

**CONTACT London Catholic Worker**

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Dorothy Day House:  
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Provides accommodation & support for destitute refugees, as well as running Peter's Community café and "Urban Table" soup kitchen. Organises regular vigils and significant non-violent resistance to war and injustice, & produce this newsletter.

Catholic Worker Farmhouse  
 Lynsters Farm,  
 West Hyde,  
 Herts, WD3 9XJ

Tel 01923 777 201

The Albrecht family are providing accommodation for destitute refugees, and vigil weekly at Northwood military HQ.

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. Come and visit us! **We** 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". Or, specify how we should share it out.

**WANTED: COMMUNITY MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS**

Our houses and projects need people to run them, and we always need more support for our acts of witness. If you feel God is calling you to get involved, get in touch. Details on back page. Oxford Catholic Worker are also in similar need. Contact them at: 227 Cowley Road, Oxford, OX4 tel: 01865 248 288

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

NAME .....

.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

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

**OFFICE:**

- Help with IT maintenance
- Help fixing photocopier
- Help with printing

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS:**

- Materials for banners - old plain sheets, & paints
- Bike lights

**FOOD:**

- Dry goods
- Tea bags & instant coffee
- Rice & pasta
- Dried pulses & baked beans
- Tuna, corned beef, cheese
- Sugar & salt & pepper pots
- Tinned tomatoes & other cans
- Herbs & spices etc

**OTHER**

- Soap, razors, toothpaste, cleaning materials etc.
- Old books, magazines
- Clothes, towels etc

**CW FARMHOUSE NEEDS:**

- Food, esp. juice, rice, porridge oats, dairy products, cooking oil
- Help with gardening, cleaning, cooking, DIY

AUTUMN 2007

No. 20

**THE LONDON**

"for a green revolution"  
 - Peter Maurin

**CATHOLIC WORKER**



**Rivers of Blood at DSEi Arms Fair**

On Tuesday September 11th, Martin Newell and Zelda Jeffers poured "Rivers of Blood" onto the ramparts of the DSEi Arms Fair. DSEi takes place in the London Docklands, a place that was once devastated during WWII. The Excel Centre now hosts a £6Billion a week Arms Fair selling weapons to some of the poorest countries in our world.

**The War Machine Rolls On...**

They enacted dead bodies, proclaimed and prayed with banners saying "Get the guns out of London" and "Repent: Rivers of Blood Start Here". Arms traders looked on as Transport (cont'd p2)



**Who Comes to the Cafe**

By Zelda Jeffers

London Catholic Worker runs Peter's Community Café to "build bridges in the local area and welcome particularly those who feel isolated and rejected." The café has been open for 3 months now and I have been helping regularly for the last 6 weeks. We still have a way to go before we are well known in the locality and are working on ways to get the word out. Sometimes we are busy, sometimes quiet, and sometimes there is a group of people chatting eating and drinking and really getting on together.

We are in part of the crypt of St Peter's Church De Beauvoir Square, in an area with large pleasant houses and large council estates. The café seats up to 18

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**RIVERS OF BLOOD AT DSEi** (from p1) Police accosted and dragged the two away. Zelda Jeffers said, "We are horrified and saddened when children and young people are gunned down on the streets of Britain. The arms used are manufactured and traded – profits are made at the cost of life and suffering. We call for this to stop. We hope for a world where all children can play safely."

Martin Newell said, "the rivers of blood that flow around the world start here. This reality is exposed here today with this 'river of blood' on our doorstep. This is the price of our privileges and prosperity. Guns and weapons sold here are used by the powerful to kill and exploit and intimidate the poor and powerless. By promoting the arms trade, our government buys influence around the world, and the UK arms industry profits from death and destruction. This is wholesale gun crime. We pray for an end to both international wholesale and local retail gun crime. We include ourselves in the call to repent and disarm from the weapons of privilege. The price of these weapons is high: the rivers of blood that flow round the world start here."

"So much blood has al-

ready been shed on September 11th: a date that means sadness and shock and horror: but that can change, if government and arms companies and dealers repent today, change their ways and begin to promote peace with as much determination as they promote war."

The two were arrested and taken to West Ham transport police station where they were held for four hours before being bailed on charges of 'criminal damage'.

