

Archdiocese of Southwark  
Commission for  
*Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*



JPIC Update - April 2015

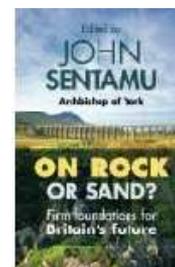
**Election Materials:** *As well as the four questions from CAFOD and CSAN to ask your candidates there are a number of other election materials on the front page of our web site, these include:*

- A Migrant Manifesto which details Six Changes we need to bring fairness into immigration policy
- The Interfaith Manifesto which calls for the Just Treatment of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.
- Pax Christi's General Election Briefing produced by Network of Christian Peace Organisations.
- A link to the CTBI Vision 2020 document and hustings guide: [www.church-poverty.org.uk/hustings](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/hustings)
- And a link to find out where your future MP stands on life issues: <http://wheredotheystand.org.uk/>

**Book review by Richard Zipfel: *On Rock or Sand? Firm foundations for Britain's future.***

In April 2010, in the midst of a financial crisis, the Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, brought together a group of academics and practitioners to meet together, take stock and try to discern a 'Big Vision' for British society.

In his conclusion, the Archbishop recalls the two Reports: Faith in the City (1985) and Faithful Cities (2006). He sees these as a 'real and courageous witness' of Christians on behalf of those who are weakest in our society. He feels a similar prophetic social critique is needed from the churches today. Among other things, therefore, the book can be seen as an attempt to return to the central concerns of Faith in the City and to resurrect in 2015 the type of serious dialogue that its publication prompted in 1985.



On Rock or Sand? includes a series of chapters by members of the symposia, reflecting on the economy, poverty, education, work, health / well-being, ageing and the democratic process. The complexity of each of these individual issues is carefully addressed. At the same time, the connection between issues is noted (eg. between education and unemployment, poverty and poor health, work and aging, etc).

A few of the contributions, including those by Archbishops John Sentamu and Justin Welby, place the economic, social and political issues in a wider Christian and historical context. All the contributors combine their analysis of particular issues with a thoughtful reflection on Christian values – eg human dignity, equality, solidarity, the common good and the biblical imperative to take particular care for the poor. The tensions between an individualist, consumerist culture and the alternative values of equality, mutuality, cooperation and trust are a recurring theme.

On Rock or Sand challenges the reader to a deeper reflection to discern a way forward on some public policy issues which are central to the crisis we are living through today. The book is extremely relevant and helpful in the run-up to a general election and as a return to the discussions which the churches engaged in following the publication of Faith in the City.

On Rock or Sand will be used as a framework for reflection during the forthcoming CARJ Urban Network Retreat 18-19 April at St Mary's Centre, Handsworth, Birmingham. For more information about this please contact Richard Zipfel 020 8802 8080 [richard@zipfel.uk.com](mailto:richard@zipfel.uk.com)

**UKIP plan to exclude immigrant children from schools.**

Bishop Pat Lynch has expressed his grave concern at UKIP's policy to exclude immigrant children from UK state schools for their first five years of living here.

A statement on the UKIP website says that immigrants and their dependants would need private education for five years after entering the UK. Questioned on this, UKIP leader Nigel Farage said it was a difficult issue but his personal view was that immigrants should not even be allowed to bring their children here, for a period of time. Once they were here, they should not be allowed to attend state schools for five years.

Bishop Pat commented: "The UK has a long, proud and humane tradition of responding to the needs of immigrants' children. It is proven that education is a key element in integrating diverse communities. I recognise that in some places there are strains on resource but as a society we need to respond to this need rather than scapegoating any one group. I am appalled by any suggestion of discriminating against immigrants." <http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news.php?viewStory=26972>

### ***The cost of the cuts: the impact on local government and poorer communities***

An excellent report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which can be downloaded from [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

The core recommendation is that the scale and pace of cuts must be reduced. Central government should shift its agenda from short-term 'cuts and savings' to supporting longer-term 'reform and outcomes'. This means giving local government and its partners the time and capacity required to develop the most effective strategies for delivering better and more sustainable services.



**London Churches Refugee Fund** is a 'small grants' fund with typical awards between £250 - £750 each, payable to charities / organisations which support destitute refugees and asylum-seekers (they do not pay money direct to individuals).

They invite organisations to apply for funds to support their work with asylum seekers and refugees. Applications must be made on the form which you can download from <http://www.help4refugees.co.uk/>

The Trustees are appreciative of the hugely difficult but valuable work that charities and community groups continue to perform and hope that the Fund will develop in such a way that it becomes a constant and reliable source of support. **The closing date for the next grant round is 30th April 2015.**

### ***April 13<sup>th</sup> - An evening of party and protest outside the Ministry of Defence***

Organised by CND the evening will feature musicians and speakers. This election we need to vote out MPs who'll vote for Trident - come to the demonstration to show all candidates where we stand. 6-8pm outside Ministry of Defence, Whitehall. *Part of the Global Day of Action on military spending*

### ***April 18th - TTIP Day of Action***

A global day of action and will send a big message to the government that gets into power in May that we do not want TTIP. Get in touch to get involved with an action in your area. [Matthew.bramall@globaljustice.org.uk](mailto:Matthew.bramall@globaljustice.org.uk)

***April 20th—To vote in the 2015 General Election you must be registered by this date. It's quick and simple online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)***

### ***April 22<sup>nd</sup> London Churches Refugee Network Meeting - The Election and Immigration Dreams and Visions***

Newcomen Room, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, off Borough High Street SE1 1HW 6pm - 8pm  
Refreshments and Registration from 5.30. Speakers Terry Drummond: What kind of a society do we want? Vaughan Jones: Questions to ask candidates. Louise Zanre: "A Better Future for Us All"

### ***April 24th - Music for this year's Migrants' Mass***

7-9pm, Amigo Hall, Southwark Cathedral - A gathering of all the singers who have prepared music for the Migrants' Mass at any of the Saturday workshops earlier this year.

### **Our Spring Assembly**

**Saturday April 25th 10.30 to 4.00 in the New Barn, Aylesford Priory  
"From prayer to action and back again - learning and doing together"**

**A day to meet others, for discussion and discernment of how to work together  
in the run up to the General Election and beyond.**

**Group Facilitators will include Susan Kambalu (CAFOD), Louise Zanre (JRS),  
Barbara Wilson (London Citizens), Daniel Hale, James Trewby (Columbans)**

### ***May 4th (Bank Holiday Monday) - Mass in honour of St Joseph the Worker***

In St George's Cathedral with Archbishop Peter Smith and Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Come and join workers, migrants and civic leaders in a joyous morning of reflection and celebration in support of all Migrant Workers. Please arrive by 10.30. There will be a finger buffet lunch afterwards sponsored by The Tablet as part of their 175th anniversary celebrations.

