

## Music of healing : using music and song in peacemaking

A conductor raises his baton to lead a symphony orchestra. A folk singer tunes his guitar outside a castle. A librarian sets up a keyboard beside a gate.

In various ways, using whatever resources they have, people make music for peace.

The conductor, Daniel Barenboim, Jewish by birth, unites Arab and Israeli musicians, young people whose races have a long history of conflict, in the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. Without words, this speaks powerfully of the possibility of living and working in harmony.

The folk singer, Tommy Sands, a Catholic from Northern Ireland, has brought musicians and schoolchildren, both Catholic and Protestant, to Stormont, where politicians are negotiating what will be the Good Friday Agreement. The children's song pleads for the struggle for peace to continue until it succeeds. One by one the negotiators come outside and sing with them.

The librarian is me. I am at the Faslane nuclear submarine base, taking part in a Pentecost peace witness. I play hymns for a service at the gate, and sing a song looking forward to a time when this beautiful place will be free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

What good does it do? There is still conflict in Palestine, suspicion in Northern Ireland, and a nuclear base at Faslane. The poet Seamus Heaney said: "In one sense the efficacy of poetry is nil - no lyric has ever stopped a tank. In another sense it is unlimited." This applies to music too. Its emotional power, as another poet Charles Causley has said, can be a "seducer of common-sense". But peace music does not need to seduce. Most people already want peace: music can help them to believe it is

possible, and worth striving for.

A song can remind us that we humans are capable of better things than reliance on nuclear arsenals : "These are the hands that plant the tree, the ones that pull the newborn baby free." (Karine Polwart)

It can encapsulate the anguish and hope of Neve Shalom / Wahat al Salaam, where Muslim and Jew play together: "I would put down my gun, open my arms, and weep" (Fred Small)

It can protest against war's spurious legitimacy : "Kill one man, it's homicide; you slay thousands, no-one's tried" (Stewart Henderson and Martyn Joseph).

It can expose war's corrupting nature : "The soldiers, by and large, were decent men, but that's a disadvantage in a war" (That's one of mine).\*

Peacemaking is frequently a long, painstaking process, without glamour or publicity. Only occasionally, as with Tommy Sands at Stormont, does music visibly contribute to one of its tangible victories. We cannot count the lives it saves as we can count the casualties of war, but all the efforts we make, the songs we sing and share, the encouragement we give one another and the beauty we create with music, enhance its effectiveness. As Tommy sings:

"Somehow the cycle of vengeance keeps turning till each other's sorrows and songs we start learning. Peace is the prize for those who are daring: sing me the music of healing."

*Sue Gilmurray* (\*All these songs are on the Movement for the Abolition of War's recent CD, Call back the fire)

## Office Report

### Good News from Peace Sunday

To date we have received £72,000 from donations and collections. Thanks to all who spoke, gave out leaflets, wrote for their newsletters. All of these 'encouragements' have helped to strengthen the day. If you would like a breakdown from your Diocese just contact Fausta.

### Delegation to Palestine & Israel

In February we coordinated a delegation of people involved in peace education to visit partners in the region. Reports from this can be read on the Pax Christi website, if you would like a paper copy contact the office.

### Schools Contest

The winning team for this year are from St Mary's College, Middlesbrough. We are currently planning their visit to the Peace House in Florence in April. If you would like to support this by making a small financial contribution it would be most helpful in meeting some of the travel costs.

### Congratulations to Pax Christi volunteers

In January, Peggy Oliver, Sr Margaret Terese, Sr Mary Ann Tyler and Helga Calloway received awards from Barnet Council for their service to Pax Christi. Each had contributed more than 100 hours to Pax Christi over the past year. We are so proud of them!

## Keep peace alive. Remember Pax Christi when making or up-dating your will

Please send me information on

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I enclose a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ to support your work

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Return to Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY  
Tel: 020 8203 4884 email: info@paxchristi.org.uk 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.

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# Justpeace

## PAX CHRISTI

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## Creative Peacemaking

On a recent visit to Pax Christi partners in Palestine, I was struck by the creativity and imagination with which they approach their peace work. Perhaps this is due in part to the dire situation of 'enclosure' behind the Separation Wall and the need to almost 'exorcise' its ugly presence. The wall itself has become a work of art, including work of Banksy, of internationals and of local people. It has been turned into a backdrop for theatre and film, a stage for drama, musical performances, poetry readings. We also heard of the *Carried by the Wind* project which used roof-tops and balconies as stages for a concert to allow the music to be carried between Palestine and Israel (See resources).

