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PENTECOST / SUMMER 2009

FREE / DONATION No. 26

**THE LONDON**

*"exploding the dynamite of Catholic Social Teaching"*

**CATHOLIC WORKER**



**Annual Appeal**  
*The Growing Seed*

Pentecost has just come and gone, and it is a reminder of our inspiration (our 'being breathed on'). "They were of one heart and mind and shared everything in common, and there were no poor among them, as those that had land or houses sold them as there was need" and the proceeds were given for the poor. (see Acts 4:32-35)

Well, in all honesty it is a struggle to be of one heart and mind even in one household, let alone among the universal family of God! I suppose it's not a surprise we've had our disputes, thrown together as we are from the four corners of the earth. No wonder there are so many wars and splits and factions in the world. There's no need for what we usually think of as evil. Tiredness, lack of space and the pressure of trying to keep body and soul together is enough. How we need the Holy Spirit to help us overcome our weakness, our lack of faith!

**THE POOR ARE ALWAYS WITH US**

And we *are* direly in need of faith! It is easy it seems to me to have the impression that there are indeed 'no poor among' us., even in the midst of 'the worst recession in fifty years'. Living as we do in London, in England, in an early 21st Century 1st World country, among the luckiest people in history, in purely material terms. In the midst of extraordinary riches. Even the money involved in the Parliamentary expenses scandal seems small beer alongside celebrity lifestyles, the fraud, usury and parasitism of the bankers and of so many Chief Executives. But still, the poor are truly with us here at the Catholic Worker. In fact, we get three or four calls a week asking if we have space (to p3)

**G20-Circled & Shaken Down During the 2nd Sorrowful Mystery**

Sometime during the second decade of the sorrowful mysteries, I had a sense we were not alone. Martin, Katrina and I were sat alone in a small East London park facing the Excel Centre where the G20 of the most powerful government leaders were gathered to rearrange deckchairs on their sinking ship. Thousands of police had been deployed around the Excel Centre keeping the few hundreds of protesters who gathered a quarter of a mile from the site. A case of over catering evidently.

We had somehow managed to get through to this small park for a face off with the building. We were praying seated at a park table when this big guy leaned over me, I looked up to see an automatic rifle in his hands and a pistol strapped to his knee. He told me to stand up slowly. (cont'd p2)



Above: Die In for Afghanistan, (inc. Zelda Jeffers foreground)  
Photo: Dan Viesnik: e: vd2012-ime [at] yahoo.co.uk

**Bringing it Home to Northwood**

On May 27 2007 US forces in Afghanistan bombed a wedding party at Haji Nabu killing 47 civilians. On May 27th just gone, eleven Catholic Workers were among a group of 42 who went to Northwood Military HQ to make present this crucifixion of joy and hope with the words and image on their minds: "what if they'd been British?" (continued p7)

**Dorothy Day House & Urban Table Soup Kitchen Needs**

**FOOD:**

- Dry goods, rice
- Instant coffee
- Tuna, corned beef, cheese
- Sugar & salt & pepper
- Tinned tomatoes & other cans
- Herbs & spices etc

**OFFICE:**

- Help with IT maintenance
- Help with producing and sending out newsletters
- Guillotine for paper & fresh A4 paper

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS:**

- A working laptop
- Stand up clothes airer, pressure cooker
- Bike locks & bike lights
- Small garden tables & chairs for café
- Easy assemble gazebo for outside cafe
- Double duvet covers & single duvets

**OTHER**

- Handyman / woman
- Soap, razors, shampoo & all toiletries.
- Men's Clothes
- New members and volunteers
- MONEY! - see p11 for standing order form.

*"Prayer—without this, all the rest is useless"*

**CW FARMHOUSE NEEDS:**

- Food, esp. juice, milk, cheese, butter, cooking oil
- Toilet paper, nappies, baby wipes
- New members & help with gardening, cleaning, cooking, DIY
- People to take part in vigils & round table discussions
- MONEY! -and of course your prayers.

**While our finances are improving, we continue to rely on our supporters and readers donations, to pay the rent on houses and other costs. We need a total of at least £33,000 a year. Currently we are still using up the capital that enabled us to begin. Please make out a Standing Order and give generously to support our work with the crucified of today's world. "You will have your reward". (Luke 16:39)**

**SUPPORT OUR WORK**

The London CW is part of the radical, pacifist Catholic Worker movement started in 1933 in New York & inspired by the Gospel vision and practice of our founders, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin. There are now over 150 CW houses in the US and about 10 other countries. Check out the US-based www.londoncatholicworker.com website, and come and visit us!

CW houses and our finances are independent. There is no 'headquarters' or central organisation. We in London are a network, not an organisation.

To donate: - to **Dorothy Day House** make your cheque to "London Catholic Worker".

To donate to the **Farmhouse**, make your cheque to "Catholic Worker Farmhouse".

**Standing Order** form overleaf.

**WANTED:**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS**

At LCW we need people to share our life and work, and we always need more support for our acts of witness. If you feel God is calling you, or if you simply want to get involved, contact us. Details on p2 and above.

**OXFORD CW** are in similar need, They can be contacted at: St Francis House, 227 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 tel: 01865 248 288 - and see their page on our website.

**INSIDE:**p4 Desirable N1 & Easy Essay

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## London Catholic Worker:

**We are:** Angela Broome, Simon Watson, Henrietta Cullinan, Chris Goodchild, Scott and Maria Albrecht, Zelda Jeffers, Martin Newell, Eddie Jarvis, Rosemary Gomez, Diane Walsh, Katrina Alton, Papa Mao Fall Ndiaye

### Dorothy Day House

16 De Beauvoir Road,  
De Beauvoir Town  
London N1 5SU  
tel: 020 7249 0041  
E: londoncatholicworker[a]  
yahoo.co.uk

**We are:** Katrina Alton, Martin Newell & Papa Mao Fall Ndiaye

Dorothy Day House offers hospitality to destitute refugees, usually men. We run Peter's Community Café and the Urban Table Soup Kitchen. We organise regular non-violent resistance, as well as producing this newsletter.

