

## 'A poor Church, for the Poor?'

Leeds Trinity University, Horsforth on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 11am to 5:30pm



Keynote speakers include

**Fr. Timothy Radcliffe**, director of the Lascazas institute and  
**Fr. Michael Czerny SJ** of the Pontifical Council for Justice & Peace

Follow the link on the home page of our website

<http://www.leedsjp.org.uk>

*(Book NOW for the last few places or to get on the 'waitlist' for this conference)*

## TRIDENT RENEWAL – THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Every month a convoy of lorries, marines, soldiers, ambulances and fire engines take to the A1 or M6 to transport live nuclear warheads in both directions between the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Burghfield in Berkshire and Faslane Naval base near Glasgow. This is because the Tritium gas in each warhead has to be replenished every month, and this has to be done at AWE Burghfield. At present the missiles are held on aging Vanguard submarines which will need replacing if the UK continues to have nuclear weapons.



1 Convoy of nuclear weapons on a UK public road

The four submarines in Britain's fleet each carry 8 Trident missiles with each missile carrying four warheads, just one of which has a power of 100 kilotons of TNT, equivalent to eight of the Hiroshima bombs which killed 140,000 people.

Several estimates of the lifetime costs of renewing Trident have been made; by October 2015, the figure had risen to £167 billion. The parliamentary vote on the replacement

of Trident will be happening soon.

Some have worried about the loss of jobs if Trident is scrapped. Because it is costing so much at present, workers could be given a golden handshake! However, more practically, their skills could be put to good use in other high technology applications.

The cost of having these weapons is not just financial but political, legal and humanitarian.

As was discussed at the conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear weapons, (Dec 2014 in Vienna), the political impact is that 155 countries are asking for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and the nine nuclear states, rather than being at the 'Top Table', could become international outcasts. There are legal implications, as in 1996, the International Court of Justice said that the world states had a duty to accomplish nuclear disarmament.

The humanitarian effects of Trident are already being felt, with so many of our health, education and social service sectors having less money.

Using even one of Britain's warheads could cause up to 10 million deaths and lead to a decade of climate cooling, causing serious food supply problems. The weapons are kept on high alert and ready to fire, which increases the chance of accidental use or detonation by computer hacking. The whistleblower, Submariner William McNulty, published a detailed account of technical defects, security breaches and poor safety practice



If we cut **nuclear weapons** we could spend **£100bn** on **healthcare**  
**housing**  
**transport**  
**energy**



on board Britain's Trident nuclear submarines.

Although the present government believes that Trident should be renewed, other politicians have not always agreed. In 2006 Tony Blair and George Bush agreed that Trident was a good thing, although Blair later said in his autobiography that Trident was no use militarily but kept Britain at the top table! Having found out from parliamentary questions that the likely lifetime cost of Trident renewal will be more than £167 billion, Conservative MP Crispin Hunt said in 2015 that the cost was not warranted.

The Catholic Church has often spoken about the immorality of nuclear weapons. In 1965 in the Vatican II 'Pastoral constitution on the church in the modern world' said

***“any act of war aimed indiscriminately at the destruction of entire cities, or extensive areas, along with their populations is a crime against God and humanity. It merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation”.***

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in 2006 called on the Government to decommission nuclear weapons. Their existence poses grave moral questions, as they are uniquely destructive. Pope Benedict XVI, in his 2006 World Day of Peace message, argued that the possession of nuclear weapons does not advance the security of the possessors, nor the peace of the world.

