



“Love in all Sincerity”

The Catholic Worker Farm

A community of the London Catholic Worker

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Hello from The Catholic Worker Farm community; my family and I are working to support and accommodate destitute asylum seekers. These are vulnerable homeless women disintitiled to benefits or work permits, literally living from hand to mouth. We all live on a working farm, which we have restored to suit the needs and comforts of our guests. We try to live each day by the love and values of Jesus Christ. We have received ten women since June of 2007. We permanently accommodate three individuals who have battled through horrific circumstances to reach the peace and safety which our community endeavors to provide. We plan to invite four more guests by the end of the year. As well as providing accommodation and companionship within the life of the community, we also offer to advocate on their behalf so that they can initiate progress in their own lives.

Our very first guest was a qualified nurse from Mauritius who, when made redundant, had also been removed from her NHS accommodation. She had been living homeless on the streets of London for nearly two years. She had been disowned by her family for not entering into an arranged marriage and had suffered years of emotional distress.

The second guest to arrive was a young man from Sierra Leone. After the murder of his parents and the threat of his own life by the RUF, he fled the country and was also living homeless in London. He is suffering from an infirmity and is in need of prolonged medical treatment. With the support of our community, he is now receiving the medication, continuing his education in Business Studies and has sights set on University.

We have also created a home for a young woman from the Dem. Rep. of Congo who had suffered from a malady; one can only imagine the things she had experienced. For years, she had been caught in the conflict of a civil war which has claimed over 4.5million lives. The life expectancy of a Congolese woman is 35 years.

With our support she has been going to a local Congolese church and is much stronger. With the growth of our community, my family and I often struggling to sustain the care and security we would like to offer our disadvantaged guests. We have dedicated our lives to the hope of our community flourishing and are in need of financial support to continue the success of this House of Hospitality. We receive no stipends from the church, government funds or money from Trusts.

Having said this, we would really like to thank those of you who have contributed donations in kind. We have been growing organic vegetables with the help of Nik Marten and volunteers from Turning Point (a drug and alcohol dependency agency) located in Watford. We have been trading the vegetables we grow for cooking oil, jam, pasta, and fruit and veg. thanks to Archie's Organic Foods of the Good Earth in Amersham. We receive regular donations from

This evening we received a young pregnant woman from Guinea, how pleased we are! Praise God, for the opportunity to love and support someone in such dire need. We thank God daily for the ability to take people into our home. We ask God to lead destitute women here as well as strengthen our ability to cope. Expand this tent oh Lord!

AIMS AND MEANS OF THE CATHOLIC WORKER

We are committed to the Aims and Means of The Catholic Worker. “The aim of the Catholic Worker movement is to live in accordance with the justice and charity of Jesus Christ. Our sources are the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures as handed down in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, with our inspiration coming from the lives of the saints, “men and women outstanding in holiness, living witnesses to “Your (Gods) unchanging love” (Aims and Means).

We are committed to Prayer, Personalism, A Decentralised Society, A Green Revolution, Non-violence, The Works of Mercy, Manual Labour and Voluntary Poverty.

Who We Are

Scott Albrecht (45) Former Chaplain, U.S. Military and 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 17 years.

Maria Albrecht (46) IT Lecturer, 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, Shoshanah, Christian, Justin and Francis.



Volunteers

Our greatest need is either for an Intern or a core community member(s) to join us. The Catholic Worker Farm would like to extend an invitation to young people interested in living in community. This internship is open to anyone over the age of 20 who would like to experience living and working within a rural, faith-based community. The responsibilities of volunteers might involve daily chores, taking care of our guests, general maintenance of grounds, round table discussions, prayer vigils, involvement in protests and participation in the running of our London soup kitchen.