### Catholic Worker Farmhouse:

Lynsters Farm, Old Uxbridge Road,  
West Hyde, Hertfordshire, WD3 9XJ tel: 01923 777 201  
E: thecatholicworkerfarm[a]  
yahoo.co.uk

**We are:** Scott & Maria Albrecht and family, Jessica Ross

The Farmhouse offers hospitality to destitute women and children. We vigil regularly at the nearby Northwood Joint Forces Military HQ. We also grow some vegetables in our garden.

### Peter's Community Café:

Open Mon-Weds 12noon-6.30pm  
The Crypt, St Peter's Church, Northchurch Terrace, De Beauvoir Town,  
London N1 5AT  
Tel: 020 7249 0041

### Urban Table Soup Kitchen:

Open Sun. 2.30pm-4.30pm  
The Old School Rooms, The Round Chapel, Powerscroft Road, Hackney,  
London E5 0PU

**Peter's Cafe and the Urban Table** are both attempts to imitate Jesus' practice of sharing his table with all comers. At the Café in particular we also hope to offer a space to build bridges between the disparate groups and individuals in our local community, as well as welcoming activists.

**G20 SORROWFUL MYSTERIES** (from p1) As I did I went to place a paper in my pocket he said "Keep your hands visible". This guy was serious, I extended my arms away from my body for a frisking and looked around to see 4 other guys and a gal in paramilitary uniforms circling our table all similarly armed with rifles and pistols. 6 of them with 12 weapons, 3 of us with a bible, rosary beads and liturgy sheet. I like these odds.

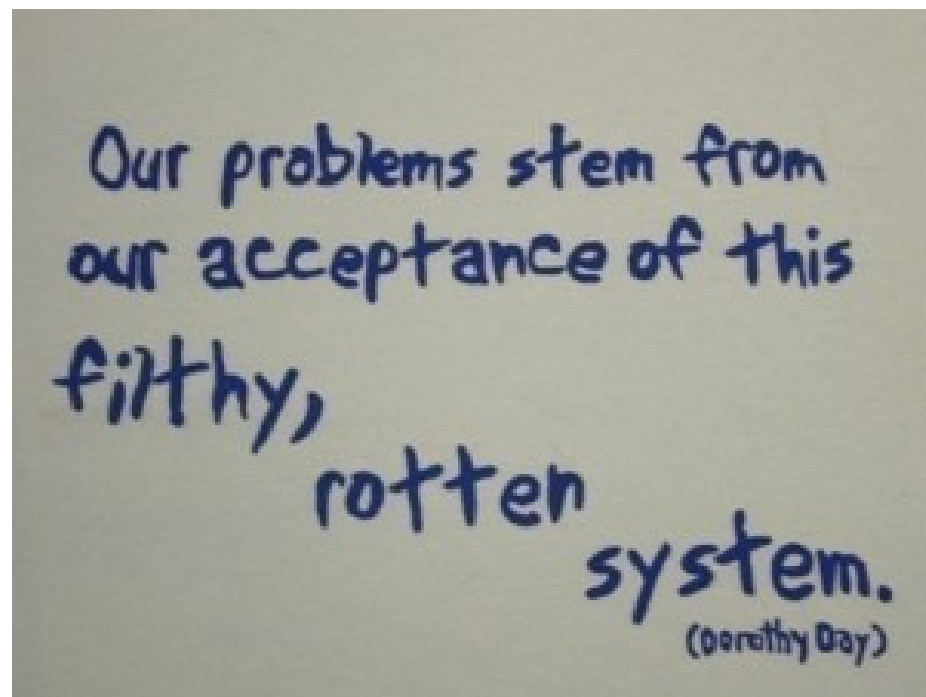
As Martin stood up he kept reciting the rosary, didn't break stride. My copy of the Guardian began to flutter in the breeze under the park table; I thought I should step out and stand on it so it wouldn't blow away. I then thought, I really like my left kneecap, stayed stationery, refused to give my name and was detained under anti-terrorist legislation, 5th time in the past year in 3 jurisdictions!

The cops paced around methodically as they checked Katrina and Martin's bags....these folks were the real deal, the last card in the cop deck. After the 4 million CCTVs, the fluorescent jacket guys, the riot squads with shields and batons, come these folks I guess.

Our visitors seemed satisfied that our liturgy sheet was not indeed a map of the Excel Centre as reported by their intel. After we were released from the mystical anti-terror detention and the super cops departed, we returned to prayer and further reflection on these dark times we're in and what small human response we could muster.

Out numbered, out resourced, out flanked, but not out of the game - Katrina produced a rainbow PEACE banner and Martin drew up a placard with a quote from Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day "Our Problems Stem from our Acceptance of this Filthy Rotten System!" and made our way toward the G20 gathering.

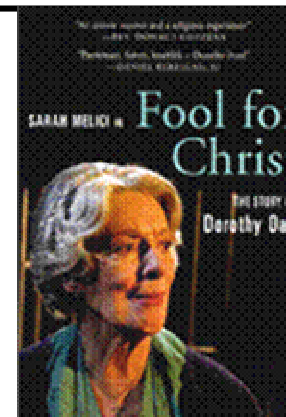
Across the city others were being raided, arrested, recovering from wounds and long hours of detention / kettling from the previous day's scene outside the Bank of England. A lot more good folks, following weeks of media hype and scaremongering, were internally migrating away from expressing dissent in this historic moment wherein the climate and the economy crash. Where this filthy rotten system based on production for production sake rather than meeting human needs, that operates in the denial that the environment does not have limits to exploitation. The only way out of this atomised fear and off this sinking ship is non-violent resistance and solidarity.



