

CATHOLIC WORKER

British Aerospace, Plowshares, Drones and the Celtic "God of Thunder"

by Ciaron O'Reilly

It was over a decade since Chris Cole and I had been at the gates of British Aerospace (BAE) Wharton in Lancashire, England. That was back in the day when BAE were making their money from



On The Buses

by Sean O Malley

Travelling South from North London on the 453 bus. This route takes an hour to meander through the city streets from start to finish. Then it's off to Lewisham where the last stop becomes the first and then I to return where I started. My oyster card upgraded to a travel pass so I am (cont p2)

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New House of Hospitality in Haringey

Many of our guests come to us depressed, scarred by their experience, by the on-going anxiety of having 'no status', of having to flee their country and their home and live without a home, without a welcome, without the resources and freedom we all take for granted. Not accepted, but still stuck here. In a prison without walls for the sole reason of not having the right passport, the right colour skin, the right language.

"If God does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour.... Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap" The tears of our guests are usually hidden inside their depression, but those words of Psalm 127 have been fulfilled with

"A Journey of Solidarity with the EDO 9"

by Ciaron O'Reilly

I remember first hearing the good news of the anti-war activists decommissioning the EDO arms factory in Brighton, England. It was the 4th. week of THE relentless Israeli blitzkrieg of Gaza in January '09. More than 2,300 air-strikes were to devastate Gaza during this three week attack, as civilians had no where to flee or take shelter. The Israelis bombed 3,354 houses, 280 schools, Gaza's only flour mill, the chicken farm that provided 10% of the eggs in the besieged enclave, the sewage plant, wells that provided drinking water. It promised to continue without serious opposition until the U.S. Presidential inauguration later that month. For reasons of his own electoral expediency the Israeli government unleashed Operation Cast Lead shortly after Christmas Day killing over 1400 Palestinians (cont p6)

London Catholic Worker:

We are: Angela Broome, Simon Watson, Henrietta Cullinan, Chris Goodchild, Scott and Maria Albrecht, Zelda Jeffers, Martin Newell, Diane Walsh, Katrina Alton, Papa Mao Fall Ndiaye, Soo Tian, Michael Omari, Sean O'Malley, Ciaron O'Reilly, Chris Knowles, Katie and Maia

Dorothy Day House

16 De Beauvoir Road,
De Beauvoir Town, London N1 5SU
Tel: 020 7249 0041 Email:

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We are: Papa Mao Fall Ndiaye,
Michael Omari,

49 Mattison Road,

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Both Dorothy Day House and our new Mattison Road House offer hospitality to destitute refugees, mainly men. We run Peter's Community Café and the Urban Table Soup Kitchen. We organise regular non-violent resistance, and produce this newsletter.

We are: Martin Newell, Sean O'Malley, Ciaron O'Reilly, Chris Knowles

Catholic Worker Farmhouse:

Lynsters Farm, Old Uxbridge Road,
West Hyde, Herts, WD3 9XJ
Tel: 01923 777 201 Email:

thecatholicworkerfarm@yahoo.co.uk

We are: Scott & Maria Albrecht and family, Katie and Maia

The Farmhouse offers hospitality to destitute women and children. We vigil regularly at the nearby Northwood Joint Forces Military HQ. We also grow organic vegetables and have a poustinia.

Peter's Community Café:

Open Mon-Weds 12noon-5.30pm
The Crypt, St Peter's Church,
Northchurch Terrace, De Beauvoir
Town, 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.

Anti-©opywrite For Action

ON THE BUSES (from p1) good for as many journeys it takes to pass the night. The driver nods at me to assure that I am good to go but soon he will just ignore me. I take my seat on the upper deck and try to sleep.

Since coming to London just three months ago I have come to learn that in 2010 that 'On the Buses' is no longer a bawdy British black and white 1960's sit-com. This is a long night trying to sleep sitting upright as the night bus snakes through the cold streets of London. Neither is that funny anyway. London is full up and if you don't have your papers even the most basic hostel accommodation is difficult or even impossible to find. These are just some of the hard realities I have learnt in my short time as a Catholic Worker.

One afternoon I answered a call from, Praxis, a migrant resource centre called in Bethnal Green. The project worker was looking for accommodation for a young man from Cameroon who sleeping rough. As the spring arrived most of the cold weather shelters were closing. Spring is a busy time for homeless agencies and our phone was hopping off its cradle.

