

Oct-Dec
2017

Upcoming Events:

Join our J&P meetings for 3 promising talks in early 2018

Experiences in Zambia

Wed 21st Feb, 7:30pm

Brenda Johnson from Holy Family Church will be talking and presenting about her time in Zambia along with a Sister from the Presentation Convent who worked in Zambia.

Justice & Peace in the Islamic Faith

Mon 19th Mar, 7:30pm

Waleed Ahmad will be the speaker. He is the Vice Chair of the Swindon Interfaith Group and a leader at the Al-Habib Islamic Centre in Gorse Hill (al-habib.co.uk). He has been on BBC Radio Swindon many times.

Social Work in Swindon

Wed 11th Apr, 7:30pm.

Basil Ferguson will be the speaker. He is an experienced Social Worker. He has worked for Swindon Borough Council on child protection, families and children with special needs, and fostering and adoption. He continues to do social work, but now as an independent. He will talk about his experiences, and looks forward to your questions.

For details of the venue for the above 3 events, please email swindon.deanery@me.com

Deanery J&P Contacts:

- **Holy Rood**
Paul Hatch, Noreen Bint
- **Holy Family**
George Timuri
- **St Joseph's, Wroughton**
Steve Aftelak
- **St Mary's Cricklade**
Monica Potter
- **St Mary's Swindon**
Rachel Pryor, Mark Donovan
- **St Peter's**
Liz & Robert Barrett, Louise Burke, Phil Dorning, Esther Gueu, Gitti & Eric Hayes, and Sameh Salar

Deanery CAFOD Rep:
Deacon Terry Aspell

Next J&P Group meetings:

Wed 3rd Jan, Wed 21st Feb, Mon 19th March, Wed 11th Apr. Meetings are 7:30-9pm. For venue or enquiries, email swindon.deanery@me.com

Swindon Catholic Deanery Justice & Peace Group Newsletter

J&P Group Chair: Steve Aftelak

Website: www.swindoncatholicdeanery.co.uk; select "Justice & Peace Group"

Biggest ever Threshold Sleep-out raises £14,000 for the homeless

On Friday 1st December at Immanuel Church in Upham Road, the local charity Threshold hosted its annual Sleep-out fund raiser. Over 50 people took part: mainly young people, but also Terry Dixon from St Peter's, and for the 26th year running, 85-year-old Sister Mary from Holy Rood church. It was brilliant to see so many youngsters getting involved and supporting this cause despite the cold. So far approx. £14,000 has been pledged.

What does Threshold do? Each night of the year, the Outreach team from Threshold Housing Link scour the streets of Swindon looking for rough sleepers. For example, on Wed 29th November they made contact with 28 individuals in order to try and help them get off the streets and into sheltered accommodation, and ultimately, if possible, back into mainstream living in a home of their own. In 2017 the Outreach team has helped 144 different homeless people (mainly men).

How to help: In January Threshold will be launching a 'Blanket' appeal. So, if you have any un-wanted bedding, towels or men's coats, please save them up for when the appeal starts. For details contact Threshold on 01793 524661 or www.thl.org.uk

Fundraising success for The Harbour

The past few months have seen enormous support for The Harbour Project for refugees and asylum seekers in Swindon:

- ✂ The annual Quiz Night on 7th October at St Joseph's College raised over £1,500—what a great night out! (Next year's Quiz Night is Friday April 13th 2018)
- ✂ The annual Curry Night at The Jewel in the Crown on 4th December raised just over £1,000 (see photo right)
- ✂ Thamesdown Bus Company agreed to match-fund donations from the public to provide a total of £300 a month to help refugees living in Swindon reach vital appointments.



"The play's the thing" for peace

One of Shakespeare's famous quotes, "the play's the thing", is used by the author Michael Morpurgo to explain the astounding success of the play "War Horse" based on Morpurgo's book of the same name. Over 7 million people have seen the play War Horse since its premiere in 2007, and it is currently on its second UK national tour.

The play War Horse shows the horror of war from all sides, as well as the moving way in which people care for each other and for animals through the horror. Words cannot describe war, but perhaps a play can get closer to the reality. As we approach the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in 2018, plays and other forms of art can help us reflect on how important it is to continuously work for peace.