

Justice & Peace Scotland

Ceartas agus Sìth



Autumn 2011

ST JUDE AND ST JOHN OGILVIE

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and Christian faith, and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals, and in the local and global community.



E c o -
C o n g r e g a t i o n

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical movement endorsed by Action of Churches Together in Scotland and is supported by the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in Scotland and the United Reformed Church. They also receive funding from the Scottish Government, SCIAF and Christian Aid as well as local church congregations and private individuals.

This year we registered with Eco-Congregation and are now one of the two Roman Catholic churches from Glasgow listed as being an Eco-Congregation church.

As Christians and as a Justice & Peace group ecological issues are just as important as the others social issues:

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over all the creatures that move along the ground."
Genesis 1:26.*



Welcome again, this time to the Autumn edition of our Justice and Peace Newsletter.

We thought maybe it would be a good idea to introduce ourselves. There are sixteen of us in the Justice and Peace group. Our names are displayed on the Justice and Peace Notice Board. We meet monthly in the Church hall on the first Wednesday of the month. Our meetings begin at 7.30pm and are normally finished by 8.30pm / 8.45pm.

Why not come and see?

Our group came into being in its present form in Spring 2005 and our first action was to organise a parish outing to join the Make Poverty History

campaign in Edinburgh. What a wonderful day that was, as many of you will remember. As the sun shone on us in Edinburgh, so has God's face continued to shine on the work our parish has undertaken in the name of justice and peace.

Since 2005 we have involved you in numerous campaigns and your response has always been magnificent. With God's help may we all continue to work together to make God's Kingdom a reality here on earth.

We pray every day "Thy Kingdom come." In saying those words we commit ourselves to doing just that. We are the hands, the feet of Christ in the world. If we don't work for a kingdom of peace, justice, love and joy, who will?

Peace without violence



The Peace Pledge Union has been distributing white poppies since 1934.

The white poppy began as a message from women – many of whom were mothers, sisters, widows and sweethearts of men killed in the First World War. They, like many others, began to feel with the rising domestic and inter-

national tensions that the war to end all wars, in which their men had been maimed, killed or languished in prison for refusing to fight, would be followed by an even worse war.

The white poppy was born out of this fear as a symbol of our inability to settle conflicts without resorting to killing but also of hope and commitment to work for a world where conflicts will be resolved without violence and with justice.

Hundreds of wars later and the killing of more than 200 million people, the white poppy continues to be a reminder of the world's failure to prevent war. It is a symbol of grief for everyone who has been harmed by war but, more importantly, it is a symbol of determination to work to abolish war. Once more we are making white poppies available in the parish for anyone who would like to buy and wear this symbol of peace.

www.whitepoppy.org.uk

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

THIS IS NOT OK

In September the world's arms industry descended on London at the invitation of the UK government. Thousands of weapons buyers and sellers came together in London's East End for a massive arms industry jamboree at DSEI, the world's largest arms fair. The leaders of the world's most repressive regimes rubbed shoulders with one another as they decided which weapons they would purchase in order to kill and maim one another.

They tried to keep it quiet, but campaigning exposed the event for what it was.

C.A.A.T. (Campaign Against Arms Trade) put pressure on the UK government to publish its invite list, revealing that 14 authoritarian regimes had been invited to shop for weapons – **including countries that the government itself has said have “the most serious and wide-ranging human rights concerns”**

CAAT and its supporters took part in an incredible range of actions which reached MPs, the public, the media and, in an audacious interception, the arms dealers themselves.

Their mass lobby asked MPs to push the government to stop promoting arms sales to repressive regimes. **Here in Barlanark we sent off a petition to Margaret Curran condemning such events and asking her to stop the UK arming repressive regimes.**

Many of us also sent individual emails. Please contact your MP and ask them to help put an end to this.

The arms trade is a deadly, corrupt business. It supports conflict and human rights abusing regimes while squandering valuable resources. It does this with the full support of governments around the world



Still from video footage of British-made Saudi armoured vehicles entering Bahrain to help crush pro-democracy protests.

There is often confusion about the legality of the arms trade; with the impression given that it is the illegal trade that is damaging while the legal trade is tightly controlled and acceptable. However, the vast majority of arms sold around the world, including those to human rights abusing governments or into conflict areas, are legal and actively supported by governments.

The UK is one of the world's largest arms exporters and the arms exporter that is most relevant to CAAT and its supporters.

It is often difficult to establish where the arms used in conflicts have originated. However, cases of the use of UK arms in conflict zones include the use

- * by Libya against “rebels” in 2011
- * by Israel in the attack on Gaza in 2009
- * by the Indonesian military in East Timor, Aceh and West Papua
- * by the US in the invasion of Iraq
- * by Zimbabwe in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- * by Argentina in the Falklands War.

