

Justpeace

PAX CHRISTI

Newsletter No 212 May-June 2004 ISSN0306-7645

Re-visiting Peace Education

By Pat Gaffney

Many readers will remember the time during the 1980's when peace education and peace studies came under attack, because of a perception that peace education was linked closely to the disarmament agenda and political activism, a real hot potato of the 80's. The political shifts of 1989 offered possible peace dividends. Perhaps the end of the East-West stand-off might allow the international community to work on improving North-South relations. Tragically, this never happened. Instead, new 'enemies' and flash-points emerged. We seem to be living in a culture which plays on fear and suspicion of the other, in a new and deeply worrying way. The call for education and awareness-raising, that will not only help us understand violence and conflict but work to transform them, comes to us from teachers, trying to help their students understand the cause of war and terrorism, and to deal intelligently with the fears to which the media expose them; from parents who want their children to celebrate the diversity of our world and discover role models committed to peace and nonviolence; from members and supporters who want our churches to be places where prejudice and hatred are countered by the rich Christian tradition and spirituality of nonviolence.

Peace education can still be perceived as political, even in this era of citizenship education. Citizenship can easily be identified with nationalism and conformity. 'Good citizenship' can become a politically loaded concept. The relation of citizenship to the military touches schools when the armed forces have easy access to schools and youth culture for recruitment and training. What happens when a teacher introduces the topic of nonviolent alternatives to conflict, or the plight of child soldiers around the world? An exploration of the resources, research and development that go into the military industry for example, could pose difficulties for teachers working in heavily defence-dependent areas where discussion about the ethics of an industry could lead to questions about local employment. Similar difficulties can be experienced when looking at the economics of war and oppression. Whatever goes on in the school will be influenced by the family, community and other external factors. Are these 'no go' areas or can they be treated by teachers with confidence and integrity? We believe they can and there is a wealth of resources, tools and models available to help all ages in their pursuit of peace.

In the early 1990s, Pax Christi with the Quakers, Peace Pledge Union and others, formed the Peace Education Network to help, in part, to address these calls. The Network organises an annual peace education conference and co-ordinates approaches to curriculum development and the effective distribution of existing peace education resources. It sees the aims of peace education as:

- To understand the nature and origins of violence and its effects on both victim and perpetrator;
- To create frameworks for achieving peaceful, creative societies;



Class workshop on peace

- To sharpen awareness about the existence of un-peaceful relationships between people and within and between nations
- To investigate the causes of conflicts and violence embedded within perceptions, values and attitudes;
- To encourage the search for alternative, nonviolent skills;
- To equip children and adults with personal conflict resolution skills.

More can be found about the Network at its website www.peaceeducation.org.uk

Other models and resources for peace education and studies are presented in this issue. The Peace Week has been used for many years by Pax Christi Flanders and is now shared in Africa and Kosovo. It offers a community approach which involves schools, churches and non-governmental groups in education and campaigning on a theme. Peace Museums create an opportunity to 'tell another story' in the face of violence and war and help people understand that war is not inevitable. And we are reminded in our reflection piece that education for peace is not limited to schools, but is rather a vocation and mission for life.

To enable peace to flourish in the hearts of our young, it is urgent that we begin to teach nonviolence everywhere... this will create an ethos where the use of violence becomes unnecessary, unacceptable and unthinkable.
(Mairead Corrighan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate)

Pax Christi International - What 's the 'Vlaamse Vredesweek'? (Peace Week)

During the Vlaamse Vredesweek different Flemish peace movements and community organisations co-operate, to inform people about a common topic dealing with peace-matters. The Vredesweek-team, with employees and volunteers of the different organisations, come together several times a year to prepare the week itself. The aims, tools and target group differ each year, depending upon the theme, together with the structure of the organising team. This year, the slogan of the Vlaamse Vredesweek is 'Woman as a force of peace'. Ypres - a famous peace-city - volunteered to be a member of the Vredesweek.

The Vlaamse Vredesweek has five aims:

- ✓ undertaking research on the theme and trying to get this into the 'common arena'
- ✓ elaborating the theme through a variety of activities
- ✓ motivating people to become involved in political activity
- ✓ creating educational programs and activities
- ✓ convincing politicians to listen to demands from the public and engaging the media

From September 24 until October 3 you will find the Vredesweek everywhere in Flanders. An old chariot will make a trip to every big city, to present the Vredesweek, using animations and actions. On the last day of the week, October 3, we're planning a big gathering in Brussels, with thousands of participants who want to sign the peace-declaration for women and girls, using their photograph to create a special design. Together we will make politicians pay attention to women in war and in work for peace. We want government to involve women in important decisions for the peace, safety and rebuilding of their country. We want them to support UN-resolutions relating to women and war.