## Dvds and Books for Sale

**Fool for Christ** - the best introduction to Dorothy Day on film. 55 minutes.

AVAILABLE from LCW for just £10+£2 p&p.



### Hammered by the Irish By Harry Browne



how the Pitstop Ploughshares disabled a US warplane with Irelands blessing.

AK Press ISBN 9781 9048 59901

AVAILABLE from London CW for just £7 (less than Amazon!)

In order to purchase please send a cheque payable to "London Catholic Worker", to LCW, 16 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SU.

If you have any questions, please phone or email - see details at top of back page.

## STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Please fill in the form in **BLOCK LETTERS**. Filling out this form enables us to set up a monthly standing order with your bank. It can be stopped at any time by informing your bank.

**I wish to pay London Catholic Worker £10 / £20 / £40 / other amount .....** per month / other .....

Payments to be made monthly / other ..... First payment to be made on: ... / ... / 09 and monthly thereafter.

Your Bank Name.....

Your Bank Address.....POST CODE.....

Your account name:.....

Your account number:..... Your sort code:.....

**Please pay:** Triodos Bank  
Brunel House,  
11 The Promenade  
BS8 3NN

**Credit of:**  
London Catholic Worker  
Sort Code: 16 58 10  
A/C No: 20066996

PLEASE RETURN TO "London Catholic Worker" at: 16 De Beauvoir Road, London N1 5SU

YOUR NAME & ADDRESS:.....

.....

..... POSTCODE:.....

TEL:.....

Until further notice, the sum of the value indicated above.

**Northwood, Iraq & Afghanistan** (from p7)  
Leaders without vision dragged Britain into illegal and immoral wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years, all directed from Northwood. Whilst we mourn the loss of every human life, we can not see continuing conflict as inevitable; nor as an excuse for the exploitation of suffering by the Anglo-American military-industrial complex. As Pope John Paul II said, "War is always a defeat for humanity"  
**An Alternative Vision**  
The Prophet Isaiah says "nation shall not lift their sword against nation" and invites us to "beat swords into ploughshares, spears into pruning hooks and study war no more". We feel that the ground and buildings of Northwood should be used for the common good. The energy, labour and materials used in creating the buildings and war making infrastructure should be used to create peace and joy for our children.  
**Join our weekly vigils**  
Scott Albrecht and others from the CW Farmhouse have been vigilling, first at Northwood HQ, now in the town centre, on a weekly basis for two years now, in addition to our annual Feast of Innocents acts of witness at the base. We are beginning to feel that this is a special place for us as we are called to faithful and consistent witness to the peace that Christ brings, a peace that cannot be bought by war or force of arms.  
Adapted from a leaflet by Scott Albrecht



## LCW UPDATE...UPDATE...UPDATE...

Life continues unabated with visitors, emergency beds for homeless refugees, and the ongoing need to engage in a faithful political witness.

**Dorothy Day House** has seen Zelda Jeffers move out (but still around and about – and on the front cover) – but she wasn't really getting married, the wedding dress was for street theatre at Northwood! Katrina Alton moved in and Ciaron O'Reilly passed through on his way back to Australia. CW's Lynn from Austin, Texas and Mary from Day House, Detroit also visited.

**The Farmhouse** have had interns Shannon and Tanya come and go, currently they have Jess with them, from the USA.

**Clare Bissel** who lived and worked with us at Dorothy Day House for four months came to visit us at **Peter's Community Café** last week. She's made progress with her dream of starting a **Bedford Catholic Worker**. Clare says she is "hoping to kick start a Catholic Worker community in Bedford. If you live nearby and have energy and passion to explore faith and justice in a practical way, please get in touch!" Check out her Bedford CW webpage <http://bedfordcatholicworker.blogspot.com> or email her at [Bedfordcatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Bedfordcatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk) for more info!

**On the resistance front**, Katrina Alton has a date to go to Hemel Hempstead Magistrates Court. She has to be there by 9.30am on June 29th along with Steve Barnes and four others. Martin Newell, along with Susan Clarkson from Oxford CW, continue to be in dialogue with their respective courts over refusing to pay fines for Feast of Innocents actions.

**Ciaron O'Reilly & Chris Goodchild** were caught in the infamous police 'kettle' at the G20 protests at the Bank of England. Next day Ciaron went down with Katrina and Martin to the G20 itself at the EXCel Centre. **Scott Albrecht** and others from the CW Farmhouse continue to vigil weekly in Northwood town centre.

**We have been taking part** in the protests and presence outside the first of the new 'Army Show Rooms' in our neighbourhood in Dalston, and continue to take part in **Hackney Solidarity Network** which met this week.

**Please keep Jamie Remedios (13 years) in your prayers – and Clive and Mena his parents** (long term solid foundation of Oxford CW) as well as his brother and sister. He has been very ill with liver and appendix problems, and remains in hospital.



## Dates for your Diary

**Weekly vigils - Thursdays - around midday - Dalston - Army Show Room - starting June 25th**

**Northwood - town centre - on going**  
Contact Dorothy Day House / CW Farmhouse for details

**Sept 8 - 11 - DSEi Arms Fair protests**

at the EXCEL Centre, East London docklands, Custom House - contact us or CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade: [www.caat.org.uk](http://www.caat.org.uk)) for more details

**For more information about any of these**, please contact Dorothy Day House on 020 7249 0041

## "The Catholic Worker Experience"

Weekend of **September 25th - 27th** at St Peter de Beauvoir Church, Dalston. For all CW friends and supporters - *Free / donation* - get in touch if you are interested in taking part. Program coming soon.