**"EASY ESSAY"**  
*by Peter Maurin*

**PERSONAL SACRIFICE**  
 To be our brother's and sister's keeper  
 Is what God wants us to do.  
 To feed the hungry  
 At a personal sacrifice  
 Is what God wants us to do.  
 To clothe the naked  
 At a personal sacrifice  
 Is what God wants us to do.  
 To shelter the homeless  
 At a personal sacrifice  
 Is what God wants us to do.  
 To instruct the ignorant  
 At a personal sacrifice  
 Is what God wants us to do.  
 To serve [hu]man[ity] for God's sake  
 Is what God wants us to do"

**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:.....

YOUR NAME .....
.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
POST CODE.....
TEL. NO.....

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

All our work is done 'at a personal cost': no wages are paid, we all offer our work as a gift, putting in what resources we have. As Peter Maurin said, we have 'sacked the bosses'! Our hope is that the café will eventually break even, but even with no wages, we are not currently covering our costs there. We rely on our supporters and readers donations, and we need £30,000 a a year, or 125 standing orders averaging £20 a month. "You will have your reward"

## A Subversive Gospel by Keith Hebden

Christians from various traditions met together in Bradford in September 2007 to explore what a subversive gospel might look like. In this the second annual Christianity and anarchism conference delegates discussed the politics of food, peace studies, direct action and much more.

The weekend started with a shared meal, which in Bradford had to be a curry, followed by an open-mic session at Soul Space, the city's new fresh expression of Church. It was great to see friends from the conference at Leeds in June 2006 but also to meet new people and discover again how broad and diverse Christian activism can be.

There were present those who believe that activism should be aggressive and confrontational while others sought a more fun approach to challenging the principalities and powers. People shared stories of their experiences of corporate living, taking a stand against oppression, being arrested or standing alongside those who are oppressed in Palestine while trying to reconcile the settlers with their Muslim brothers.

Annie Heppenstall led some of the delegates in a discussion about the politics of food drawing from Old and New Testament texts, a version of which will feature in the free Christian anarchist magazine "A Pinch of Salt" in December. Keith Hebden led a small group in comparing and contrasting the ways Jesus and Gandhi challenged the strength of empire, a discussion which raised issues as to how and why we lobby government.

Perhaps the highlight of the event was a tour of Radical Bradford, led by Chris Howson. For those of us new to the city it was great to see how much subversion is going on just below the surface of the cityscape: an anarchist club run on principles of consensus with a fantastic anarchist library; community driven concerns about the gentrification of the city-centre; links to the formation of the Labour party back when it was a socialist affair and more. It was encouraging that so many Christians could walk into an anarchist club and be warmly welcomed.

I think we all left feeling we had met some inspiring people and had new horizons opened up. Not surprisingly we are already looking forward to next years conference in Autumn 2008. If you want to be part of next year's conference, email Adam Dickson on [adam.dickson@gmail.com](mailto:adam.dickson@gmail.com)

**RIGHT: "Anti-War Jesus", by Kevin Larmee**



**PETER'S CAFÉ:** (from p1) and is quite well equipped. There is a small outside area where people can sit as well. We sell basic food such as sandwiches, soup, jacket potatoes, toast, juice, tea and coffee.

Things seldom turn out the way you plan and the café is no exception. We have had a great variety of customers, mothers with small children, bigger children with an insatiable appetite for toast, people who want to talk or need help and others who just want a cup of tea. I have asked a couple of the more regular visitors if they would mind telling the newsletter readers about themselves and this is what they said.

Dave is 62 he lives near Moorgate and catches a bus to come to the café or sometimes walks. He told me "Steve Barnes told me about the café, I have been coming in for about a month. I like it because it is very friendly, I like socialising. I come in one or two days a week. I would like to come every day but sometimes my sister visits me at home. The food is alright and it is cheaper than other places, coming here helps cheer me up, I am usually happy anyway. I help out

a bit when I can."

Theresa is 16 she has been coming since the café opened. She lives nearby, the youngsters were one of the first groups to notice us. She said, "I come several times a week when the café is open, it's great, it's a quiet place where you can just sit about and talk and have a laugh. I have helped a few times with the clearing up when the café closes."

