

**November—
December
2007**



Upcoming Events:

Peace Vigil

Sun Jan 20th, 3-4pm

This is the J&P Group's annual Peace Vigil at the Presentation Convent Marlow Ave. All welcome.

**Pantomime Visit for
Refugees & Asylum Seekers
Thurs Jan 10th, evening**

We shall be taking children & parents from Swindon's refugee & asylum seeker community to see Puss in Boots. Please contact us if you can help give lifts.



J&P Group and CAFOD Reps stapling Virtual Village details onto CAFOD World Gifts brochures, 13th Nov

Our Virtual Village is back!

Once again, the J&P Group together with CAFOD in Swindon are running a Virtual Village this Christmas. The Virtual Village is the sum of the CAFOD World Gifts bought by people in Swindon in the lead-up to Christmas. Can we beat last year's total of £24,400?

On the weekend of Nov 17-18, we will distribute CAFOD World Gifts brochures after Mass at all the Catholic Churches in the Deanery. Feedback we received last year centred on how pleased people were to give and receive CAFOD World Gifts. In these days of heightened commercialism at Christmas, it means a lot to give a gift which responds to the needs of the world's poor.

A number of Swindon Catholic Infant and Primary schools will be participating too. St Joseph's College will be fund-raising for its partner school St Cyprian's in Uganda—we wish them every success.

This year we'll receive regular updates from CAFOD on the total spent by people in Swindon on World Gifts, so there's no need to tell us about your purchase as in past years. CAFOD provide detail by postcode (eg: SN3, SN5), so we will not have any details that would allow identification of individuals. We include only Swindon Deanery postcodes - we exclude Calne and others outside the Deanery.

New Deanery Web Site: www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk

Check on the latest Virtual Village total and find information about the J&P Group and other Deanery activities!

A Visit to Tamil Nadu

Mark Donovan

To believe that education is a fundamental human right, to believe that education enables people to escape poverty and improve their lives, is to believe in the Lasallian mission. An open invitation was extended to Julia Starczewski and I to visit India and experience the work carried out by the De La Salle Brothers for the poorest communities. Our destination was a small village called Keelamudiman in the Southern State of Tamil Nadu, where we shared the Lasallian mission with headmaster Bro Anthony and his staff at the local St Josephs Secondary School. Our tasks included working on the school roof and sharing our English skills with the children, but I feel that we took much more from our visit than we gave. To live and share with people who are not bitter or resentful about what they have, but are empowered and energised to lift themselves out



of the poverty trap is a truly humbling experience and one I hope to experience again.

Deanery J&P Contacts:

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- **Holy Rood**
Julia Starczewski (Chair)
- **Holy Family**
Jean Roberts (CAFOD Rep)
Betty Vaughan
- **St Thomas More, Marlborough**
Peter Keaney (CAFOD Rep)
Matthew Devlin
- **St Joseph's, Wroughton**
Steve Aftelak
- **St Mary's**
Frank Buchanan
Roger Dyson (CAFOD Rep)
Chris Topham
- **St Peter's**
Elizabeth & Robert Barrett
Claire Beaton
John Bennett (CAFOD Rep)
Clare-Marie Burchall
Louise Burke
Gitti & Eric Hayes
Ala Young

Deanery CAFOD Representative:
Mark Donovan, 01793-522709

Next J&P Group meetings:

December: our annual party. Tues Jan 8th + Tues Feb 5th at Tovey Rd Presbytery, 7:30-9:00pm.