

St. John Fisher Justice and Peace Group Minutes of Meeting 11th February 2004

Held at: Liam's, 143 Monkleigh Road

Present: Liam, Barbara, Alan, Cathie, Julie Kelleher, Kirsty, Julie Sheahan,

Apologies: Tom, Carol, John, Eliane,

Meditation: Liam led a meditation on 'mystery', with thoughts of Cardinal Hume

Minutes of Previous Meeting: were read and accepted

Matters arising: The response to the request for goods on Homeless Sunday was magnificent, with a larger number and range of items than in previous years. John and Barbara made up individual bags of food for Sr Catherine's clients, and for 13 Christian Care families. A number of trays of foodstuffs were delivered to Asylum Welcome for distribution among refugees attending. Our thanks to John, Barbara Julie and all collectors for their efforts.

The Carj Congress Charter had been raised at the Parish Council, to be discussed at a later date. The idea of a Newcomers' evening was proposed. Liam circulated the reply to his letter to Roger Casale, protesting against Government Policy on new asylum seekers. R.C. promised to make representations with David Blunkett. Liam had written as an individual, not on behalf of the group and urged others to do the same.

Requests for Discussion Topics: Cathie mentioned a campaign by **Cafod** to 'Clean up your Computer', we are urged to write to IBM requesting that they pay workers in developing countries a fair wage for making computer parts. She will get more information so that members may support this campaign.

Unemployment Sunday: 22.02.04 Barbara to check whether we need to request a specific Bidding Prayer for this Sunday

Merton Faith in Action Homeless Project: Cathie reported on the initial meeting attended by approx. 50 people from groups such as ours. So far approx. £20,000 has been raised and a board of trustees set up to take the project further. The plan is to appoint a paid part time field worker, who will need to be assisted by large numbers of volunteer helpers. The project will focus on Homeless single people and hopes to be able to use premises in Kingston Road, S. Wimbledon.

Churches Together in Merton Park: Canon Leary, chair of this group addressed our Parish Council, looking for joint action. A Palm Sunday procession was suggested, to be discussed at their meeting, also we will invite them to our New Year Peace service.

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 5 March

Services will be held at: Christ Church, Copse Hill at 10.30 a.m. and
Holy Trinity, The Broadway at 8.00 p.m.

The service has been written by Women of Panama. All are welcome at services which last approx. 45 mins. Followed by refreshments.

St. Patrick's Dinner & Dance, Sat. 20th March Canute has offered the profits to the J & P group. The Medical Foundation, who look after Victims of Torture, was suggested and the Merton Faith in Action Homeless Project.

Prisoners of Conscience: Persecution of Christians under the Pakistani blasphemy laws. The EU is planning a visit to Pakistan later in the year. It is suggested that we write to the Foreign Minister of Ireland who is part of a Troika Committee (high level delegation) asking him to request "equality, tolerance, human rights and social justice" for all in Pakistan, mentioning specifically the case of Anwar Masih, a Christian labourer accused of blasphemy.

Write to: Brian Cowan T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs
St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Ireland

Please send a copy of any reply received to Christian Solidarity Worldwide.

Treasurer's report £83.20

Next Meeting: Thursday 18 March @ 8 p.m. at Kirsty's, 20 Heyford Avenue (off Springfield Avenue)

Meditation: Cathie

Minutes: Barbara