The tension between India and Pakistan makes South Asia one of the most volatile regions of the world, yet the UK supplies arms to both countries. UK Government officials and ministers actively promote these sales, with personal interventions and an active presence at arms fairs in both countries.

THIS IS NOT OK

For a fuller picture and to find out what you can do please visit: www.caat.org.uk

COSMOPOLITAN

Your car is Japanese
 Your pizza is Italian.
 Your democracy is Greek
 Your coffee is Brazilian.
 Your movies are American.
 Your tea is Tamil.
 Your shirt is Indian.
 Your oil is Saudi Arabian.
 Your electronics are Chinese.
 Your numbers are Arabic.
 Your letters are Latin.
 And you complain that your neighbour is an immigrant?
 Pull your self together!

Pamela Curr,
 Campaign coordinator, Asylum seeker resource centre, Melbourne

CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN

The Justice and Peace Group will, with your help, be supporting the Action by Christians against Torture Christmas Card Campaign.

This will only take a few minutes of your time and will mean a lot to the prisoner who receives your card and good wishes. Many of the prisoners, who are also victims of torture, feel they are forgotten, not only by people in their own countries but by the rest of the world.

To send a card may seem very little but to the prisoner that card can bring a small glimmer of hope.

ACAT will send a list of prisoners in time for the Justice and Peace December Tea Room—December 11th. Last year, with your help, cards were sent to prisoners in 29 countries. You can if you wish add your name and address as well as your good wishes to a card and you may receive a reply from the person who receives it.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS IN GLASGOW

GLASGOW STREET SERVICE (GSS)

What Do We Do?

Glasgow Street Service is a street outreach team, provided in partnership by Glasgow Simon Community and Barnardos Scotland.

The service is available to those sleeping rough and to homeless or potentially homeless people. It provides advice, support and advocacy on accessing accommodation, health and social welfare services.

GSS is a street outreach team which works with people aged 16 years and over.

Where can you find GSS?

City Centre Streets / Soup Kitchens / Day Centres / Bus Stations / Train Stations / Through other services such as the Hamish Allan Centre.

You can call GSS on free phone to arrange a meeting :

0800 027 7466

The free phone number will put you through direct to workers on shift.

Agencies can get in touch by contacting :

Glasgow Street Service

72 London Rd

Glasgow, G1 5NP

Tel: 0141 552 4164

E-mail: gss@glasgowsimon.org

With Winter fast approaching —

Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Socks, Men's underwear etc. are especially needed. Any donations would be most appreciated. Watch Out For Our:

St. Nicholas Fayre on Sunday 4th December.

J&P Funds

For the last few years at Christmas we have donated something to the Glasgow Street Team on your behalf.

As well as giving them money to buy sleeping bags and warm winter clothing you have also sent boxes of sweets and chocolates as Christmas presents through our Parish Giving Tree.

These were distributed by SVdP. We have been told how overwhelmed many of the homeless people were to receive a gift — for many of them their first and only gift.

Last Christmas we also sent money to buy and send 60 bibles to China. As well as that money was given to SCIAF to use in their work abroad.

Without the generosity of the parishioners we would have nothing to send. Thanks to your support in our monthly Sunday tea room and in buying our fair trade marmalade we have been able over the last six years to make a difference, however small, in our world. Please continue to support us and pray for the work of the different ministries in the Parish.

Homeless or about to be?

Please see the Justice and Peace notice board at the back of the church for details of where help can be found.

Legacy of Pope Benedict's Visit

Some of the Six year pupils at St Andrew's RC Secondary School, Carntyne, are involved in the Caritas Award. Caritas means God's Love and this is a project set up by the Bishops of Scotland following the visit of Pope Benedict to Scotland on 16th September 2010. It is a way of keeping alive the legacy of Pope Benedict's visit.

The award encourages the youth in their faith journey. It is a way of recognising and celebrating the involvement and commitment of the youth in the Church community and encourages others to respond to God's love. During his visit, Pope Benedict handed over the baton of faith to our youth when he said,

"My dear young Catholics of Scotland, this is a challenge the Lord gives to you today: the church belongs to you".

The award allows the youth to record and share their faith experience and use their talents in the service of others. There are three main requirements for the award and these are: Faith witness, Faith learning and Faith reflection. These allow the participants to deepen their relationship with God. It also allows the youth to develop a mature response to their faith.

"Once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change."



Caritas Award

Pope Benedict XVI, address to the youth at Twickenham, 17th September 2010.

No Home No Justice

God of justice,

Have mercy on those who sleep... on the streets or in hostels, on the floor or on a sofa, in store rooms or offices, and on those who know their friends' hospitality is at breaking point.