In 2013 at the UN General Assembly in New York Archbishop Dominique Mamberti said *“We cannot justify the continuation of a permanent nuclear defence deterrent policy, given the loss of human, financial and material resources in time of scarcity of funds for health, education and social services around the world and in the face of current threats to human security, such as poverty, climate change, terrorism and transnational crimes.”*

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015, twenty seven Faith Leaders, with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon, made a statement at the start of the Non-Proliferation Talks in New York, asking for an end to nuclear weapons. In his World Peace Day message 2014 Pope Francis told us *“I make my own the appeal of my predecessors for the non-proliferation of arms and for disarmament of all parties, beginning with nuclear and chemical weapons.”*

**Dr Teresa Devereux, Leeds Pax Christi Group**



There is a 'Stop Trident' national demonstration in London on **27 February 2016**, organised by the Campaign for Nuclear

Disarmament; full details at [www.cnduk.org/StopTrident](http://www.cnduk.org/StopTrident)

Further information:

Scientists for Global Responsibility: 'Trident, Deterrence and UK Security' <http://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/trident-deterrence-and-uk-security>

Chatham House: 'Too close for comfort' <https://www.chathamhouse.org/news/2014-04-29-nuclear-near-misses-too-close-comfort>

Newsnight special on Trident, available on iPlayer until 4/03/16: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zlm8q>



## NEWSLETTER February 2016

### OPEN COMMISSION MEETING IN BRADFORD

*Do you live in or around Bradford?*

The Commission will be holding an open meeting at **St.Cuthbert's church hall** on Wilmer Road Bradford at **7:00pm** on

**Wednesday 24 February**



Come along and hear about what the Commission has been up to and join in the conversation about what social justice actions are going on in Bradford and help shape the future priorities of the Commission.

**ALL WELCOME** – though an email telling us you are coming would be helpful!

### FOOD BANKS – ONE YEAR ON FROM OUR CONFERENCE IN FEB 2015

According to the latest statistics from the Trussell Trust, use and expectations of over 500 foodbanks located throughout the UK have risen substantially. Nor are foodbanks to be found only in the northern urban centres. Though the Trussell Trust is the main provider there are many others, (as well as informal parish providers) spread throughout in rural villages in wealthier parts of the country as well as the urban centres. In other words, hunger, the need for food supplies, remains endemic. There has been no improvement in the numbers of people struggling to feed themselves and their families.

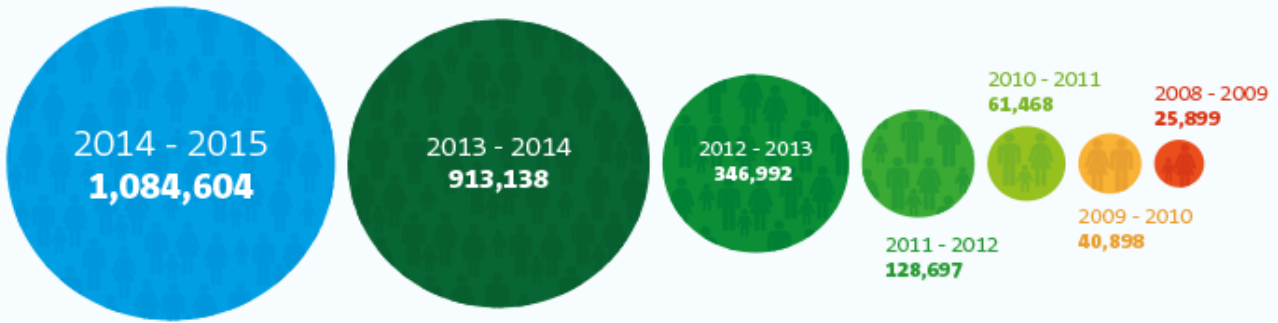
Nearly 1 million have received a three day food box in the last six months of last year. Problems with the social security safety net, usually delayed due payments from the Departments responsible for Welfare and Pension payments, was identified as the greatest single reason people are being referred for emergency food.

Benefit payment delays and changes account for 43% of referrals. Low income, not least as a result of "short hours", is also a major factor.

Increasingly the DWP and other government agencies are actually referring their clients to food banks as a result of the **failure of their own systems**. Foodbanks are being treated as semi-official statutory back up. Local authorities faced with cuts to their services are being advised to work through food banks. Moreover Foodbanks are no longer just responding to vouchers for food support but are providing debt and counselling advice which, though good in itself, is increasingly in the context of reductions in government funding for traditional debt advice services.

