

## JUSTICE AND PEACE MEETING

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2006

**Present:** Julie S. John, Liam, Kirsty and Cathie.

**Apologies:** Julie K, Tom, Carol.

**Julie and Liam** on behalf members, paid tribute to the memory of Barbara Golden who we all acknowledge was such a valuable member of our group and a dear friend who we shall greatly miss. Our prayers will continue for John and his family.

**Meditation:** Kirsty

**Minutes:** Cathie

**The Multicultural Event-** Following discussion we decided not to organise a similar event this year. Parish support for it has waned. In addition the performers were running out of new ideas, and fresh talent was thin on the ground. Credit should be given to all involved, however, as it has been a successful social occasion for five years running. Liam will consult with Canute regarding the possibility of a different event taking its place.

**ACTION: LIAM**

**CAFOD BOX:** The need to draw Parish attention to the Cafod box to encourage donations was discussed. Colourful posters and a chart beside the box monitoring the offerings might be an idea to promote more generous giving. Kirsty produced a Cafod poster and chart for this purpose. However, a new poster was recently placed above the box, perhaps by Tom, so perhaps Tom should be consulted before we make any changes. Kirsty will talk to him before putting up the new poster and chart to see if he agrees to the idea. Cathie will continue to quickly produce notices for the box if an urgent appeal for aid is required (for example, a major earthquake or famine).

**ACTION:KIRSTY/  
CATHIE**

**PROJECT PERU:** Carol Hudson, the founder of the project, has agreed to come and give a talk to our group. We will encourage members of our parish and other J & P groups to attend. We agreed possible dates for Kirsty to pass on to Carol to choose from— either Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> October and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**ACTION:KIRSTY**

**MERTON ASYLUM SEEKERS AGM REPORT:** St. John Fishers food collection was acknowledged in this report. Also, some articles on asylum issues in the report were passed on for reprinting in our parish magazine

**ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL:** Our church petition gathered 650 signatures. Some members of our group helped in the collection of these. Julie reported on a meeting she attended at Edge Hill concerning this Bill, with speakers from different faiths. Members of the House of Lords who opposed the Bill have apparently faced much scorn from their colleagues and would benefit from some public support, Julie urged us to write to one of the Lords ( Lord Alton is one of them) to express appreciation for their efforts.

**ACTION: JULIE AND ALL MEMBERS**

**INFORMING OURSELVES - REPLACEMENT OF TRIDENT:**

The group had a lively discussion on this topic. We looked at the pros and cons, the morality and otherwise of the government going down this road. A variety of views were expressed.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK:** Julie informed us that the UK Branch of Amnesty had successfully campaigned for abortion as a human right in this country and were proposing a similar campaign be taken up by Amnesty's International Branch. Julie will draft a letter to pass on to group members so that those who wish can send individual letters of protest.

**ACTION: JULIE AND MEMBERS.**

**TOPIC FOR NEXT DISCUSSION;** Julie suggested the Church of England document just published which updates 'Faith in the City', might be worth looking at with a view to informing ourselves.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Our need to attract new members, both from within our parish and perhaps by going ecumenical, was raised. The talk on the Peru Project might be a good occasion to invite other people along, and encourage their interest in joining us. An article in Talkabout was also suggested. Julie has produced a statement expressing the aims of our group, which could be the basis of an article for the magazine.. The group members will have a look at this and give their views on it at the next meeting.

Kirsty's friend, Angie, would like to come along to one of our meetings soon. Members agreed she would be most welcome to do so.

**Treasurers report:** (John agreed to be Treasurer) approx £30 in the kitty..

**NEXT MEETING: Wed. 21 June at Kirsty's, 65 Northway.**

**CHAIR: Cathie**

**MEDITATION: Liam**

**NOTES: John**

**The meeting ended with Grace.**

