

One for Justice & Peace

Summer 1987



ONE WORLD CONCERNS in TELFORD

BIJAN TALIBI PROJECT

TELFORD.

JULY 18 ~ 25th. 1987.

The project is named after a young boy, Bijan Talibi, who died for his belief in the Baha'i faith. In his name young people are joining together in service to humanity in an effort to unite the world, be it one heart at a time.

It is envisioned that this service project will spark the imagination of Baha'i youth and non-Baha'i youth alike as they meet to share ideas and beliefs as they work side by side on the various activities already organised.

In addition to the evening events described in the diary page, the Baha'i youth will be working during the day. Some of the projects are :-

Birchbank Special School for mentally and physically handicapped children will have 6 youths working throughout the week.

There is a variety of conservation work being arranged through David Lloyd, the chief warden, for 10 young people.

Some 24 children will be treated to such activities as a farm visit, nature ramble, museum visit, workshop and a celebration party hosted by local Christian Youth. The children will be looked after by some 10 Baha'i youth.

Two youngsters will help in the Stirchley Day Centre for physically handicapped adults, and there will be a special day out for the wheel-chair bound.

Ten youths will be working and visiting several Age Concern centres in the Telford area.

Do please visit the display in the Telford Town Centre. The theme is "Youth for Peace" and will illustrate the work of young people.

The work of the Baha'i youth in Telford is a part of the whole, in which millions of people are spreading the principle of race unity. The goal of the Baha'i faith is the unity of all people, all nations and religions, and this fervent desire which has inspired the Baha'i youth into positive action towards a future of peace, hope and harmony. For further information contact Sylvia Girling 074-635 648

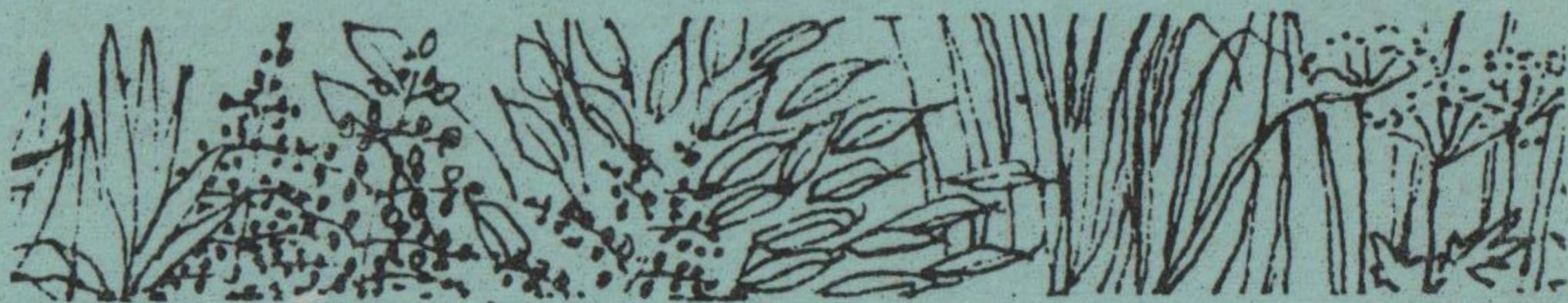
ETHIOPIA

TWO YEARS after the Ethiopian famine first hit the headlines, most parts of the country are enjoying an excellent harvest. The relief shelters in the northern provinces of Wollo and Tigray have almost all been dismantled, and the people have gone home to their villages to farm.

Many people still lack oxen for ploughing. It takes time for the poorer farmers to re-establish themselves after years of drought. So selected families still walk the long journeys to the main road, where their children are weighed and measured and they collect rations to take home.

It is hard to appreciate the extent of the recovery. Images which captured the attention of the world's media have disappeared, leaving only the breathtaking mountainous landscape and farmers threshing grain.

The outsider is left with a sense of disbelief that the famine ever happened. But the local people are in no doubt that it can happen again. They do not forget the help which they received from the outside world. When asked what can be done



Farmers are back threshing grain

to prevent another famine, they shrug their shoulder and lift their eyes to the skies.