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**Numbers given 3 days' emergency food by Trussell Trust foodbanks**



2 Source: Trussell Trust stats 01 Apr 2014 – 31 Mar 2015

Martin Lewis' "Money Services" contributes to the Trussell Trust 'financial triage services' now provided at some food banks. But as Citizen Advice and other voluntary sector debt advice services get reduced funding, it can be an example of "voluntary substitution" that is actually undercutting statutory professional provision.

Tackling the problem of poverty is being pushed back onto the churches and charities as volunteers are expected to replace paid advisers. Of course we should respond with compassionate action and do more to personally contribute to tackling poverty and hunger in our society.

For instance, Local CABs have long championed consumer rights and debt and benefits advice and they are suffering severe cuts. The National Trading Standards Illegal Money Lending Teams in England and Wales investigate and prosecute illegal money lenders. Hosted by Birmingham City Council and Cardiff Council the teams work in partnership with trading standards services across England and Wales. This important safeguard for people who find it difficult to get a loan has had its funding cut by one third.

The roll out of "Universal Credit" in our region is widely assessed as threatening to increase the numbers (particularly of single people) in poverty.

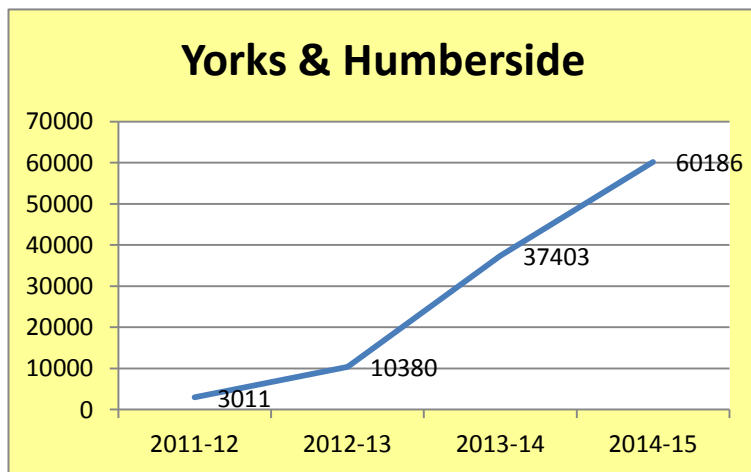
We do need food banks to continue to provide emergency provision but we need to increasingly and in imaginatively challenging ways insist on demanding why they are needed in the fifth richest country in the world in which we are told the economy is rising.

Perhaps it is timely to get onto all our MPs individually and ask how long they think food banks will be with us?

**John Battle**

**See the Trussell Trust website for more detailed statistics:**

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/>



3 Food Bank Usage in Yorks & Humberside: Trussell Trust

At the same time we must challenge both the shifts away from established structures of support and representation and the larger proposed structural changes to social security.

**NEWSLETTER February 2016****THE 2016 ROMERO LECTURE: "THE VIOLENCE OF PEACEMAKING"*****Archbishop Romero and the Search for Peace*****Wed 16 March @ 7pm****Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral, Leeds LS1 3BB**

Fr. 'Pacho' de Roux is a member of the Jesuit province of Colombia. Since the 1980's he has been a leading voice in the efforts to seek a negotiated settlement to Colombia's decades-long armed conflict. Father de Roux has received numerous awards recognising his contribution to human rights and peace-building: among them the French Legion d'Honneur, Colombia's National Peace Prize and the Chirac Foundation's 2012 prize for Peace and Conflict Prevention. He studied for his Master's degree in Economics at the London School of Economics and his doctorate at the Sorbonne. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Georgetown University's Center for Latin American Studies.

