

COVENTRY DEANERY JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

CLUSTER BOMBS CAMPAIGN SUCCESS. Last December, after three and a half years of effort, we persuaded the West Midlands Pension Fund to end its last remaining investment in cluster bomb production. This means that Council Tax-payers across the West Midlands no longer contribute to this particular aspect of the arms trade.

WEST MIDLANDS FUNDING THE ARMS TRADE. This success does not mean, though, that WMPF has ended its investments in the arms trade altogether. We have barely scratched the surface. This cannot be emphasised too strongly. All major arms-dealers continue to receive a share of Council Tax revenues from all seven districts of the region. That is why our campaign has now turned to the Number 1 arms-dealer, Lockheed Martin, and its subsidiary, Leidos, which is in business in Coventry. 'Act locally. Think globally.'

A CALL TO ACTION. One of our group has been a regular attender at meetings of ACTA for some time. We are now resolved as a group to take the issue of Justice in the Church much more seriously.

CAFOD. We promote CAFOD's campaigns and actions within the parishes of Coventry, as far as we can. Not all parishes are represented at our monthly meetings. Several parishes have begun to follow the Live Simply guidelines, and others have been accredited for their work.

PAX CHRISTI. Activities and materials are channelled through the members of the group, which has a number of Pax Christi members within it. Two members of the group also serve on the national Executive Committee and are assisting the new Education and Youth Outreach Worker in her new role.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS. Coventry is a city of Sanctuary. Many groups and individuals work together to support the Centre, dealing with bureaucratic and educational issues. The well-established Peace House offers safe accommodation for a small number. The more recently established Winter Night Shelter attracts a lot of support from churches across the city, providing food and warmth during the coldest part of the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. We have begun to explore ways of cooperating with groups campaigning to end local investments in fossil fuels.

ECUMENICAL AND INTER-FAITH INITIATIVES. Wherever possible, we aim to work with Christians of other denominations, in order to maximise what can be achieved, but also because it is an element of restorative justice in itself. We still have decades of suspicion to overcome within the Church. We are also involved in finding ways to work together with Muslim communities, which feel threatened and isolated as tensions and deliberate distortions spring up.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS. We firmly acknowledge the importance of encouraging action in every form at Parish level. So we devote all the time necessary to allowing reports from across the Deanery. Every example of work for justice and peace is acknowledged.