Long-term agricultural programmes are under way, involving tree planting, and the construction of dams and terraces. But soil erosion and deforestation are so severe that a massive effort is still needed if Ethiopia is to begin to reverse the cycle of decline.

All the while civil war continues in much of the north of the country. It has reached a protracted and vicious stalemate, which saps all efforts at development and takes away human and financial resources from agricultural production in the region.

In Makelle, capital of Tigray, the streets, with their small stone houses, are strangely quiet and it is impossible to travel outside the town without an armed convoy. Many young people have left to join the rebels, and families have been divided.

The war is on everyone's minds, but it is rarely mentioned in conversation. Soldiers and Government officials sit around and wait. There is a sad irony in the way learner drivers pass through the streets of the town, with little prospect of venturing outside.

Justin Phipps

WALK FOR THE

WORLD

To all who participated in Walk for the World, whether walking, signing the petition, organising or supporting the aims of the event. You'll want to hear the WALK FOR THE WORLD single because it's brilliant!

Recorded in Harare by The Real Sounds of Africa, one side of the single also features Desmond Dekker and the London Community Gospel Choir. All proceeds of the record, on the Cooking Vinyl label, will go to charity.

THE REAL SOUNDS OF AFRICA

The Real Sounds produced their first album, "Harare" in 1984, and toured Britain last year to a rapturous reception.

Desmond Dekker has a string of hits to his name as long and as massive as WALK FOR THE WORLD.

The London Community Gospel Choir, well known as one of the best in Britain, have added their fervent voices to the message of the WALK FOR THE WORLD single, a melodic interpretation of the demands of the WALK FOR THE WORLD declaration.

The record is distributed by The Cartel on FRY 003. Try it—you'll like it!

In gratitude

On behalf of all the people who participated the Walk for the World in Telford may our thanks be given to Heather and John Sullivan for all their efforts to make the event happen. Without them the public meeting, the walk, reception and Town Centre exhibition would not have happened.



For Justice & Peace

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ONE WORLD
CONCERNS
in TELFORD

ONE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE is produced by the Telford One World Group c/o 23 Saxon Court, Leegomery, Telford.

The views and opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the One World Group, or the editorial committee.

Articles, responses to articles, news of events, letters, etc., are always very welcome, and will be printed wherever possible, though the editors reserve the right to shorten them, or to make minor alterations where appropriate.

This newsletter is both published and delivered free. Any contributions towards the production costs will be most welcome, however small. (Make cheques and P.O.s payable to: One For Justice And Peace.

Editors: Iain Griffiths, Robert Saunders and Mark Stokes.

LETTER

Dear Editors,

I read with interest the article on the Environmental Action Centre in St Georges, printed in your Spring newsletter. It is good to see positive action by Wrekin District Council on involving local people in planning and carrying out environmental improvements.

On June 13th, the Centre's open day, I visited the public exhibition. This showed the plans for the Granville Country Park. The aims are to protect much valuable woodland, marshland and grazing land from 'development'. The park will be adjacent to the new Eastern Primary road from Priorslee to Donnington. Public access to the park would be promoted.