Like most of those who found refuge in the crypts of the capital's churches he now found the harsh reality of living on London's streets. He had stored most of his belongings and was walking around in clothes not suited for the time of year. During the day he would trek to the cities missions but at night his options were grim. Sitting on a night bus trying to catch some sleep between the stops was the best he could do. Since I heard his story I have heard of many more "on the buses" experiences. They would not make Inspector Blakey's day.

Many of London's buses travel from one side of the city to the other. These routes are the most attractive the people who use them for shelter. Joining the Catholic Worker community has opened my eyes to many aspects of homelessness, destitution, and the difficult lives' of asylum seekers in the UK. In an effort to make some sense of this life I went 'on the buses' for a night.

The bus jolts as its stop to pick up the night workers but after



By Emily Johns - courtesy of
Voices UK website

midnight this happens less frequently. After a while it's just me and the odd punter tipsy after the pub. Each stop is announced by a woman who has long gone to bed. (cont p10)

Another Generation will be Reaping the Harvest

*What we do is very little.
But it is like the little boy
with a few loaves and fishes.*

*Christ took that little
and increased it.*

He will do the rest.

*What we do is so little
we may seem to be constantly failing.*

But so did He fail.

*He met with apparent failure
on the Cross.*

*But unless the seed
fall into the Earth and die,
there is no harvest.*

And why must we see results?

Our work is to sow.

*Another generation
will be reaping the harvest."*

- Dorothy Day

a vengeance recently. Ali and Jean Richard, both former long-term guests at Dorothy Day (cont p3) **NEW HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY** (from p1) House, have both been given 'Indefinite Leave to Remain'! Also Abukar who lived with us for two weeks, got 'leave to remain' two days in! Certainly a time for rejoicing!

There's another reason to rejoice too. We have opened a new house of hospitality in north London! The Catholic Diocese here has generously given us the use of a property for two years, rent free, as a base for us, as a centre for the 'works of mercy', especially for our work with destitute refugees, who are certainly among those 'least of these' who Jesus reminds us are the first in whom we should see God, see the face of the suffering and also dignified and very human Christ.

I've read and prayed those words of Psalm 127 so many times in recent years, as we've struggled along, keeping the vision alive and growing of a Catholic Worker house and community of hospitality and resistance in this Imperial city of London. It has been a struggle, even while 'picketing


St Joseph', praying and asking him to find us a free house, to do and speak the truth in love with those we've shared our lives with, those fleeing persecution, violence and destruction to find a place of sanctuary in our affluent society. It has been a struggle to keep being hospitable to visitors and guests at Community Café and Urban Table soup kitchen, to keep on keeping on at the powerful and the purveyors of violence at army show room, Northwood HQ, Aldermaston nuclear bomb factory, DSEi arms fair and elsewhere.

WATCHING OVER THE CITY

"If God does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil" - also Psalm 127. We do feel called to a vocation to 'watch over our city' - watch over the so many violent machinations organised and planned in this London which is our home (although not our homeland, for that is in heaven - St Paul Phil 3:20). Yet it is a struggle to trust, to trust that it is ultimately God who is watching over the city, and that we can pace ourselves, take a break, do all the many things that need to be done to sustain daily life, despite the simplicity (which more often seems complicated in the midst of such riches) we aim at by our attempt to live 'voluntary poverty'. It is said that there are 1,000 demonstrations a year in London. Our "early rising, and going later to rest" (more from Psalm 127) - although there's not so much early rising! - has to have a limit: 24 hours a day seven days a week would not be enough to attend every demonstration, every protest, every picket, every action. And still the injustice, the oppression, the violence, state sponsored and otherwise, would sadly, surely, continue. We have to trust that God is watching over our city, that our witness is both vital and important *as* witness - speaking that truth of a God of justice, freedom, peace, non-violence, solidarity with the poor and oppressed, who comforts the afflicted (listed as one of the classical 'spiritual works of mercy') and afflicts the comfortable ('instructing the ignorant' is one of the spiritual works of mercy too).