Anyone who turns up can have a hot drink and something to eat, most people pay and many give extra to go towards costs. None of us who help are paid, but we do get our meals. We are covering the cost of the food but not the small rent as yet. We are always hoping for more volunteers who could spare a few hours to join us in the café. We are open 12 noon to 7 pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



## U- TURN FOR PEACE ?

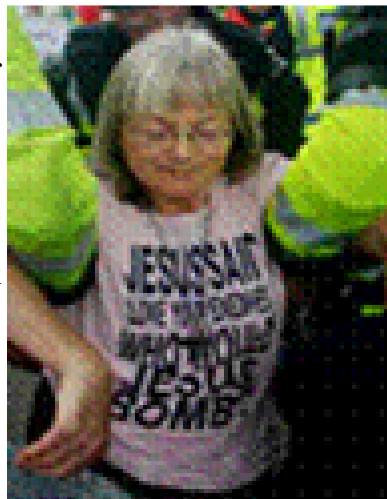
Maya Anne Evans (27) from "Justice Not Vengeance", convicted in 2005 for reading the names of British soldiers killed in the Iraq war opposite Downing Street and Martin Newell (40) were both arrested for taking part in a sit-down protest at the start of the Labour Party Conference on Sunday September 23rd. The action called for a U-turn in British foreign policy, in areas including the arms trade and nuclear weapons. Four other protestors wearing specially made "U Turn for Peace" T shirts were arrested.

Maya Anne Evans says: "We know from the polls that - contrary to Government policy - majorities of the British public are opposed to Trident renewal and the arming repressive regimes, and want to see all British troops withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Gordon Browns speech at the conference said the current line in foreign policy as regards Iraq and Afghanistan will continue. This aggressive foreign policy will increase the threat of terrorism in this country and will be responsible for the further death toll of hundreds of thousands of individuals in these countries".

Maya Anne Evans currently has a warrant out for her arrest for the unpaid fine resulting from the Cenotaph protest in 2005, on the grounds of free speech she is refusing to pay the fine and as a consequence faces a possible two week prison sentence.

Martin Newell says: "According to recent reports British war planes have dropped more bombs on Iraqi targets in the past month than in the whole of the previous three years, British troops in Afghanistan have called in US air strikes hundreds of times in recent months. Aerial bombing is like shooting a machine gun into a crowd of people: you've no idea who will be hit, so its no surprise there have been so many civilian casualties. Gordon Brown, as the T- shirt says, should ask himself "Who would Jesus Bomb?", because the answer is so obviously 'No-one'. All charges were later dropped.



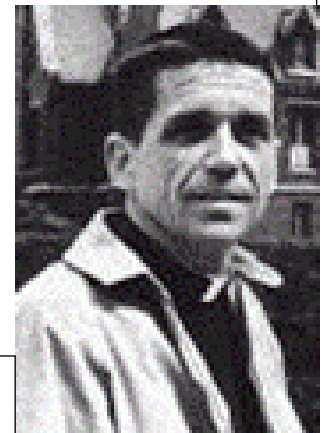
RIGHT: Police remove Pax Christi member Paddy from the road outside the conference.

## "The Trouble With Our State"

By Daniel Berrigan sj

The trouble with our state  
was not civil disobedience  
which in any case was hesitant and rare.  
Civil disobedience was rare as kidney stone  
No, rarer; it was disappearing like immigrant's disease.  
You've heard of a war on cancer?  
There is no war like the plague of media  
There is no war like routine  
There is no war like 3 square meals  
There is no war like a prevailing wind.  
It flows softly; whispers  
don't rock the boat!  
The sails obey, the ship of state rolls on.  
The trouble with our state  
--we learned only afterward  
when the dead resembled the living who  
resembled the dead  
and civil virtue shone like paint on tin  
and tin citizens and tin soldiers  
marched to the common whip  
--our trouble  
the trouble with our state  
with our state of soul  
our state of siege--  
was  
Civil  
Obedience.

RIGHT: Fr Daniel  
Berrigan SJ



**6 YEARS OF OCCUPATION** (from p11) over a hundred times. "He screamed out, 'Allah! Allah! Allah!' and my first reaction was that he was crying out to his god," US Army Specialist Jones later explained. "Everybody heard him cry out and thought it was funny. It became a kind of running joke, and people kept showing up to give this detainee a common peroneal strike just to hear him scream out 'Allah'." A coroner later concluded that the young man's legs "had basically been pulpified."