In this issue of Justpeace discover how to create your own local Peace Trail or take an initiative to marry a passion for walking with interfaith cooperation. Borrow a travelling exhibit from the *Peace Museum* to display in your school, local library or church. Bring people together to try out some of the music described in the *Music for Healing*. Use the *Peace Garden* brochure (enclosed) to combine a range of approaches and activities in planning a *Peace Garden* for your school or church. Let us know how



*Film on the Wall by Ibrahim Sarahan*

you get on with any of the initiatives, or your own, and we can share them with others.

Pat Gaffney, Pax Christi

## The Peace Museum, Bradford

Creative peacemakers have existed for many centuries and our museum is a key resource for this information. It offers a long term perspective on the past and an outlook on the present and future. It accepts there will always be conflict - at personal, community and national/international level - and draws from this understanding to promote nonviolent conflict resolution and prevention.

Overall, the museum has some 7,000 items - posters, banners, paintings, photos, CO letters and many more topics. Both anti-nuclear and non-nuclear aspects are covered. The Peace Museum is the only one of its kind in the UK and one of around 100 'museums for peace' across the world. The museum interprets peace on three levels: in terms of 'peace and war', in terms of 'community', and in terms of 'personal peace' Each of the museum's exhibitions and programmes strive to address these aspects of peace.

The museum concentrates on outreach through specifically created travelling exhibitions. These have been well-received and have proven very popular for adults and schools. There are five such travelling exhibitions all available for free loan to the public (+mailing cost) anywhere in the world. (See peacemaking resources)

The exhibitions visitors can see in the museum consist of displays chronicling the development and work of the peace movement throughout the 20th century, the anti-nuclear movement and peace camps in the UK. Posters, paintings, sketches, sculpture, banners and objects complement the text panel displays and bring the story of peacemaking to life in a colourful way.

We particularly encourage others to take up their own ideas for local peace work. We can offer advice if required. Or we can advise on creating your own exhibition about the local area from a peace perspective.

Another idea is to create a peace timeline. This can show that peace is not a 20th century 'invention'. The Peace Museum has created such a timeline starting from 700 BC (when there was a peace/human rights event!) to 2100 AD. Both peace and general world happenings are located on it. This could be done for a local area for a shorter timescale. It could also be combined with an exhibition on the area. There really are so many way to inspire people by getting creative with peace-related topics and presenting them in way that will open up thinking.

Peter Nias, Peace Museum, Bradford

## Creating a Peace Trail

One Saturday afternoon in February I joined a crowd of over a hundred outside Bow Road station. No, it wasn't for a football match or a demonstration, but for a walk round the sites in East London associated with George Lansbury, (1859-1940) the pacifist MP for Bow. On the 150th anniversary of his birth a route had been mapped out by the Rector of Bow Church, Michael Peet, whose commentary brought to life the struggle for economic justice and women's suffrage of that period.

Heritage is a thriving business at the moment and, we are told, there is unprecedented interest in family and local history. This is a good time therefore to foster the culture of peace by making visible the hidden peace history of our country. Tourists to Britain get their fill of castles and battlefields. Every cathedral has its regimental flags, every town its statue of an admiral or knight, and the smallest village its sad war memorial.

Here is an interesting project for your local peace group this summer. Think about your area and start a list of places connected with people and organisations which have promoted peace. Any conscientious objectors, UN diplomats or peacekeepers, politicians, social reformers, writers, musicians or artists, heroes and heroines of nonviolent resistance or reconciliation? What are the existing landmarks that could be on your peace trail? Think of buildings, streets, gardens, monuments, plaques, sculpture, murals and pictures, gravestones... Go yourself and check that there is something worthwhile for visitors to actually see. Take photographs, research the facts, and publish the trail as a leaflet or booklet. You may get some funding from the council or tourist board to help with this. Put copies in the tourist information office, library, museum, National Trust shop or stately home.

If it is hard to make up a list at all, perhaps your project should be to actually put up a plaque or plant a tree commemorating a local peacemaker or event: a memorial to conscientious objectors, for example.

Deciding what to include in itself creates an interesting discussion about what peace is. When I was devising the 'London Peace Trail' in the 1990s I quickly realised that if one

## Walk, Sing, Plant and Explore for Peace



Registration for the Mystery Walk

took the broad view of 'peace' there were far too many sites that deserved a place. London could easily have a specific women's suffrage trail, human rights trail, and so on. I therefore interpreted peace more narrowly, while still indicating by some of my choices that campaigning against slavery, or for women's rights, creates the justice that is crucial to peace. By including Lord Mountbatten (for his anti-nuclear speech) I also wanted to show that peacemaking is not confined to pacifists.

