

We need your  
**HELP!**

In the Garden

Weeding

Cutting grass

Picking fruit

Making jam

Cleaning the  
house

Moving furniture

General DIY

Counselling

Give us a ring if  
you have some  
time to spare.

## Join our Weekly Vigil

We sustain a weekly Vigil at the Army Recruitment Centre in Watford proclaiming, "Mourn the Dead, Heal the Wounded, and End the Wars" (see photo below).

Please get in touch if you would like to join us.. 07983477819.



**EASTER 2012**

*"This is the Way; Walk in it"*



Artist Rita Corbin, whose tender line drawings graced the pages of Catholic Worker journals for decades, died on Nov. 17 2011 from injuries suffered in a car crash. Rita was 81.

There is not one way. There are in fact many. Perhaps an almost infinite number. Every time and every place and every person within that time and place is embedded within a new context. A context in which a theology relevant to a specific historical event is possible. This is why God can say "now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation" It's NOW! So the 'when' that we need to be aware of is 'now'.

It has been said that the early Christians were followers of The Way. Paul persecuted followers of The Way (Acts 22). Some say that when Jesus calls a man, he calls him to walk in The Way. And that The Way leads to Jerusalem, and The Way leads to confrontation with the powers and principalities,

*(Continued on page 2)*



### The Catholic Worker Farm

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Old Uxbridge Road,  
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WD3 9XJ  
Hm:01923 777201  
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Web Site:

[www.thecatholicworkerfarm.org](http://www.thecatholicworkerfarm.org)

E-mail:

[thecatholicworkerfarm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thecatholicworkerfarm@yahoo.co.uk)



Join the  
Catholic Worker Farm  
Facebook Group

### Welcome to our Roundtable Discussions

Every 1st Tuesday of the month  
7 pm @ The CW-Farm

We begin with a simple meal, then a topic is presented for us to clarify our thoughts together.

**1 May:** Ciaron O'Reilly, International Peace Activist.

**5 June:** Scott Albrecht, A Catholic Worker Theology.

**3 July:** Chris Cole, "Drones, Afghanistan and beyond."

**7 August:** Ben Griffin, Former SAS soldier who refused to return to Iraq.

**4 Sept:** tba

**2 Oct:** tba

*Before coming please call Scott on 07983477819  
for more details.*

**WELCOME TO OUR  
OPEN DAY**

June 16th

Snacks & Drinks 3pm

International Buffet 6pm

Chat, meet us, learn about our work.

Enjoy live music, food and bonfire.

Space to camp and beds available.

At Catholic Worker Farm, Lynsters Farm, Old Uxbridge  
Road, West Hyde, Herts, WD3 9XJ, tel. 07983477819

## Julian Assange

Julian Assange is the creator of Wikileaks. Wikileaks has revealed the following:

- 1) Iraq War Logs show US ignored torture allegations, Telegraph, October 22, 2010.
- 2) Foreign contractors hired Afghan 'dancing boys', Guardian.co.uk, December 2, 2010.
- 3) Guantanamo Files: Judging Detainees' Risk, Often With Flawed Evidence, New York Times, April 24, 2011.
- 4) Iraq War Logs Reveal 15,000 Previously Unlisted Civilian Deaths, Guardian.co.uk, October 22, 2010.
- 5) Leaked video shows US military killing of civilians, Reuters staff, France 24, July 27.
- 6) U.S. Fought to Lower Minimum Wage in Haiti So Levis Would Stay Cheap, Business Insider, June 3, 2011.
- 7) Wikileaks Sparked The Tunisian Crisis, Business Insider, January 14, 2011. (Arab Spring)
- 8) FBI trained Egypt's state security 'torturers,' The Raw Story, February 9, 2011.
- 9) Hillary Clinton ordered U.S. diplomats to spy on UN leaders, The Daily Mail, November 29, 2010.
- 10) Japan Earthquake: Government Warned About Nuclear Plant Safety in 2008, Huff. Post, March 16, 2011.
- 11) Cable reveals US behind airstrike that killed 21 children in Yemen, The Raw Story, December 2, 2010.

**DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER**

“This is the Way...”

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Way leads to death and The Way leads to resurrection.

There is a personal cost for those who walk in The Way. I have not paid it, but others have paid it with their lives. I am thinking of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Bishop Oscar Romero,

Jean Donovan, Sr. Dorothy Stang (pictured below after being assassinated for standing up for the land rights of indigenous Amazonians).

We ourselves worship an executed prisoner from an occupied region during the first century. Jesus was aware that in his time and in that place God was always desiring to recreate the cosmos, the world.

One Way that we try to walk in is what I like



## Who We Are:

**Scott Albrecht**, Former U.S. Military and Chaplain, Third Order Franciscan, BA, MA in Applied Theology, Faith Based Peace Activist. Scott and his wife Maria have accompanied homeless men and women at various times over the past 18 years.

**Maria Albrecht**, IT Manager, Third Order Franciscan; PGCE and a Diploma in Compassionate Ministry from the Diocese of Chicago in the USA. The Albrecht family consists of Scott and Maria and their children, Shoshannah, Christian, Justin and Francis.

**Mirjam Johansson** (Sweden), community member since 2009. She studies Intercultural Therapy and has a BA in Engineering.

We also live with volunteers who come for shorter periods, currently **Angela** and **Sarah**. They bring with them many gifts and skills which are greatly appreciated.

## What We Do:

The Catholic Worker Farm takes its inspiration from the international Catholic Worker movement founded by Dorothy Day in New York (1930's). The Catholic Worker seeks to live out Catholic social teaching through practicing the Works of Mercy. The CW-Farm and Mary House provide accommodation, food, English lessons, counselling and other services for 16 destitute female asylum seekers and their children, at no cost.

All of the women were street homeless and referred to us by Refugee Services. We live with our guests full time and share common living areas.

We are not salaried but rely on donations (see Standing Order form on page 10); supplementing our expenses from our personal savings when necessary. We work to maintain a large organic vegetable garden to help sustain our household.



Bottom L-R: Justin, Francis, Maria & Scott Albrecht, Angela Formby & Mirjam Johansson.

# A Litany on the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**Lord, make us instruments of your peace.**

Lead us to embrace the war-torn world;  
lead us to present our bodies on the violent streets  
to cry out for justice and plant the seeds of peace.

**where there is hatred, let us sow love;**

Hatred spews from radios  
and the mouths of so-called leaders.  
They say that love is weakness.  
Give us the courage of Jesus to sow strong love.

**where there is injury, pardon;**

So many of us have been injured by poverty,  
prison,  
violence, hunger and homelessness.  
Help us to welcome the justice of the Beloved Community  
where forgiveness will bring new life.

**where there is doubt, faith;**

Modern life whizzes  
by in a cacophony of noise and images.  
Help us to be still and quiet  
to know you are the Holy One  
and to see you in the face of the poor.

**where there is despair, hope;**

Our land is awash in the tsunami of despair,  
O God!  
Please reach out your hand  
and make a way out of no way.

**where there is darkness, light;**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light:  
those who dwell in the land  
of the shadow of death,  
on them the light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

**and where there is sadness, joy.**

Oppression dehumanizes us all:  
oppressed and oppressor alike.

Show us the path to justice  
that we might break the chains  
and embrace the freedom that brings joy  
and abundance for all.

**O Divine Leader,**

You are the Holy One.  
Only you can show us how to throw off  
the system of domination and Empire.  
Yours is the Beloved Community.

**grant that we may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;**

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

**to be understood as to understand;**

Give us ears to hear and hearts to understand.

**to be loved as to love;**

And now faith, hope and love abide, these  
three; and the greatest of these is love. (1st  
Cor. 12:13)

**for it is in giving that we receive;**

Ask and it will be given you;  
seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened for you.  
(Matthew 7:7)

**it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;**

Forgive us our wrongs  
as we forgive those who have wronged us.

**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal  
life.**

We know love by this,  
that Jesus laid down his life for us —  
and we ought to lay down our lives  
for one another. (1st John 3:16)

to call, “A Contextual Theology for the First World and Frank Cordaro, from the Des Moines Iowa Catholic Worker likes to call “The Resistance Church”. This Way involves reversing the desire for upward mobility and living in community with the poor. It is when we listen to their stories that we resist the powers and principalities that create a culture of death.

It involves creating houses of hospitality where we ourselves live and work without pay. Bringing in the poor and the outcast and sitting at meal feet to feet with those who have been denied justice, tortured, raped, invaded, colonised or dictator(ed) out of their own homes and countries. They talk, and weep and we hear and learn. Paulo Freire says that, “those who authentically commit themselves to the people must re-examine themselves constantly. This conversion is so radical as not to allow for ambivalent behaviour... Conversion to the people requires a profound rebirth. Those who undergo it must take on a new form of existence; they can no longer remain as they were.”

And so we ask, why the poor are poor. Is it because we will spend £96 billion on Trident Nuclear Weapons systems? Because Whitehall funded the Iraq Invasion at “£9.24 billion”? Is it the “£20.34 billion total cost of the Afghan war”? Is it because “more than £100 billion a year is lost because of abuse, of loopholes in the tax system, tax bills remaining unpaid and from illegal non-payment of tax.”? Is it the Bank Bailout?, “the government bailed the banks out to the tune of £123.93bn. And at its peak had liability for the banking crisis of 1.2 trillion.” *Guardian Sept. 2011*

A few friends suggest to me that if that cash was used for the common good we could waive tuition fees, scrap prescription payments, offer free dental care, stop cutting disability benefits. I have been reviewing the annual UK budget and it is frightening; Education £58 Billion, Health Care £108 billion. And we are told that we have to cut public spending. Misappropriation of Public Funds comes to

mind. We have also been told that the way out of the recession is to consume more goods and services.

There is another way. Jesus “Set his face like flint towards Jerusalem” when he was making his “departure“ or Exodus from this world. He knew that the prophets before him who faithfully walked in The Way and had learned to listen; both to the cry of the poor and to God had paid the ultimate price for their faithfulness. And he knew that he too would have to lay down his own life for his friends.

I spoke to a bin man today and he said that he had been living in Mill End in a cul-de-sac for 28 years and he didn’t know who his neighbours were. I could see the lament on his face. We have become alienated from one another, closed off, and we will suffer for it if we do not break through our self imposed isolation. The Martyrs in the church walk to Jerusalem and give their lives for their Friends. I am tempted to sit in a comfortable chair, watch Friends on the television and believe that I have some. Why would I lay down my life if my Friends are in a box?

Early on I wrote that every moment is pregnant with opportunities to recreate a just world. God beckons us to transform a culture of death into a kingdom of life. A culture of greed into one of sharing, mutuality and friendship. A culture of wayward strangers into a cultus of those friends who walk in The Way carrying each other and sharing the physical burdens as well as the spiritual and emotional ones. We must not give up the Walk. We must pray for the courage to resist the 1% who control and distort the road ahead. Who would sell our friend for thirty pieces of silver if they could.

This has been a difficult article to write. It deeply challenges me. I am afraid, and feeling alone until I reflect on Jesus at Gethsemane. Tempted to allow the cup to be taken from him, but willing to allow the grace to drive him forward for, “the hope that was set before him” Heb. 12:2 That hope was that his friendship with the Father was a bond of love that death itself could not destroy. That after he had lived

Adapted by Murphy Davis  
Published in Hospitality, October 2011

*(Continued from page 3)*

a life in justice, the father will resurrect his faithful one.

I grieve for lack of courage. Courage must hold dear to and walk alongside it's sisters Love and Wisdom.

