

# JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP AFFILIATED TO CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TRING

## Minutes of our 59th Meeting in St. Martha's Church, Park Street, Tring on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009

**Present:** Nicky Bull (HSBC), Frank and Barbara Clark (SM), Michael Demidecki (CC), and Sheila McGrath (CC). Nicky (chair) opened the meeting by a reading from the Gospel of St. Mathew, chapter 6 "Treasures in Heaven" followed by a prayer.

1. Apologies: Canon Berry (CC), Shirley Bosley (SM), Caroline Burmaster (CC), Margaret Donnelly (CC), Janet Graves (CC), Moira Hargreaves (SPSP), Mary Miles (CC), Anne Nobbs (SPSP), Philip Scribbins (SM), Janet Graves (CC), and Paul Wright (CC).
2. Consideration of Minutes of 58th Meeting (on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2009): These were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record. Nicky wished to place on record her thanks to Thelma Fisher (HSBC) for chairing the meeting last time.
3. Matters arising: There were none that could not be dealt with below.
4. Fairtrade report:
  - 1) **The Margaret Demidecka Fairtrade Award 2009-an update:** Michael reported that he had attended at St. Ninian's School in Gourock, Scotland on 11<sup>th</sup> September to present the Margaret Demidecka Fairtrade Award 2009 to the winning primary school. The whole school had assembled and last year's Primary 7 children who had been the winning group were bussed in specially from their secondary school. There were teachers and some parents present too; in total there were probably around 400 children and adults. The children showed their "Who wants to be a millionaire" DVD. Certificates (one for each child and one for the school) produced by the Fairtrade Foundation were distributed.
  - 2) **Promotion of Fairtrade in Dacorum:** Michael said he had received an e-mail from Tara Clark (of Dacorum Borough Council) which read "As you may have heard, Hemel Hempstead and surrounding Villages have been successful in their application for Fairtrade Town status. We now feel that we are in a position to discuss the prospect of Borough status for Dacorum, and put plans in place to achieve this. Therefore we would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss this further and identify next steps. Graham Richardson has kindly offered to host this meeting at Haven House in Hemel Hempstead, and a date of the 12/11/09 has been identified at 2pm. Could you please let me know if you would be available to attend this meeting?" Nicky said she might

be able to attend and represent our Group and she asked Michael to send a copy of the e-mail to her.

Councillor Will Berdinner had sent a message saying that Tring Town Council would discuss the possibility of having a Fairtrade Town sign at the entrance to our town at their next Council meeting.

5. Assisted suicide: recent developments: Michael referred to the **Interim Policy for Prosecutors in respect of Cases of Assisted Suicide** issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions this month (as was required by the Law Lords in the case of R (on the application of Purdy) v Director of Public Prosecutions, judgement in the case being given on 30 July 2009). At the end of the document there are consultation questions and the closing date for responses is 16 December. Michael said he would enquire how pro-life organisations wished the public to respond and would report back at our next meeting so that hopefully individuals or our Group as a whole could then respond. One of the public interest factors against prosecution set out in the document (in paragraph 21) was “(10) the victim [meaning the person who was assisted in committing suicide] has considered and pursued to a reasonable extent recognised treatment and care options.” One comment we thought could be made to this was that the following could be added “There should be supporting evidence as well as evidence of the suspect. Evidence of family consultation should be taken into account.”
6. Promotion of Palliative care: Sheila read out her proposed wording for the advertising flyer we are to prepare for the proposed meeting on palliative care on either 13 or 20 November in the High Street Baptist church hall (a provisional booking having been made for both of these dates). Her wording was approved by the meeting and Sheila Lewington of CC is to be asked to design the flyer for us. Dr. Kathy Myers, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Welwyn Garden City is to be one of the speakers at the meeting and the other is to be a representative of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. They are to be asked which of the two proposed dates they would prefer. It was thought that the meeting should start at 7.30pm for 8pm and that each of our two speakers should speak for half an hour so there could be questions taken then from 9pm to 9.30pm.
7. Equality Bill: Michael reported that there is still no date set yet for the Report stage in the House of Commons.
8. Tring Guide to Local Produce: Michael reported that an updated version (kindly laid out by Margaret Donnelly) had gone to the printers to-day and that hopefully 1000 copies would be ready by 8<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting acknowledged with thanks their appreciation to Margaret for giving her time to our Group in this way.
9. Apple Fayre (including the Eco Fair): Michael passed round copies of the draft programme of events for Tring’s Own Apple Fayre 2009 (which runs from 5<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November). Michael is to pass Nicky copies of the new edition of the Tring Guide to Local Produce and also the rest of our stock of the “Our

Climate is in our Hands” postcards addressed to the Prime Minister, for her to take to the Eco Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> October. Michael drew attention to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October when there will be recognition of the Apple Fayre at the 10.30am Mass at Corpus Christi Church followed by Fairtrade refreshments afterwards in the Church hall, this latter event being hosted by our Group. Michael said he had taken photographs of Tring farms and of Jeacock’s Orchard which will be exhibited in Tring Library from 19<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November as part of the Apple Fayre’s programme of events.

10. Nigerian water project: Michael said we had been again asked if we would sell packs of Christmas cards as a way of fundraising for the gifts4living charity. Michael is to request a few packs for passing to CC, SM and HSBC for sale there.
11. Any other matters: Michael will arrange and send out details of a rota of persons who will help Moira Hargreaves with her Fairtrade (Traidcraft) stall at Tring Farmers’ Market on 17<sup>th</sup> October.
12. Dates of future meetings: 2<sup>8th</sup> October at High Street Baptist Church, 25<sup>th</sup> November in St. Peter and St. Paul’s Church Hall, and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010 in Corpus Christi Church hall.

Nicky concluded the meeting with a prayer.