



# SOUTHWARK JUSTICE & PEACE NEWS

Winter 2006

*Seeking to renew the work of Justice & Peace in our Diocese*

.....  
: Advent God,  
: meet us as we face the darkness of our world,  
: that we may embrace you in the shadows and move out to  
: greet your light.  
: **Dispel our fears, increase our hope.**  
: enlighten us as we search for truth amongst the clamour of war,  
: that we may have the courage to proclaim peace and determi-  
: nation to seek justice.  
: **Dispel our fears, increase our hope.**  
: Embolden us to cry out in the wilderness,  
: that we may find a voice to disarm power and a way to chal-  
: lenge prejudice.  
: **Dispel our fears, increase our hope.**  
: Guide us as we seek to make straight your paths,  
: that we may guard against self-righteousness and look to you  
: for help.  
: **Dispel our fears, increase our hope.**  
: Move us as we reach out to those in need,  
: that we may respond with urgency and wait with patience.  
: **Dispel our fears, increase our hope.**  
: Challenge us with your promise of salvation,  
: that we may put aside all fear and proclaim the hope of libera-  
: tion.  
: **Dispel our fears,**  
: **increase our hope**  
: **and grant us peace.** Amen

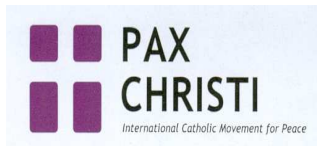
.....  
: ANNABEL SHILSON-THOMAS, In TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE, OP, ed., *Just One Year*.  
: Christian Aid, CAFOD, 2006, p 33.  
: .....

# Christmas Peace & Justice Wishes & Prayers for Bethlehem 2006

This is the seventh year when Christmas Celebrations in the Holy Land for all peoples will be difficult. Life is already extremely difficult, with the clashes between Hamas and Fatah and the non-payment of salaries to public workers. Bethlehem may be further isolated due to the Wall, which quite literally separates its people from the rest of the world. But individuals and groups refuse to give up, and are already searching for nonviolent ways of voicing their rights and working for a peaceful and just future for both peoples. A number of organisations have come together—Pax Christi International, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Church & Peace, the Justice & Peace Commission of Jerusalem, and the Presidency of the Conference of European J & P Commissions are supporting an initiative put by partners in Palestine - the Arab Educational Institute, Library on Wheels for Non-violence & Peace, the Centre for Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation, and the Wi'am Centre.

People are invited to email Advent and Christmas wishes and prayers for peace to Pax Christi partners in Bethlehem before December 25th. (English is the preferred language but other languages can be sent) Messages should be submitted on the Pax Christi website: **www.paxchristi.net** or can be emailed to **peace-message@paxchristi.net** The messages will be sent to Bethlehem and posted on the website of IFOR (www.ifor.org)

Sending a wish or prayer is an important way of communicating to many people who long to hear a word of hope. These messages we send are one way of breaking the isolation that Pax Christi partners in Bethlehem experience. The wishes and prayers will be printed out and handed out for use in schools, and in places of worship.



## *livesimply*: an update

The launch of the *livesimply* project will take place on 26th November. It is based on a radical idea from Catholic Social Teaching of personal transformation: God calls us to look hard at our lifestyles, and to choose to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. It will run throughout 2007, and has been inspired by *Populorum Progressio*, (Progress of Peoples) the Papal Encyclical written by Pope Paul VI in 1967. It is a challenge to reflect, celebrate and take action in order to work for justice.

Many Catholic organisations and groups in England & Wales have signed up to *livesimply*, creating a

new network that will be determined to transform our communities.

There is a photo copiable Advent Service that can be used by groups, parishes & deaneries - now available on [www.livesimply.org.uk](http://www.livesimply.org.uk) to download. It is broken into 4 parts - generosity, stewardship, justice and courage linked with the four candles of the Advent Wreath.

Early in 2007 organisations will be suggesting practical ways to make the *livesimply* promise come alive in communities. Keep up to date through the website.

# Shalom

## Advent Candles



**Week 1:** we light this candle to recall prophetic voices which announced the prince of Peace, which foretold the age of gold, which called for justice and announced the song of happiness. May the light overcome the darkness.

