



Pax Christi materials can change your church

At last year's annual meeting members previewed an exhibition of photographs of Bethlehem which were juxtaposed with the words of "O little town of Bethlehem" and "Silent Night". These became *Remember Bethlehem*, a photo-set co-published with Kevin Mayhew Ltd, who generously distributed the glossy packs free of charge to Anglican and Catholic parishes nationwide. From the response it is evident that plenty were used, often alongside further information about the Middle East, and the olive wood products we import from Palestine. This comment from a vicar in Wolverhampton is representative of many.

"On Advent Sunday, using a display of the Pax Christi photos of Bethlehem we launched 'the Bethlehem Appeal'.... We invited the congregation to make a donation and sign a large Church Christmas card instead of sending individual cards... This raised a total of £333 to support the work of Pax Christi... This experience has been positive on so many levels and I would like to thank you for the opportunity Pax Christi gave us to deepen our commitment to standing alongside the world's hurt and vulnerable. It changed Christmas in our church."

The current "Live Simply" initiative of various Catholic organisations provides another opportunity to be creative. Pax Christi's illustrated brochure, *A Theft from the Poor*, connects world poverty with the obsessive pursuit of military security in the "war on terror". Why not use it as the basis for a "Live Simply" event in your parish, or to reach new audiences by collaborating with other justice and environmental organisations where you live?

Some of our publications are ordered at slow but steady rate. Others - 25,000 of the "rainbow" Peace Sunday prayer card for example - rush out of the door as fast as we can produce them. In all cases their distribution and use depends on you. Please include our materials in your creative peace plans. Contact the office for advice or consult our website: www.paxchristi.org.uk

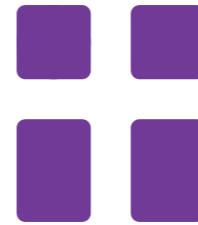
Valerie Flessati, Editor

Education for Peace

I joined the Pax Christi team as Peace Education Worker in September 2006. Working with the Pax Christi team and membership we have:

- Given talks, organised peace studies days and taken assemblies in schools in London, Coventry, Cambridge, Slough and Derby where young people have had an opportunity to learn more about the work of Pax Christi and explore themes including Trident and nuclear weapons, peace and security, conflict resolution, Palestine/Israel, the arms trade and learn about different ways of working for peace.
- Sent a special mailing to every Catholic secondary school with the new *Peace Education Curriculum* Document and the Schools Resource guide.
- Co-ordinated the British contribution to the Pax Christi European schools contest. The winning team enjoyed a fantastic trip to Brussels along with the winning teams from France and Portugal. The group visited the European Parliament and Pax Christi International offices, as well as seeing the sites of Belgium and sharing their thoughts and ideas on the theme of the visit - Peace also depends on you!
- Run workshops on peacemaking at the Catholic Association of Youth Ministers and Advisers (CAYMA) conference, for the Association of Catholic Chaplains in Education (ACCE), for university groups and at the Catholic Student Forum. Pax Christi also offered key-note contributions to the Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges (CATSC) annual conference. Through these networks we are building invaluable contacts for future cooperation.
- Worked with other members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations to organise and run the very successful Peace Zone at the Greenbelt music and arts festival held on Cheltenham race course. The theme of the festival in 2006 was Redemption Songs. The peace zone included an interactive art installation, crane making, a multimedia display and a photo wall.
- Helped to facilitate the annual Peace Education Network conference in Birmingham. The theme of the 2007 conference was Human Rights - a Path to Peace. The conference was very well attended and workshop topics included the military in schools, human rights in Israel/Palestine and the Peacejam programme.

Hilary Topp, Education Worker



Pax Christi Annual Report May 2006—April 2007

Another remarkable year! This year is no different as can be seen by reading the accompanying reports. I'm always amazed at the amount of work and initiatives undertaken.

