

COVENTRY DEANERY JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

CLUSTER BOMBS CAMPAIGN LIMITED SUCCESS. Last December, after three and a half years of effort, we thought we had persuaded the **West Midlands Pension Fund** to end its last remaining **investment in cluster bomb production**. This would have meant that Council Tax-payers across the West Midlands no longer contributed to this particular aspect of the arms trade. Now we know that some investments remain and with support from local people and Councillors we are pressing hard for this to be put right.

WEST MIDLANDS FUNDING THE ARMS TRADE. Even when we succeed with cluster bombs, we know we have barely scratched the surface. All major arms-dealers continue to receive a share of Council Tax revenues from all seven districts of the region. **2020 brings the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. West Midlands money funds preparations for nuclear war. 'Think globally. Act locally.'

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. We have been studying articles by **David McLoughlin** (Newman) and **Tom O'Loughlin** (Nottingham) to stimulate thinking in this direction.

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**; these, and another member of the group, are assisting the new **Education and Youth Outreach Worker** in her 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.**

GOSPEL-CENTRED. We begin all meetings with **prayer and reflection** inspired by the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday.