

July—Aug  
2010



### Upcoming Events:

#### Visit to Tamil Nadu

From July 26th for 3 weeks

Nine volunteers including the J&P Group's Julia Starczewski and Mark Donovan will visit Tamil Nadu in India to help build a classroom for vocational training (a Lasallian Developing World Project.) They have raised £5,000 for construction and would be grateful for donations for accommodation and food at: [www.justgiving.com/Julia-Starczewski](http://www.justgiving.com/Julia-Starczewski)

#### BBQ for Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct, Lydiard Park

#### Fairtrade Event

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, St Joseph's College

#### Deanery J&P Contacts:

Fr Liam Slattery, 01793-535089  
Email: [Toveyroad@aol.com](mailto:Toveyroad@aol.com)

- **Holy Rood**  
Noreen Bint (CAFOD Rep)  
Julia Starczewski (J&P Group Chair)
- **Holy Family**  
Jean Roberts (CAFOD Rep)  
George Timuri
- **St Thomas More, Marlborough**  
Matthew Devlin (CAFOD Rep)
- **St Joseph's, Wroughton**  
Steve Aftelak
- **St Mary's**  
Roger Dyson (CAFOD Rep)
- **St Peter's**  
Elizabeth & Robert Barrett,  
John Bennett (CAFOD Rep),  
Clare-Marie Burchall, Louise Burke,  
Gitti & Eric Hayes, and Hugo James

#### Deanery CAFOD Representative:

Mark Donovan, 01793-522709

#### Next J&P Group meetings:

Next meetings: 7<sup>th</sup> Sept, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov  
at Tovey Rd Presbytery, 7:30-9:00pm.

## Refugee Week at St Jo's...

...featured visitors from Somalia and Kenya who shared their experiences and why they had to leave their countries, and assemblies on Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

## Refugee Week "Big Event" Success

By Hugo James

Refugee Week 2010 in Swindon reached a crescendo on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of June with a dazzling Big Event at the Punjabi Centre in Kembrey Street. Two hundred people packed the venue to take part in a glittering pageant of multi-cultural music, dance, fashion and food provided by representatives of refugee communities in Swindon.

Organised by Sarah Gonzaga of MTC Learning, providers of training services to asylum seekers, and Sharon of the Swindon Harbour Project for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, with support from Swindon Borough Council and the Red Cross, the evening began with a series of impassioned speeches highlighting the reality of the situation of refugees in the UK, which is that they are quite literally seeking refuge from very real dangers faced in their home countries, and calling on us, as citizens of the enlightened, civilised democracy that Britain is always claiming to be, to help provide that refuge.

This was certainly uppermost in the minds of the Big Event audience, as they proceeded to get down in time to the dance routines of children from thirty countries, sing along to the tunes of Nigerian song-smith Danny G, cheer the X-factor show hosted by his funny-man compatriot Gorgeous George, and wipe away a tear as the children gave an encore of "Mama Africa", festooned with the flags of all nations. Sound facilities were provided by the Radio Baraka Sound System (available free of charge for any community or charity event – contact Hugo James on 07786 467959 or [hugomuzungu@gmail.com](mailto:hugomuzungu@gmail.com)).

The Big Event showcased the talent, flair and contribution of Swindon's refugee communities, and witnessed to their determination to make a life in their new country. If you would like to find out about ways to help make them welcome, please contact the Harbour Project, MTC Learning, or any member of the Justice & Peace Group.

## Fun Fundraising at Holy Rood Juniors



Pupils at Holy Rood Junior School had enormous fun raising over £900 for charities this spring. Classes devised creative ways to raise money, including a sleepover, car wash, disco, design-a-T-shirt competition, and selling cakes and bookmarks.

Donations went to Team CAFOD in the London Marathon, Barnardo's, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and "His Way Up" Christian education materials. **Congratulations to all!**