**Climate Camp: 27 Aug—2 September** : see [www.climatecamp.org.uk](http://www.climatecamp.org.uk)

**7-18 : Copenhagen Climate Conference** "biggest climate conference ever - **Kyoto Mk. II**"

**12 Dec: Global Day of Climate Action** - tel 020 7833 9311 or see [www.campaigncc.org](http://www.campaigncc.org) for more info  
And many other actions, protests and events at the time.

## ANNUAL APPEAL

(from p1)

for those who have nowhere to lay their head. These whom the Bible calls 'strangers', and reminds us that our spiritual ancestors were strangers in Egypt. Then as now, the natives were afraid of the numbers of the poor fleeing poverty and war, and wanted to get rid of them. Instead, now as then, the poor are just forced into greater poverty and destitution and some - maybe the lucky ones - end up having to put up with sharing a house with us. After all, we may believe it's all about trying to live like that early Christian community, about planting seeds of God's kingdom. But for our guests, maybe that's a bit of a luxury. What they'd like is a room of their own, a job, and the minimal security of being free of the fear of deportation.

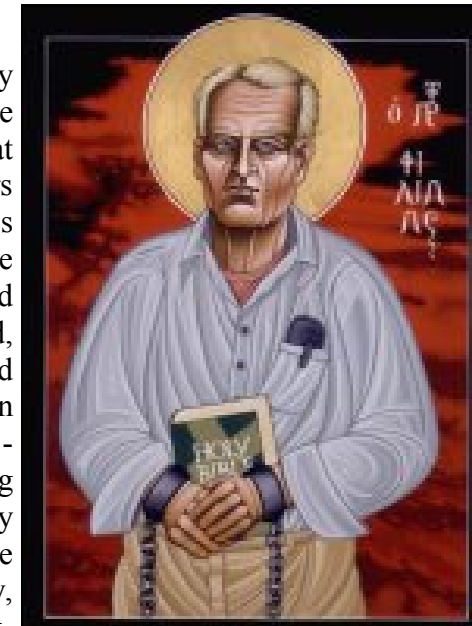
Well, Jesus did say we will have the poor always with us. But the reality is so well hidden today. Perhaps the Egyptians were not so well insulated from the reality of the poor, having them sharing their homes as servants and slaves to do their washing, cooking, cleaning and entertaining. Technology allows us to keep our distance, but the poor still slave away in out-sourced factories making our microwaves, ready meals, washing machines, vacuum cleaners and hifis.

### ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE!

We need faith because there's little point praying if we don't do our bit and have some faith and ask. So we are asking. "Lord I believe, help my unbelief." Ask and you shall receive. We need a house! At the moment for Dorothy Day House we are renting an ex-council house near Dalston, Hackney. God brought us providentially here. It is homely, but it is also small. God has planted us here, but like the seed that grows we are feeling the need to be transplanted into a bigger pot!

We know that we and our guests in Dorothy Day House, the Farmhouse, our Community Café and Urban Table soup kitchen, have already received so much from our friends and supporters, by the grace of God. But the pot needs water if the seed is to continue its growth, so that the birds of the air can come and receive shelter in its branches.

We need more space for guests, for workers, for visitors. We need more space to organise our work, and to pray too. We can pray night prayer in the kitchen, but it does interfere with the making of tea and the irregular meal times of life here.



Phillip Berrigan, pray for us

We need more space, but we can't afford to pay for it. Everyone knows that a roof over your head, even simply a space to lay down, costs a fortune in this city. Our houses are costing us a fortune, even though we are lucky enough to have reduced rents. Money is coming in, thanks to our friends and readers, we do try to at least 'live simply so that others may simply live', or even try to follow the CW and Catholic tradition of aiming to live the evangelical virtue of voluntary poverty (which may not be destitution, but neither is it comfortable). So we only need about £33,000 a year in total to cover our costs - little more than the average wage in London, for

all that we do. Currently we are supporting thirteen destitute refugees not allowed to work or claim benefits. And that's just those who live in our houses. Meanwhile we work to earn our own spending money and more, and try to witness to our faith in the peace of Christ and the justice of God and the dignity of the creation, and to withdraw our acceptance of this filthy, rotten, system. Which at times imposes a different kind of cost on us.

### AMBITIOUS FOR THE HIGHER GIFTS

We can't afford to pay for a bigger house, so we're hoping someone - or some people - or some One - will give us one. Or the money to get one, or at least the use of one. That sounds pretty ambitious, but hope is one of the cardinal virtues - faith, hope and love - and St Paul says to be ambitious for the higher gifts. At Pentecost, God sent a fire upon the earth, to transform and renew the face of the earth. This Catholic Worker movement seems to me to be a fire of faith upon the earth, even if it is more of a slowly spreading glow in the stubble than a raging furnace. We believe God wants this spark to grow. But it needs your help, your generosity, your faith. It needs someone to take to heart those words of the Book of Acts, Chapter 4, to believe that miracles do still happen, that the Holy Spirit can and does still transform people and bring them to a new way of life. That, indeed, was the faith that inspired Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin to start a paper and call it 'The Catholic Worker'. That was also the faith, although weaker and more hesitant, that inspired us to start our work here. We believe that faith in action, and prayers, are answered, although God tends to do things in His own way and in Her own time. Deo Gratias.

By Martin Newell



# The most desirable postcode in London?

By Katrina Alton

Apparently I now live in the most desirable postcode in London. What makes it so 'desirable'? Well according to the London Mayor, Boris Johnson, it is within easy cycling distance of central London, it has the most popular properties, and the most enviable neighbours, so that is why he and his family have move into...N1. Yet within this small geographical area of N1 is a wide social and economic divide. Boris has chosen a much sought after private multi million pound property in Islington while I have recently move into 'Dorothy Day House'. It is true that I now proudly reside within N1, but N1 Hackney not Islington.