In his work with the Colombian Jesuits' Centre for Social Research and Education (CINEP), he helped broker the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the M-19 guerilla movement. He was the founder of the Jesuit Province's Programme for Peace and for 15 years he led the Programme for Development and Peace in Magdalena Medio (the EU's first recognised "Peace Laboratory"). From 2008 to 2014 he was Provincial of the Colombian Jesuits and is currently working in supporting the peace talks between the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrillas through accompaniment and

support of victims and survivors of the conflict.

*I have always been in the struggle for social justice, but I have always rejected the armed struggle. First, because I believe in Jesus Christ and cannot accept any reason to kill anyone: second, because since I was a child I heard from my parents that war always turned into uncontrolled violence which made bad things worse, and third, because I learned from my brother Jesuits involved in the struggle for justice and from many others, that the right way was through politics and human rights, making the best of all spaces available to take forward gradually those changes to build the society that we dream of. **Fr. Pacho de Roux SJ***

Fr. de Roux is a truly inspiring: a pastor who has walked side by side with communities that have experienced horrifying violence from all sides of the armed conflict. He is never afraid to uncover the truth and is an outspoken advocate for human rights even though this has often put him at great personal danger. At the heart of Fr. De Roux's message is the need for dialogue and a peaceful solution to armed conflict. He is a true visionary who has tried to find and build alternative pathways to live peacefully and with justice.

**ALL WELCOME**

- but please book via Eventbrite (see the J&P website home page [www.leedsjp.org.uk](http://www.leedsjp.org.uk)) or let us know by email that you will be coming along.

## NO MORE HEARTS PLEASE! – AND I’M NOT TALKING ABOUT VALENTINE’S DAY

Since the Paris Climate Change conference in December the whole Climate Change issue seems to have lost some momentum. This was probably inevitable given the hype leading up to the conference. Once the conference was over, people moved onto other things. Does this mean that we can forget about Climate Change and all the stuff in ‘*Laudato Si’*’?

Well, of course not. Climate change is not going away any time soon and, if anything, the imperative for individuals to take action on climate change is all the stronger:-

- The Paris Conference ‘agreement’ is not binding on Governments-nothing happens to them if they fail to attain their targets (and there is history of this happening)
- The agreement to try and limit global warming to 1.5C is an ‘aspirational target’. If you tell people that you live in Yorkshire and you aspire to continue living in Yorkshire then they will probably just give you an odd look and tell you to get on with it. However, if you live on the Marshall Islands, for example, then this means that any hopes of being able to continue living there really are aspirational.
- Whilst it is not possible to attribute individual weather events to Climate Change it is becoming all too clear that the climate in the UK is changing and that flooding and other damaging weather events are on the increase.

But what kind of actions should we be investigating further and following up on? I’m fed up with turning off the lights (and they’re all low energy lights anyway) and I’ve no wish to give myself a serious injury whilst trying to switch off appliances at the switch which are wasting a few watts on standby. I’ve done the writing hearts thing to say what I love about our planet – and along with fellow parishioners took them down to Parliament to the mass lobby in June last year. This was great but it still seems to be one of the main suggestions for action. So, what else is there that you and I could do?

One area that could really be explored a lot more deeply is the ownership of energy provision. Global Justice Now in their 2014 booklet called ‘*Rays of Hope*’ do exactly that.

Across the world we all need energy to heat water, prepare food to study and to work. Yet over 1 billion people lack access to electricity. But this is not only a ‘developing country problem’. Over 7 million people in the UK live in fuel poverty with one in five households in debt to their energy supplier. Yet, the Big Six energy companies are making billions in profit each year. It’s an interesting area that really brings into sharper focus Pope Francis’ comments in ‘*Laudato Si’*’ linking Climate Change and poverty: If you can’t afford to pay your electricity bill then you will not be worrying too much about whether you are on a 100% renewables tariff or not.

In many parts of the world people are experimenting with different ways of giving people a direct say in the decisions that are made about energy production and use. In Denmark, thanks to Government support and tax incentives, wind power provides one-fifth of the country’s energy and three-quarters of the country’s turbines are owned by co-operatives. This has inspired a similar approach in Germany where over half of the renewable energy capacity is owned by individuals or farms, much of it through co-operatives, rather than big energy companies.