*"Love without courage and wisdom is sentimentality, as with the ordinary church member. Courage without love and wisdom is foolhardiness, as with the ordinary soldier. Wisdom without love and courage is cowardice, as with the ordinary intellectual. Therefore one with love, courage, and wisdom is one in a million who moves the world, as with Jesus, Buddha, and Gandhi."*  
Ammon Hennacy

I think, for example, of our weekly vigil outside the Army Showroom in Watford calling for it's closure with leaflets, placards and a banner which reads; "Mourn the Dead, Heal the Wounded, End the Wars". Who could argue with that? And yet several times threats have been made to us and at one point a young man was ready to physically attack me with menacing gestures, posturing for a fight with clenched fist, moving backward and quickly forward stating that if we return next week then he will attack me. I am

afraid. I think of all of the times that I have been threatened, from childhood through to the present and wish that the fear could somehow through answered prayer be dispelled.

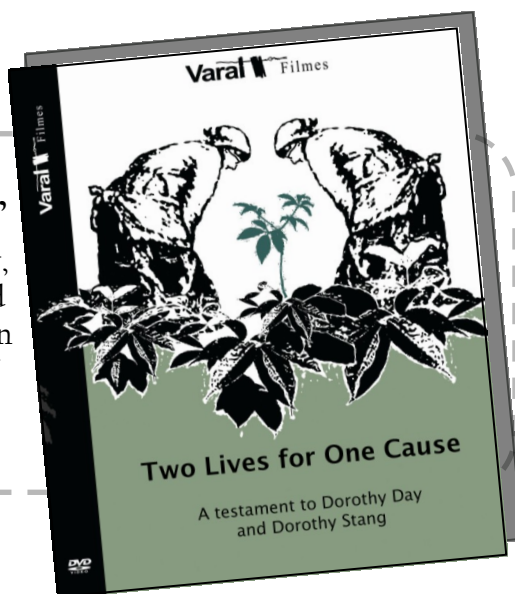
I remember through the Easter season, Jesus' Courage and Peters Denial. Peter was also afraid and it was only after the radical transformation of his psyche did he overcome his fear.

Because of his declaration of Love for Christ "Peter, do you Love me? Lord you know I love You" 3x and the Holy Spirit outpouring at Pentecost did he receive the courage to speak out boldly. Peter was then told "I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." John 21:18 With outstretched hands tied to a yoke Peter was lead out to his own crucifixion. Peters faith and love for the Risen Lord should inspire us to walk where we do not want to go for the sake of our friends in the hope that in following Jesus we too will be resurrected.

Scott Albrecht

Purchase the DVD  
**"Two Lives for One Cause"**

A moving documentary on Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker, and Sr Dorothy Stang, activist in the Amazon Forest. Directed by Tatiana Polastri. £7 Cost including P&P. Contact Scott on 07983477819 for details.



*(Continued from page 12)*

the beach. Then it was on to Baltimore where I spent time visiting Viva House with Willa Bickham and Brendan Walsh. I learned about their long history with the city and care of the homeless, their memorable visits with Dorothy. Willa brought me to her exquisite art show of watercolour paintings, and to her painting class shared with Liz McAlister. I admire these women who take time to pursue and create beauty in their lives.

It seems that our exercise of putting on orange jump suits and hoods to silently process the streets and halls of power in Washington, D.C. is like praying the Rosary. We have formed a small but strong community. It gives us continuity and comfort; we know not where it will lead us, but we are grateful in our state of supplication. This time we were arrested in the gallery of the House of Representatives to the sound of jeers rising up from the House floor. Our personal statements were drowned out as we attested to the suffering of prisoners, the trampled rule of law, and our complicit Congress. We will go on trial for unlawful conduct as we beg for the torture, indefinite detention, and wars to stop. In our preparation discussions we realize this action, followed through to its conclusion, to be risky but required. We rely on the strength of each other and the example of the Gospel to come to the assistance of our suffering brothers and sisters. I am reminded of Dan Berrigan's words; the sharper one's faith the more exiled we become from our own culture and society. The bite of the plastic handcuffs and doubts of friends and family give me pause every step of the way. But in the end it is my passion and desire; to give voice to the voiceless, to sacrifice my own personal comfort to bring attention to the discomfort that we are inflicting on others. It is a paradox, this finding of our lives through giving them up.