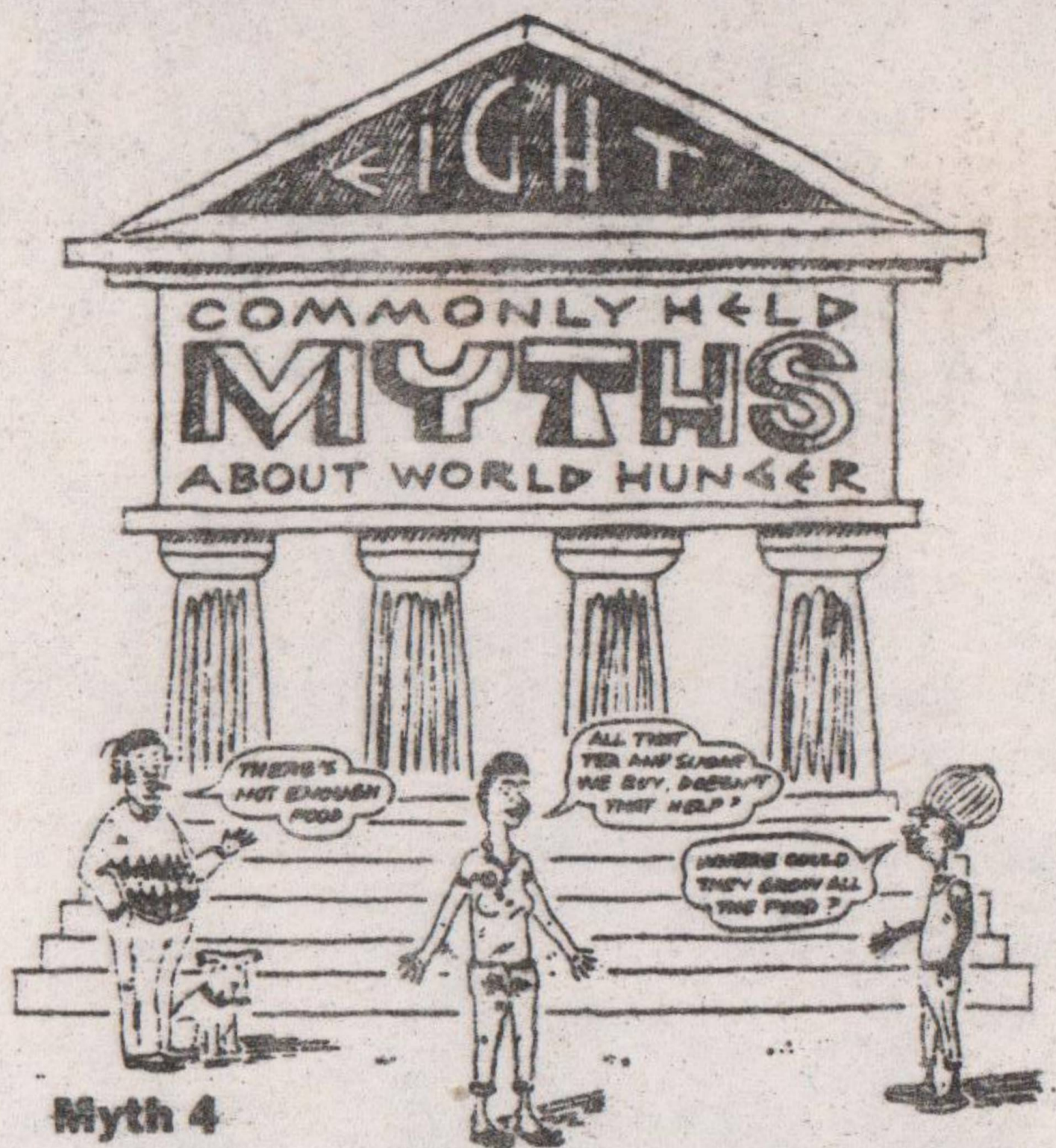
I would urge people to lobby their councillors to ensure the Park is allowed all the land required to make it ecologically viable. It appears rather disjointed and is threatened at its narrowest parts by housing and industry. Wildlife would be particularly at risk. The provision of grazing land is important as it becomes less available.

The exhibition also had pictures, poems and proposals from Telford children for improving the environment in the Town. I must confess to being impressed by their concern for wildlife and the quality of the urban environment.

The concern of our young people should act as a spur to the 'adults' to ensure a world worth inheriting - a world free from the threats of nuclear destruction and contamination, food and water contamination by chemicals and nitrates, plant and wildlife extinction and the other serious problems created by the 'grown-ups' of their planet.

Yours faithfully,

R. Saunders.



In the Third World, droughts and floods are not the unexpected disasters we always imagine. In the Sahel region of Africa drought is practically part of the environmental cycle, and in Asia everyone knows that floods will occur regularly.

The problem is that the poor have very little resistance to these shocks. And they are getting poorer and poorer.

It is they who live in the areas prone to flooding. It is they who poverty squeezes closer to the margins of the deserts. In a good year they get by — just. But they aren't able to build up reserves like their ancestors might have done. In a bad year... well, that's a familiar story. Poverty is bringing the poor closer and closer to the margin.

SO... The weather can't be totally blamed for people going hungry. It's often only the last straw.