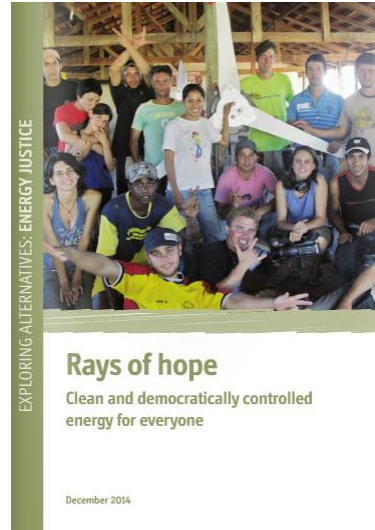
In the Mount Halimum region of west Java, in Indonesia, villages are equipped with micro-hydro turbines that are run and maintained by the community through a co-operative. The energy generated is cheaper than that bought through the national grid. The co-operative is able to be flexible about payment dates if a household does not have enough money one month. Co-operatives are democratically owned and controlled by their members. Consequently, this means

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they can focus on things like improving energy access rather than on profits for distant and unaccountable shareholders.

The UK lags in this arena – but there are energy co-operatives out there – Bristol, Brixton and Brighton to name but three. Recent Government changes to subsidies and the treatment of renewable energy sources have made the situation more difficult. However, there are still sound business cases to be made for community renewable generation projects. Perhaps your church (or, even better, local Churches Together group) could evaluate setting up a scheme in your area. Churches often have large roofs and if they are pointing in an East –West direction then they are good prospects for solar panels. I think that ‘co-operate’ – act together – might be the key word here and is what we need to do to take the fight against climate change to the next level. It’s clear that it is no good waiting for the Government to do something exciting in this arena.




By ourselves we can put solar panels on our own roof (if suitable), but if we get together to create a local renewable energy scheme (perhaps in co-operation with the wider local community) we could really amplify the effect of each of us acting individually.



I took the information for this article from the Global Justice Now publication “Rays of Hope”. It’s a good read! – and can be downloaded directly from their website








<http://www.globaljustice.org.uk/>  
**Joe Burns**

**EVENTS**

 <b>Wed 24 Feb 16</b>	<p><b>J&amp;P OPEN COMMISSION MEETING IN BRADFORD</b>  <i>St.Cuthbert’s parish hall, Wilmer Road Bradford 7:30pm – 9:00pm</i>  <b>An opportunity for anyone in the Bradford area to come and meet members of the Commission ,hear first-hand what the Commission has been doing and to share with the Commission the social justice concerns of people in Bradford.</b></p>
<p><b>29 Feb – 16 Mar</b></p>	<p><b>FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT</b>          The Leeds diocese is a Fairtrade Diocese.What is happening in your church to support national awareness-raising about the issues that make the Fairtrade movement necessary?</p>
 <p><b>Sat 27 Feb</b></p>	<p><b>STOP TRIDENT – DECISION TIME 2016</b>  <i>11:00 – 14:00 Central London</i>          CND is calling a national demonstration to protest against Britian’s nuclear weapons system: Trident. Join Pax Christi and other Christian peace groups to call for the Government to say NO to plans to spend over £100billion on upgrading weapons of mass destruction that do not keep us safe and which divert resources from essential spending.  <b>Christian groups are meeting at Hinde Street Methodist Church, Hinde Street, London W1U 2QJ at 11:00 for prayers prior to joining the main demonstration</b></p>
 <p><b>Sat 27 Feb</b></p>	<p><b>ZERO CARBON YORKSHIRE LAUNCH</b>  <i>Leeds Civic Hall, Leeds, 11:00 – 17:00</i>          Organised by Schumacher North and partners, they are “calling on climate activists, and basically everyone! – to join us ..for a day of Open Space conversation to help us create a vision for a better, cleaner, greener Yorkshire that will be free of fossil fuels in the shortest possible time.” See their website: <a href="http://schumacher-north.co.uk/zcy-launch/">http://schumacher-north.co.uk/zcy-launch/</a></p>



