

CATHOLIC WORKER

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 1st -Ash Wednesday witness of repentance for British nuclear weapons at MoD - contact Pax Christi 020 8203 4884

June 2-4: Christianity and Anarchism Conference, Leeds- uk.jesusradicals.com

5 July Pitstop ploughshares re-trial, Dublin

26 Aug - 4 Sept. 'Camp for Climate Action' (organising meeting Jan 14, Manchester): www.climatecamp.org.uk

We meet monthly at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Highgate Hill. If you are interested in coming, call us on 07985 204 878

Contact **London Catholic Worker**

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London, E1 5AH

Phone: 07985 204 878

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Website: www.geocities.com/
londoncatholicworker

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Name.....

Address.....

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The London Catholic Worker is part of the independent international Catholic Worker movement founded in 1933 in New York USA, and inspired by the radical Gospel vision and practice of our founders, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin

Join us at a monthly vigil:

12noon – 2.00pm

1st Tuesday of the month

Reed Elsevier, 1-3 The Strand,
London WC2N 5JR - they now

own Spearhead, who run the DSEi Arms Fair. But check first: tel: 020 8986 6335

London CW needs—

- donations to sustain and increase our work
- New members
- Photocopier / printer
- House / café /space for hospitality for the poor
- Participants in vigils, acts of witness etc
- Prayer—without this, all the rest is useless

Other Catholic Worker contacts:

Edinburgh: Gilbert: gilbertscm.aol.com

Oxford Catholic Worker:

St Franci House, 227 Cowley Road OX4 Rachel, Susan and Richard 01865-248-288: & Clive Gillam and Mena Remedios

Dublin Catholic Worker: Ciaron, Damien +353 (0)1-454-9144

Portsmouth: Les Gibbons 01329-312 –553

Durham: Fr Chris Hughes 0191-373-8525

Liverpool: Eileen Laing 0151-260-8533

Community Café

It's a long time coming, but it's on its way. When we started to work and meet and pray together back on May 1st 2001, we knew that we wanted eventually to get a base, a house of hospitality, in which to live with the poor, do the works of mercy, and build a radical, Gospel based community. We're not there yet, but the vision will soon become a reality, largely thanks to the generosity of one of our friends.

This vision which we have seen 'as through a glass darkly', has been growing clearer. Ideally, we are looking to rent a shop with a flat above it and a basement below. We plan to use the shop as a community café, and also for other activities when not open as a café. A basement could be very useful as an office and meeting room. In the flat, we are planning to provide accommodation for at least one or two destitute refugees or destitute eastern Europeans from the new EU countries. The former would be people whose asylum applications have been turned down, but who cannot be returned home for various reasons. Neither are allowed to claim benefits, although the latter are (continued p6)

Global Day of Action on Climate Change

We took up the banner of Peter Maurin's call to a 'Green Revolution' on December 3rd, when some of us joined the annual Global Day of Action on Climate Change. The day began with Martin Newell joining the early morning Critical Mass type bike ride from the Thames Floodgate Barrier. At about 1.00pm, 8,000 people marched from Lincolns Inn, via Downing Street, to the US Embassy on Grosvenor Square. Martin Newell and Tim Nafziger of the London CW (continued on p 5)



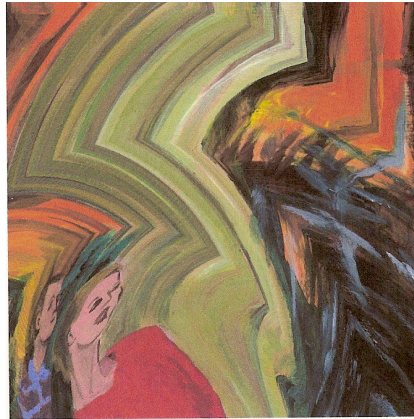
Graham Martin (centre) and Nathan (right) from Prayer158 on the Climate Change demo
Photo: Tim Nafziger

**Life is a banquet, even with a crust,
where there is companionship**

About 18 months ago we started helping out at the Sunday afternoon soup kitchen at Our Lady Help of Christians Church in Kentish Town, north London. After about a year, we thought we were ready to take more responsibility. So we have been working together with the URC Round Chapel Church in Clapton for two months now. We share a simple Sunday afternoon meal of hearty soup and sandwiches, cake and fruit, tea and coffee. Many of our guests are from the new EU countries in Eastern Europe. Some sleep rough, others live in squats. Others still are simply isolated and struggling to cope. Last Sunday, due to a generous gift, we were able to share with our guests a (thankfully mild) chickpea curry. Simon Watson regularly brings home-made cakes, Richard from the Round Chapel as well as Martin Newell provide some home-baked bread, and next Sunday – Christmas day – we are combining with the annual Round Chapel communal meal, and cooking a full Christmas dinner.