THEY HIDE THE POOR AND KILL THE PROPHETS

'Watching over the city' includes seeing into all those hidden places - places that are hidden because there are powerful people who do not want us to see - and hidden because so many of us do not want to see. The lives of the poor, those without decent work, without decent homes, the refugee and the migrant - especially the latter - are so hidden. But their lives speak a truth about our lives: that our comfort and prosperity is bought at the expense of keeping the others out, away. Not only outside our comfort zone



EASY ESSAY
By Peter Maurin

Houses Of Hospitality

1. We need Houses of Hospitality to give to the rich the opportunity to serve the poor.
2. We need Houses of Hospitality to bring the scholars to the workers or the workers to the scholars.
3. We need Houses of Hospitality to bring back to institutions the technique to institutions.
4. We need Houses of Hospitality to show what idealism looks like when it is practised.

butchering East
Timorese. (cont
p4)

DRONES

(from p1) But our history with BAE goes way back before that. When those of us in the ANZUS

Plowshares were released from U.S. prisons in 1992, following our New Year's Day '91 disarmament of a B52 Bomber and a year in custody, the F.B.I. had so much respect for private

property that they gave us our hammers and bolt cutters back! We shipped a set to Chris in England and on January 6th 1993 he made his way into BAE Stevenage where he carried out £475,000 damage to BAE weapon systems. After two trials and 6 months in jail, BAE slapped a high court injunction on him. BAE later had Chris imprisoned for another 6 months under the terms of the civil injunction for writing a leaflet encouraging people to blockade BAE. When Chris was freed the police returned the ploughshares hammer to him.

PLOUGHSHARES

The hammer was passed on to four women, the "Seeds of Hope Ploughshares" who went to BAE Warton in January '96 and disarmed a Hawk Fighter ready for export to Indonesia.

Following the July '96 acquittal of the four women, we set up a community with East Timorese refugees in Liverpool and carried out sustained non-violent resistance at BAE Wharton. BAE struck back hitting 13 of us with high court injunctions and placed a spy in the Liverpool Catholic Worker. They also ran a number of spies in the more moderate "Campaign Against the Arms Trade". So there was a lot of history with BAE as we headed north along the M1. The plan was 4 hours on the road, four hours vigiling outside the factory and four hours back to Oxford.



We were being drawn back to BAE Wharton by the unveiling of the companies latest hi tech development in death dealing - "Taranis". Apparently the weapon of choice these daze for government sanctioned assassination and untold collateral damage on the extremities of empire is the drone.

To paraphrase Pulp Fiction "If you absolutely have to kill every mother on the block to get your target, the drone is for you.!" The drone takes alienation at the point of production (of corpses and orphans) to its logical conclusion by removing the pilot. The guy presently pushing the button to unleash the U.S. hellfire missiles on to their unsuspecting victims on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border is a half a world a way in an air conditioned office/vault/bunker in Florida or Nevada. British forces in Afghanistan are presently using American Reaper and Israeli surveillance drones, but not for long! BAE, always one for with an eye in the death dealing market, has spent £143 million developing the "Taranis" and this unveiling at Wharton was about BAE's "continued drive to convince the British Ministry of Defence to invest in the next generation of unmanned aircraft." (Daily Mail)

TARANIS - UK'S 'STEALTH DRONE'

Taranis, named after the Celtic god of thunder, is different from the UK's current drones as it is designed not to be flown remotely from the ground via satellite, as current unmanned drones

are, but rather programmed pre-flight to carry out its mission, whether intelligence, surveillance or armed strike. To make the aircraft 'more stealthy' i.e. invisible to radar, the drone's bombs and missiles are carried internally.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

So our humble effort at Wharton last Monday was to break the consensus of silence and state a physical "no" to Defense Minister Howarth, BAE, Taranis, imperial wars and the policy of assassination and collateral damage on the empire's extremities.

Standing there at the gates of BAE Wharton with our home made banners watching a stream of limos and sports cars reminded one of the film "Ironman" without the subplot of redemption and also of the many victims this factory has produced throughout the world.

Meanwhile in the U.S. good friends including Kathy Kelly, Fr. Louie Vitalie OFM, Fr. Steve Kelly SJ and Fr. John Dear SJ are being taken

before the Nevada Courts for their resistance at Creech Air Force Base to the U.S. drone wars on the Afghanistan/Pakistan border.

Check out these links to:

Resistance to drones:

<http://www.nevadadesertexperience.org/issues/2010/UAVs.htm>

Taranis reports: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/10602105.stm>

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=4704491&c=EUR&s=AIR>

ANZUS Ploughshares:

<http://www.craftech.com/~dcpledge/brandywine/plow/webpa...S.htm>

Seeds of Hope Ploughshares:

<http://www.craftech.com/~dcpledge/brandywine/plow/webpa...a.htm>

Spies at Liverpool CW: <http://www.evel.nl/spinwatch/TRReport.htm> and in CAAT:

materially, but also away from us so that their *dis*-comfort does not destroy our (cont p5) **NEW HOUSE** (from p3) comfortable sense of well-being—that 'all is well with the world'. It's very disturbing to have our complacency disrupted. We cannot reserve our sacrificial love for the moments of 'special emergency' - the Haitian earthquake, the invasion of Iraq, the Asian tsunami: the poor and oppressed are suffering all the time, tormented, dying young, seeing their loved ones lives and hopes destroyed. And not just randomly, but by the policies of our governments and the practices of the global corporations that bring the riches of the earth for our pleasure.