According to Amnesty International, since 2001 "[t]orture and ill-treatment of detainees in US custody in Afghanistan is alleged to have included the following methods: sleep deprivation; stripping and forced nudity...prolonged solitary confinement; ...stress positions...death threats; threats of torture; threats of rape; light deprivation; use of dogs to inspire fear...kicking, punching and other physical assault; hooding, including for days at a time ...electric shocks; immersion in water, cigarette burns; and soldiers urinating on detainees.' Today, the US continues to detain hundreds of prisoners in Afghanistan without charge or trial.

We can all hope and imagine - and for myself, today I pray - that these things will happen no more -not in Afghanistan, not in Iraq, not in Burma or Zimbabwe or Congo or Darfur - not anywhere. And I pray that this church and all churches will be converted, and become a true sign of hope and of overcoming violence and imperial expansionism. And remembering the key role of Canon Paul Collins of St Paul's in the anti-apartheid struggle, I pray this place may become permanently a memorial to peace, freedom, justice for crucified peoples everywhere.

**UPCOMING EVENTS: DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY:**

*London CW and Christian Peacemaker Teams Present*

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON  
WAR AND RESISTANCE**

***With Kathy Kelly,  
founder of "Voices in the Wilderness"  
and former Catholic Worker***

7.00pm, Saturday 17 November

London Mennonite Centre, 14 Shepherds Hill N6 5AQ

Nearest tube: Highgate. tel: 0845 4500 214

(for more travel directions, see <http://www.menno.org.uk>)

## Catholic Worker Farmhouse News

By Scott Albrecht

We have accommodated 8 women asylum seekers during the period from June - Sept. 2007. While one woman stayed with us for only 2 hours, still others remained for up to 3 months. Currently we have 2 asylum seekers staying indefinitely with a capacity for 6 in total. One of our guests is now receiving the health care and education they so desperately need. The other has found a spiritual home in the local Congolese Church.

Scott has been doing a weekly vigil at Northwood Military Headquarters. Currently Northwood is being heavily upgraded by Carillion PLC and HSBC Infrastructure Fund Management Limited. Construction for the base will cost 1.15Billion and is being carried out daily by Carillion and local building companies. This is so that the headquarters can meet Britain's military needs for the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century. Scott has been physically harassed by the police and given a written warning to desist, but that has passed and all is well. He is looking for anyone who is able and willing to vigil for an hour a week outside the "nerve centre" for the war on terror.

We have been growing organic vegetables with the help of Nik Marten and volunteers from Turning Point (a drug and alcohol dependency agency) located in Watford. We have been trading the vegetables we grow for cooking oil, jam, pasta and other foods thanks to Archie's Organic Foods of the Good Earth in Amersham. We receive regular donations in kind from Sycamore Whole Foods, Julian Graves, Planet Health and Organics, Be Healthy and The Emmaus Community. We are deeply grateful for these as well as the financial support we have received to aid our work.

Our greatest need is either for an Intern or a core community member to join us. We feel we have the potential to do much more! Please continue to pray for us. Contact us at 01923 777201



ABOVE: "The Sower" by Ade Bethune



# House of Hospitality

by Zelda Jeffers

An English friend and I were in Nicaragua. She was in the process of adopting a child with learning difficulties from the children's home where we worked and I was looking after a 2 year old who belonged to the family I was staying with. We had some holiday time and decided to take the children to the island of Omotepe.

Quiet and rural Omotepe in the lake of Nicaragua is formed of two volcanoes. The land around them is made from fertile volcanic ash. The lake water is less rough than the Pacific, so it is ideal for little children. We travelled to San Jorge by bus and got the ferry across to the island. We stayed in a small family hotel where the children were made much of.

After several days relaxing, swimming and watching the children play near the small port we decided to take a trip to Merenda where we were told there was a beautiful deserted

beach with clear water shaded by palms. There was a bus which went to a banana plantation and passed along beside the beach.

We packed a picnic and set off to catch the bus. What time did it come back? 5 o'clock.

