

Livesimply – making connections

Try this fun workshop and get your young people to think outside the box and make connections.....

Introduction - A theft from the poor

This workshop is based on the Pax Christi briefing paper 'A theft from the poor' which can be downloaded from the Pax Christi website at <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/Documents/Theft%20from%20poor.pdf>

'A theft from the poor' is how Pope Paul VI described the money spent on arms: a theft from the poor and a scandal while schools and homes and hospitals remain unbuilt.¹ That was 40 years ago when he wrote *Populorum Progressio* - an era when the cold war between east and west was fuelling the arms race. But 40 years later the money spent on arms continues to rob the poor. Armed conflict blocks development and human progress; wars make sure that poor people stay poor. Making poverty history is a practical possibility but "Making Poverty History" must also mean making war history.

This workshop helps young people make the connections between different areas of Catholic Social Teaching – war, peace, the environment, sustainability, conflict, development, poverty. When we understand the connections we can take more effective action to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor.

The workshop is inspired by 'A little piece of peace' the winning entry to Pax Christi's youth contest, which shows the links between peace, war, poverty and the environment. It can be downloaded from <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/PeaceEd.HTML>

¹ Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio, The Progress of Peoples*, 1967, #53

Opening activity

Read out this verse from scripture.

“And God saw everything that he had made and, behold, it was very good.”
(Genesis 1.3)

Ask the group to each share one thing in the world that is ‘very good’ and that they are grateful for.

Show the PowerPoint presentation ‘A little piece of peace’, downloadable from the Pax Christi website at <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/PeaceEd.HTML>

Discussion

Which of the images attracted/surprised you the most?

Why do you think this was?

What is your experience of poverty, war, and destruction of the environment?

Can you say in one sentence what this tells us about the connections between peace, care for the earth, and development?



Engage

Activity 1 – Only connect!

This activity helps people make connections between different issues and see how the different parts of the *Livesimply* challenge are interrelated.

You will need

- 7 'bases' – chairs will do. Each with one a clear 'sign' as to what it is e.g. natural resources, climate change, poverty, war, military spending, refugees, the arms trade - you can add your own.
- 7 balls of coloured wool – one for each base, tied to the leg of a chair.
- Blank strips of paper (a different colour for each base if possible) and pens for each base.
- 7 copies of the 'only connect' newspaper headlines sheet – one for each base.
- Copies of the 'only connect' poster sheet – 1 between 2



What to do

- Number off up to 7 – send each group to a base.
- Explain that each group has a few minutes to read the 'only connect' sheet, look at the other bases and decide how their base is in any way connected or linked with another base.
- Write down this link in a few words and send an 'ambassador' with the link, and the ball of wool, to the other base.
- Wool is wound around a leg of this base and the link slip is left at the base, before returning home.
- Allow this to continue for about 10 minutes.
- Ask for volunteers to read out one or two of the link cards from each base.

Discussion

What do we see in the centre of the room?

What does this tell us about the way these issues and concerns are connected?

Hand out the only connect posters sheet.

What connections does each poster make?

How do our own lives, and the choices we make connect with the issues in each poster?

Read out this quote:

“...Peace is the fruit of anxious daily care to see that everyone lives in justice as God intends” Pope Paul VI *Populorum Progressio* #76.

What do you think this means? What do we need to change in our daily lives to ensure that everyone can share in God's peace and justice?

Activity 2 – A budget for Human Security

This activity challenges the mainstream view of security based on power and military force and helps young people think about what security means to them and their own priorities for the world.

You will need

Sets of budget cards – enough for each small group.
Flip chart and marker pens – 2 different colours

What to do

Write the word security in the centre of a large sheet of paper. Ask the group what words or images come into their mind and record these on the sheet.

Next ask them to think of a time or place when they have felt secure. What helped them feel secure? Using a different colour record these things on the sheet.

Give a set of 'budget cards' to each small group, including a few blank cards for their own ideas. Ask the group to arrange the cards in order of priority – what would they spend the budget on? Why?