This is why Peter Maurin wanted houses of hospitality: to serve the poor, and to open the eyes, ears, hearts of the non-poor. So that our deafness might be opened, the scales removed from our eyes, our hearts of stone turned to flesh, our minds transformed by seeing Jesus in the flesh. I know it works for me. So often I don't want to know, but it seems I have no choice because I am surrounded by the reality of the lives of our guests, as well as by those who perceive the broader realities of Empire more viscerally than I do.

We are few: our mission, 'watching over the city'. We ask you to come and join us in this work. For a few hours a day, a few days a month, for a few weeks or months or years of your life, to begin where you can, where you are, to take what step, what risk you can, so that this mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, can grow into a mustard tree, so that the birds of the air can come to shelter in its branches. For we see in those we serve He Who said "the birds of the air have their nests,

THE WORKS OF MERCY FEED
THE HUNGRY • CLOTHE THE
NAKED • GIVE DRINK TO THE
THIRSTY • VISIT THE
IMPRISONED • CARE
FOR THE SICK • BURY
THE DEAD.



THE WORKS OF WAR
DESTROY CROPS AND
LAND • SEIZE FOOD SUPPLIES
DESTROY HOMES • SCATTER
FAMILIES • CONTAMINATE
WATER • IMPRISON DISSENTERS
INFLECT WOUNDS • BURNS • KILL
THE LIVING - 2/1/2009

EDO 9 ACQUITTED! (from p1)

It was a bleak and wet winter's Saturday morning in Dublin. I had been couch surfing for 6 months and was presently ensconced in a friend's high rise, vault like apartment. My friend was making his living off online poker and had just turned in as I began to stir. I was lying in bed trying to convince myself of the dubious significance of going on yet another Palestinian solidarity march that had become a regular Saturday morning fixture since the start of the Israeli military campaign. In over 30 years of activism I've come to dread the empty liturgies, rallies and marches of "the left" How much these events are a sincere response to the sufferings of others and how much they are about well seasoned grouplets posturing, ambulance chasing and self promoting remains an open question?

I stumbled out of bed, grabbed a coffee, rearranged the ashtrays in front of the computer and flicked on the internet. Over on UK indymedia I discovered that while I had slept, good folks had moved from protest to non-violent resistance and entered the EDO arms factory in Brighton.

Videos of pre-action statements had been posted on indymedia. These folks sounded like the real thing; The EDO factory, provider of bomb release mechanisms to Israeli F16's being used extensively over Gaza, looked well and truly trashed. Machinery was disabled and computers, filing cabinets and office furnishings had been thrown out the windows. One of the reasons that the six had so much time in the factory was that ironically Sussex police on arrival at the scene saw a bomb in the car-park and cordoned off the

6

area for specialists to arrive. The 'bomb' was

in fact a dummy, a prop for EDO to display at trade fairs, precision guided out of an upstairs window by the decomissioners.

Bristol based activists - Elijah Smith, Tom Woodhead, Robert Nicholls, Robert Alford, Ornella Saibene and Harvey Tadman - who had entered EDO were now in custody. Three Brighton activists - Rosa Bellamy, Simon Levin and Chris Ormond - were lifted outside the factory were also banged up.



The "EDO 9 Decomissioners" celebrate their acquittal by a jury at Brighton Crown Court, following their action during the 2009 attack on Gaza.

SOLIDARITY

I recall Phil Berrigan telling me once that "Brothers and sisters in jail for peace and justice sake speak to our conscience, which is how God speaks to us!" Such speech demands a response of solidarity. I truly believe if 1% of the people who marched against the US/UK war on Iraq in '03 had gone into non-violent resistance in the spirit of King, Berrigan and the EDO 9 and the other 99% had remained in proactive solidarity - the governments and corporations would have had a tough time waging their wars. Likewise with the Israel's ongoing war on Palestine. It shouldn't be a case of these, or any, resisters feeling isolated in jail and other dissidents remaining at home feeling disengaged. There has to be a powerful mutual dynamic between resisters and the broader movement. We would be a better movement for it. So I drew up a placard of the EDO 9 and headed

off into the wind and the rain to share the good news of this resistance with the Dublin protest rally.