We would greatly appreciate any donations or help with our work. Please do not hesitate to contact us via the above details, our door is always open! We feel we have the potential to do much more! Please continue to pray for us. Contact us at 01923 777201

C.W. FARM NEEDS —

- Financial donations to sustain and increase our work
- Food, especially juice, rice, milk, eggs, cheese, butter, cooking oil
- Shampoo, feminine toiletries, toilet paper, nappies, baby wipes & food
- Help in the garden, cleaning, cooking or DIY
- People to engage in Vigils, participate in “Round Table Discussions”
- Prayer—Without this, all the rest is useless

Sycamore Whole Foods, Julian Graves, Planet Health and Organics, Be Healthy and The Emmaus Community of St. Albans. We are deeply grateful for these as well as the financial support we have received to aid our work.

The Catholic churches of SS. Albans and Stephens in St. Albans and St. Bedes in Croxley, as well as Churches Together in Mil End, Harefield Baptist, Harpenden Salvation Army and the Open University Christian Forum have been kind enough to allow Scott to speak on the issue of a Christian response to Refugees. From within these Churches, through leafleting, selling Christmas Cards, and through good friends people have become “committed givers” making standing orders to sustain our work. Others have visited our house and written us checks or sent them in the post. We can only heartfully thank all of you for your help and prayers, without which we would have folded by now. May God bless you all!

The Big Questions

Scott recently appeared on BBC1's The Big Questions. The question was, “Should people of faith fight in wars?” Formerly U.S. Military and now a Christian peace activist, he has been doing a weekly vigil at Northwood Military Headquarters. Currently Northwood is being heavily upgraded by Carillion PLC and HSBC Infrastructure Fund Management Limited. Construction for the base will cost 1.15Billion and is being carried out daily by Carillion and local building companies. This is so that the headquarters can meet Britain's military needs for the 21st. Century. Scott has been physically harassed by the police and given a written warning to desist, but that has passed and all is well at the Vigil. He is looking for anyone who is able and willing to vigil for an hour a week outside the “nerve centre” for the invasions on Iraq and Afghanistan and the possible attack on Iran.



“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unaware” Hebrews 13:2
Asylum Seekers (left and right)



CATHOLIC WORKER FARM

Advent Speakers Series

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Nov. 22	A Life in the Catholic Worker - Community, Hospitality, Resistance. Australia - U.S. - England - Ireland.	Ciaron O'Reilly—International peace activist. Dorothy Day House.
Nov. 29	Attack Iran?	Scott Albrecht - Catholic Worker Farm.
Dec. 6	The Green Revolution.	Fr. Martin Newell—Dorothy Day House.
Dec. 13	Living Ghosts Campaign.	Claire Lawrence—Jesuit Refugee Services.
Dec. 20	A Contextual Theology for the First World.	Scott Albrecht - Catholic Worker Farm.
Dec. 27	Feast of Holy Innocents Retreat. *Overnight retreat taking place on 27-28th December.	

The Speaking Series evenings will be at 7.30pm with a soup and bread dinner, speakers beginning at 8.00pm with discussion afterwards. *The Feast of Holy Innocents Retreat will begin on Thursday 27th at 12.00 noon. All are welcome to spend the night (some beds and floor space available). The retreat will end Friday afternoon culminating in an organised nonviolent action.

JESUS - AN ASYLUM SEEKER

According to Matthew's gospel Jesus fled from imperial persecution (Matt 2:13). “Get up”, (the angel) said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he (Joseph) got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. Joseph's preservation of the Holy family led them to become Asylum Seekers, and this for fear of death and hope of life.

The other afternoon two elderly Englishmen stood next to my Christmas Card table on Rickmansworth High Street. There is a sign on my table which states “Christmas Cards in Aid of the Catholic Worker Farm for Destitute Asylum Seekers”. The men took exception to this as the last bit of their conversation centred on my table, “Oh”, one said, “I'm not going to buy Christmas Cards to support no bloody refugees!” I said, “We are all refugees in God's eyes. We will all be knocking on heavens door, hoping to be let in.” He responded: “Don't you read the papers, they get free houses and cars, take all of our jobs.” I retorted: “Have you been reading the Daily Mail? Don't believe everything you read.” One of the men replied pointing to a wall, “They should all be put up against the wall and shot!” I responded with, “You sound like Hitler!” He ended with, “Hitler had some good ideas.”