So if it is all about 'location, location, location', what have I found that is so desirable that I have chosen to leave behind two years of the quiet, prayerful, spacious and green surroundings of an enclosed monastery in Arundel Sussex and make my home with the London Catholic Worker? In many ways my needs are no different to the Mayor's: I too want to be close to where decisions are being made that affect the global economy, I too want to be where the demand for property is so high that the need to share is vital, and I too want neighbours that are priceless. My underlying motivation comes from the Gospel insight which tells us that, "wherever your treasures are that is where your heart resides too": where we locate, or rather "incarnate", is the ultimate expression of our deepest longings, the eternal echo that makes real on earth the heavenly, the divine. Annunciations are common: everywhere we hear people talking about poverty and injustice, we hear much talk about what they are doing *for* the poor, their strategies and their policies for change. What is rare is when those 'annunciations' become 'incarnations': then all talk about the poor is silenced, because as Phil Berrigan reminds us:

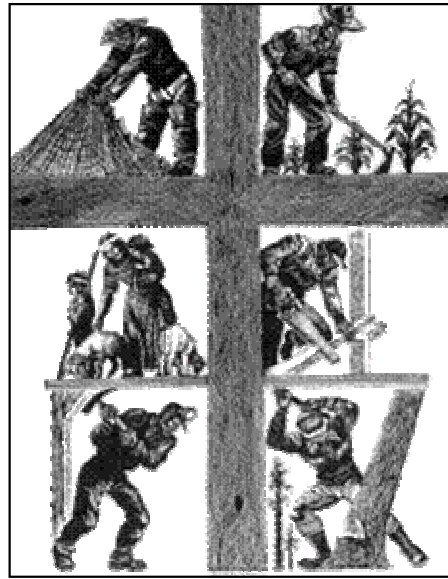
'The poor tell us who we are, The prophets tell us who we should be... So we hide the poor and kill the prophets.'

The first time I visited Dorothy Day House there was snow on the ground, so it was good to be welcomed with a cup of tea. As I began to thaw out I slowly started to take in my surroundings. I already had a good idea of which Catholic Workers were living at the house, who the guests were, and who were the current visitors, so as I added this up I whispered to one of the visitors, 'please tell me this house is like the tardis on Dr Who, that it looks

small from the outside but in fact it is huge...' So many people 'hidden' in such a small space: it shouted loud and clear who I am. Such a prophetic sign: it told me who I should be...where I should be, where I am called to 'incarnate'. The road that has led me to DDH has been a very long and winding one. Yet the truth of the incarnation is that 'God is *with* us', not just *for* us but *with* us, and we too are called to incarnate that Love not for the poor but *with* the poor: and that can never to do it alone, for as Dorothy Day said:

"We cannot live alone. We cannot go to heaven alone. Otherwise God will ask us, 'Where are the others?'" And so I continue to ask myself, 'Where are the others?' , and I 'm beginning to hear the whisper... N1.

Katrina Alton is a community member of the London CW and Dorothy Day House



## Easy Essay by Peter Maurin

The aim of the Catholic Worker is to create order out of chaos.  
 The aim of the Catholic Worker is to help the unemployed to employ themselves.  
 The aim of the Catholic Worker is to make an impression on the depression through expression.  
 The aim of the Catholic Worker is to create a new society within the shell of the old with the philosophy of the new which is not a new philosophy, but a very old philosophy.  
 A philosophy so old that it looks like new



Peter Maurin 1877 - 1949

## The Land of David

By Joseph Wolyniak

It wasn't exactly the part of the trip I looked forward to the most. I didn't highlight the stop to the Tent of Nations, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, when I got the agenda. Little did I know.

The Tent of Nations is a small parcel of land teetering on the brink of riddance – or, perhaps better put, confiscation. A nondescript piece of land, it is surrounded by newly built condominium complexes which, at first glance, seem to be nice additions to the otherwise bleak landscape. Until, that is, you realize that they are Israeli settlements built on Palestinian land.

Daoud Nassar lives on this unremarkable plot of land, surrounded by an occupying presence. He is in the fortunate position of having papers that validate his presence there – deeds which date back to the Ottoman Empire. Most of his neighbors were not so fortunate. When the State of Israel came knocking at their doors, they had no papers to "justify" their presence on the land of their residence. They were deemed squatters without rights. They were removed, their land taken . Developed. Occupied.

It would be easy for Daoud – a handsome twenty-something – to become hopeless... to allow the hopelessness to fester and turn into bitterness, anger. Friends and loved ones, neighbors, forcibly evicted from their land. But hopelessness, anger, bitterness, recrimination – none of these suffuse Daoud's eyes as he smiles and tells the story of his family, his land.

He is committed to peace, to hospitality. He tills and sews and reaps as his family has done for generations. It is difficult for him to invite the occupying presence over to share in the yield, for they have destroyed the roads leading up to his compound. But still he maneuvers around the massive cinder blocks that disrupt the once-intact road, and heads down to invite his new neighbors to dinner.

Joseph went to Israel / Palestine with a Franciscan peacemaking delegation. He has been working with his parish in the US. He and Elizabeth, his wife, are coming to Oxford later in '09. They hope to be involved at St Francis House.

While it is clear that from their perspective he is the enemy, it seems that Daoud missed that message. Or perhaps he just doesn't buy it. As you walk on the path that leads to his home, hewn into a cave beneath the ground, you pass a rock that says simply, profoundly "We refuse to be enemies." Daoud has every right to be suspicious, every right to be angry, every right to be an enemy. But he chooses to be a neighbor, a friend. He chooses to invite the Israeli occupiers onto his land, to share a meal. He provides hospitality to all who seek it, as well as training for those who seek a way of peaceful resistance.