In our Pax Christi work we encourage our team members to use the structure and model of the peace week in their funding programmes. With Pax Christi Netherlands we have helped organise a peace week in central Africa and in Kosovo. We worked with the Kosovo Youth Network and Millennium to organise Peace Weeks in 5 cities. Organisations who are interested can contact Ann Daniëls, Pax Christi Flemish Section, Italiëlei 98 A, 2000 Antwerpen, 03/225 10 00, ann.daniels@paxchristi.be

Gio De Weerd, General Secretary, Flemish Section



Street campaigning in Belgium

Peacemaking Resources

For adults and young people

Peace, War and the Christian Conscience by Joseph Fahey. Includes sections on the witness of the gospels and early Christianity; on reshaping the Just-War theory; and on the challenge to the Christian conscience.

Franz Jägerstätter: Martyr for Conscience by Gordon Zahn. A booklet outlining the life and conscientious objection of Franz.

Gandhi the Peacemaker. Outlining the life, work and philosophy of Gandhi.

Martin Luther King Jnr by J Milburn Thompson. Exploring King's dream of a just community.

Oscar Romero by John Dear SJ. Introduction to his life and nonviolent struggle for justice.

(All of the above priced £2.50)

Roots of Conflict: Routes to Peace: A teaching resource for key stage 4 and A level history. "An admirably lucid, fair-minded and well-informed classroom resource to guide pupils through the complex labyrinth of Northern Ireland" Dr Jonathan Bardon, Northern Ireland Community Relations Council. £9.99

For younger children

Winners All: Co-operative games for all ages. £2.50

Values for Nonviolence: Peacemaking with children. £2.50

Year in Year Out: Twelve Stories about Peacemakers. £3.00

Families Creating Circles of Peace. Produced by the Families Against Violence advocacy network in the USA. £3.50

Building Peace where I Live: Resource pack for key stage 2&3.

Explores six themes: saying "no" to violence, sharing what we have; resolving conflicts fairly, taking part in our community and celebrating differences. Price £5.00

Time for Peace by Janet Ganguli. Helps children reflect on themes such as why wars happen, children working for peace, alternatives to war and peace in practice. Price £6.00

All available from Pax Christi. 20%p&p to be added to price.

Organisations

Institute for Peace & Justice USA
www.ijp-ppj.org

Movement for the Abolition of War, Tel: 01908 510 642
www.abolishwar.freeuk.com

Peace Pledge Union, Tel: 020 77663 1087
www.ppu.org.uk

Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Tel: 020 7663 1087
www.quaker.org.uk

West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project
Tel: 01384 234113
www.peacemakers.org.uk

Celebrating Peace Making - Peace Museums and Education for Peace

When I went to the last conference of the International Network of Peace Museums in 2003 in Belgium, I was struck by the difficulty of establishing what is truly a peace museum, as opposed to a war museum, and of giving a peace message in the midst of a history of warfare. As we visited the war cemeteries of Flanders fields and the war museum in Ypres, which brings the First World War to life, I was moved by the tragedy of so many lost lives. But what was missing at these sites was anything about conscientious objectors or the peace movement of the time, anything that could give hope for a more peaceful future.

Likewise the new Imperial War Museum of the North in Manchester gives an ambiguous image of war with its neutral slogan 'war *shapes* lives' (rather than 'war *destroys* lives'). To find anything on war resisters there, you literally have to open a little drawer, where there is a story of a WWI conscientious objector, or read one panel about women's peace actions in a room dedicated to 'women and war.'

Peace museums try to tell a different story (and not only about anti-war activities, but peace in a broader sense). The U.K.'s one Peace Museum is based in Bradford, but is now looking to move to Leeds, under the wing of the Royal Armouries. This might seem like 'dancing with the devil', but in fact, the move offers a unique opportunity to tell the 'other side' of the story in a place where weapons and warfare are depicted. Like the Imperial War Museums in London and Manchester, the Armouries attracts large numbers of visitors including, of course, school

groups. It is important that, where the history of warfare is told, we also reach young people with the message that war is not inevitable, and that there are many ways of working for peace.

In fact, since its beginning, the Royal Armouries has had a peace-worker inside it, whose brief has been to get such an alternative message into the Armouries. His post was originally funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Leeds City Council Peacelink Group. He has now been taken on as a member of the Armouries staff, with the same 'peace brief'. Examples of his work include major exhibitions on Hiroshima and the campaign against landmines.