We struggle to communicate with our friends from Poland and elsewhere, so recently Fr Wojtek, a Polish priest learning English in London, was able to come and listen to their stories: of sickness that prevents work: of drinking to dull the pain of despair, of the cold and of hard park benches: of shame of failure in a rich country that makes a return home unbearable: of the daily struggle to survive and to find food to eat. If the others are like me, we are embarrassed each week at the thanks these men express: we remember the words of St Basil in the 4th Century, “The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry; the garment hanging in your wardrobe belongs to him who is naked; the shoes you do not wear are the shoes of those who are barefoot; the money you keep locked away is the money of the poor; the acts of charity you do not perform are so many injustices you commit.”

This work is not simply charity, it is the beginning of justice. For the poor will not get justice unless – not only do they organise to struggle for it – but also, unless the rich are open to conversion, to become willing to give it to them and give up the privileges of a comfortable life. (by Martin Newell)



“the creation bends towards justice to welcome the Christ child” - Claire Pinney

donations in kind and help with paying our bills. Even though we aim to practice voluntary poverty and have enough to basically keep us going for two years, we will need the generosity of our readers and friends to make sure this small seed keeps growing and bearing fruit. And of course we always need your prayers and the grace of God, for without these we can do nothing.

We intend to call the café “The Open Table”, to reflect our desire to welcome all comers, poor and not-so-poor, Christians Catholic and Protestant, Christians and Muslims, people of faith and people of no faith, anarchists and socialists, black and white, people of all nationalities, creeds, ideologies and sexualities. This is a reflection on our desire to fulfil Jesus’s ‘table practice’, his ‘open table’ the Gospels tell us about, where he welcomed and ate and drank and broke bread with all sorts, ‘sinners’ and ‘righteous’, tax man and sex worker, priests and Pharisees, lawyers and revolutionaries. This is a way of trying to fulfil His words, “When you have a dinner, do not invite those who can repay you. But invite the poor, the disabled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed” (Luke 14:12-14) by Martin Newell

NEWS... .NEWS.....NEWS... .

Tim Nafziger, Angela Broome, Zelda Jeffers and Martin Newell all travelled up to Scotland for the G8, the Make Poverty History demo, and the Trident Ploughshares (TP) ‘Big Blockade’. They also camped at the Stirling eco-village. Tim and Martin stayed with the ‘Prayer i58’ group, which is evolving into a Christian group affiliated to the anti-authoritarian Dissent network. A Mennonite ‘Litany of Resistance’ was prayed outside the fence G8 hotel in Gleneagles, alongside the blockaded M8, and surrounded by riot police as they searched a coach load of rebel clowns. We took part in the TP blockade which closed down Faslane nuclear submarine base for the day. Members of the London CW also took part in the demonstrations at the DSEi arms fair in Custom House. Zelda Jeffers and Anne Kobayashi were arrested and released in Basildon for obstructing bailiffs trying to remove travellers from their own land. The travellers are still there, and have obtained judicial reviews of their planning applications, and increased local support. Angela Broome was ordered to pay costs for taking part in the blockade of Aldermaston in May. Martin followed Angela’s example and travelled to Palestine in September.

We ask your prayers for our friend Norman Kember and the other three members of the Christian Peacemaker Teams who as we go to print are still being held hostage in Iraq. Their courage is an inspiration to us all.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ (continued from p1)

allowed to work if they can find it. Migrants from eastern Europe, especially Poland, are the new street homeless, as many come looking for work but not all find it and end up destitute in a foreign country, probably having only very little grasp of the language. From the London Catholic Worker group, Martin Newell will be the first to move in. Steve Barnes, currently working with the Simon Community, is also interested. Later in the year, we are hoping Zelda Jeffers will be free to join us. We will find space to squeeze in somewhere, and be content to do this work as a personal sacrifice, knowing that we will receive far more than we can give.

Our inspiration is the Catholic Worker practice of communities of hospitality and resistance. While we will be able to more fully offer our space and our time to share with the victims of what Dorothy Day called “this filthy rotten system”, we will continue to be challenged to subvert “the established disorder”: comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable, caring for the victims of the system while seeking to change that system, to proclaim with our words and deeds ‘The beloved Community’, ‘the Kingdom of God’, the Divine revolution that changes the world one heart at a time, by living that revolution, that Kingdom, day by day. Our aim is to fulfil the words of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker, “it truly is a permanent revolution, this Catholic Worker family of ours”, and to fulfil the words of Scripture,

“This is the kind of fasting I have chosen says the Lord,
to loosen the chains of injustice,
to untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and break every yoke...
to share your food with the hungry,
and provide the poor wanderer with shelter
when you see him naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood.” (Isaiah 58)

We cannot do this work on our own. We need each other: we will need people to volunteer their time and their skills: we will need help with



In Support of the Pitstop Ploughshares Irish Embassy - London Monday 24th October 2005

by Scott Albrecht

The trial of the Pitstop Ploughshares 5, otherwise known as the Shannon 5, collapsed for a second time earlier this month at the “Four Courts” in Dublin. They were on trial for fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, that “swords shall be beaten into ploughshares” by disarming a US Navy plane at Shannon Airport in February 2003. Charged with E2.5 million ‘criminal damage’. Facing a maximum of ten years imprisonment if convicted, their first trial in March had collapsed after a week, when the Judge made prejudicial remarks. This time, it took two weeks. The Jury were about to be sent to consider their verdict, when the Defence alleged that the Judge had been to the Presidential Inauguration of George W Bush, and to parties when he was Governor of Texas, and that this meant the five could not be guaranteed a fair trial. Following this, the Judge dismissed the Jury. A new trial date has now been set for July 5th 2006, over three years since the disarmament action.