In the lead up to the '03 invasion of Iraq, some Brighton folks made the decision that marching around in circles against the oncoming war in downtown London was a waste of time and energy. They decided to focus on where the rubber hits the road in terms of the war machine in their community. So by the time of the '09 Gaza massacre they had waged a 7 year campaign against the EDO arms factory based in Brighton. The Schnews documentary "On The Verge" covers this local; grassroots campaign very well.

BRISTOL AND BRIGHTON

Meanwhile in Bristol, In the lead up to the '09 bombing of Gaza activists had been focused on their own locally based Raytheon and British Aerospace arms factories. As the relentless bombing continued through the first half of January '09 a group of them began to coalesce to directly intervene. They chose EDO in Brighton as it was producing components essential to the Israeli F16's being employed extensively by the Israeli military. These Bristol activists met up quite rapidly, shared a resolve and clambered into a slow moving van and set off for Brighton. They arrived in the early hours of Friday morning knocked on the door of Brighton anti-EDO activists. Within 24 hours they were all in custody following the disarmament of EDO.

REMANDED

One of their number - Elijah Smith - has been denied bail since the action. In March '09 I travelled to Bristol to meet the defendants during a demonstration outside the Bristol jail where Elijah was then being held. The defendants had been released under strict bail conditions banning any communication between them. They took great care not to make eye contact with each other outside the prison. These conditions remained in force in the entire 18 month lead up to their trial. It was great to individually meet these folks and as I returned to Australia for a year I kept them in thought & prayer, spread the word of their action, circulated the "On the Verge" DVD and wrote to the imprisoned Elijah Smith sporadically. Many people underestimate the significance of small acts of solidarity open to them to those in jeopardy. As Judy Small sang, "Because we think we can do little, we do nothing at all!".

TRIAL

In contrast to that dreary Dublin day I first heard of the EDO 9, it was a bright sun shiny day when I arrived in Brighton in June 2010 for the trial. Dispatched by my London Catholic Worker commu-



"Tears for Iraq" - Ewa Jaciewicz—courtesy of Voices UK

nity, I was delivered by National; Express to the Brighton Pier. As I walked along the shoreline past all the holiday time amusements it was hard to connect this scene to the seaside town of Gaza where bombs had been delivered by components constructed in Brighton. I walked past where the mods & rockers had it out in the '60's and the movie "Quadruphenia", past the Grand Hotel rebuilt after the IRA assassination attempt on Maggie Thatcher in the '80's as payback for Bobby Sands and the deaths of the hunger strikers. I swung right up the hill to the Hove court. On the steps of the courts I met the support which consisted mostly of friends of the defendants. There was little evidence of the mainstream anti-war organisations mobilising around this trial. It continues to mystify me how such organisations abandon non-violent anti-war resisters before the courts and in jail?

The Prosecution case had closed the previous week and one of the Brighton defendants, Rosa Bellamy, had been released with no case to answer. In effect, the trial had been turned around in the cross examination of the prosecution's star witness EDO managing director Paul Hills who found himself spending four days in the dock. He had come to court intending to pass EDO off as a company primarily manufacturing in-flight entertainment equipment. He was presented with a dossier of evidence painstakingly built up over the years by campaigners, which pointed firmly at the company's complicity in war crimes.

(cont p8)

EDO ON TRIAL (from p7)

Under cross examination, Hills revealed that the company have owned the rights to the main bomb rack used on Israeli F-16s - the VER-2 - since 1998. He admitted removing website evidence of his company's dealings with Israel as early as 2004, the date of the first protests. He admitted having interfered with the crime scene, retrieving debris and papers, before police photographers arrived. He claimed to have police permission but no police statement backed him up. There has been speculation that £189,000 is actually an underestimate of the damage caused and that more controversial evidence may have been spirited away. After being warned at one stage by the judge that he was at risk of perjuring himself if he contradicted evidence he'd produced in earlier court cases, crucially he ended by admitting that anyone looking at the evidence presented to him in court would form the reasonable belief that his company was involved in arms sales to Israel. It was this that the defendants needed to convince the jury of - that there was an obvious link between this factory and the bombardment of Gaza.

