

CONTACT LONDON CATHOLIC WORKER:

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

NAME
ADDRESS:.....
.....
.....

Dorothy Day House & Urban Table Soup Kitchen Needs

OFFICE:

- Help with IT maintenance
- Help with producing and sending out newsletter

HOUSEHOLD GOODS:

- Pressure cooker
- Bike, bike locks & bike lights

FOOD:

- Dry goods, rice
- Instant coffee
- Tuna, corned beef, cheese
- Sugar & salt & pepper

- Tinned tomatoes & other cans
- Herbs & spices etc

OTHER

- Soap, razors, shampoo, toothpaste, cleaning materials etc.
- Old books, magazines
- Garden fork
- Clothes, towels etc
- MONEY! - see p11 for standing order form.

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

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. Come and visit us!

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

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.

CW FARMHOUSE NEEDS:

- Food, esp. juice, rice, porridge oats, dairy products, cooking oil
- Help with gardening, cleaning, cooking, DIY
- MONEY! -and of course your prayers.

WANTED: COMMUNITY MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

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 Catholic Worker are also in similar need. Contact them at: 227 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 tel: 01865 248 288 and see their page on LCW website.

CATHOLIC WORKER

Easter Appeal

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Gandhi said "God comes to the poor in the form of bread". Jesus at Easter broke bread and gave it saying, "This is my body." Well, Jesus also told us He comes to us in the form of the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, the unemployed, the mentally ill, the alcoholic, the refugee. It can be easy to see the presence of God in beauty. Its not so easy when God comes up to the door at our "Urban Table" soup kitchen demanding more soup, when its nearly run out and some haven't had any yet, and you wonder quietly to yourself exactly how did Jesus do that loaves and fishes business. As the postcard says, "Jesus is coming—look busy!"

We are trying to offer ourselves and our homes at a personal sacrifice, putting in our own resources, our "love made visible" in working to run soup kitchen, community café and houses of hospitality. But we need your help, your generosity. Voluntary poverty can only make our resources stretch so far, and we do have bills to pay. Mainly the rent. In our affluent society, there is an obscene amount of waste, a surplus of almost everything except space to live, to lay your head. Jesus was tempted to turn the stones into bread: it was a temptation, not a miracle of generosity he neglected. (continued p4)

Shut Down Guantanamo

The London Catholic Worker marked the 6th. anniversary of the opening of Guantanamo Detention Centre with a vigil at the U.S. embassy, near Grosvenor Square in central London.

To vigil is stay awake; to stay awake to the mainstreaming of torture, to attacks on civil liberties, to our complicity with the CIA kidnapping and rendition flights refuelling in England to the U.S. gulag that is Guantanamo. As we enter the 7th year of the Bush initiated war without end, civil society remains asleep, sedated and silenced in the face of a (Continued p2)

Holy Innocents at Northwood Military HQ

Four members of the Catholic Worker movement were arrested at 9am on Friday December 28th, during a non-violent peace witness at Northwood Joint Forces Military HQ in Hertfordshire, England.

Northwood is the headquarters for all British forces deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Northwood facility has 2,000 employees and is presently undergoing a major expansion, upgrading and refit to make it ready to work with the new European Defence Force. (cont'd p3)

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Left: By Ade Bethune

London Catholic Worker:

We are: Angela Broome, Simon Watson, Henrietta Cullinan, Scott and Maria Albrecht, Zelda Jeffers, Martin Newell, Ciaron O'Reilly, Eddie Jarvis.

Dorothy Day House

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

We are: Zelda Jeffers, Martin Newell, Ciaron O'Reilly

Dorothy Day House offers hospitality to destitute refugees, usually men. We run Peter's Community Café and the Urban Table Soup Kitchen. We also do a weekly local anti-war vigil 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

We are: Scott & Maria Albrecht and family

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-7pm
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 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.