The journey was lovely. We skirted the larger volcano and admired the smoke coming from the top, then passed through woods between the two volcanoes and came down to the beach on the other side of the island. The driver dropped us



By Fritz Eichenberg

perialism and militarism. And I would probably find something much the same if I went to the old Catholic Cathedrals of Spain, or the churches of the USA today. But for me, St Paul's is personal. And it is the church of the 'Order of the British Empire' (OBE), and a number of the stained glass windows show military themes. For the first time I took a close look at what it contains, including a large number of memorial tombs mostly of soldiers and military men, as well as lists of soldiers who died mostly in British wars of empire: brigadiers, generals, admirals, and military politicians. Many of the inscriptions include the words "died for God, Queen - or King - and Country" and the places they died in action - Africa, Asia, America, Ireland : - anywhere, in fact, other than England or Scotland or Wales - these give away the fact that they fought and killed and died not to defend home and family, but in the pursuit of the resources and economic gain that the British Empire brought and all empires bring.

Those whose tombs are contained here include Winston Churchill, who fought in the 1897 "Frontier War" on the Afghan side of what is now the Afghanistan / Pakistan border. He was also Secretary of State for war during the 1919 3rd British war in Afghanistan. And no doubt there are others whose tombs are here who fought in Afghanistan in the first two British wars there, between 1839 and 1842, as well as 1878 -1880, wars of empire.

But as well as celebrating victories- in other words 'successful' killing this building has also been the place to remember the victims of violence. Britain's memorial service to honour the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks was also held at the cathedral as was the memorial service for the 7 July bombings. We too are here to remember: but what we remember is not glorious military victories or sad military defeats: what we remember is the crucifixion of a people: that is, if we have ears to hear and eyes to see the reality of the current Afghan war, October 2001 - October 2007 and counting, and only just starting according to the military men. A war fought on our behalf, even if against our will.

If our eyes and ears are open, what do we see? December 2002: Two Afghan civilians - Dilawar, and Habibullah - are beaten to death are tortured to death in US custody. Mr Dilawar, a frail 22-year-old taxi driver, is chained to the ceiling of his cell and struck (cont'd p12)

## AFGHANISTAN: 6 YEARS OF WAR & OCCUPATION

*This article is based on a reflection shared by Martin Newell, during the Peace Walk on October 7th, the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan. We walked from from St Ethelburga's Peace and Reconciliation Centre on Bishopsgate to the statue of Edith Cavell near Trafalgar Square. A small group then went on to plant poppies outside the Ministry of Defence (MoD) at Whitehall. (see p9)*

We are walking and praying today to remember all the victims war, and the war in Afghanistan in particular. We are standing here outside St Paul's Cathedral because of its connections with war, and British wars in particular. And the ambiguity of this place represents the ambiguity of all churches with regard to war and peace. Because, when I was a child growing up in east London, I was told how, during the long years of World War Two, despite the fact that the dome could be seen for miles, it refused to fall: all through those long years - six years, coincidentally - of the Second World War - St Paul's escaped a direct hit. And so, especially during the Blitz bombing of London, this cathedral had been a sign of hope and a sign of defiance.

And so for me, it always had some of those associations: a sign of hope, perhaps even of perseverance overcoming violence. And as a Londoner, despite St Paul's being an Anglican cathedral and me being a Catholic, I always felt an identification with it as my - our - Cathedral.

This made the disappointment all the sharper when, about three years ago, I brought a visitor here to look round this famous landmark building. I realised that, as much as anything, St Paul's is a temple to im-



Above: walking through the City of London, led by a large white poppy!

off then continued his journey. We wandered along a while admiring the sparkling water lapping the gentle curve of the beach. We chose a shaded place to sit and the children were soon splashing about happily. We ate our picnic and eventually strolled along towards where the bus would pick us up. 5 o'clock came and went and we asked a passing man when the bus was due. The bus comes at 5 in the morning he told us.

We were stuck. At 6 the sun would go down, we had eaten all our food, we had two small children and nothing but a couple of damp towels to keep them warm in the night. There was a shop nearby and a scattering of houses around, the shop was shut. We sat back by the beach, no longer finding it so delightful and watched the light fade.

A woman walked along the road and approached us. She greeted us saying that her daughter had seen two foreigners with little children sitting by the beach on her way home from school. They wondered how we were going to spend the night. If we wanted we could come to their house, they were sorry it was only a poor house just up the road. We were incoherent with relief.

