

Archdiocese of Southwark
Commission for
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation



JPIC Update February 2011

Starting Justice & Peace from the Grassroots

Our meeting, organised by the three London diocese and facilitated by RE-generate was attended by over 40 local J&P members.

RE-generate is a proven process. The trust is a primary centre of Community Organising and Animating. Over the last 20 years it has informed the thinking of 100s of organisations in Britain and abroad, via networks that transform their communities for good. It has a comprehensive collection of training and resource packages to support such activities.

The core elements include an animator who has undergone a 2-year process of on-the-job formation. They are trained to LISTEN and to build TRUST, RESPECT and RELATIONSHIPS – hence NETWORKS.

The process involves a cycle of

- Reflection (Getting input; avoiding the key issue to keep out anger)
- Action
- Reaction

Reflection involves thinking about your part (and your group's part) in the issue. It is a complex process because communities are complex. Animators will meet people of all sorts of status and walks of life, and in all states of emotion.

Listening draws out

- What is valued in the community
- What the concerns are (and, incidentally, who are the really motivated people who can become leaders)
- What is "the idea", i.e., the vision of the project
- This links back into how the project relates to the concerns and values that were just identified.

Because of the relationships of trust and respect that have been formed, everyone can feel that they can have a say in what happens, if they wish to. They each have a reason and a role – the animator sees they each one finds these and acts.

In moving from decision to action, an information exchange emerges, via their relationships of trust and confidence.

Some people may only have time to be customers of the project and/or to vote. Leaders get trained to become animators within their own communities. When people are willing to meet, they are encouraged to do so in their own homes. This helps bring out obstacles, so that methods of conflict resolution can be deployed. The animator is always available to help with challenges.

Everyone is engaged and key leaders identify themselves by being willing to take on tasks. These leaders – perhaps about 20 of them from a community of 5000? – form a team. "Training for Transformation" is used, based on the methods of Paulo Freire and Saul Alinsky, and the group of projects is carefully managed. Leaders are taught to use the big network, for example the people in and around a parish.

There are methods for people to use to attract the attention of the "powers that be" (public services such as local authorities and agencies, MPs, councillors, candidates for elections and donors) to make things change in a similar way to the "Citizens" groups, but usually on a more local scale.

We must remember that Authorities, now being funded less generously, want to fund projects that will save them money, especially when there is evidence (from what has been done elsewhere) to support the scale of savings. The impact has been tremendous. It is noteworthy that first-time voters who get involved in large groups account for 70% of the membership, on average, hence providing a target with much influence on politicians.

We took part in some useful introductory exercises from the start of the trust-building process. Emphasis was placed on getting people share how they feel about issues. Little was done to specifically indicate just how the process would apply to JPIC work, although it was relatively easy to imagine how it could be adapted for a parish situation.

(Thanks to Phil Kerton who produced this report on the day)

Due to problems with Talk Talk Business the office has been without a phone line for a week and this looks unlikely to be resolved until mid February. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

OUR SPRING ASSEMBLY "The Integrity of Creation"

May 21st, 10.30 to 4pm at The New Barn,
Aylesford Priory

We are pleased to welcome Fr Sean
McDonagh, our keynote speaker.

and Kevin McCullough, CAFOD Head of
Campaigns who will be presenting
the Southwark launch of the Live Simply
Parish Award scheme.

To assist people who wish to travel to Aylesford by public transport we are considering the provision of transport from West Malling Station to The Priory. West Malling has good train connections from London and Kent. If you feel you may like to take advantage of this it would be helpful if you could register an interest with the office (contact details below, but see overleaf about phone).

CAFOD Training for MP Correspondents

Monday 8th March 6-8pm Amigo Hall,
St George's Cathedral, Southwark

Would you like to become an MP Correspondent for CAFOD? This training is for anyone interested in raising awareness of issues and campaigns with our elected representatives and joining CAFOD's network of 500 MP correspondents.

Come to this workshop to get practical tools and tips on lobbying your MP.

You will also learn more about the Development Mass Lobby of Parliament taking place on Thursday 9th June.

Pizza will be provided!

Places are limited so
please book yours now by
contacting James

Buchanan on jbuchanan@cafod.org.uk or phone
020 7095 5416



February 15th - Poverty, Participation and the Common Good (2010-15)

CARJ Urban Network Meeting

12:00 – 5:00 at the office of Housing Justice, Charity Centre, 22-25 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DX It is useful, for catering purposes, to know that you are coming; but last minute deciders are welcome. To book phone 020 7226 5781

February 20th - World Day of Social Justice

The United Nations World Day of Social Justice celebrates the international agreements reached at the World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen, 1995. On this Day governments are called upon to undertake concrete activities towards the goals of poverty eradication, full employment and social integration.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday/>

March 5th - 'End of the Age of Thorns: Surviving consumerism',

CEL day conference, St John's Church, Waterloo, London SE1 8TY with Peter Owen Jones and Prof. Tim Cooper. For more details and a booking form visit <http://www.christian-ecology.org.uk/thorns>

March 5th – 6 Billion Ways

A day of debates, film, art, music and workshops for all ages

9.30am-midnight at Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA With sessions on: Tackling climate change... Beating public spending cuts... Ending occupations in Afghanistan and Palestine... Strengthening democracy... Curbing consumerism... Fighting global poverty... Building activism and resistance...and much more...Find out more and register now: www.6billionways.org.uk

February 28th to March 13th - Fairtrade Fortnight

March 8th The 100th International Women's Day

<http://www.internationalwomensday.com>

March 12th Standing up for Southwark – Multi-Faith conference

9.30 to 4.00 at City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA. The conference theme is 'Standing Up for Southwark', a campaign to address violence on the borough. Another aim of the is to explore ways that we all can tackle the main forms of violence that occur. Lunch will be provided. For more information, please contact Zoë Knight on 020 7232 6001 or email MultifaithConference@met.police.uk

March 18th - CAFOD Lent Fast Day

March 26th - Archbishop Romero Lecture 2011

to be given by Fr Juan Hernández Pico (Central American Jesuit Theologian and Social Scientist) entitled Romero and the Social Gospel the challenge for us today. This will be as part of an ecumenical service to mark the 31st anniversary of Archbishop Romero's martyrdom. 11am at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, www.romerotrust.org.uk romerotrust@btinternet.com

April 11th - STOP THE TRAFFIK Global Freedom Summit

2pm to 5pm at Oasis Academy Enfield, 9 Kinetic Crescent, Innova Park, Mollison Avenue, Enfield, London EN3 7XH Join Cherie Blair, UN representatives, community activists and global leaders to raise awareness of the dangers of human Trafficking during the Olympics Registration cost: £5 per person. To register email info@stopthetraffik.org