Agreement has been reached between the Armouries and the Peace Museum to work together on creating a new museum (provisionally called 'The Peace Museum at the Royal Armouries'), which would be located very near the Armouries, so that visitors could go to both museums. The creation of the new museum will take time and require fundraising, so in the meantime, the Peace Museum remain based in Bradford, and will continue sending out its travelling exhibitions, which have now been on display not only in the U.K. but many other countries as well. For information on the museum and its travelling exhibitions phone: 01274-434009, email: peacemuseum@bradford.gov.uk, or visit the website: www.peacemuseum.org.uk.

Carol Rank (Lecturer, Coventry University Centre for the Study of Forgiveness and Reconciliation and Board member for the Peace Museum U.K.)

Diary

15 May (Sat) London

Annual ceremony to mark International Conscientious Objectors Day. 12 noon at the commemorative stone in Tavistock Square. Details: PPU 020 7424 9444

15th May (Sat) London

Rally, speakers and cultural events in Trafalgar Square 13.30 with the theme *The Wall Must Fall* - a challenge to the wall being built in Israel-Palestine. Details: Palestine Solidarity Campaign, tel 020 7700 6192

15 May (Sat) Newcastle

North East Catholic Worker Gathering at Newcastle University Chaplaincy Centre, near Haymarket Metro station. Let Martin Newell know if you intend to come: 01434 673 248 email: martin_newell1967@yahoo.co.uk

22 May (Sat) London

Songs for justice, understanding and love: concert with Frankie Armstrong and Leon Rosselson. 19.30 at St James's Church, Piccadilly. Tickets £7.50 (£5 conc.) from Movement for the Abolition of War Administration, 11 Weavers End, Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7PA tel: 01908 510642 email: ajkempster@aol.com

24 May (Mon) London

Embassies Walk to ask the nuclear weapon states "Are you keeping your promises?" Meet at St-Martin-in-the-Fields, Dick Sheppard Chapel at 10 am for service before start of walk at 10.30. Contact: Christian CND tel: 0207 7700 4200 email: ccnd@gn.apc.org

25 May (Tue) Manchester

Open meeting between 19.00 - 21.00 at St Peter's House, Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9GH, with Dr Naim Ateek, Director of the Sabeel, speaking about the current situation in Palestine. Details John Logan, Christian Aid, at the above address

27 May - 1 June (Thurs-Tues) Plymouth

Peace camp at Devonport where Trident nuclear submarines are serviced. Details: Trident Ploughshares 2000 tel. 0845 588366 or email: info@tridentploughshares.org

4 June (Fri) London

Pilgrimage to Government departments and Downing Street to hand in petitions on the arms trade. Gather 11 am at Westminster Abbey Memorial to Innocent Victims of War. Organised by Pax Christi/CAAT Christian Network. Details: 020 8203 4884

5 June (Sat) Birmingham

"Global Insecurity: what is our response?" - seminar organised by Conscience Peace Tax Campaign, and Quaker Peace and Social Witness. Will include alternatives to military security model. 10.45-4 pm at Bull Street Friends Meeting House. Book in advance: tel. 0870 777 3223 or email: projects@conscienceonline.org.uk

6 June (Sun)

Arms Trade Day of Prayer. Free pack for churches from CAAT, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ tel. 020 7281 0297

10 July (Sat) Oxford

Dominican Peace Action's Assunta Kirwan lecture will be given by Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, 11 am at Blackfriars.

16-18 July (Fri-Sun) Swanwick, Derbyshire

National Justice and Peace Conference at Hayes Conference Centre. Speakers: Fr John Fuellenbach and Fr Ed O'Connell on theme: 'Bringing Forth the Kingdom: Love and Justice in a Broken World'. Contact: J & P Office, St John's Seminary, Womersley, Surrey GU5 0QX tel: 01483 894325

16-18 July (Fri-Sun) Leicestershire

Church and Peace and Anglican Pacifist Fellowship Joint Conference at Launde Abbey, East Norton. Focus on Community, Nonviolent Action, and the Gospel. Information from: deanna@menno.org.uk or 020 8340 8775.

6-7 August (Fri-Sat) Cologne, Germany

90th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (in Cologne.) German FoR will find accommodation; participants must make their own travel arrangements. Details from Fellowship of Reconciliation tel: 01832 720257 or email: chair@for.org.uk

13-15 August (Fri-Sun) Clopton, Kettering

FoR meeting on theme of Star Wars / American bases. Details: Fellowship of Reconciliation tel: 01832 720257 or email: office@for.org.uk

Reflection - Learning for peace

Have you noticed that in some Christian traditions the priest's greeting to the gathered community is: "The Lord be with you", but that the Bishop's greeting is more often: "Peace be with you"? It strikes me that the two greetings are in fact one. The Lord is the Peace. The peace of Christ, *Pax Christi*, is the Lord present. The "Peace!" greeting of the Risen Christ is indeed the thrilling statement: "Hello - it's me!", with all its implications of God-with-us for real.