Tell the groups they are going to present their budget to the rest of the group. What are their priorities? How will this affect people's lives? How will this budget make people and the world more secure/a better place to live?

Discussion

Read out these quotes or display them somewhere in the room.

"What is more human? The end of want; everyone having enough; the end of social ills of every kind; more knowledge; more culture; respect for the dignity of others; the spirit of poverty (Mt 5:3); cooperation for the common good; the will of peace."

Pope Paul VI, Populorum Progressio #21

"Justice will produce calm and security forever" Isaiah 2

"A budget is a plan of the way we intend to use our money and resources. A budget is a spiritual, an acid test of where our heart is...." Sr Mary Evelyn Jegan.

Does your budget reflect the values of the gospel? Does it bring good news to the poor and set the captives free? Does it respect the dignity of every human life?

Think about the choices you make in your own lives. Do they uphold the dignity of each human person? Do they safeguard the lives of others and of our planet?

Act

Why not... do a peace audit of your church?

Use the sheet in the appendix to do a simple peace audit of your church. Share the results with the rest of the church community. What action could you take to raise awareness of some of the issues you have explored in this workshop?

Could you arrange a meeting? Could you take action on one of the issues highlighted by your peace audit?

Closing prayer

Pax Christi Daily Prayer

Thank you loving God

For the gift of life
For this wonderful world which
we all share
For the joy of love and friendship
For the challenge of helping to build
your kingdom.

Strengthen

My determination to work for a world
of peace and justice
My conviction that, whatever our
nationality or race,
we are all global citizens,
one in Christ
My courage to challenge the
powerful with the values of the Gospel
My commitment to find nonviolent
ways of resolving conflict
- personal, local, national and international
My efforts to forgive injuries and to love
those I find it hard to love.

Teach me

To share the gifts you have given me
To speak out for the victims of injustice
who have no voice
To reject the violence which runs
through much of our world today.

Holy Spirit of God

Renew my hope for a world free from
the cruelty and evil of war
so that we may all come to share
in God's peace and justice. **Amen**

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climate change
hit poorest
dest, say
scientists

50m environmental refugees
by end of decade, UN warns

Climate change
could lead to global
conflict, says Beckett

Foreign secretary warns of
battle for scarce resources

Climate change as a security threat, and Mrs
Beckett used British chairmanship of the
UN security council in April to convene
the council's first debate on the issue

Katrina uncovers the forgotten
queues at America's soup kitchens

an 80-hour week for 5p an hour:
the real price of high-street fashion

Stores in Bangladesh are
pledging to workers
by big UK retailers

Exploitation is the
price of cheaper
food, says Oxfam

Our willing
executioners

Paul Oestreicher

Holocaust Memorial Day
underlines the madness
of maintaining Britain's
murderous capability

Checkpoints hurt Israeli security, says World Bank

Restrictions 'devastating'
Palestinian economy
Prosperity would benefit
both sides, report claims
Global Dispatch 7 Jul 2005

Only greater rights for women
can end poverty, warns UN

ONLY

Doctors attack Lancet
owner's arms fair links

What's it worth?

Evidence is growing that countries which abuse nature are getting poorer. John Vidal reports on
the new economics of ecological capital that is overturning traditional ways of calculating wealth

in the UK, for eye
donations, these

6p a T-shirt. 30p an hour for shelling cashews.
Supermarkets accused of exploiting women

Victims of conflict

Rich or poor, a million Iraqi refugees
strain the hospitality of Jordan

connect!