A most successful event in London is the annual Mystery Walk for Children organised by the Movement for the Abolition of War. At the starting point children are given a puzzle book with clues to look for at each of the eight sites on a simplified version of the peace trail. They also have a 'passport' which is stamped at each site by a steward. Accompanying adults get the route instructions showing safe crossings etc. The final destination is the Tibetan Peace Garden next to the Imperial War Museum where staff demonstrate how to fold Japanese paper cranes. The children clearly enjoy the day, and many parents express their surprise and pleasure at discovering the peace history of their own city.

Valerie Flessati

(A Peace Trail through London is available from Pax Christi for 40p + postage)

It is not unusual to find People of Faith using their faith to make peace. One of the ways they do this is by making an interfaith pilgrimage, perhaps in the area where they live. This means thinking of the local people of faith, not simply people of MY faith. It always helps, if you want to approach the local Temple, Mosque, Synagogue or Gurdwara if you have a contact whom these places will recognise; "I am from such & such a Church", or "Mrs so & so gave me your name". Things move along more smoothly and you quickly seem much less of a 'stranger' to them. My experience is that temples of all kinds are usually happy to be drawn into the local Faith scene, although, as yet, they may not have made many inter-faith contacts themselves. Each year Westminster Interfaith leads an enormous Pilgrimage, perhaps 200-300 people. But, that has grown over 25 years. Other annual Pilgrimages have grown up around the country & have expanded organically. But, some good advice is to start small, and start locally. Your pilgrims will always want to ask more questions and want to stay longer in any one 'temple' than you think, and the need for toilet-stops or for refreshments takes time; so, do not cram in too many places to visit. Four or five in a whole day can be plenty, and if you are really starting out, a half-day's pilgrimage might be enough.

## Peacemaking Resources

### Museums

#### The Peace Museum

The visitor gallery is at 10 Piece Hall Yard, Bradford, 1PJ (open Wed & Fri 11-3 and other times by arrangement). It has good links with Bradford University Peace Studies Dept and the city council, but is independent from both. Office is based at Jacobs Well, Manchester Road, Bradford BD1 5RW, 01274 434009 [peacemuseum@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:peacemuseum@bradford.gov.uk) Travelling exhibitions: *Women Peacemakers* (28 A2 panels) *Champions of Peace: Nobel's Peace Prize* (33 A2 panels) *A Vision Shared: Art from the History of the Peace Movement* (48 A3 panels) *Such a Journey: on Bradford's People* (12 A1 panels) *Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (originally donated from Japan, 40 A2 panels). These can all be viewed at [www.peacemuseum.org.uk](http://www.peacemuseum.org.uk)

#### Friedens Räume (Peace Rooms) Villa Lindenhof - Lindau im Bodensee

Pax Christi members in Germany have helped to set up Peace Rooms (Peace Museum) offering a positive message of peace - not just an anti-war experience. They provide 'hands on' activities of peacemaking in a most creative way. Visit the website to get a picture of what is on offer. If you speak some German, you might also be interested in volunteering with them during the summer months. Contact [friedensraeume@freenet.de](mailto:friedensraeume@freenet.de) and [www.friendens-raeume.de](http://www.friendens-raeume.de)

### Music

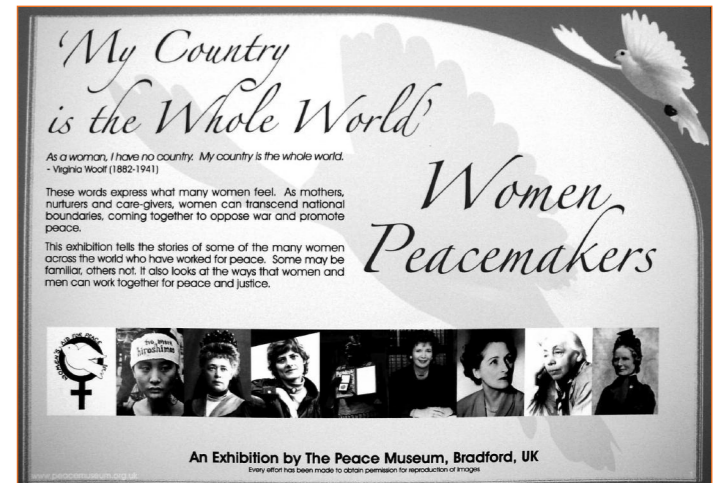
**Call back the Fire** is a new CD of 18 songs from songwriters in Britain, America and Australia, each song chosen because of its lyrics and the way it describes a certain aspect of war or peacemaking. Produced by the Movement for the Abolition of War it is available from 1 Thesiger Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2DY. Price £12 plus £1.60 p&p, cheques to MAW Orders.