Highlights include the visit by Senator Douglas Roche from Canada which gave the Non-Renewal of Trident campaign a real boost along with the clear lead from Cardinal Keith O'Brien and the Scottish Bishops. In the best traditions of Pax Christi a powerful liturgical ecumenical witness took place round the MOD on Ash Wednesday - one day the walls will fall, if only metaphorically! A most important contribution to the 'Live Simply' network has been made by Pax Christi in the form of a booklet called *A theft from the poor*. It is important because it establishes the relationship between the issues of war, poverty, justice, the environment and sustainable living. We need to view these as being inter-related and campaign accordingly. A powerful witness to life in Palestine was provided by the 'Remember Bethlehem' pack used by many over the Christmas period.

Our General Secretary has been active on the international scene having been part of a delegation to Rome for a meeting with Cardinal Martino discussing the issue of nuclear weapons. She has also been involved in the search for and appointment of, a new International General Secretary who will be in place by the autumn.

There are still many deep concerns in the world: Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, and Palestine to name but a few. We do not despair however for as the Pope said in his Easter message that whilst a world at war tests our faith yet 'through the wounds of the Risen Christ we can see the evils which afflict humanity with the eyes of hope.' The Catholic Bishop of the Forces has also been pointing us in the right direction urging us to accept and respond positively to the freeing of captured British sailors by Iran.

Finally I am pleased to report that we have a young, enthusiastic and energetic Education Officer in Hilary Topp. Herein lies real hope - the opportunity to engage with young people in our schools, which we are doing successfully, about the issues of peace, conflict resolution and nonviolent ways of living.

Stewart Hemsley
Chairperson

Outreach and projects

The replacement of Trident has been a major focus. To engage the catholic church community in rigorous reflection on this we co-ordinated a speaking programme for Senator Douglas Roche from Canada. Senator Roche is a Vatican adviser on disarmament and chair of the Middle Powers initiative. In a busy four-day programme we were warmly welcomed in Scotland by Cardinal Keith O'Brien and Revd Alan McDonald, the moderator of the Church of Scotland at a meeting in the Scottish Parliament. There was a well attended meeting at the Lauriston Jesuit Centre in Edinburgh with additional speakers, Gerry Hughes sj and Bruce Kent. In London we hosted an ecumenical seminar where Douglas Roche and Alan McDonald spoke to representatives from the Quakers, URC, Anglican, Methodist and Catholic churches. While no Catholic bishops were able to attend each received the text of the presentation made by Senator Roche. We were delighted with the take-up of the 10,000 Pax Christi postcards to Mr Tony Blair and by the number of local meetings, debates and vigils organised by members. With other Christian networks, we provided a clear Christian witness against Trident at the annual Ash Wednesday gathering at the Ministry of Defence, which attracted the largest number of people for several years. In March we were part of a Pax Christi international delegation to Cardinal Martino at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in Rome to explore ways of working together to draw the line under any justification for nuclear weapons. We must now work to reverse the decision made in March.



Livesimply Network

Pax Christi's contribution to the network, and the anniversary of Populorum Progressio, has been to help make the connection between poverty, conflict and war. Pax Christi has offered major presentations on this theme at Diocesan Justice and Peace events in Birmingham, Cardiff and Arundel and Brighton.

Middle East

The Remember Bethlehem Pack proved an excellent focus for education work on the Holy Land and we are still invited to offer workshops, talks and resources on the situation in Israel-Palestine. We continue to support the EAPPI initiative, we are represented on the theology group of Friends of Sabeel and we are a member of the Pax Christi International working group on the Middle East. In January we joined the ENOUGH Coalition to mark the 40th anniversary of Israeli occupation of Palestine and this work will continue throughout the year.

And also....

The Pax Christi ICON, a constant source of inspiration, was used extensively in Coventry and Liverpool. Schools, parishes and communities in Liverpool made excellent use of the ICON for several months.

On the anniversary of the release of Norman Kember we held a vigil of thanksgiving in Trafalgar Square when we also remembered the on-going suffering of the people of Iraq. This coincided with Norman's book *Hostage in Iraq*. Many members around the country have heard Norman speak of his experience during the year.

The *From Violence to Wholeness Programme* continues. We are delighted that a number who took the training last year have used the programme in Leeds, Plymouth and Shrewsbury and the office team are preparing to run the ten-week programme at the Christian Education Centre in Tooting.