You get the sense he is losing the battle. You sense he will be gone the next time you come; that the rock with the message of nonviolent refusal will be replaced by a nice, new street sign on a brand new settlement. You sense it's all a losing proposition. You wonder if you should let him in on the secret. And then you realize he probably already knows... that you, in fact, were let in on the secret "blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land." Amen.

"We refuse to be enemies" )  
 Photo: Joseph Wolyniak



## To support prisoners. Papa Mao Fall Ndiaye

We talked (Martin, Katrina, and I) in a recent LCW meeting about supporting prisoners as a way of resistance. You might therefore understand the reason why I am writing on Bajito Onda, a movement which is dedicated to empower prisoners in the States, and which I worked for in Senegal.

Del Hendrixson founded the Bajito Onda movement in 1984 in order to give back what a year in prison in '82-'83 taught her: to appreciate the hard way what most of us take for granted in the free world. She received a calling to help young people by educating them against the perils of prison.

Del developed in Dallas-Texas, a gang prevention and intervention program designed to reintegrate young people and adults returning from prisons or correctional institutions back into society. The model is developed based on the philosophy that prisoners need positive alternatives in order to improve their lives and become self-sufficient and reliable in their community. The model is an effort to break the cycle of recidivism by helping to restore dignity and hope in the lives of prisoners in order for them to build or regain dignity. Bajito Onda gave prisoners an opportunity to start a new life through work by creating products to earn income. So giving an alternative to those who have fallen from society.

Due to the incredible difficulty we faced to run such a program, we have nevertheless continued our daily walk to serve God just trying to do HIS work. Then, I am of the opinion that it's possible to support prisoners in Britain in God's peace and justice through the Dorothy Day vision.

**Mao** is a residential volunteer at Dorothy Day House.



## Dangerous Charcoal by Emil Jansson

I came to the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality in the end of January and stayed there for two weeks time. I was left with the feeling of being terribly lazy and non worthy in comparison of what they were actually doing; the works of mercy. Did I even contribute with anything at all? I hope I did. Anyhow, I got addicted to both the meek and friendly atmosphere of the house and the community café, the latter being the place where we first met up for the planning of what was to be my first act of civil disobedience, or perhaps more appropriately put; divine disobedience.

During Ash Wednesday in February the 25<sup>th</sup> we, meaning Rosemary, Katrina, Henrietta and me, the volunteers whose task was to mark the wall of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), went to Westminster Cathedral to have our foreheads marked with the cross; the soiled sign of repentance. After mass we went to meet up with the other participants of the demonstration outside the MoD. There we had our charcoal blessed with water from the Holy Land and began the procession towards the giant grey building of the MoD, walking in line chanting, praying and reciting.

When we arrived at the steps of the building ash was poured on the ground, making the word *repent* in capital letters. The chances of actually being able to mark the building itself seemed very slim though. I had nurtured a vain idea of writing the long line "I have become death, destroyer of worlds", from the Bhagavad-Gita, the line which Oppenheimer famously quoted after the test explosion of the first nuclear weapon, blasphemously named Trinity, in the deserts of New Mexico on July the 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945. This proved quite impossible with the building surrounded with what I perceived as at least a dozen police men circulating every corner and brick to protect it from the stains of our blessed and highly dangerous charcoal. As Katrina and Henrietta got their ash confiscated in a brave attempt to mark the opposite building (the War Office) I and Rosemary went over the street, round the corner, passed the police, and then on the gable of the huge building I wrote *repent* in urgent strokes while Rosemary simultaneously painted the sign of peace. My heart was thumping tremendously; of course I was (and had been!) afraid of what would happen. And what happened was this: we got our charcoal confiscated, our bags and pockets searched through where I nearly dropped my pants, and after that a very patronizing speech from a policeman

about how lucky we were to not be taken into custody over the night. There you go. And then I got a serious warning that this criminal use of charcoal could eventually affect my future return to this country. Such a lot of rubbish.

But our acts were serious, since the threat of nuclear power in both its so called *civil* and defensive way constantly increases. The need of repentance and total abolition of this kind of diabolical force isn't rubbish at all. As news of a collision reached us, between the British Trident nuclear-armed submarine HMS Vanguard and her French equivalent Le Triomphant in the mid-Atlantic, *each laden with missiles powerful enough for 1,248 Hiroshima bombings*, as one news article among others, we are faced with madness beyond our human grasp. Nuclear Destruction is not history, this collision is said to have occurred during the rough weather in the middle of the night between the third and fourth day this February.

With the splitting of the atom in the 1930ies we released a power that made us equal to the wayward gods of ancient mythology. With a simple push on the button or with some infinitesimal miscalculation, as in the recent submarine accident, we can whether intentionally or not, eliminate all life from the surface of earth and sea. And all the man in power has to do is to utter one Deplorable Word, to bring the world into nothing but *dust*. C.G. Jung described the future of existence in his famous interview for the BBC in 1959 very truly: "The world today hangs by a thin thread, and that thread is the psyche of man". So the marking on our foreheads and on the wall reminds us of this truth and the need of both individual and collective repentance. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Yes indeed, but not just yet.

Below: (left to right) : Henretta Cullinan, Emil Jansson, Rosemary Gomez, Katrina Alton at the Ash Wednesday act of witness



## Catholic Workers Counter-recruitment at Dalston Army Showroom by Ciaron O'Reilly

In these times of escalating war on Afghanistan/Pakistan (Af-Pak) and crashing economy, the British military have opened a recruitment / showroom in low income Dalston, London. According to the Hackney Gazette the showroom is "home to a virtual battlefield stimulator which gives visitors a chance to use their friends as target practice with a replica AF80 handgun [Go figure?]. Outraged Mothers Against Guns, Lucy Cope, said it was grossly insensitive to house the showroom in a borough that has been plagued by gun violence."