**Week 2:** we light this candle to recall the shepherds on the hills and throughout the ages who in their place of work have been ready to hear good news and delighted to pass it on to others. May the light overcome the darkness.

**Week 3:** we light this candle to recall Simeon and Anna and all those who are the Quiet in the Land who have awaited every generation for the glory of the Lord to be revealed and have patiently accepted your will and timing. may the light overcome the darkness.



**Week 4:** we light this candle to recall Mary and Joseph who saw their visions and dreamed their dreams, who heard angelic announcements and were obedient to your word and their calling, giving a home and care to the child. May the light overcome the darkness.

**Christmas Day:** we light this candle for the baby of Bethlehem, for the child born to be king, for the boy in the cradle who became the man on the cross, the redeemer and Saviour of the world. The darkness is overcome; the light is around us.




[John Johansen-Berg, in G. Duncan, ed., *shine on, star of Bethlehem*. Christian Aid & CAFOD, Canterbury Press, 2004, p.48]



Did you know that recycling just one Christmas card saves enough electricity to allow 5 people to watch the Queen's Christmas Day message on television? Imagine what it would be like then, if everyone recycled ALL their Christmas cards!

The Woodland Trust have been involved in the Christmas Card Recycling Scheme for the past 9 years. In that time they have seen some 352 million cards recycled (6,951 tonnes of card), all helping towards the creation and care of new native woodlands across the UK.

Following the  tremendous success of 2006, when they saw 82.8 million cards recycled (their target was 60 million!); they are hoping to smash this record and reach the target of 90 million Christmas and New Year cards by January 31st 2007.

Working thorough partners W H Smith, Tesco, and T K Maxx, the Trust will have boxes available in their stores to collect our Christmas cards between January 2nd and 31st 2007.

The aim is fourfold:  
to encourage individuals to recycle 

Christmas cards; to highlight the environmental benefits of recycling; to raise the profile of recycling; and to raise the profile of the Woodland Trust. 

Last year's collection generated just under £100,000 in donations and gifts in kind - from recycling credits from local authorities who pay for waste that does not have to be disposed of in landfill sites (the Woodland trust does not receive any income from the actual recycling of the card); from financial and non-financial support from the scheme's partners; and from cash donations. This money was spent on buying and planting new trees and on the conservation of native woodlands in the UK. Recycling cards has many benefits such as: saving woods and trees; promoting the sustainable use of resources; saving energy that would otherwise be used to convert timber into paper; and is a way of making a positive difference to the environment. 

For more information, go to the Woodland trust website: [www.woodland-trust.org.uk/cards/welcome.htm](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/cards/welcome.htm)

## Peace Sunday 2007: January 14th

Peace Sunday offers us a chance to reflect upon Pope Benedict's World Peace Day message. His theme for the message is 'The Human Person: the Heart of Peace' Human dignity is the sign of the common destiny of humanity and the foundation of love for God and for one's neighbour. Every one of us is a child of God, infinitely loved, never unimportant. Each person is sacred, bearing the image of God. we cannot 'pick-and-choose' in order to decide that some persons are worthy of respect and others are not. We have all been given gifts by God that are needed for the flourishing of God's world. As the Holy Father reminds us, the human person that is, everyone we meet and everyone who lives beyond our limited horizons, is

truly 'the heart of peace'. For respect for our sisters and brothers, both known and unknown, is the only possible path to the peace that our world desires.

By marking Peace Sunday in some way, we draw attention to the Pope's message. Pax Christi have produced a booklet full of ideas and prayers that link with the readings for that Sunday, including notes for the Homily & for children's liturgies, and give suggestions of other ways the day can be celebrated. If you can manage it, a collection in your parish for the work of Pax Christi is a way of supporting those people and who work for peace around the world. Call 020 8203 4884 or email [info@paxchristi.org](mailto:info@paxchristi.org)

[Article based upon the Pax Christi booklet]



When the song of the angels is stilled  
when the star in the sky is gone

when the kings  
and princes are home



when the shepherds are back with  
their flocks  
the work of Christmas begins ....

to find the lost  
to heal the broken  
to feed the hungry  
to release the prisoner  
to rebuild the nations  
to bring peace among the people  
to make music in the heart.