We helped to *Rescue the Christmas Message* at a number of seminars with this title at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre in London and elsewhere during Advent... exploring the themes of peacemaking and the peace in the Holy Land. An idea worth replicating!

Pat Gaffney, General Secretary

Photographs

1. Cross-planting in Parliament Square, 4th anniversary of war with Iraq
2. No to Trident street stall in Coventry with Exec member Ann Farr (rt)
3. Dennis Valentine with Pax Christi exhibition and resource stall at National J&P Conference
4. Hand-in of our No to Trident postcards at Downing Street with Pat Gaffney, Hilary Topp, Fr John Ansell and Stewart Hemsley
5. Our team of volunteers working on Justpeace mailing
6. European Contestant winners from UK, France and Portugal at the European Parliament in Brussels

Finance Report

It is good to be able to report that our financial position continues to improve.

Membership is increasing steadily and, with it, the level of subscriptions and donations. Together these make up 28% of our income.

Peace Sunday donations are greatly enhanced when we are able to send Peace Sunday envelopes to each parish in a diocese. The practice of adding a new diocese each year is bearing dividends and led to last year's total of over £66,000. The number of parishes supporting our work is now 987.

The benefits are not just financial as the increases are directly linked to increased awareness of Pax Christi and the work it is doing.

The office is always happy to provide publications on a sale or return basis so that you can easily participate in both fund raising and spreading the word. The web site is also a source of plentiful resources and is updated frequently.

The healthy position also enables us:

- to respond promptly and effectively whenever a new situation arises;
- to keep staff salaries in line with general living costs;
- to set aside funds to bring the office equipment up to date so that we are taking full advantage of IT developments in the presentation of our message.

Grants are very valuable for the support of projects. In particular, it is a grant from the Christian Peace Education Fund which has enabled us to co-employ Hilary as a part-time Peace Education Worker.

Finally, don't forget the Pennies for Peace scheme at home or in your church community.

John Dowbekin, Treasurer & Fausta Valentine, Administrator

Pax Christi People

President: Bishop Malcolm McMahon op

Executive Committee

<i>Chair:</i> Stewart Hemsley	Sheila Simpson
<i>Vice-Chair:</i> Rosemary Read	Nan Saeki
<i>Treasurer:</i> John Dowbekin	Lyn Dekker
Anne Dodd	Josie Campbell
	Co-opted Ann Farr

In the office:

Pat Gaffney, *General Secretary*, Fausta Valentine, *Administrator*, Hilary Topp, *Peace Education*, with Valerie Flessati, *Editor*, Giovanni Scudiero *Webmaster* and regular volunteer support Sr Mary Ann Tyler, Michael Mitchell, Sr Margaret Terese, Peggy Oliver, Helga Galloway... and many more who help with mailings and events!

Pax Christi Income and Expenditure January 2006–December 2006

	<u>Total</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2005</u>
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	34,078	33,577
Donations:		
Members and supporters	8,733	16,684
Religious Orders Appeal	5,460	5,470
Peace Sunday	68,061	59,556
60th Anniversary Appeal	-	2,050
Pennies for Peace	2,485	2,742
Legacies	11,552	11
Grants	13,474	21,964
Sales of publications and other goods	17,331	17,174
Special events	3,465	642
Fees for work done	1,224	2,031
Interest on bank deposit accounts	7,780	6,862
	<u>173,643</u>	<u>168,763</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Cost of generating funds	8,488	7,809
Cost of salaries	64,471	59,519
Payroll processing	590	-
Recruitment	222	-
Rent and services	8,056	7,825
Telephone and fax	1,783	1,914
Postage, stationery and photocopying	9,953	11,018
Publications, printing and purchases	21,660	22,998
Travel and volunteer workers expenses	3,691	3,714
Repairs and equipment	3,406	1,490
Insurance	1,099	1,047
Accountancy fees	917	905
Editing fees	4,704	1,538
Bank charges	282	138
Special events	8,446	7,731
Hospitality and sundries	1,130	1,691
Grants awarded	-	841
Affiliations - International Office	13,408	11,124
- others	812	867
	<u>153,118</u>	<u>142,169</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	20,525	26,594