Offering each other a sign of peace is a liturgical action with resonance far beyond the hug, kiss, handshake, wave or smile. It is an expression to those around us at the time of who we are. In the context of faith, both we and the others are unique manifestations of the Creator's blessing. All of us, and all of our meaningful signs, are Godly.

Learning to be people of peace is an infinite task, the most evident expression of our "putting on" of Christ. More than any robe, it is the adoption of a consciousness and a lifestyle, a loving relationship with the other in all the myriad manifestations. In this sense, peace is both the other and the relationship with the other. It is not an ordinary component in the curriculum of life. There is no formula to adopt to acquire a peace education: education for peace is not a single-issue process.

Talk of education at all in the context of peace might well be masking the reality. What we need to emphasise is the *learning* for peace. If peace is to be equated with the dynamic, infinite and loving God-life, the community of persons called Trinity, then the learning of it will have to be lifelong and lifewide. Of course, our young people need to be helped to engage with the matter in school: but it is not school-limited. This particular

learning is to do with living.

This is learning for real. We take whatever stimuli come our way and weigh them against the evidence of meaningfulness which has characterised our life and living thus far. This sort of learning is no easy option: it is potentially disruptive of our comfort in the *status quo*. It has its own imperative. It contains our vocation and our mission - the very who we are and what we are for. Learning for peace is eminently Godly.

But is this "learning for peace", if it is indeed the *Pax Christi*, only possible for Christians, the followers of Christ? Only if we, who claim to be followers, also claim to own a monopoly on the Christ, or if we who claim to be people of faith also claim to own a monopoly on God. This would be to fly in the face of the evidence of a gloriously generous Creator of a cosmos and creatures of awesome wonder and diversity. The yardstick of the Godly is the inclusive altruism which makes love of other possible, even of the other we do not particularly like. The absence of the Godly is marked by the exclusive self-centredness which rebuffs the other in preference for the self. In this way, believers may not be Godly, Church people may not be very Christian. Similarly, people without overt religious faith may be Godly, people who eschew Christianity may be Christ-like.

Peace is not an optional extra for humanity. We need to learn it or perish for lack of it. People of faith, and particularly people of Christian faith, have more reason than most for seeing the relevance and key reality of a God of Peace and a Prince of Peace. We have a language of peace: we need to work at a living of peace. Keep learning!

Tony McCaffry

Office Report

Annual General Meeting

Don't forget this important event taking place on 12th June at Vaughan House, Francis Street, London SE1, 10.30-16.00. Our guest speaker, Bishop Donal Mckeown of Down and Connor will reflect on the peace processes in Northern Ireland and the Middle East. There will be an opportunity to hear about our work over the past year, plans for the future and celebrate Mass with our President Bishop Malcolm McMahon. There is still time to nominate members for the Executive Committee. Details available from the office.

Pax Christi and the European Parliament Elections

The European sections of Pax Christi agreed upon an action addressing the candidates for the upcoming European Parliament elections on issues related to defence and security. Members are urged to write to their candidates at the European Parliament elections, using these recommendations concerning peaceful conflict resolution that are shared among the Pax Christi sections in EU countries. We will post these recommendations on the Pax Christi website, alternatively you can contact the office for a paper copy.

"Christ is our Reconciliation"

This is the subject of the beautiful Icon which was made for Pax Christi International at the Monastery of St John in the Desert, near Jerusalem. We have just produced a full-colour prayer card of the Icon with a prayer by Brother Roger of Taizé. A copy is enclosed - additional copies cost £2.50 for 50 copies.

Usually based in Brussels, the actual Icon will be visiting Britain later this year. From 9-16 October it will be in the Chapel of Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral, and from 17-23 October at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation, Bishopsgate, London. In both locations there will be special services, music, and other activities, focussed on the Icon. Look out for more details in *Justpeace* in the coming months.

Tax Free giving to Peace Education

The Christian Peace Education Fund, set up by Pax Christi in 1984, supports the education work of Pax Christi and provides small grants to other education projects. As a registered charity CPEF can receive Charities Aid Foundation cheques and Gift Aid donations. These can be sent to CPEF via the Pax Christi office.

Keep peace alive. Remember Pax Christi when making or up-dating 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: paxchristi@gn.apc.org 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: paxchristi@gn.apc.org www.paxchristi.org.uk