A witness, Sharyn Lock, provided the background necessary for the

jury to understand the full scope of the horror then unfolding in Gaza. Now a trainee midwife, in 2009 she was a human-rights volunteer in Al-Quds hospital, Gaza City. She was in the Gaza strip for the whole of Operation Cast Lead, and able to show footage of a missile strike on the hospital, just metres from the maternity ward. The jury also saw news reports of the white phosphorus attacks on the UNWRA compound, which incinerated much-needed food and medicine. Sharyn closed her evidence by saying she had no doubt that those who armed the Israeli Air Force 'had the blood of children on their hands'.

JOURNEY TO ACTION

By the time I had arrived two of the Bristol defendants, community worker Ornella Saibene and Buddhist homeless worker Bob Nicholls had also given evidence. I heard a Buddhist monk give character reference for Bob in regards to his community and aid work in Bristol and India. We then heard Tom's evidence in relation to the development of his conscience through his Catholic upbringing and how it had spurred him to act in the face of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) assault on Gaza.



The works of mercy - Burying the Dead by Ade Bethune

Brighton defendant Chris Ormond took the stand. He shared his personal experience in Palestine. The jury heard of his mistreatment at the hands of the IDF and his observations of others who had been wounded and killed for speaking out. He told of his involvement in the 7 year campaign in Brighton against EDO. We heard of his surprise when the Bristol crew landed on his doorstep, his distress at the ongoing massacre in Gaza and his support for the action they planned to take at EDO. He spoke of the stress and fears experienced by all the defendants over the preceding 18 months as they faced the courts and the threat of prison. He spoke of how they felt compelled to act in the face of these fears, in the knowledge what they were doing was legal and in solidarity with those suffering in Gaza.

After I returned to London, Caroline Lucas, the Green Party Member of Parliament for Brighton, testified to how all democratic processes had been exhausted in January '09 in relation to staying the deadly hand of the Israeli military over the people of Gaza. The MP testified that non-violent direct action was the only response left open by January 17th. '09.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

I arrived back in Brighton for the last week of the trial. It's amazing how quickly you bond with people at such court cases - the defendants and support. A community brought together by shared jeopardy and solidarity. The defence had won the legal arguments around war crimes, lawful excuse and necessity defences. The eight closing arguments were eloquently delivered by the defence Queens Counsellors and barristers.

On the Wednesday afternoon the jury returned unanimous acquittals on five of the defendants. The imprisoned Elijah Smith and Chris Ormond were left hanging until court resumed Friday morning when the Judge directed the jury to find the remaining defendants not guilty.

Celebrations continue at time of writing. Yesterday Elijah Smith was freed from Lewes Prison after 18 months in custody. Before the trial, Israeli commandos murdered 9 international peace activists non-violently bringing supplies to break the siege of Gaza. The "acts of mercy" - feeding the hungry, bringing building supplies to the homeless and medical supplies to the sick has now (cont p10)

LCW NEWS...NEWS...NEWS..

APOLOGIES... Its not for want of news that we don't have our usual update this time. More a question of running round like a blue assed fly getting everything ready for the new house... There's been plenty of comings and goings, ups and down, visitors and events, but here at least is news of one event where about 12 of us went to witness at the Ministry of Defence...

Only Justice Brings Peace:

PEACE PENTECOST PRESS RELEASE

Catholic Workers and friends protest at MoD on Pentecost.

Christians around the world prepared to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in Jerusalem as they were together in a locked upper room after Jesus' ascension. With a noise like a rush of wind, tongues of fire settle upon the apostles. Hence, on that day, the disciples of Jesus received strength and ability to preach the Good News to all around them. Shedding their own fears and doubts, they declared with boldness the radical message of the Gospel, a message in which peacemakers are blessed and the unity of all humankind means they shall train for war no more. We as a group of Christians have decided that we wish to follow this path of boldness and speaking truth to power. Hence, we came to the Ministry of Defence at Whitehall to proclaim 'the mighty deeds of God' by declaring the Gospel of Peace. In the midst of a global economic crisis where the poor become ever more vulnerable, and with climate change threatening humanity as a whole, we need to put love, nonviolence, justice and community at the heart of work for peace and security in the world, rather than relying on a destructive strategy of self-interest and evermore lethal weaponry. Hence, through this action of witness it is our intention to declare that only justice brings peace. Violence only begets more violence, and increasing one's military capabilities only leads to a never-ending arms race that makes true peace vanish further and further into the horizon. We need not fear each other, for as the Scriptures say, "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18). This Pentecost weekend, let us all speak out for peace.