ONE WORLD WEEK, OCTOBER 18-25, 1987

Who gets the credit?

Celebrate debt? Now there's a challenge! But that is exactly what you are asked to do in One World Week this year.

Debt is so much more than just a matter of money. Think of that great annual event, the Harvest Thanksgiving, shared with so many other religious traditions. What is that, if not a celebration of the debt we owe to the abundance of our planet and to the talents and hard work of others.

But the Week is more than a celebration - it is also a time to reflect. This year we will be counting the cost that others have to pay for the gifts we enjoy (and, to our shame, so often take for granted). It is the world's poor, in our own country and overseas, who bear the debt burden of the rich.

You may not know your IMF from your UNCTAD, but there is no need to be a professor of economics or a merchant banker to understand how the international debt crisis has arisen or to identify who is being called on to bear the burden of repayment.

Many a Latin American factory worker or farmer, faced with yet more cuts in an already ultra-austere lifestyle, is quite able to understand the causes. Nor do they lie far from our own front door. The high street bank which you trust with your savings may well face real crisis if the debts cannot be repaid.

Who gets the credit? and the theme of the impact of debt is deliberately chosen to bring together the concern and campaigns of a wide range of organisations, from 'Walk for the World' and CAFOD's Jubilee celebrations to Friends of the Earth and the World Wildlife Fund.

For more details of One World Week contact the Telford One World Group (address listed elsewhere in newsletter) or OWW, P.O.Box 1, London SW9 8BH.

TRAIDCRAFT

Trading shares

Traidcraft's recent launch of a shares scheme to the value of £1.15 million has been substantially oversubscribed. Over 3,000 people now hold shares in the organisation which markets the produce of under-developed countries and has links with Christian Aid and CAFOD.

TRAIDCRAFT have launched a new and colourful, co-ordinated range of practical summer clothing. Many different people across the world have worked together to create the company's first clothing collection - but not the usual network of designers, big factory owners, traders and financiers.

Traidcraft has worked for a year and a half with 16 community based groups of crafts people in several different parts of India and Bangladesh. Most are small, rural and run by and for women.

The result is clothes which combine a rich heritage of traditional crafts with design that is wholly contemporary. Every garment in the collection has a story behind it - of people working their way out of poverty and exploitation.

The clothing collection adds to the range of over 1,000 Third World products imported by Traidcraft in Britain. For the clothing catalogue write to: Traidcraft plc, Kingsway, Gateshead NE11 0NE. (091-487-3191).

Diary for July/August/Sept. 1987

- July 18-19th USAF Fairford PeaceGroup holding a major demonstration during International Air tattoo/Arms Trade event. Support needed. Details Susie Vereker, 0285-712663.
- July 18-25th The Bijan Talibi Project (see article in this issue)
- Sunday 19th An Interfaith Celebration, 3 pm at Hadley Methodist Church, High Street. A variety of faiths will be represented and all people are welcome. A Bar B Q will be held at 7.30 for 8 - open to all.
- Monday 20th Guest speaker to talk on 'Our crumbling Society - Faith to the Rescue', 7.30 for 8 pm.
- Tuesday 21st Guest speaker to talk on 'Earth is at the feet of the youth, but if heaven is not in their heart it means nothing', 7.30 for 8 pm.
- Wednesday 22nd A caribbean Evening with food and music and more from the Telford West Indian Association. 7.30 for 8 pm.
- Thursday 23rd An evening of musical entertainment. 7.30 for 8 pm.
- Friday 24th An intercultural evening at All Saints Centre, Stirchley, 7.30 for 8 pm. An event of food, music, dress and dance from the rich diversity of cultures in Telford.

All events at Leegomery Community Centre (by the shopping centre), unless otherwise stated.

- July 23rd Raymond Briggs' "Where the Wind blows" (P.G.) 8 pm at Madeley Court Cinema
- August 6-9th Over the four days of the anniversary of the Hiroshima (6th) and Nagasaki (9th) bombs - vigils at Westminster Cathedral, and many other places in this country and throughout the world. Nagasaki day is a Sunday, so people might like to think if they can organise something in their church, such as prayers for peace.
- Sept. 7-13th Shropshire Green Week - events and activities to highlight "Green Politics". Details from Geoff Hardy (1987 General Election candidate) Shrewsbury 249888 or Robert Saunders, Telford 53705.