"GET THE GUNS OUT OF LONDON"

Zelda Jeffers was sentenced to 14 days in prison during Easter Week, just a week after Martin Newell was sentenced to 5 days in Holy Week for the same offence. They were both at Stratford Magistrates Court, for pouring fake blood onto the gangway entrance to the DSEi (Defence System Equipment International) Arms Fair at Custom House DLR station in east London in September. The entrance to one of the world's largest arms fairs was closed for at least 4 hours as a result.

They were found guilty of "criminal damage" at their trial at the same Court in February and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £700. However, as they refused to pay these, the Magistrate ordered them to serve a custodial sentence. Zelda and Martin agreed they had acted as charged, but denied that it was criminal damage. Martin had poured out five litres of red paint on the gangway, saying 'rivers of blood that start here at the DSEi Arms Fair'. Having done this, he then knelt down to pray. He was dragged away and arrested. Zelda had held up a banner saying "Get the Guns Out of London" and then poured blood-coloured hair dye on herself before lying across the entrance like a dead body.

WITNESS STATEMENT

At the trial in February, Zelda said, "I am a mother, have held my babies, know the love, care and concern a mother anywhere has for her children. They have a right to physical integrity, that is, not to be blown up, shot or burnt. I worked as a midwife which is a respected profession, I helped babies be born, I hoped for them to grow up. The week before the arms fair Ryan was shot in Liverpool, with a gun that was manufactured and traded, then ended a young life, this is wrong, it should be stopped. I worked in Nicaragua during and after the war there. I saw the results of these arms not only in maiming and killing but in poverty, ignorance and hunger. How can I not try to stop this going on? The blood coloured paint and dye was not damage but a statement of truth. The action was not criminal but my duty as a human being."

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Martin said in court in Holy Week, "To pay this fine would be to co-operate with a system that is fuelling murder and mayhem around the world by promoting and protecting the arms trade. We withdrew our co-operation at the DSEi arms fair last September. We continue that refusal to go along quietly with manifest evil. In Holy Week, Christians and others remember the price Jesus paid on the cross for standing up for truth, life and freedom, when he was arrested for his act of civil disobedience when he cleansed the Temple of traders and bankers. It is a great privilege to be able to follow, in a small way, Jesus' example of suffering for love and righteousness sake."

Zelda, 60 was sent to Holloway Prison, London. She is a mother of two and worked as a nurse in Nicaragua for 6 years during the U.S. sponsored Contra wars. She also spent 2 years as a nurse with a tribe on the Amazon. Martin spent one night in a police cell and then HMP Brixton.



Above: (left to right) Zelda Jeffers, Martin Newell and Ciaron O'Reilly outside Stratford Magistrates Court in February.

WHAT'S ON - Dates for your Diary

APRIL 30 - MAY 4 - Catholic Worker Euro-Gathering: 75 Years Celebration: speaker, Jim Forest

NOVEMBER 21-23: "THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN" - EXPLORING CHRISTIANITY, ANARCHISM, AND PEACEMAKING AT CHRISTCHURCH PITSMOOR, SHEFFIELD, See: adam.dickinson@gmail.com

AUG 3 - 11 CLIMATE CAMP - Kingsnorth Power Station, Kent: see http://www.climatecamp.org.uk/

OCTOBER 27th - Trident Ploughshares: "Big Blockade Aldermaston": tel: 07804 640 643 Or see http://www.tridentploughshares.org/section20

For more information about any of the above, you can also contact Dorothy Day House.

LCW update..update..update

Ciaron is in Poland for a few weeks supporting Damien Moran, formerly of the Pitstop Ploughshares, Dorota and others, opposing US 'star wars' missile shield plans.

Maria, Scott and Martin along with Susan from Oxford CW, are in Watford Magistrates Court at 10am on 9th April for the Holy Innocents act of witness at Northwood. Martin, Zelda and Angela are working with the local Trident Ploughshares affinity group to organise the Aldermaston Big Blockade in October 27th.