Help us to build a fairer society,

Where having no home does not exclude anyone from work and health and respect.

Help us to build a society where all may 'dwell in safety'.

In the name of the homeless Saviour, Jesus,

Amen

Landmark Decision

On 4th October 2011 a vice gang boss and his girlfriend were jailed for a total of four years and ten months in Scotland's first human trafficking conviction.

This is a landmark conviction for Human Trafficking in Scotland and represents the success of close working between police and prosecutors across the UK.

Trafficking is very common in the UK.

Slavery-free London Olympics

Although human trafficking and forced labour are ongoing problems in London and the UK, the 2012 Games could make the situation worse. Past International experience signals a risk of an increase in human trafficking in the lead up to and during major sporting events. It is likely criminal gangs may use the Games to lure people to the UK for jobs that don't exist, only to exploit them elsewhere. Overseas workers making Olympic-branded products which Londoners and tourists will buy for the Games are also at risk of slavery.

www.antislavery.org/english/



Rags to Riches

Mary's meals is an international movement to set up school feeding projects in places where hunger and poverty stop children from gaining an education. This project feeds over 400,000 children in 15 countries. The guarantee of a meal helps bring children to school who might otherwise have to work, scavenge or beg to feed themselves.

A way of helping this movement is the Rags to Riches campaign. Collecting two bags of textiles can feed a child in Malawi for a school year and you will be playing your part in reducing, re-using, and recycling waste.



Representatives from Mary's Meals will be visiting the Parish on Sunday 11th December.

They will be collecting unwanted clothes for their Rags to Riches campaign. Items that are wanted are: all clothing, towels, curtains, all bedding, blankets, handbags, shoes, belts and any other textiles.

The staff from Mary's meals have informed us that their clothing collection is down this year. They emphasize the clothes do NOT have to be good. Rags can be recycled!

You can also take donations to your local Mary's meals shop :

Dennistoun Shop
358 Duke St, Glasgow, G31 1RB

Opening Hours - 10am - 4pm.

The United Nations visit Barlanark!

At the end of August the Justice and Peace Group hosted a very insightful evening with two sisters of Notre Dame who work at the United Nations. Both sisters who are American were visiting Europe, visiting the houses of their own congregations to talk about their work.

Sister Jean Stoner represents the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur at the United Nations, working primarily in the areas of poverty eradication, social development, financing for development, and climate change.

Sister Mary Jo Toll represents the Sisters of Notre Dame of Coesfeld at the United Nations,

working principally in the areas of education, migration, human trafficking, and sustainable development.

Both Sisters gave us some interesting insights into the different areas of their work and into the machinations of the U.N. The small group who gathered to hear them asked some far-reaching questions and they were invited to follow the goings on at the U.N through SrJean's website :

www.sndatun.wordpress.com/

and also to follow them on twitter or facebook.

Sr. Jean believes in using modern technology to get her message out!

JUSTICE EVENTS

November

10th **1995** — nine Nigerian environmentalists and human rights activists hanged

11th Armistice Day

16th International Day for Tolerance

20th—26th Prisoners' Week

20th Universal Children's Day

25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

29th International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

December

1 World Aids day

2 International day for the Abolition of Slavery

9 International Anti-corruption Day

10 Human Rights Day

18 International Migrants' Day

Full details and links on the Events Page of J&P website

www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk/events.shtml

A Prayer for Scotland on Saint Andrew's Day

God in all lands and cultures, on our national day we take time to reflect on the influence and the inspirations of our past.

We think of Andrew our Patron Saint, who caught a vision, followed it and enabled others to see it.

May we be women and men who follow our vision and enable the dreams of others.

We are grateful for those in the past who have invested their strength and wisdom, their energy and commitment in the welfare of the people of Scotland and beyond

those who gave of themselves in working for freedom and justice for all;

those who cared and sacrificed for the good of everyone;

those who enabled our dreams and visions.

Not only do we think of our past - we look to catch a glimpse of where you may be at work in and through our country today.

We think prayerfully of those in power and those who feel powerless;

of those in poverty and those in the place of plenty;

of those whose ancestors lived here and of those who have recently joined our national family;

and of those who work to break down barriers, create peace and build a better Scotland.

May we be inspired and challenged by them to follow our Christian vision in our personal, community and national life.

God within us, between us and around us, help us as individuals and as a nation to show gratitude for what has been good in our past, goodwill in the present and hope with determination for the days ahead. May we follow in the footsteps of Andrew as he followed the vision of the Jesus whose advent we celebrate.

*Ken Lawson, Convener,
A Quiet Day for Scotland Task Group*

Have a Quiet Day for Scotland