Written by Soo Tian



One of the placards from the Pentecost witness

DVD FOR SALE:

“Fool for Christ - the story of Dorothy Day”

- the best introduction to Dorothy Day
on film. 55 minutes.

“An artistic success and a religious experience”
- Rev Donald Cozzens

“Passionate, funny, heartfelt—Dorothy lives!”
- Daniel Berrigan SJ

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- write to London Catholic Worker,
16 De Beauvoir Rd,
London N1 5SU

- make cheques to “London Catholic Worker”

& see p7 for

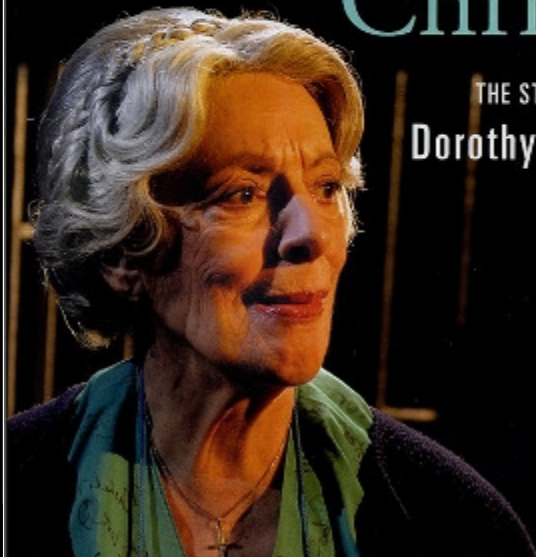
“Dorothy Day - Selected Writings”
at the reduced price of £ 5.00 + p&p

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“An artistic success and a religious experience!”
—REV. DONALD COZZENS

“Passionate, funny, heartfelt – Dorothy lives!”
—DANIEL BERRIGAN, SJ

SARAH MELICI in **Fool for
Christ**
THE STORY OF
Dorothy Day



ON THE BUSES (from p2) Her voice is authority and she keeps me alert. Several branches hit the roof on this route. Deep sleep is impossible, dosing is difficult and I am in discomfort. The light hurts my eyes and new passengers become suspect.

The night passes like this and I feel exhausted. The route takes about forty five minutes and I count down the hours. The weather is cold and I am glad I am not sleeping outside.

I link my arms through the straps of my backpack, shift myself for security and change my position. Soon I'm off bus the and in to the nights cold air and waiting for the bus to travel the fifty metres to turn around and start again.

At some point I realise that I am not alone. Another man is sharing my night shelter. We wait for the driver to open the door so we can return to our seats. I smile and let him go first. He chooses downstairs and sits behind the driver. I feel a little shame but I am glad the upper deck is free. I am tired, my eyes are starting to sting and my body is starting to ache. The seats are too short to lie down. Soon my discomfort is overtaken by my exhaustion and I start to catch glimpses of sleep. Fatigue is my reality.

Its quarter past six but not yet morning. The newsagents are waking to take in the papers and soon the morning commute will start. My journey is over and I leave the bus. The other guy has left already. I spotted a McDonald's a couple of stops ago and I fancy a coffee. Its important to start the day with a good breakfast.

On any night there are hundreds of homeless people travelling on London's buses. The thought of doing so for any length of time is frightening. After one night I am tired and the fatigue slows me down as I walk home to sleep for a few hours at home before I get on with my day. I am lucky. Those who choose to be on the buses do because their options are limited. The buses are dry and relatively safe but its impossible to sleep comfortably. They are vulnerable and there are many who would take advantage. It is impossible to relax.

Its been twenty years since I have lived in London and the city has changed. The cardboard cities of Charing Cross and Waterloo bridge have gone but homelessness is still a problem. The problems faced by those who work with the homeless have changed too. Now there is often a language barrier, diseases like Tuberculosis are on the rise and most hostels will not take people with out a national issuance number.

In Stratford, East London, the government is putting the finishing touches on the Olympic Village. Soon we will be asked to welcome thousands of outsiders to the city. However there are many outsiders in this city who will never be welcomed. A lot of these people travel the buses at night.

EDO 9 ACQUITTED (from p9)

been made a capitol offence by the Israeli state. Israel continues to maintain the only gulag in the Western Hemisphere, the open air prison that is the Gaza Strip containing 1.5 million inmates. Companies like EDO continue to make a killing. The victims demand our resistance. Our resisters deserve our solidarity.

www.edodecomissioners.co.uk



There's been plenty of cleaning, sweeping and mopping going on, to get our new house ready...