**Way of Peace** is a CD (£5.00) and piano score (£3.00) of a cycle of seven songs for peace that could be used in schools, youth groups, in churches or at festivals, produced by Sue Gilmurray. Sue can also supply a list of suggested poetry and/or Bible readings to go with the song cycle.

## Faiths walking together for peace

Good planning is what lies behind a successful Pilgrimage. Leaders will have walked or ridden the route in advance and timed the itinerary as near-accurately as possible. One of the most pleasing things on a pilgrimage is when members of the congregations we visit are there to offer a welcome, to answer our questions, and finally to join the travellers to the next stop. When the latter is possible, we enable local faith-communities to salute one another. How to travel? Pilgrimages on foot facilitate conversations, but also with travel-cards & oysters it is easy to hop on and off buses or tubes. Occasionally, if we are in parts of the diocese outside the city, we will hire a coach and can therefore reach the more remote 'temples' - a Buddhist monastery, a Hindu Mandir. You may ask how you find these 'other faiths'? It can be a question of noticing communities already there in your area. Or, your Library may have a list of local faith groups - some do. Or, you may use the knowledge of others who have made these journeys before you. At Westminster Interfaith - 0207 361 4740 or email [westminsterinterfaith@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:westminsterinterfaith@rcdow.org.uk), we will be glad to help or even to put you in touch with others who are currently making peace in this way. Our own Pilgrimage is on Saturday 6th June this year. All welcome.

Elizabeth O'Donohoe hc. Westminster Interfaith



Panel from Women Peacemakers Exhibition

Contact, Sue.Gilmurray@anglia.ac.uk, or post, 1 Wilford Drive, Ely, Cambs. CB6 1TL

**Carried by the Wind** is a spectacular music performance that can be viewed on YouTube. Created by Dutch musician Merlijn Twaalfhoven, with Pax Christi partners in Bethlehem. It is both performance and resistance, involving musicians and local people in a rooftop/balcony performance across the Separation Wall near Bethlehem. View here [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=008p-\\_LePrq](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=008p-_LePrq)

### Art

**Iran Drawing Paradise on the Axis of Evil** is an exhibition of prints by Emily Johns. This striking exhibition is about Britain's relationship with Iran over the last century and gaining an understanding of a country that has been and will continue to be a target of Britain's foreign policy. The exhibition can be viewed here [http://www.j-n-v.org/Iran/Drawing\\_Paradise\\_on\\_the\\_Axis\\_of\\_Evil.htm](http://www.j-n-v.org/Iran/Drawing_Paradise_on_the_Axis_of_Evil.htm) To borrow/use contact Justice not Vengeance 0845 458 9571.

## Diary

### 13 April (Mon) Aldermaston

Easter Vigil organised by Christian CND. Meet at Tadley Gate by midday (on A340). Contact CCND, 020 7700 4200

### 9 May (Sat) Crewe

The Changing Face of Britain. Diocesan gathering with Bishop Brian Noble and Richard Zipfel (CARJ). St Thomas More Catholic High School, Crewe. Contact Joan Sharples 01270 620584

### 16 May (Sat) London

Pax Christi Annual General Meeting at Holy Apostles Church, Cumberland Street, London SW1V 4LY. Speaker Bishop Kevin Dowling from Rustenburg, South Africa, Vice-President of Pax Christi International.

### 4-10 June, International

Week of Prayer for Peace in Israel and Palestine. An initiative of the WCC. Pax Christi has worked with others to produce a prayer leaflet - available from the office or from the website.

### 17-19 July, Derbyshire

On the Road Together: A-Mazed Migration. Annual Justice & Peace Conference, Swanwick. Book before 15th May and avoid surcharge of £5. Contact NJPN Administrator on 020 7901 4864 or download booking form at [www.justice-and-peace.org.uk](http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk)

### 29 July - 6 August, Warwickshire

Pilgrims of St Francis International pilgrimage walk from Stratford-upon-Avon to Coventry Cathedral. 200 people from at least 7 countries are expected and newcomers welcome. Involves carrying rucksack and sleeping in church halls. Details: Gill Myall 0121 443 5198 or email [gillmyall@hotmail.com](mailto:gillmyall@hotmail.com). [www.cdsf.org](http://www.cdsf.org)

### 8-19 August, Italy

Pax Christi international summer work camp for 18-30 year olds at the beautiful Pax Christi Peace House in Florence. Involves practical work, sharing, workshops and fun. Contact Hilary on 020 8203 4884 or [education@paxchristi.org.uk](mailto:education@paxchristi.org.uk)