

Sept—Oct  
2009



# Swindon Catholic Deanery Justice & Peace Group Newsletter

Chair: Julia Starczewski

Website: [www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk/J+PGroup.htm](http://www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk/J+PGroup.htm)

## Upcoming Events:

### Swindon LIFE AGM

Wed Sept 16th, 7pm, St Peter's Church West Swindon

### Playing God—a discussion on Medical Ethics

Wed Sept 23rd, 7:30 pm, The Pilgrim Centre, Regent Circus  
A Swindon Inter-Faith Group event

### CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Fri Oct 2nd

### Swindon rally for Climate Change

Sat Oct 17th, 11am, Cenotaph, Regent Circus

Rally participants will hand Anne Snelgrove MP a manifesto on Climate Change. Details: contact Barbara Aftelak on 536815 or [barbaraftelak@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbaraftelak@ntlworld.com)

### One World Week Speakers

Thurs 22nd Oct, 7:30pm, Friends Meeting House, Eastcott Hill

Amnesty International will host speakers from the International Solidarity Movement (Palestine)

### National CARJ 25th Anniversary Celebration

Sat 7th Nov, Westminster Cathedral. Details: [www.carj.org.uk](http://www.carj.org.uk)

### Deanery J&P Contacts:

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

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

**Deanery CAFOD Representative:**  
Mark Donovan, 01793-522709

### Next J&P Group meetings:

Next meetings 6th Oct (call 535089 for location details), & 3rd Nov at Tovey Road Presbytery. Both 7:30-9:00pm.

## Building a classroom in India

By Julia Starczewski

Sixteen volunteers from the UK, including students and staff from St Joseph's College in Swindon, traveled to India this summer to help build a computer classroom in La Salle Higher Secondary School in Tamil Nadu.

We went to this school because we had been asked by the De La Salle Brothers to help in their mission of bringing education to those who were least likely to receive it: the poor, the marginalized, the orphan.



'Presence' means so much to those who are on the margins of Society. The people were surprised to see

that we were prepared to share our time, our energy and our 'holiday' with them. Needless to say 'it was in giving that we truly received'.



We not only helped construct the classroom that was needed but we also 'built' what we know will be lasting friendships with those with whom we spent our time. It was an unforgettable experience that moved each one of us – making us more determined to act as witnesses to the Good News that is ours to share, and also to appreciate and be thankful for all the blessings that we receive here at home. Our thanks go to all who helped make this project possible – both through your financial generosity and your prayers.

## 50th Anniversary of Harvest Fast Day

By Mark Donovan

Friday 2nd October marks the 50th Anniversary of CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day celebrations, where we come together to give thanks for the abundance of good things in our lives and to share the fruits of our labours with those less fortunate. Although times are hard in the UK, in the developing world people are finding themselves facing a future where even the provision of basic essentials is uncertain. Many long-term aid programmes are at risk of closing or being postponed as the value of the pound has fallen by nearly 30%, and donations are falling.

This year more than ever we need to come together as a community to support the work of CAFOD and its international partners. Please make sure that HFD posters are displayed, that HFD envelopes are available, and wherever possible Gift Aid is used.

**CAFOD**  
just one world

### Clever ideas...

Pupils at St Mary's Primary in Swindon will be coming up with their own ideas for fundraising for Harvest Fast Day. Last year they were truly inventive... carrying buckets of water, having a bad hair day, etc. Who knows what they'll come up with this year?