So on Thursday of Holy Week four of us from London CW - Dorothy Day House - went to vigil and remember the dead outside the privatised shopping centre where the showroom is located. It is the first of its kind in the country and provides a virtual battlefield simulator for use of 14 years and over. The British and Russian militaries are the only European militaries that recruit as young as 16. The military plans to open such showrooms across the country....next one is planned for Croydon.

The London Catholic Worker is located in Dalston and provides hospitality to refugees many who have fled wars seeking sanctuary. The CW community runs a soup kitchen for the homeless and a cheap community cafe in the Dalston area. See [www.londoncatholicworker.org](http://www.londoncatholicworker.org)

Catholic Worker founder Dorothy Day was imprisoned as an I.W.W. suffragette in WW1 for her anti-war opposition. She founded the anarcho pacifist Catholic Worker movement in New York City in 1933. There are presently 160 Catholic Worker communities in the U.S. and 6 in Europe. In the U.S., Catholic Workers were imprisoned during WW2 for draft resistance and were the first to burn their draft cards publicly at the beginning of the Vietnam War. Catholic Workers also participated in the Berrigan inspired draft board raids of that period and the more recent ploughshares actions

We went to vigil on Holy Thursday on the anniversary of the arrest and torture of Christ. To "vigil" in our tradition is to stay awake - the government would like us to be asleep to the escalating war on Afghanistan and Pakistan. We live in a time when governments don't need mass mobilisation and active public support to wage their wars, all they need from us, in places like London, is our silence and sedation.

We've come today to snap out of it and non-violently oppose recruitment to this escalating war by the U.S. and British militaries.

This showroom is where the rubber hits the road in our neighbourhood in terms of recruitment of cannon fodder for this escalating war. It is sobering to stand here and read out the names and ages of the dead - British and Afghani.

I just had a chat here with a Russian passer by, a veteran of the Soviet war in Afghanistan - there's a lot to learn from such people. 20 years later, that war has not ended for him in terms of health, addiction and trauma, let alone for the suffering people of Afghanistan. If we don't want live in a United States of Amnesia we can learn a lot from Military Families against the War and the military resisters in custody [www.courageto resist.org](http://www.courageto resist.org)"

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Left to Right: Katrina Alton, Martin Newell, Henrietta Cullinan outside the Army Show Room after Holy Week 'Naming the Dead' vigil in Dalston



## St Francis House of Hospitality

### A Letter from Oxford CW by Susan Clarkson

You may know that we at St Francis House give hospitality to destitute asylum seekers who would otherwise be on the streets or moving from friend to friend. We are happy to do this and are enriched by what they share, but are confronted daily by the injustice of their situation. They would prefer to be in their own countries but war and violence make this impossible.

For Catholic Workers hospitality goes hand in hand with resistance. Together with other Catholic Workers and local activists we have been involved in several events over the last few months. On 4 October we went to RAF Croughton with Oxford CND to witness to the dangers of the new US Star Wars programme which Croughton is a part of along with Menwith Hill and Fylingdales in Yorkshire. On 7 October, Catholic Workers, Vioces in the Wilderness and Justice Not Vengeance held a vigil outside Downing Street to mark the seventh anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan. From 12noon until 7pm we read out the names of all who have died since the bombing started. We named the British military dead and the innocent Afghan victims. On 27th October we joined the Big Blockade at Aldermaston, organised by Trident Ploughshares.. Blockaders held up the work of developing new weapons of mass destruction for several hours.

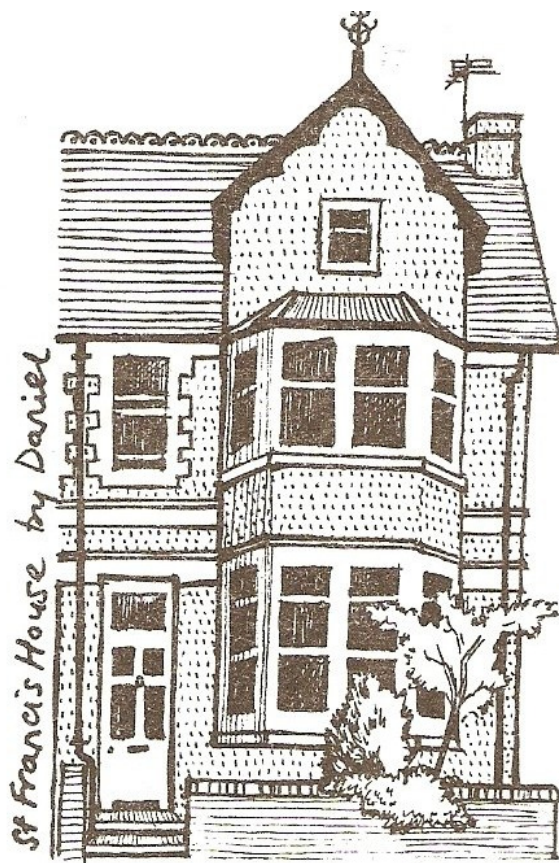
On 27 December we gathered at the CW Farmhouse for our Holy Innocents retreat. We reflected together on the story of the Innocents and on non-violence in Scripture, and had Mass at the main gate of the Military HQ at Northwood. On the morning of 29 December we vigilled at the gate to remember the dead of Iraq, Afghanistan and the British military. At the same time Martin Newell and myself made a gateway for peace in the back fence of the base which houses a NATO headquarters. After decorating the new gateway we went in, prayed, sang, walked about inside, asked to meet the base commander and were arrested. Our trial was on March 19th, the Feast of St Joseph, and we are refusing to pay our fines. St Joseph, pray for us!

Returning to the theme of hospitality, we continue to distribute sandwiches on Monday evenings and are joined by a small team of local friends. On 29 November we were delighted to welcome Maria Albrecht from the CW Farmhouse, and Martha Hennesey, Dorothy Day's granddaughter. Martha spoke with a small group of our friends. It was the anniversary of Dorothy's death and I felt that she was with us. Martha spent several weeks at the Farmhouse and spoke about Dorothy to different groups.