In 2003, about 130,000 US troops and their weapons passed through what is supposed to be a civilian airport at Shannon. 10,000 US troops continue to pass through each month. Some of the young men and women who passed through Shannon have made the return trip from Iraq in body bags. While Aer Rianta made E15 million in blood money, the Pit Stop Ploughshares have been charged with E2.5 million “criminal damage”.

On the first day of the trial, we gathered in solidarity with the 5, with other friends outside the Irish embassy in London with placards showing the results of the invasion and occupation of Iraq. Leaflets were handed to generally receptive passers-by explaining the case.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO:

“Ploughshares Defence Fund” 134 Phibsborough Rd. Dublin 7 IRELAND

Donations can be lodged at any Bank of Ireland branch:

“Ploughshares Defence Fund” Account No. 80965573 Sort Code 900551

More information: www.peaceontrial.com OR ploughsharesireland@yahoo.ie

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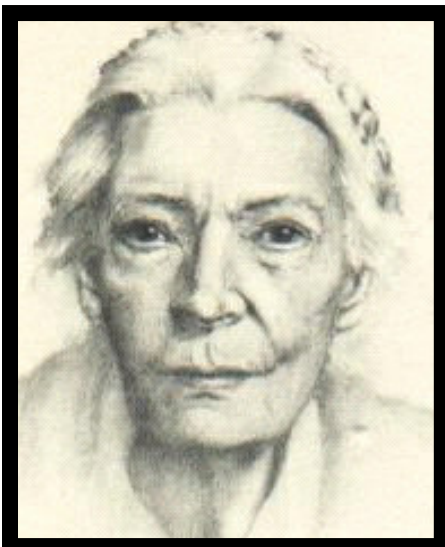
By Scott Albrecht

We are a faith-based community and so we use that which is at our disposal or hopefully, are used by He who disposes us. This includes liturgy, symbols, scripture and the Liturgical Year of the Church. In 2006, we are planning to follow that Year with many of our activities corresponding to the Christian calendar, as well as the political calendar.

Our intention is to celebrate "Liturgical Actions" in Advent, Christmas, Holy Innocents, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and Easter, at places such as the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Detention Centres, The Home Office, Dept. of Trade and Industry, 10 Downing St. and the houses of Parliament.

We have, through our witness and Round Table discussions, reflected on the dynamic power that liturgy has to "demythologize the symbolic order": that is, to open to us truths that are usually hidden, about the established (dis)order of violence and repression. Liturgy reveals how God's presence judges these institutions, which are never ambiguous. It also enables us to be present with the many victims of oppression. We have previously taken part in such Liturgies on Ash Wednesday and Holy Innocents at the MoD, but we hope immerse ourselves more deeply in this radical tradition.

Please contact us if you would like to be a part of our next liturgy.



We will be celebrating, with Mass on December 27th, Dorothy Day's Transitus into the Kingdom of God; which she helped grow here on earth. Dorothy Died in November of 1980 and so this year marks the 25th anniversary of her passing. You are welcome to join us. For more info contact Scott on 07985 204 878

CLIMATE CHANGE DEMO (continued from p1)

joined them, along with Susan Clarkson also of St Francis House, and friends from the Isaiah58 network. Some of the i58 crew went off to pray for the restoration on the real spirit of Christmas in a West End store the next day, while Richard Solly of St Francis House CW in Oxford led a prayer service at Hinde Street Methodist Church in the West End in the afternoon.

This was the biggest day of action of on climate change by far, and there were similar demos in about ten countries around the world, including Australia, Italy and a number of US states.

Christian Ecology Link (CEL) is calling on Christians and the Churches to wake up to our vocation to participate not in the destruction of the creation, but in God's on-going work of creation, of this holy earth which nourishes us and sustains us. CEL has joined the new Climate Change Campaign coalition, and called the on-going environmental devastation blasphemy, since it is a misuse of God's gift. There were eight times as many people there this year as last year. Let's make it eight times as many again next time.

OUT OF THE TEMPLE

By Peter Maurin

Christ drove the money lenders out of the Temple.
but today nobody dares
to drive the money lenders out of the Temple.
and nobody dares
to drive the money lenders out of the Temple
because the money lenders have taken out a mortgage on the Temple.

CATHOLIC WORKER BOOKS

"Dorothy Day - Selected Writings" - the authoritative collection of the inspiring and challenging writing of the co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement. : £15

AVAILABLE FROM PAX CHRISTI. Tel: 020 8203 4884

"Binding the Strongman - a political reading of the Gospel of Mark" - abridged version - re-published by London Catholic Worker. 48 pages, and only £2.50 including postage and packing.