I sometimes wake up at Maryhouse with a sense of restlessness and dread. Within this city of millions, the wealth and seduction feel over powering. I get on my knees and say an Our Father in our dark chapel and begin the day's work of cooking, cleaning, answering the door and phone. It is a glorious triumph of sorts, this everyday witness, this celebration of the ordinary. And so we continue the works of mercy at the houses of hospitality ever grateful for the wisdom, vision, and sacrifice of Dorothy, Forester, and Peter.



Martha Hennessy is the seventh grandchild of Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

## Hope and Joy for the Catholic Worker Movement

As we move into the hot New York summer months our community is graced with the help of Sarah and Clare, two beautiful college students, and Carla who will visit for a few weeks. Young Catholic workers from around the country have stopped in to visit as well; the young folks are our hope and joy for the future! Jane will be in England speaking in Cambridge and visiting the U.K. Catholic Worker communities. I will be in Vermont helping with the gardens and spending time with my family. Our fabulous workers and volunteers at St. Joe's continue to put out delicious meals and the Marlboro farm is growing many crops to help feed the soup lines. The wrought iron fence in front of Maryhouse has a fresh coat of white paint thanks to Erin, and Robert planted morning glories at the entrance. The combination of white and heavenly blue will remind us of our Blessed Mother as we pass through the oak doors.

In early June I travelled to England with my daughter Elspeth where we participated in the European Catholic Worker gathering. We met many folks from Brussels, the Netherlands, and German houses of hospitality, sharing a long weekend in the English countryside of Kent. Guest speakers included Ciaran O'Reilly, Alexandre Christoyannopolis, and myself. Topics ranged from the works of war resistance, to the biblical roots of anarchism, and of our journeys of faith within CW history. The Amsterdam and German houses are providing hospitality to many immigrants as their governments become increasingly harsh toward those who share with these displaced populations. The weekend held lively discussion, relaxation and music, and great cooking crews. I did feel acutely the absence

of the celebration of the Eucharist. As Dorothy commented, it would all mean nothing without the courage to speak of God; this is our framework. Our lives are hidden with Christ in God.

The London workers have opened Giuseppe Conlon House in Haringey neighbourhood where a church and nearby rectory building have been offered rent-free for two years. Twenty-eight men are provided with dinner, night shelter, showers, and breakfast in a large hall with beautiful stained glass windows facing east. From the guest bedroom above, a gentle murmur is heard as it rises up in many languages while the men settle in for the night.

The London CW Farm is opening Mary House for mothers and babies, a short walk from the farm. A member of the local Parish has mortgaged her home to purchase this house, surrounded by lovely, tiny, gone wild gardens. The Catholic Worker movement grows slowly in the UK but with very strong roots through the dedication of Clive and Mina and Sister Susan in Oxford, Scott and Maria Albrecht, Martin Newell, Connor, and Ciaran. Many others now join the effort. I was delighted to have my daughter receive a taste of the Catholic Worker and to meet the fine people involved and we even made time to sight see around London and Oxford.

In late June several of us from the New York Catholic Worker travelled to Washington, D.C. to participate once again in Witness Against Torture's efforts to bring visibility to the on-going shame of Guantanamo Prison. On the way down I visited my son and his family in Delaware over Father's Day weekend and enjoyed seeing my one-year-old granddaughter. We had a lovely rare day at

## Occupy Northwood; CATHOLIC WORKERS Blockade Northwood Military HQ

REPORT:  
Thursday Dec 29 2011

16 Catholic Workers closed and occupied the Main Entrance of Northwood Military Headquarters. Scott and Maria Albrecht, Henrietta Cullinan, John Lynes and Rachel Wood pitched tents, knelt and prayed in front of the main gate for 2 hours while others vigiled holding signs. One tent had the words, "The Prince of Peace pitched his tent among us" John 1:14. A sign said, "War is not a Solution" which is a direct message from the Young Afghan Peace Volunteers and another Pvt. Bradley Manning's Quote, "Exposing the true nature of 21st Century asymmetrical Warfare". A banner stating, "Occupy Northwood HQ not Afghanistan" was hung on the fence. The gate remained closed for the duration of the occupation.