Telford links with Central America

With support from the El Salvador and Guatemala Committee of Human Rights, a group of people have formed the Telford Central America Group. So far efforts have been concentrated on writing to individual families of the "disappeared" in Guatemala and pursuing these cases in appropriate quarters.

Members have also raised funds for community medical care in Guatemala through a sponsored fast.

Individuals interested in Central America and the local groups activities should contact Christine Tyler, 108 Holyhead Road, Ketley, Telford.

ONE WORLD CONCERN: Things to pray about.

Pray for the victimised people of Mozambique, made destitute by warfare. Ask God to give the United Nations power to act effectively in this crisis. Ask for peace and healing for a ravaged country.

Amnesty International has studied the effects of political repression upon children. What are the feelings of a child who has seen or heard his parents being tortured? Apparently children react with a traumatic sense of guilt. Pray that the light of God may shine in this dark area of politics.

Millions of children in the developing world do longer hours of manual work than we would expect of an adult. For these there is no childhood in the sense we think of it. Pray that God will judge among the nations and reduce the burden of the poor.

In February this year a new international award was established: the Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger. Its purpose - to honour a distinguished African each year who, in the eyes of the jury, has shown exceptional leadership to bring about the sustainable end of hunger at a national, regional or continental level. Pray for the many African leaders who are making the difficult public decisions necessary to resolve the pressing economic and social issues of the continent.

Ask God that the goodwill generated by Walk for the World may transfer into effective government measures to ease the burden of the world's poor.

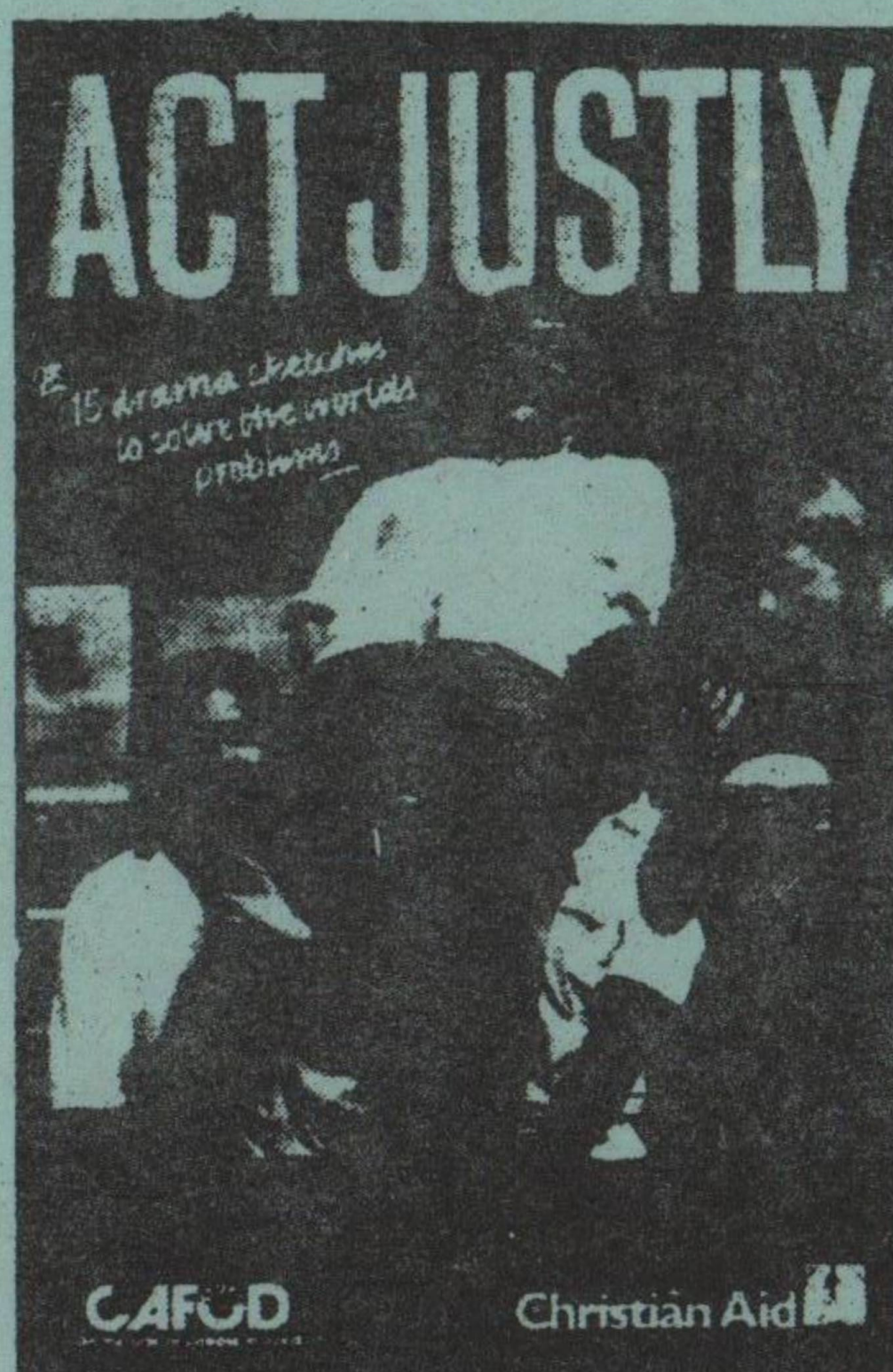
Ask God's guidance for the new government which has taken office in this country following the General Election.