NAME OF NEW MATTISON RD HOUSE:

Part of the Catholic Worker tradition is to name our houses, and much in the Catholic way of things, usually to name them after a saint or a hero. But what is it with names and words? We can easily work out a lot of things, but when it comes to a simple thing like a name... So we haven't come up with one yet, so our we and our readers will just have to keep waiting with baited breath...

Dates for your Diary

Greenbelt Festival:
August 27—31 - Aug Bank Holiday weekend
 Christian music and arts festival. Great speakers. Catholic Mass led this year by Martin Newell cp, with Catholic Workers. See www.greenbelt.org.uk for more info

Faith and Resistance Retreat: in Oxford:
Sun Sept 4th - Mon Sept 5th
 Prayer, study and action. Reflect on faith in our Imperial context and heartland. Contact Mattison Road House for more info.

Trident Ploughshares Summer Gathering:
Thurs Sept 3rd - Tues Sept 7th
 In Reading. see www.tridentploughshares.org/
 Or phone 0845 4588366

Trident Ploughshares Big Blockade: Nov 1st Devonport
 TP Website and phone number as above.

Regular Vigils:
Thursdays 3.30pm at Northwood Town Centre
 Contact Catholic Worker Farmhouse House for more details

At Dalston Army Showroom:
 Kingsland High Street, opposite Dalston Kingsland station. Contact Mattison Road House for more info.

SPECIAL OFFER:

- end of print run -

“Dorothy Day - Selected Writings”

available from London CW

for £5 + £2.50 p&p.

(normal price £14.95)

370 pages

“ Reads like a sustained prayer -
for peace, for love, for humility,
and most of all, for activism. ”

-Christian Century

“There is no better introduction
to Dorothy Day”

-Jim Forest

Please make cheques payable to
“London Catholic Worker”

**ALSO: See p7 for
“Fool for Christ” DVD**

- best intro to Dorothy Day on film

Dorothy Day

Selected Writings

*Edited and with an Introduction by
Robert Ellsberg*

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: ... / ... / 10 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

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

SIGNED:..... **DATE:**...../...../ 10

PLEASE RETURN TO “London Catholic Worker”
at: 49 Mattison Road, London N4 1BG

YOUR NAME & ADDRESS:.....

.....

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

TEL:.....

CONTACT US

NOTE: New Postal Address:

49 Mattison Road, London N4 1BG

Tel: 020 8348 8212

E: londoncatholicworker@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.londoncatholicworker.org

I want to receive the London CW Newsletter. [I enclose stamps/
donation / cheque payable to "London Catholic Worker"]

NAME

ADDRESS:.....

.....

.....POST CODE:.....

Dorothy Day House & Mattison Road House, and Urban Table

FOOD:

- Dry goods, rice, pasta
- Instant coffee, tea bags
- Tuna, corned beef, cheese
- Sugar & salt & pepper
- Tinned tomatoes & other cans
- Herbs & spices etc
- Donations from local shops

OTHER

- Handyman / woman
- Plumber, electrician
- Soap, razors, shampoo & all toiletries.
- Men's and womens Clothes
- Cleaning materials & equipment
- **MONEY!** - see p11 for standing order form.

OFFICE:

- working laser printer
- Help with producing and sending out newsletters
- Guillotine for paper & A4 laminating pockets

HOUSEHOLD GOODS:

- old mobile phones
- Bike locks & bike lights
- Beds, bedding and mattresses
- Paint for walls
- Kitchen bins

- **New full time community members and volunteers !**

"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
- Visitors to use our poustinia (for a donation)
- **MONEY! -and of course your prayers.**

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 and communities in the US and about 10 other countries. Check out the US-based CW website www.catholicworker.com, and come 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 or Mattison Road House make a cheque to "London Catholic Worker".

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

Standing Order form overleaf.

OTHER CATHOLIC WORKERS IN THE UK: OXFORD :

St Francis CW House, 227 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4
Tel: 01865 248 288 - and see their page on our website.

We all began with generous gifts that enabled us to start. But they have now been eaten up by our expenses, especially the rent. We would be breaking even, but God has given us another house - and at least another £15,000 a year expenses!

None of us are paid to do this work: it is a gift of the heart. For many reasons including our political witness, we are not a registered charity. We receive nothing from the government.

So we continue to rely on our supporters and readers donations, to pay our rent on houses and other costs. We now need a total of at least £67,000 a year. 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)