[Howard Thurman, © Pax Christi Christmas Card]

## Peace

### A Call to Action:

"Our goal must be to build a world - a world developed to the full, so much so that all men and women, no matter what their race or creed, can live a truly human life. Our goal must be, for every man and woman, a life set free from all oppression. Our goal must be, for every man and woman, a life made strong enough to master nature and be free. Our goal must be a world where liberty is real; a world where Lazarus can sit at the rich man's table (Lk 16: 19-31). The rich must learn to have non-stop generosity. Conscience, a new conscience for our times, is calling each of us to self review. Am I really doing all I can to help the poor and hungry? Am I prepared to pay more taxes in order that the government can do more for development? Am I prepared to pay more in the shops for goods imported from abroad so that people who produce these goods are paid a decent wage?"

From Populorum Progressio, Pope Paul VI, 1967, in *livesimply* abridged translation produced by Progressio, 2006]

## Diary of Events:

Friday December 1st World Aids Day

**Monday December 4th** *The Promise of Peace - Pax Christi Advent Peace Service* Come and join us for an evening of readings, prayers and carols. After the service there will be a Christmas Market with cards and goods from Peru, from Palestine, from the Jesuit Refugee Service and Traidcraft. Mulled wine and mince pies too!. **Venue:** St Aloysius Church, Phoenix Road, London NW1 Time: 7.30 pm Contact: *Pax Christi* 0208 203 4884

**Sunday December 10th** UN Human Rights Day

**January 2nd** Launch of the Woodland Trust Recycle Christmas Cards scheme - see inside for more details.

**Peace Sunday: January 14th 2007:** *"The Human Person: The Heart of Peace"* Human Dignity is the sigh of the common destiny of humanity and the foundation of love for God and for one's neighbour." Pope Benedict XVI Materials available from Pax Christi [info@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:info@paxchristi.org.uk) Tel: 020 8203 4884

**Homelessness Sunday: January 28th** *No Home No Justice* In our affluent consumer society we are all encouraged to think of our dwellings as monetary assets rather than as the heart of family life, as places of comfort and safe refuge, and as key components of our identity. In contrast Homelessness Sunday will focus on some of the injustices that are linked with homelessness. 020 7723 7273 or email [hs@housingjustice.org.uk](mailto:hs@housingjustice.org.uk)

**Poverty Action Sunday 18th February** *Just Church?* Churches have been at the forefront of the Jubilee debt movement and the Make Poverty History campaign, but how do we tackle poverty 'in our own backyard'? How can we become a 'just Church' in our worship, our work with children, our personal lifestyles, our local communities and our wider political engagement? On Poverty Action Sunday we are invited to reflect on how together, we can become a more Just Church. [www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)

# Salaam

Give me a heart of poverty,  
able to love and open up and give myself to others.  
Give me a heart of patience,  
able to love and live in hope.  
Give me a heart of peacefulness,  
able to love and sow peace in the world.  
Give me a heart of justice,  
able to love and measure myself by the standard of justice.  
Give me a heart of mercifulness,  
able to love and understand and forgive others.  
Give me a heart of sensitivity,  
able to love and weep without being discouraged.  
Give me a hearts of purity,  
able to love and see God in everyone.  
Give me a heart of strength,  
able to love and be faithful unto death.  
Give me a heart touched by the Gospel,  
able to love.

[© Overcoming Violence: World Council of Churches, available from Pax Christi as a laminated prayer card]

*Fr. Michael & Sr Pat would like to wish a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas to you, your families and your friends; and many Blessings for 2007. Thank you for your support of the J & P Office during 2006.*



The Southwark Justice & Peace Newsletter is sent free to all on our mailing list, although donations towards our office costs are always greatly appreciated. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, receive notice of actions or forthcoming events via email, or are able to send a donation, you can use the form below:

Name: Please add my name to the newsletter Mailing list

Address: Please add me to the Email list

I enclose a donation of £                      towards costs

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