Curtain raisers

ACT JUSTLY by Christian Aid and CAFOD (Collins, 128 pp, £2.50).

"FIFTEEN SKETCHES to solve the world's problems", says the subtitle of the new drama book from Christian Aid and CAFOD. This tongue-in-cheek approach is typical of many of the sketches, yet these are balanced by more serious pieces of drama.

Act Justly contains work from leading writers drawn from different Christian traditions. Contributors include Steve Stickey and Alan MacDonald of Footprints Theatre Co., Hugh Williams, a director of Westminster Theatre and Andrew Goreing, a writer for Riding Lights.

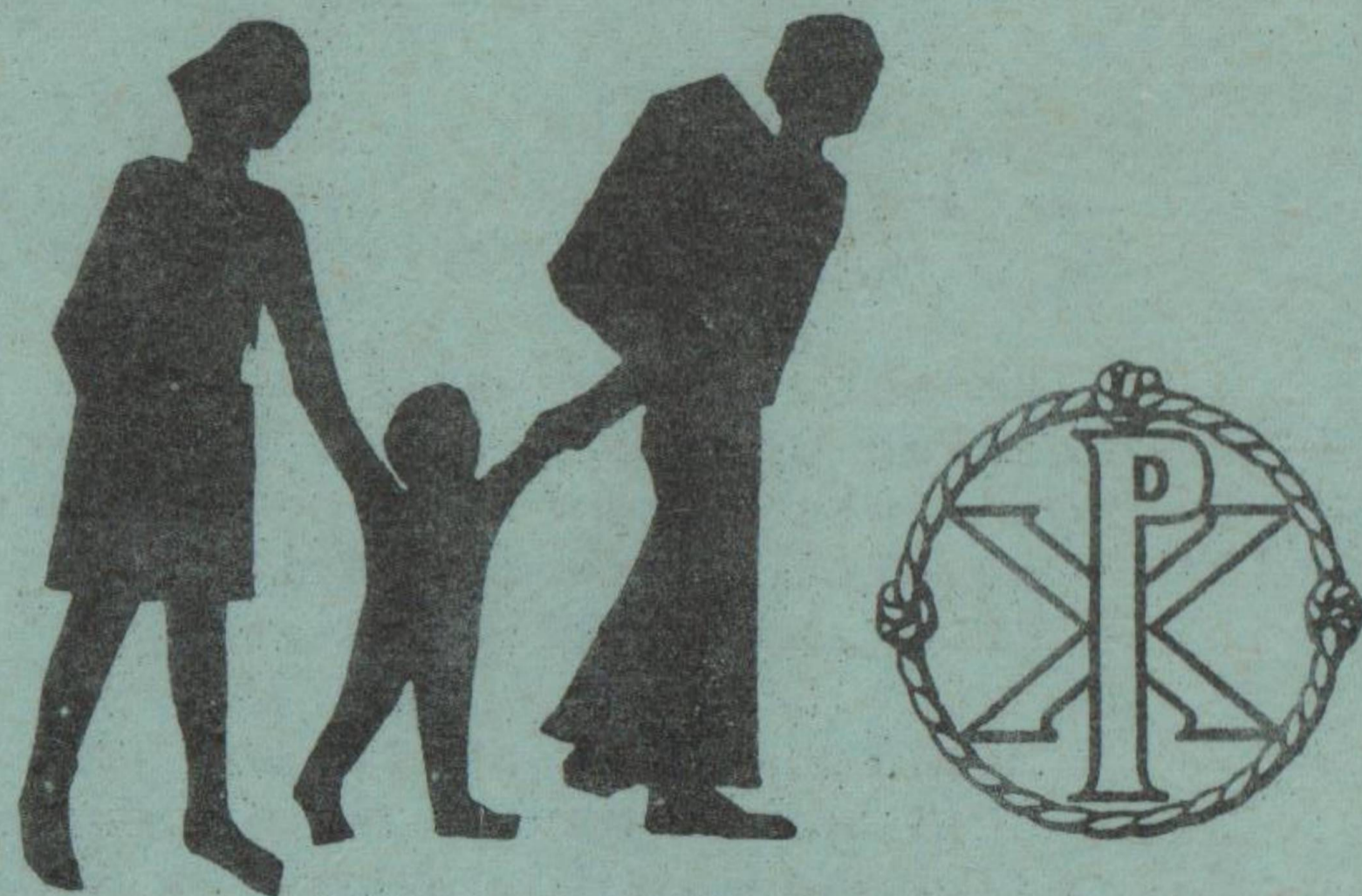


The book is helpfully arranged so that each sketch is classified according to length (from thirty seconds to fifteen minutes) and subject matter (e.g. faith and politics, land, fair trade and care for creation). In addition each piece has a page of Bible notes by Chris Wright of Union Biblical Seminary in India, and activity suggestions for following up the drama.

"Drama is fast becoming recognised as a powerful means of communication and education in the church", emphasise Archbishop Derek Worlock and Bishop David Sheppard in the preface. *Act Justly* will help to satisfy the increasing demand for good quality material by its professional selection.

Martin Leach

This is the British group of an international movement whose members strive to answer the call of God, to work with him in his plan to bring about the harmony of all creation, by following Jesus Christ after the style of St Francis of Assisi. The movement began after the First World War when a group of young French and German