The woman led us to her home, a small wooden house with a hard dirt floor. We were introduced to her husband and 4 children. We explained about our mistake with the bus. Our house is your house we were told. We are very sorry we do not have any food for you but the man from the shop should be back from the town and will be able to sell you something. We got some food at the shop and went back with some biscuits to share. We all sat out under the stars chatting about our families and what it is like in England. Then with the light of a small candle we were shown 2 folding canvas beds with wooden legs covered in white sheets which smelled of the lake water they had been washed in and the fresh air they had been dried in. The family settled down for the night and we cuddled up with our children and drifted off to sleep, safe and warm.

All too soon we were woken by the husband, "The bus is coming, get up, I will make sure it stops." We stumbled awake and thanked the woman for her kindness and asked her (cont'd p8)

## in the dying moments .....

By Maya Anne Evans

**HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY:** (from p7) to say goodbye to their children. In the pre dawn gloom we saw the lights of the bus approach and clambered aboard, waved to our host and set off, our adventure had ended well.

Years later I am staying in the London Catholic Worker, Dorothy Day House of Hospitality. We do our best to welcome people who have nowhere else to stay. I am inspired by the natural grace with which the woman made my friend and I and our 2 children welcome in her home, not because she was running a House of Hospitality, just because she saw our need. On the wall we have a saying of Philip Berrigan, "The poor tell us who we are. The prophets tell us who we should be. So we hide the poor and kill the prophets." Maybe it is as true to say that the poor tell us who we should be.

### LONDON CATHOLIC WORKER ACTIVITIES

**ADVENT VIGILS**—Fridays 8.00am—9.30am during Advent we will be vigilling outside COMMUNICATIONS HOUSE, the ASYLUM REPORTING CENTRE, Old Street

**FORTNIGHTLY MEETINGS**—FOR PRAYER & ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION—Tuesdays 7.00pm—10.00pm—call 020 7249 0041 for more info.

### COMMUNITY

**CAFÉ** - volunteers needed - open Mon, Tues, Weds 12pm-7pm

**EVERY SUNDAY** - Urban Table Soup Kitchen - help needed 1.30pm -5pm

**RIGHT:** Planting poppies at the MoD after 6 years of occupation of Afghanistan: the placard reads, "destroying poppies destroys lives"



On the 6th anniversary of the invasion of Afghanistan I took part in a peace walk which snaked through central London stopping off at points relevant to British foreign policy. We visited St Paul's Cathedral, a military recruitment office, the Canadian embassy and the Edith Cavell statue. A speech was made at each location. It felt like the sleepy Sunday afternoon was being woken by approximately 40 people who feel the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan is wrong and want to make their feelings felt in the hope of creating a change in Western foreign policy.

The walk climaxed around 2pm when a bunch of us peeled away from the rest of the group to make our way down Whitehall. It's a walk I've often done over the past few years, and it always feels the same when I have the intention of participating in civil disobedience. A bit of a knot forms in my stomach and I suddenly feel hyper concerned about proceedings. The four of us Susan Clarkson, Steve Barnes [ both Catholic Workers—Ed ] Gabriel Carlisle, and myself made our ways separately to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) lawn opposite Downing St., one of the most heavily monitored areas in the country.

I got there first with a friend and immediately felt concerned that the others were not going to turn up. Thankfully they arrived in a trickle. We grouped for a second before someone said: "let's do it". We approached a brick wall about hip high and swung ourselves over. We positioned ourselves in the middle of the lawn and started digging with hand trowels. Steve read out a statement which Susan had written. It described the symbolism of the poppy: a motif for peace, a wild flower which is prone to growing on disturbed earth such as a battlefield and a crop which dominates Afghanistan.

Our "guerrilla gardening" happened to coincide with the dying moments of a Sunday football match made apparent by cheers and gasps seeping out of pubs and car radios. Normal life seemed to contradict our actions. After planting the seeds we sat and waited to claim the deeds to our "crime". 15 minutes passed and still no one came, so we left. As we walked away from the scene of the "crime" a police car pulled up and an officer jumped out and peered over the wall scratching his head. By this point we were half way down the road and planning our next act of protest.

(Maya Evans works with 'Justice Not Vengeance' ( JNV - see [www.j-n-v.org](http://www.j-n-v.org) )