The Catholic Worker group had gathered to mark the Feast of Holy Innocents; when Catholics remember the children murdered by king Herod in his search for the infant Jesus. Catholic Workers make the connection with the powerful who continue to kill the innocents today in war, specifically Afghanistan. Northwood HQ is the command and control centre for British forces in Afghanistan, all joint forces and NATO operations abroad. Northwood HQ has recently experienced a £1.2 billion building project; these funds could have otherwise benefited the community.

The five occupiers were: Maria Albrecht (50), Scott Albrecht (49) from the Catholic Worker Farm, Hertfordshire, Henrietta Cullinan (50) from the Catholic Worker in Hackney, John Lynes (83) Quaker from Hastings and Rachel Wood (28) from the Catholic Worker group in Sheffield.

A group statement said, "At a time when government cuts are affecting innocent children, pensioners, teachers, the sick and refugees the last thing we need to be doing is to continue spending billions on warfare. Human lives are the deepest cost. The government complains about a few tents occupying a small square outside St. Paul's cathedral while we've sent thousands of soldiers to occupy other people's countries and destroy their lives. This government needs to get its priorities right".

## Brothers and Sisters

Scott suggested a few weeks ago that we change our general referencing of our female guests from 'our ladies' to 'our sisters' and this terminology prompted some reflection. I thought about my family back in Australia, who have expressed mixed reactions to the Catholic Worker Farm and what we do here. Their reactions range from embarrassment at best, to scorn and accusations of hypocrisy at worst. I understand these reactions – embarrassment that I am not successful and seem fanatical or fundamentalist in my views and hypocrisy as those who know me very well see little holiness. I have allowed myself therefor to grow estranged from my family and am often quite lonely in this busy house. Jesus said "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:35, "...And everyone who has left houses or



brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much ..." Matthew 19:29. I have found sisters and mothers here – both in the sisters for whom we provide a home and those who come to volunteer alongside me. This has not been an easy or natural find for me; I have resisted the intimacy and sought independence and self-reliance rather than the quiet sisterhood offered. Yet, this is the healing Jesus offers me as he truly knows my heart much better than I do and as with all of us, His will is to meet our deepest need.

Finding true brothers and sisters is the healing offered to all who persevere with community living, Jesus and his followers, the early Christian church and monastic traditions model a life based on brother and sisterhood which, for me, is to be both desired and feared. Desired as a way to find love (in action – not as an emotion, although that does come) and to be feared because our deepest fears and failings cannot be hidden; it takes a lot of trust to let others see us at our worst, and humility to accept forgiveness for our meanness. To find yourself loved despite how horrible you've been is love indeed.

We are called to travel the road to Calvary and then Resurrection in our own lives, "If anyone serves me, he must follow me", John 12:26.

I believe it is almost impossible to stay on this road without Grace and intolerable without brothers and sisters with whom we can share the joys and sorrows along the way. Community enables the breaking down of the 'false self' when we face what we despise in ourselves and can no longer hide from others. Community life can also lead us to a resurrection of the person who God sees deep within us and calls to life.

I am profoundly grateful for the gentle care my brothers and sisters have offered me on

(Continued on page 7)

## LITTLE PORTION HERMITAGE

At the heart of our community we recognise the need for prayer.

To this end we have built our Little Portion Hermitage (4x3 metre log cabin).

Hermitage comes from the Greek *eremos* which is the Desert. As we go into the Hermitage we go into the desert of our own hearts. There we battle for what is God's, the old self dies and the new self grows.

We are offering this hermitage for any who would like to come on a retreat. The log cabin has heat, electrics, bed, dresser, desk and chair, it sits 40 metres from the main house in a secluded wooded area over-looking Lynsters lake. Meals, shower and washing facilities are taken in the main community house.



Comfortable yet Simple Living



The Hermitage

## GUEST HOUSE

A great place for you and three or four friends to spend a weekend alone or having a guided retreat. A 4x5m log cabin (sleeps 4-6).

## TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- **Social Justice: A Contextual Theology for the First World** – A modest proposal for a way in which Christians could be living in the first world.
- **We Did Not Invent Community** – Community as ontologically rooted in the Trinity and expressed in a continuum of possibilities within human experience.
- **Jesus' Last Week** – A radical day by day exploration of Jesus' last week.
- **Jesus; Priest, Prophet and King** – Exploring questions such as – What was Jesus' response to the 'Poor of God' in his culture? How do we live out of our baptism in our culture?
- **The Catholic Worker** – Catholic Social Teaching – putting "love in action" through the Works of Mercy.
- **Faith Based Non-Violent Direct Action** – Scott has had multiple arrests & 4 criminal records for love of neighbour. Here he shares his theological reflections on such actions.
- **Radical Discipleship** – Following Jesus in 'The Way' of discipleship.
- **Living with the Poor** – Scott, Maria & family live with those who have been denied asylum, bonded, abused and trafficked.
- **Christian Anarchism** – Exploring Christianarchy; looking afresh at scripture with the possibility that God's ideal is human communities 'without rulers'.
- **Christians in Empire** – An examination of the claims of Empire and claims of The Kingdom of God upon its citizens.
- **Should Christians Fight in Wars?** – An exploration of The Early Church Fathers on participation in war-making.
- **Other Topics include;** Franciscan Spirituality, Repentance and Resistance, The Domination System of First Century Palestine and Jesus the Rebel.

Contact Scott on 07983477819 for more details.

**The Catholic Worker Farm**

Lynsters Farm, Old Uxbridge Road, West Hyde, Hertfordshire, WD3 9XJ  
Home 01923 777201 Mobile 07983477819

**MONTHLY STANDING ORDER FORM FOR A COMMITTED GIVER**

Please complete this form and return to:

The Catholic Worker Farm, Lynsters Farm, Old Uxbridge Rd., West Hyde, Herts, WD3 9XJ

**Your Bank Information**

To the Manager (Your Bank).....

Bank Address (in full) .....

Your Sort Code .....

Your Account Number.....

Your Account Name .....

Your Roll Number (for Building Societies).....

**Your Personal Information:**

Name.....

Address.....

Town.....

County.....

Post Code.....

Telephone.....Email .....

Please accept this mandate as my authority to make the following **monthly** payment (Standing Order) of:

£5 \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Tick Here)

£10 \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Tick Here)

£20 \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Tick Here)

Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Total Annual payment £ \_\_\_\_\_

This is to be paid now and thereafter monthly. This replaces any previous instruction in favour of The Catholic Worker Farm until countermanded by me/us.

Beneficiary: The Catholic Worker Farm

Bank: Lloyds TSB

Address: Lloyds TSB St. Albans (309725)

Account Number: 00727903

Sort Code: 30-97-25

Signed ..... Date.....

*Alternatively you may send a cheque to the above address –Make payable to  
THE CATHOLIC WORKER FARM*

(Continued from page 6)

this journey; few battles are fought silently and we are all fighting our own internal wars. The forgiveness we offer each other, forgiveness of the same injury inflicted ‘seventy times seven’ can only come from grace. Grace given to us, not because we deserve it but because “God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13. We have all been tempted to leave, to return to a ‘normal life’, but through God’s grace we are still here.

When I reflect on leaving I am reminded of the passage where Jesus asks the Apostles if they will leave him, “Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’” John 6:68. I don’t leave because in moments of clarity I know it is here that I find Christ, in my brothers & sisters and also within myself. It is here that my true needs are met (rather than my wants) and it is here where I find a home. My deepest prayer is that this would be the same for all who come here for shelter – please pray for us.

I once read that the greatest gift we can give our children is a sibling and I wonder if that’s also one of God’s gifts to us. If so then we should all reflect on the brothers and sisters that God our Father has brought into our lives and the ones he waits for us to find.

Maria Albrecht

## Community Updates

Recently we’ve worked very hard at Mary House and are very grateful to all who have given your time and effort to remove what could only be called a forest and transformed it into a beautiful garden. We have now installed a front gate and hope to put in some play equipment for the children.



We’ve also taken our community children on outings to a petting farm and swimming and plan to do more in the Spring.



# Mary House

During the three months that I have been living in the Catholic Worker, I had the chance to meet the beautiful Grace (a fictional name). She is living with me at Mary House, the newest house Maria and Scott Albrecht and Mirjam Johansson have opened this year to take care of women and children.

Grace is from Sierra Leone and arrived in London in 2005. She was brought by a man, who said he could help her to find a job and study in the UK. But when she arrived, the reality was very different. He took her passport and forced her to be a domestic sex slave.

Having a good job in Sierra Leone is not easy, she said. "Because of the civil war, where they killed people, they burned people and their businesses, the country was in a very poor situation. If you have a 20-30 pounds salary per month you are lucky."

Grace witnessed the war in her own family. She was a child when her father was killed in front of her and her family. She said they escaped from being killed because they agreed to dance around their father's body.

The civil war happened in Sierra Leone during 1991 to 1999. At least 50,000 people died and a further 500,000 people are believed displaced in neighbouring countries. "So if somebody comes up to you and says I will help you, I will help your child, you say Yes. My family was so excited when this man appeared saying he wanted to bring me to the United Kingdom, and would help with my education. But when I came it was different. So my life was just like a sex slave."

After six months living as a prisoner, she escaped from the man who brought her. However, with no rights to work in the country that colonized and exploited Sierra Leone until 1961, She had no chance to progress and find the better life she was promised.

Unfortunately she is not an exception. The UK home affairs has reported that there are at least 5,000 trafficked survivors in the UK, and it is estimated that about 700,00 people are trafficked across international borders each year.

This year she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and was introduced to the Catholic Worker Farm. She has been given more than food and shelter, she has a place where she can find peace and dignity that all human beings deserve.

"Since I came to these people, I can see my life has changed. If I remember when I just gave birth, I was staying with friends and moving from one place to another. But when I came to Mary House, I felt relief. I can sleep comfortably and I can do things peacefully. That is why I will always be grateful to these people who received me. I know helping homeless people is a very difficult job, and I will always remember this".

Tatiana Polastri



The Icon above the Fireplace at Mary House

## Donations

If you want to support Mary House, the new Mother and Baby house, directly please make cheques payable to St. Simeon's Church Trust, send your cheque to us here at the Catholic Worker Farm and we will send you a Gift Aid form.

Becoming a Committed Giver by filling out the Standing Order form on page 6 is the best way to support us regularly.

Please join us in helping our Sisters,  
Mums & Babies.

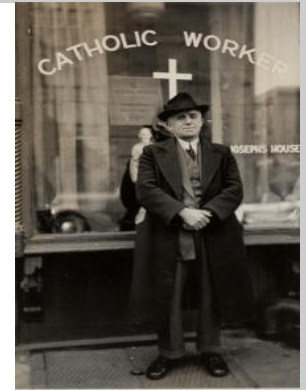
### C.W. FARM NEEDS

- Financial donations to sustain and increase our work
- Food, especially Juice, Milk, Cheese, Butter, Sugar, Porridge Oats & Cooking oil.
- Toilet Paper, Cleaning Supplies. Size 4 and 5 Nappies
- Help in the garden, cleaning or DIY
- People to engage in Vigils, participate in "Round Table Discussions"
- Prayer—Without this, all the rest is impossible!

## The Law of Holiness

"No man can serve two masters, God and Mammon."

"Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect."



"If you want to be perfect sell all you have, give it to the poor and follow Me.

"These are hard words," says Robert Louis Stevenson, "but the hard words of a book were the only reason why the book was written."

*Peter Maurin*

## The Catholic Worker Farm t-shirts

Front: "Comforting the Afflicted".

Back: "Afflicting the Comfortable".

Available in black or white.  
Sizes S, M, L, XL.

£15  
(including postage)

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