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 <b>Sat 05 Mar</b>	<p><b>A POOR CHURCH FOR THE POOR?</b>  <i>Leeds Trinity University 11:00 – 17:30</i>          This day conference is free to attend and includes an exciting line up of keynote speakers: It has been organised by the Las Casas Institute. See the link on the J&amp;P website  <b>Only very few spaces left.</b></p>
 <b>Tue 8 Mar</b>	<p><b>TALK ABOUT PALESTINE</b>  <i>Our Lady and St. Joseph of the Aire Valley, Bingley, BD16 1SA 19:00 – 21:00</i>          Deacon David Arblaster (who spoke passionately about this subject at the J&amp;P Palestine conference last September) will talk about the injustices being suffered by the people of Palestine and the groups that he visited during a pilgrimage in 2013. ALL WELCOME</p>
 <b>Sat Mar 12</b>	<p><b>ONE DAY COURSE ON COMMUNITY ORGANISING</b>  <i>Holy Rosary Church, Chapeltown Road, Leeds 10:00-16:00 organised by Leeds Citizens</i>          Both the diocese and the J&amp;P Commission are members of Leeds Citizens. This course about the principles and practice of Community organising is especially aimed at catholics. If you are interested in attending then please contact Tom Chigbo of Leeds Citizens using <a href="mailto:tom.chigbo@leedsCitizens.org.uk">tom.chigbo@leedsCitizens.org.uk</a></p>
 <b>Wed 16 Mar</b>	<p><b>ANNUAL ROMERO LECTURE – ‘The Violence of Peacemaking ‘</b>  <i>Wheeler Hall, Leeds Cathedral 19:00 – 21:00 J&amp;P and the Romero Trust</i>          Fr. Francisco de Roux, the Jesuit Provincial in Colombia, will give this year’s lecture which will provide insights into the church’s role in the peace process between the Government and FARC guerrillas in Colombia.</p>
 <b>Sat 19 Mar</b>	<p><b>CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS AND RESISTANCE TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR</b>  <i>Leeds City Museum, Millenium Square, Leeds 11:30 – 17:00</i>          This day is part of a 3 day international conference and this event is aimed at community groups , people with an interest in local history and academics. The emphasis of this day is on the experience, representation and commemoration of conscientious objectors.</p>
 <b>Sat 21 May</b>	<p><b>PAX CHRISTI AGM AND CONFERENCE</b>  <i>Oxford Place Centre, Leeds, LS1 3AU 11:00 -16:00</i>          Members (and potential members) are invited along to the whole day. Everyone is invited to join for the afternoon session (starting at 2pm) where the keynote speaker will be Rev.Clive Barrett talking about Conscientious Objectors from Yorkshire during the First World War.</p>
 <b>Fri 15 Jul – Sun 17 Jul</b>	<p><b>JUSTICE, POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY, HOW CAN DEMOCRACY WORK FOR THE COMMON GOOD?– THE 2016 NATIONAL JUSTICE &amp; PEACE NEWTORK CONFERENCE.</b>  <i>The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire</i>          The sub-title for this event is ‘Solidarity and democracy: politics for the Common Good’. Confirmed speakers include <b>John Cruddas MP, Jenny Sinclair, Nick Dearden</b> and <b>Takura Gwatinjanya</b>, the Program Manager of Caritas Harare. Fuller details and a booking form are on the NJPN website <a href="http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/">http://justice-and-peace.org.uk/conference/</a></p>



‘Like’ our page on Facebook and ‘follow’ us to help keep up to date with the key campaigns that the Commission is supporting.

**Please forward this email E-News onto anyone else who you think might be interested. Even better, get them to send us their email address so we can add them to our contact database.**