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 -

We rely on our supporters and readers donations, to pay the rent on houses and other costs. We need a total of at least £30,000 a year. Which works out at 125 standing orders averaging £20 a month. Please give generously to support our work with the crucified of today's world. "You will have your reward". (Luke 16:39)

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

..... (please specify) per month / other

Payments to be made monthly / other

First payment to be made on

..... / / 07

And monthly thereafter

Your Bank Name.....

Your Bank Address.....

.....POST CODE.....

Your account name.....

Your account number.....

Your sort code.....

Please pay: Triodos Bank Credit of:
Brunel House, London Catholic Worker
11 The Promenade Sort Code: 16 58 10
BS8 3NN A/C No: 20066996
Until further notice, the sum of the value indicated above.

SIGNED:..... DATE:...../...../07
PLEASE RETURN TO LCW AT: 14 Deal Street, London E1 5AH

YOUR NAME ADDRESS.....

POST CODE..... TEL. NO.....

SHUT DOWN GUANTANAMO (from p1)

war that escalates in Iraq and Afghanistan and expands into Lebanon, Somalia, Pakistan and who knows where next?

On arrival at the enormous embassy building, we see that those waging war are not asleep. They are alert and preparing for the inevitable blowback of their policies of bombing, torturing and invasion. There is major security related construction underway at the London embassy. Martin remarks that it looks like images of the U.S. embassy in Saigon he saw on a recent documentary dealing with the Tet Offensive during the Vietnam War. Zelda says it looked as if it will be like the U.S. embassy in Managua during the U.S. war on the Sandanistas. The revamped embassy architecture speaks of London being considered by the U.S. government as part of the theatre of war. The assumption is that as they escalate the war, along with British government, terror will be visited on London. The U.S. is circling the wagons near Grosvenor Square to insure it won't be them who gets hit!

The statue of Eisenhower, and the road in front of the embassy, is surrounded by high metal security fencing. We take a walk to scope out where we can get a foothold into this scene to set up our vigil. Grosvenor Square has a long history, thousands have gathered here over the decades to cry for peace and justice in Vietnam, in Central America, in the Middle East wherever the American Empire has extended its reach. Zelda, Martin and I, from the live-in crew at the London Catholic Worker, gathered on the other side of the park for weeks at a time in the late '90s. At that time, we maintained vigil as the people of East Timor risked their lives to vote the Indonesian out of their country. I think of the genocidal Indonesian General Suharto, loyal servant of U.S. imperial interests and one of the biggest mass murderers of the 20th. century, dying tonight in his own bed. No Hague Court or orange jumpsuit for Suharto and others who wield the sword and slay the innocents on behalf of U.S. interests.

We find a space at the public entrance to set up a vigil line. Scott takes up his position dressed in the orange jumpsuit and hood of Guantanamo. A few of us cross the road to set up some sacred space centred around the candlelit names of those who have died at Guantanamo....**Manel al Otaibi, Yasser al-Zahrani, Ali Abdullah, Abdul Rahman al-Amri, Abdul Razzak**, three of them suicides.

Martin begins reading the names of those imprisoned at Guantanamo, their places of origin and their ages. Names of those detained indefinitely that have never been read out formally in a public court. Names that are being read out now by our friends occupying the Supreme Court in Washington DC as 81 are arrested demanding that Guantanamo be shut down. (see <http://www.witnessstorture.org/jan11release>)

Twenty of us gathered from the London Catholic Worker communities, London Menonite Centre, Jesus Christians, Simon Community, three Muslim friends, an actress from the play "Guantanamo - Honour Bound to Defend Freedom" the author of the book "Guantanamo Files" and folks from the London Guantanamo Campaign who have been moving around the city in orange jumpsuits throughout the day. We start and conclude the vigil with a circle, we remember friends presently in prison - Betsy Lamb, Fr. Louie Vitalie, Fr. Jerry Zawada, Fr. Steve Kelly (www.torturetrial.org) - for resisting torture training at Fort Huachuca servicing Guantanamo and left the shrines to the dead of Guantanamo at the embassy.

Amnesty International had been at the embassy in larger numbers that morning, the London Guantanamo Campaign assembled later outside the Houses of Parliament and other friends in over 80 locations around the globe, from Shannon Airport to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, were demanding the Guantanamo be shut down.



Above: Ciaron O'Reilly outside US Embassy, January 13th

By Ciaron O'Reilly

HOLY INNOCENTS AT NORTHWOOD (continued from p1)

The Catholic Worker maintains a weekly peace vigil at the base and has been involved in nonviolent resistance since 2001. December 28th is the "Feast of the Holy Innocents" in the Catholic tradition - it recalls King Herod's slaying of the children in order to maintain power and extinguish Christ.

Susan Clarkson of the Oxford CW, Scott Albrecht and Martin Newell of the London CW, poured red paint representing the blood of the victims of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, onto the "Northwood Headquarters" sign at the main entrance to the base. They then knelt down and prayed, displaying placards saying "War shall cease all over the Earth... Psalm 46" and "We all have blood on our hands."

Meanwhile, three other Catholic Workers kept vigil on the opposite footpath reading out the names of Iraqi, Afghani, and British military victims of the war on terror. They held placards with the words "Northwood HQ, calling the shots in Iraq and Afghanistan from leafy suburbia!", "We mourn Private Gordon Gentle, aged 19, killed by bombing in Iraq" and "We mourn Roza Khan, aged 13, killed by Nato gunfire in Afghanistan". Police arrived immediately and arrested the three on charges of criminal damage.

REMEMBERING VICTIMS OF WAR

Maria Albrecht was also arrested at the scene and her camera was confiscated by police. The four were taken to Watford Police Station and detained for 14 hours. Three other Catholic Workers maintained vigil opposite the entrance gates - reading the names of the dead and singing the response "We remember you!" The Catholic Worker Farm van was later stopped by police and impounded. The support group, now on foot, was kept under surveillance for the next couple of hours.

Sister Susan read a statement saying: "We come here today on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, when the Christian churches commemorate the day when Herod ordered the killing of small children in his attempt to kill the child Jesus, to pray, to remember, to resist and to repent. We pray for all the dead of the wars on Afghanistan and Iraq, civilian and military but especially for the innocent. We pray that our hearts may be strengthened with the faith to embrace non-violence as a means of resolving conflicts.

We remember those who have had their lives devastated by war. War does not work; it kills the innocent and destroys our earth. We resist the war making machine of the government of this country by coming to this military headquarters and transforming the signs outside. We use signs and symbols to reveal the bloodshed of war and our hope that the message of non-violence which Jesus gave us in the Gospels, and for which he gave his life, will be for the healing of the nations.

We repent for our complicity in the deaths of the innocent by too often allowing our fear to keep us silent. We pray that our hearts may be disarmed and invite our brothers and sisters in the military to allow their hearts to be disarmed also. We encourage them to refuse to fight and kill".

By Susan Clarkson and Ciaron O'Reilly



Above: Haditha, by Emily Johns (www.j-n-v.org)

In memory of the massacre of 24 Iraqi men, women and children November 19 2005 by US Marines. At least 15 were civilians.

EASTER APPEAL: (from p1)

His mission was not simply to give us all the material goods we could ever want without the challenge, the discipline, the discipleship, of sharing and sacrificial giving, of justice for the poor and repentance for the comfortable and the obscenely rich. In the words of Dorothy Day and St John of the Cross, "Love is the measure by which we shall be judged".

Living With Angels: Graced by God

"Do not neglect hospitality" says the writer of the letter to the Hebrews (13:2), "for some people have entertained angels without knowing it." Well, we've had some angels for sure. And at times it's been quite entertaining too!

Wole, the first guest we took into Dorothy Day House nearly two years ago, moved on before Christmas. He'd managed to get some part time work, just enough to pay rent and live. He's not eligible for benefits, so there's no safety net or cushion for him. The second, Kwame, is in a similar position.