Climate change and
pollution are killing
millions, says study

9. 6. 10. 05

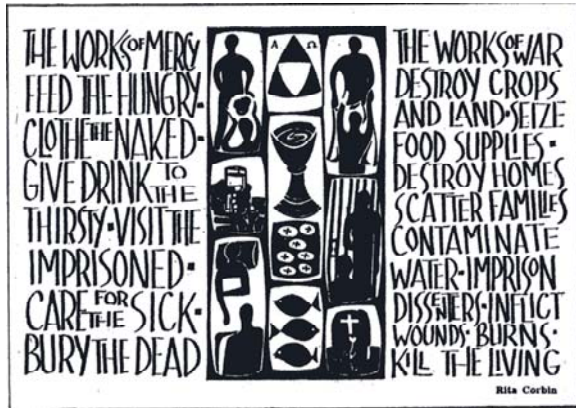
Poor sanitation to blame,
says World Bank report
Economic growth stalled
by environmental factors

Sanitation, says the bank, which is
committed to increasing spending on
environment, is very much
"problem", with spend-
ments estimated
less than 10%
M

God and mammon on
Sister Patricia Daly is a nun
with a fund

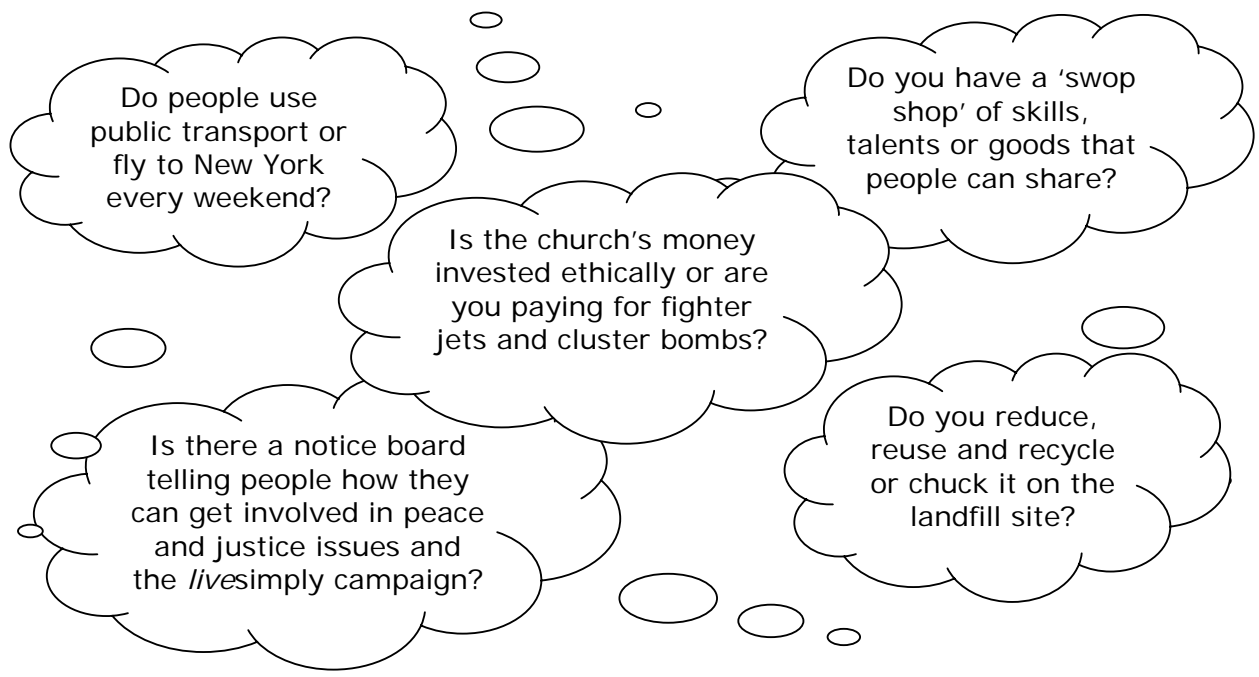
Subsidising cows while milking the poor

Posters for 'only connect' activity



A budget for Human Security – Budget cards

The army	Student grants	Nuclear weapons
Security services and MI5	Social housing	Education and schools
Peace building and conflict prevention	Drug rehabilitation	Overseas aid and development
Youthwork	National Health Service	Pensions and care for the elderly
Public transport	Nuclear weapons	Airport expansion
Prisons	Culture and the arts	Police force
Renewable energy	Recycling projects	



PEACE

Is your church living simply?