Catholics began to spend their summer holidays walking, talking, praying, and singing together, living a simple life and trying, by their friendship, to heal the wounds left on their two countries by the war. Gradually their ideas crystallised and the Pilgrims of St Francis movement was born.



the pilgrims of saint francis

Since then the movement has spread to most of the countries of Western Europe, and for over a decade has been open to members of all Christian traditions.

During the pilgrimage the pilgrims are divided into groups of 20 to 25 people. Each group has a Chaplain, a "Guardian" to coordinate the life of the group, a "Troubador" to lead the singing and entertainment, a house-keeper to organise the buying and cooking of food, and a discussion leader. The pilgrims sleep in barns or parish halls, carrying their sleeping bags in their rucksacks. They cook their own meals. On the road there may be times of silence for prayer or stops for meditation or intercession. There are also times for discussion.

For those who cannot walk and carry rucksacks, there is usually a "Centre" where they can stay, living the pilgrimage life, but returning to the same place each evening.

The movement is open to all, whatever their age, colour or creed. Whole families belong and quite small children, even babies, go on pilgrimage with their parents. The day's walk is never over-long and it is broken by frequent stops.

Join the International Pilgrimage

From Tuesday the 4th to Thursday the 13th August, from Chester to St Asaph, Clwyd, Wales. For full details contact Mrs Pam Foster 49 Haughton Road Shifnal TF11 8DF Tel: 460694.