Some angels are more obvious than others. Our first angel was Grace. She'd been sleeping outside Westminster Cathedral, since a relative left the country, her employer went bust, and the Zimbabwean Embassy lost her passport. She had only just walked in the door when she said "Can I help" and started to work and virtually ran the house for six months. When she heard that one of our male guests had said, "the kitchen is for women", her response was to sit up straight and proud, in her dignified and elegant way, arms folded, and say "I'm glad you recognise my position." And she did run that kitchen with compassion and a strong arm (for cleaning!), despite her own troubles. We gave her a little money for herself for all her work, all we could afford. She insisted on spending at least half on food for the house. Then a new friend married, moved to Manchester and offered Grace her a spare room.

We've had other angels too. We've got some now. We're blessed with Elijah's quiet helpful presence and reliability and Juande's generosity, among others. Biblically, angels are messengers from God. When we take the time to listen, there's always a message, often uncomfortable. No cheap grace here. The role of western governments, western armies, western multi-nationals and banks, is so often part of the story: the arms trade, resource wars (oil, diamonds, coltan for mobile phones), international debt: land in Ethiopia used for growing flowers for us while the country struggles to feed its own people and pay off the debts incurred buying military equipment.



"Last Supper" by Fritz Eichenberg

Beginnings And Gifts

Dorothy Day famously wrote that "we were just sitting there when people moved in on us. It was all just as casual as that, I sometimes think." Casual, hardly, but certainly unplanned, the beginnings of this Catholic Worker were a gift of faith and Divine Providence. Our beginnings here in London have also been blessed with people, gifts of food, furniture equipment and money just at the right moment. This doesn't mean its been easy, materially or spiritually. Faith is a struggle. Trusting in God is a struggle, and we are aware of our failures in love. But somehow we keep moving forward.

The greatest need, the most obvious need, that presses in on us, is refugees' need for a home. It is a home, a kind of family, that we try to offer, not just a bed. But every time a bed comes free, there are three or four people who need it. And after a new guest has moved in, the phone calls keep coming. Its not easy to say "no" and at the same time try to keep an attitude of welcome, and speak and write of the blessings of hospitality and the grace of costly discipleship. Dorothy said, "somehow the walls expanded". But there are limits. We can't save the world, we don't need to its been done already, but it can make for a hard heart to be a gatekeeper to prosperity. That might sound strange, but the gap between rich and poor is so wide that its hard to keep finger tips even in contact with either side. On the one side at times I feel I'm living in comfort and luxury. On the other, at times I feel the social exclusion and isolation of poverty. Either that

or the discomfort of not being able to afford to pay my own way when with family or friends.

Singing Our Own Songs

More gently, more hidden and subtle, but perhaps deeper, is the poverty of spirit that we are trying to mend in the café. The loneliness, the break down of community, the lack of time, of a listening ear, of gentleness, of care. Of respect for the dignity of the person as a whole person, a child of God with gifts and personality and freedom, not a category of need that has to be measured with predicted outcomes. There have been some beautiful moments like Margaret singing her own lilting songs while struggling to keep her body under control. Social boundaries have been crossed, as when odd looking, agitated Winston helped smart Amy carry her baby's buggy up the steps. Chris's gentle listening has calmed a few agonised souls and Josie has come out of her whispering silence. We hope to that some of the activists who've visited have found hope that there is a place for spirituality in their life too that doesn't have to be hidden, and another hope that Christians might share their dreams of "a new society in the shell of the old", "a world where it is easier to be good", a new heaven and a *new earth* too, "where justice will be at home" (2 Peter 3:13).

(Names have been changed)

By Martin Newell

"Easy Essay" by Peter Maurin

What Makes Us Human

To give and not to take
that is what makes us human.

To serve and not to rule
that is what makes us human.

To help and not to crush
that is what makes us human.

To nourish and not to devour
that is what makes us human.

And if need be
to die and not to live
that is what makes us human.

Ideals and not deals
that is what makes us human.

Creed and not greed
that is what makes us human.