



Justice & Peace Weekly Bulletin : 08 Dec 2021

Please send any comments or items for next week's news to
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GOOD NEWS

- **FALMOUTH CARE HOME MINISTRY**
 - Throughout the lockdowns the FPCT Care Home Ministry Team have produced a monthly video, which is sent to the 10 care homes in the area. No 23, the Christmas video has just been released and can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/9eUammMHyfM>. Activity organisers in the homes have commented how much they have been appreciated by residents. A monthly short written sheet of Christian news, "the Link" has also been distributed. The Care Home team of 25 people from 11 different churches also has continued to meet monthly to pray for Care Homes staff and residents
- **FOSSIL FUELS**
 - Shell has made a surprising decision to pull out of the Cambo oilfield in the west of Shetland.
- **WOODLAND VISITS**
 - Visits to UK's woodlands boosting mental health are estimated to save the NHS £186 million in treatment costs annually.
 - 2016 research found that weekly visits to outdoor green spaces of at least 30 minutes can reduce the prevalence of depression.
- **NEW APPOINTMENT**
 - The first ever Native American has been appointed to oversee the US National Park Service.

FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER

- **HUMAN RIGHTS AT RISK**
 - The UN human rights chief has warned that unrest in Burkina Faso could spiral into a human rights catastrophe.
- **AFGHANISTAN AND SYRIA**
 - Our hearts go out especially at this time of year when we have enjoyed so much in this country, to those in Afghanistan, Syria, Belarus and many other countries who have no food, no shelter or heating in freezing temperatures, and no assurance that we here in the West care about them.
 - We pray especially for Médecins sans frontières who stay when others leave in dangerous and desperate situations. We remember that Jesus, Mary and Joseph became refugees.
- **AIRBNB**
 - A three bedroomed house in our locality had a tenant paying £800 per month rent. The tenancy has now ceased as £238 per night can be procured with Airbnb for a better financial return. Currently there were 500 applications for tenancy of a house up for rent in Falmouth.

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Buy local for Christmas and support our struggling local economy.
- Seek out someone in need and help them.

Mother Teresa said "We cannot do great things, but we can do little things with love"

NEXT JUSTICE AND PEACE ACTION GROUP MEETING: Tues 14 Dec, 2pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86921538832?pwd=WWVxb1hCK3puMTBNT2Q0TDVKd3Y4UT09>

Meeting ID: 869 2153 8832 Passcode: 302054

All welcome

[PTO]

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DANAIT'S STORY – from JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) UK <https://www.jrsuk.net/>

We have just begun the season of Advent – four weeks to prepare for Christmas, as a hymn reminds us:

“The coming of our God our thoughts must now employ.

Then let us meet Him on the road with songs of holy joy.”

The journey we're invited to make is an opportunity to prepare for Christmas – when God will offer Himself to us in His humanity and littleness. He will arrive, as Danait* did, with no fanfare but as a guest needing a home.

Danait, a refugee friend of JRS, was just 12 years old when she set off from Eritrea with her 16 year-old sister. Border clashes with Ethiopia had turned into full-scale war forcing many from their homes. Danait's journey to the UK stretched over the next six years. She had no papers. She had never had any papers. She arrived in a group in a lorry.

It was 2005 when Danait left her home in Eritrea. She and her sister attached themselves to a group heading west to Sudan, a vast country at the southern edge of the Sahara. Desert sand and mountains. Extremes of heat and cold. For a year and eight months they journeyed through Africa, north into Asia and on to Turkey. Four months later they crowded into a boat for Greece. Danait's sister stayed in Turkey.

Their boat, designed for 5 people, was carrying 36; it capsized just short of Greece. For an hour they were in the cold water before being saved by the Greek police and taken to hospital. Their lives were saved, but still today the effects of the ice-cold water endure.

Danait stayed for 3 years and 5 months in Greece, employed as a child-minder, but received no payment as she had no papers. She later left for France and after 15 days in Calais she travelled in a lorry to the UK.

Her time in the UK has been deeply fragmented – accommodated at certain points on her journey and detained at others. She travelled from Leeds to Huddersfield to Bradford and Manchester, before Danait journeyed to London and experienced the welcome of JRS.

Danait's journey is echoed through the stories of many of the friends accompanied by JRS. Friends journeying, searching for welcome. A welcome

not always easily found. That same welcome which was also denied to the Holy family when they first arrived in a crowded Bethlehem.

Those we accompany in detention are still journeying towards that welcome. They have been separated from families and communities who seek to be reunited, and find hostility where they search for welcome. Through accompaniment, we hope to meet them on the road and walk some of that journey with them in the hope that one day they find the welcome at their journey's end.

**“The coming of our God our thoughts must now employ,
Then let us meet Him on the road.....”**

Our streets during Advent will be crowded – as they were when Joseph and Mary, pregnant with Jesus, journeyed to Bethlehem – crowded today with tired people laden with presents, for the gift-giving at the heart of Christmas is very alive. (Father Christmas may hold centre stage but, as one mother explained, he is God the Father's helper, making sure every child has a present on Jesus' Birthday).

This Advent, we remember the journey the Holy Family took to find a place of rest in Bethlehem, which was not at first easily found. We see their journey reflected in those of our refugee friends today. As Pope Francis reminds us in “Fratelli Tutti” we are all brothers and sisters, a single human family. Maybe during Advent we can hold onto these words and try catch the eye of the person passing us or serving us and smile, for

**“Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his
To the Father through the features of people's faces.”**

Come, Lord Jesus.

Sr Vianney

*Not her real name

Sr Vianney is a volunteer with the Detention Outreach team at JRS UK and also helps facilitate our Women's Prayer Circle .