

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



JPIC Update January 2013

The Housing Justice Church Night Shelter Franchise

Have you ever thought that you and your church (and other churches in your area!) ought to be able to do more for people who are disadvantaged and who have fallen on hard times, particularly homeless people? But you've not known where to start? And it seems so difficult .. so risky even? But you have a conviction that you *ought* to be doing something?

Well, you are not alone! You are not alone because others have been blazing this trail for over 20 years, and as a result there is a 'fellowship', or family of Churches Night Shelters who are already responding to the need, and keen to help others to do it, and to support them as they do it.

Churches (and others) have been running Night Shelters for many years, but over the last couple of decades Churches Night Shelters (CNS) have become more of a 'movement'. There are as many variations on the model of the Shelter as there are Shelters, but there are also common values and ways of working that ensure that the Shelter is both effective and safe in any city, town or village.

Housing Justice draws together Night Shelters and other church responses to housing need and homelessness into a national network. The Housing Justice Franchise helps groups of churches and others who want to be a part of this important ministry to get set up and established, through advice, support, training and providing the various resources required to make the project work.

How do I find out more?

In the first instance email or phone Paul Reily, the Churches Night Shelter Liaison at Housing Justice, to talk about your needs, ideas, thoughts, questions and possible ways forward. Direct Contact: 020 3544 8090; Office no: 020 3544 8094; email P.Reily@housingjustice.org.uk

What does it cost?

In terms of time, there will need to be a group of people (a Management Committee) sharing the load of the innovation; testing ideas against each other, running their respective groups of contacts, and bringing their particular perspectives. This is time consuming, but richly rewarding, especially as they see the results of people from different churches and backgrounds working together effectively and bringing real change to people's lives.

In financial terms, in the setting up year, Housing Justice asks for a fee of £1,250 as a contribution towards costs, but which also includes a Housing Justice membership fee. They also ask for a contribution towards travelling expenses for their staff when they come to visit. In subsequent years Franchisees pay the reduced amount of £750 (just over £100 per church if there are 7 churches). In all cases, if there is acute financial difficulty, Housing Justice would be prepared to negotiate what is an affordable figure in the circumstances (they would not want a Shelter to fail because of a consultation fee).

The HJ Churches Night Shelter Aim: *To develop the culture and practice of Christian hospitality to homeless people that leads to personal transformation, thus providing the foundation for movement away from the Streets and towards 'home'.*

EVERYONE CAN HAVE ENOUGH FOOD IF WORLD LEADERS ACT NOW

- IF** Enough Food For Everyone IF the UK Government keeps its promise on aid and others also commit.
- IF** Enough Food For Everyone IF Governments tackles land grabs and food is grown for people not cars.
- IF** Enough Food For Everyone IF Governments stops big companies dodging tax in poor countries.
- IF** Enough Food For Everyone IF Governments and big companies are honest about their actions.

This year, many of the world's most powerful leaders will meet in the UK at the G8 summit. This campaign, launched at Somerset House on 23rd January (outdoors!), is supported by 100 charities including CAFOD and Progressio. It is telling these leaders to change the future for the millions of people who live with the day to day struggle against hunger. The 1 in 8 of the world's population who go to bed hungry every night. You can find out more and sign up to receive regular information at <http://enoughfoodif.org>

Report on Conference: Introduction to Human Trafficking Course at CBCEW 10 December 2012

By: Jackie McLoughlin MBE

This major initiative on Human Trafficking was arranged by the Office for Migration Policy, Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales and was delivered by the International Organisation for Migration.. Pat Harman and I attended on behalf of Southwark Diocese along with reps from Westminster, several overseas chaplains and sisters working with migrants. Members of the Met, including DI Kevin Hyland, also attended.

Readers of this newsletter will have noted Feb 8th as a day of prayer for victims of trafficking. Victims of all kinds – to and within the UK, women for sexploitation, women and men for labour exploitation, children for begging and petty crime, all these have been found in all kinds of areas in Britain, towns and villages not just large conurbations. The extent of trafficking is unknown but indications are that it is on the rise. The causes are many, especially poverty and lack of opportunities.

The serious psychological and physical damage caused is horrendous but victims are often treated as criminals themselves. There are challenges around identifying victims who are usually intimidated and therefore often afraid to seek or accept help. The course covered details of the legal framework from the Palermo Protocol to the National Referral Mechanism and how trafficked people are helped.

We are all urged to be vigilant. So keep your eyes open and report any suspicions to the police or use the free phone line 0800 783 2589 where your information will be treated in confidence.

January 26th to - February 3rd - Poverty & Homelessness Action Week

CAN YOU CAST THE FIRST STONE? Christian teaching is very clear: we are called on to stand by the vulnerable and champion their cause. Action Week 2013 is calling on us to put an end to this BLAME GAME, that sees vulnerable groups thus vilified. Resources at <http://www.actionweek.org.uk/home.html>

January 29th - The Palestinian State: A Jewish Justification - World Interfaith Harmony Week 2013

6.30 to 8.30 pm at Cathedral Hall - Westminster Cathedral. In recent years interest in the Middle East has been increasing. The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is a constant theme in the media. In this talk Rabbi Professor Dan Cohn-Sherbok argues for a two-state solution to this seemingly intractable problem. Dan Cohn-Sherbok is Professor Emeritus of Judaism at the University of Wales. Hosted and Chaired by Bishop John Arnold. All Welcome Contact: dvd.horner@googlemail.com or jehangirsarosh@gmail.com

February 2nd - Get informed, get active!

World Development Movement discussions and plans for local campaigning. Get to grips with WDM's campaigns; find out about the new campaign to curb the influence of UK-based financial institutions on high carbon, dirty energy projects around the world; meet WDM activists, and get inspired to campaign on economic justice issues. 2pm to 5pm at WDM's office, 66 Offley Road, SW9 0LS. Arrive at 1pm for a 'bring and share' lunch. Free to attend.

February 8th - Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking

The Bishops' Conference commends the request to observe the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita as a Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking and those who work to combat it.

February 10th - Silent walk

A contemplative walk in Queens Park followed by some sharing and reflection on the themes of silence and nature, at the London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Salisbury Road, West Kilburn. Starting point: The Cafe at the centre of Queens Park public park. To register your interest please email jowinsloe@gmail.com Free event (donations warmly accepted).

February 11th World Day for the Sick

Since 1992, the Catholic Church has celebrated World Day of the Sick on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The day reminds the faithful to pray intensely and sincerely for those who are sick, invites all Christians to reflect on and respond to human suffering and recognizes and honours all persons who work in health care and serve as care givers. Resources from: www.nacc.org/resources/wds/default.asp

February 13th Ash Wednesday Act of Witness: Pax Christi

At the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, London.

Check our website for details closer to the date or go to www.paxchristi.org.uk