christi on twitter:

<https://twitter.com/paxchristiuk> and

<http://www.twitter.com/PaxChristiYouth>

## Keep peace alive. Remember Pax Christi when making or updating your will

Please send me information on

Membership  Publications  Legacy

I enclose a donation of £ ..... to support your work

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Tel: .....

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

Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY

Tel: 020 8203 4884 email: [info@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:info@paxchristi.org.uk) [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk)