



MISSION & ACTION GROUP

Meeting held on 24th May 2006

Present: Denzil, Leah, Hugh, Carmen, Nancy, Patricia, Jean, Stephen

1. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The next meeting of the Manchester Amnesty group is on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm in Cross Street Chapel. Denzil and Stephen intend to go.

3. LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY REFORM BILL

This Bill has been through two stages of the parliamentary procedure and underwent significant alteration during the committee stage. It is still unclear what the new-look Bill is like but a website has been set up to monitor it. The website www.saveparliament.org.uk will be watched to look for the latest news and campaigns.

4. GIVE A HAND PROJECT

They had been extremely grateful for our efforts. Stephen passed on these thanks and said that those going to Jamaica would be happy to report back to us about their trip.

5. WATER AID

A new petition by Water Aid and addressed to the European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid was distributed. We felt we should order more of these and encourage the congregation to sign it and post the card.
(Action: Stephen)

A good discussion followed about the issue of poor water quality and supply in the world. Denzil mentioned a programme on Channel 4, Carmen and Jean both told stories from their families experience about the importance of water both in the West Indies and also in 1940's England. All agreed that we should do more to raise awareness of this issue. Perhaps our Harvest theme could be water? Perhaps we could repeat the Water Aid service held last year at Victoria Baths? (Action: Stephen)

6. ENGLISH HERITAGE: INSPIRED

A campaign launched by English Heritage to secure the future of historic churches was discussed. This year long campaign involves a 5 point strategy that they want the Government to adopt. Posters and information are available in church and a campaign post card is also provided for those who wish to send off to the Chancellor. However it was felt that this issue was less pressing than the other items of importance to the Mission & Action group.

7. GOLD MINING

Denzil talked about the problems of gold mining in Honduras where our demand for cheaper gold was leading to the mass production of gold with little respect for the environment or people. The production techniques used poison the land, contaminate drinking water, cause landfall and the destruction of homes and villages, not to mention the extreme poverty of a huge percentage of the population. A campaign to highlight the problem of this demand for cheaper gold has been started. It was decided to produce a petition/join letter of campaign if possible, but if individual letters were preferred by the charity then we could do that instead. (Action: Denzil to find out)

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 28th June 11.30am