

JUSTICE & PEACE MEETING 18th MARCH 2004- HELD AT 20 HEYFORD AVENUE

Present: Liam, John, Barbara, Tom, Cathy Julie K, Kirsty.

Apologies: Julia, Elianne, Carol, Alan.

Meditation: Cathy

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and reported on.

Women's World Day of Prayer was well attended, the text was written by the women of Panama.

Roger Casale had replied to Liam's letter about Asylum seekers who do not claim asylum immediately. He enclosed a 3 page document from a junior Home Office Minister, setting out their reasons. From 17th December, asylum seekers had 3 days in which to claim, they acknowledge the concerns of the voluntary sector and some charities about the possibility of asylum seekers being thus made destitute but feel that they should be able to call on friends or the voluntary sector for help. John felt that if the government were draconian the numbers would be too large for voluntary sector support.

Moves are being made with regard to the Roma people .

There is no presumption that claims from people coming from the so called "white" countries will automatically be allowed or disallowed.

There were a further 3 pages about asylum and legal aid.

There has been a court ruling against the government that allows a judicial review. However, while that is being carried out, they are entitled to only 80% of benefits and have to change accommodation.

More and more people are falling within the areas of having been here over three years and having children under 18 and the tendency seems to be to allow them to stay.

There was a job fair at Kingston organised by someone from the voluntary sector, sadly it was very badly attended, only one prospective employer turned up, although the person setting up the Fair had 'phoned 30 companies, and there was also a shortage of asylum seekers, particularly men, who seem reluctant to "show themselves up".

CARJ conference: The conclusion so far seems to be that welcoming activities in parishes are to be encouraged.

There was some discussion about which charity/ies we would choose for the St. Patrick's night dance.

We were asked to write to our M P or M E P about the proposed Indonesian legislation on Religious Tolerance

John reported that he had researched the Amnesty web site, looking for some technique to enable us to write to an individual prisoner of conscience. However, there seemed to be nothing there.

Kirsty asked where we were with regard to the CAFOD "Today, Tomorrow, Together" scheme. Tom had heard nothing further but Kirsty, Tom and Liam will look on the net to try to find out if there is a method of being involved in a particular scheme without having to fund raise, bearing in mind that the parish regularly donates useful amounts to CAFOD..

John reported that Martin Way Methodists are having a Dawn Service on Cannon Hill Common at 6 a.m. on Easter Sunday morning.

Treasurer's Report: £94:20

Next Meeting: Thurs 22nd April

Meditation: Kirsty

Minutes: Julie Kelleher