Daniel Rutland left us in September to join a new community in London. We miss him very much and wish him well in his new venture. We still have four guests although two have left and two are new. Sadly, one of our guests tried to leave the country, was arrested and is now in prison. This highlights the dire plight of many asylum seekers. They are not welcome here, have no right to the dignity of work, housing or any financial help at all yet, when fear of deportation makes them attempt to leave, they are incarcerated.

On 15 December we were joined by Hubertus Ahlers from Germany who has come to see if St Francis House is for him. He has entered into the spirit of things straight away, cooking a lovely meal on Christmas Eve, then going to Midnight Mass and visiting Clive, Mena and family. We are thrilled that one of his skills is gardening and he has plans to be working with Clive and Mena on the allotment and to involve our guests who are enthusiastic. Hubert has already improved the quality of our sandwich run by baking bread for the sandwiches. As I write, he is at the Farmhouse helping Scott with the garden project.

We are grateful for the help our readers give financially, even in this credit crunch time, particularly as we have just had some expensive but essential work done on our drains. For those in Oxford, remember that we have Scripture reflections each Tuesday at 7.45pm and an evening meal at 6.30pm every Tuesday - Thursday. Just call ahead if you wish to eat with us. Once again, thank you for all your prayers and support. Love and prayers for many blessings for you all.



St Francis House by Daniel

### NORTHWOOD DIE-IN (cont'd from p1)

What happened at Haji Nabujust was one of many similar wedding party massacres by NATO or US forces. Thousands of Afghan civilians have been killed by US/NATO forces in the war, and earlier this month, on May 4, around 120 civilians, mainly women and children were killed in an attack in Farah province.

To mark these, and to call for an end to the killing in Afghanistan, Voices in the Wilderness UK, Justice Not Vengeance and London and Oxford Catholic Workers organised a 'die-in' close to the main gate of 'HMS Warrior', the land-based military base in Northwood in London from which Britain's forces in Afghanistan are commanded.

It was a cold, wet morning as 42 of us dressed for a wedding, including two brides and grooms, met at Northwood tube station to process to the base. Also present was Hillingdon MP John McDonnell and considerably more police than demonstrators. After negotiation the police agreed to allow us to proceed to a wide verge close to the main gate of the base.

As we reached the road opposite said grass verge, the path to the main gate a short distance further on was blocked by a line of police. At this point around half the demonstrators lay down on the road. Fortunately there was a supply of black bin bags to put on the wet road, but it was still cold and uncomfortable, and the rain, although light, was steady. We began reading out the names of civilians killed in Afghanistan.

The police had previously given a warning under Section 14 of the Public Order Act, and they gave a further warning once people 'died' on the roadway, but stood watching until a second officer gave a warning that unless people cleared the road they would be moved, and said that they had 5 minutes to decide. Twenty minutes later a final warning was issued, and then groups of police moved to each person on the road in turn. Each was told they were committing an offence and that unless they moved they would be carried to the side of the road, and that if they attempted to move back on to the road they would be arrested.

Several people got up and walked to the side, but most stayed until moved by the police, which was done firmly but with minimum force. At one point the officer in charge directed his men to deal with one man before the other remaining protesters because he was obviously shivering and suffering from the cold. A photographer from the Hertfordshire police made a pleasant change from the Met. For once I was only told to get out of the way when I was really in the way. There were some FIT (Forward Intelligence Team) officers from the Met present - let's hope they take some intelligence back to their force about how to police protest. Once the road was cleared the police agreed to let us walk back down the road to the station. Six people were arrested for their part in the die in - Katrina Alton, Steve Barnes, Maya Evans, Mil Rai, Gabriel Carlyle, and Angie Zelter. They are due to appear at Hemel Hempstead Magistrates Court on June 29th at 9.30am.

( Adapted from an article by Peter Marshall )

## FOCUS ON NORTHWOOD

Northwood Military HQ has a remarkably low profile. As the only major military base near a tube station, and a major hub for UK and NATO operations, it should be a regular focus for those opposing and resisting our British desire to 'punch above our weight' in the world.

The area also has a long history of 'civil disobedience - " in the reign of Queen Elizabeth five Ruislipians and eight Uxbridge men with unknown malefactors to the number of a hundred, assembled themselves and played a certain unlawful game called football!"

### Mission Statement

According to their website, the role of Northwood Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) is "to provide politically aware military advice to the MOD to inform the strategic commitment of UK forces to overseas Joint and Combined operations", "when directed by the Chief of Defence Staff, exercise operational command of UK forces assigned to overseas Joint and Combined operations", and to "develop the UK's Joint war fighting capability". In other words, it has a key role whenever there is more than one of the Forces (Army, Navy, Air,

Special) involved in conflict, or when operating together with other countries armed forces - which is almost all the time in modern warfare. So the base effectively runs almost all UK military operations worldwide including the Permanent Joint Operating Bases ranging from the South Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. There is also a NATO HQ there.

Over 2000 military and civilian personnel are employed at Northwood. The HQ is "responsible for directing, deploying, sustaining and recovering UK joint forces" It was the "Nerve Centre" for UK forces in the Falklands war (1982), the bombing of Serbia and Kosovo (1999) and the attacks on Afghanistan (2001) and Iraq (1998, 2003). Many of the soldiers on armed guard duty are veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Building Programme

Currently, a massive £1.15 billion building programme is going on involving Carillion Private Finance (Defence) Ltd and HSBC In-frastructure Fund Management Ltd. With that money five hospitals could be built. A large part of the base is underground, so relatively little can be seen and less is known about what this is for. The website is suitably vague. (cont'd p11)