



# Pax Scotia

## Issue 53

### Contents:

Page 2: Giulia Bordin says the only way forward is togetherness

Page 3: Rosalyn Mauchline reflects on how we respond to Zionism

Page 4: Support for dissenting Jewish voices as evidence of genocide increases



## Pilgrims of Hope - An invitation to move closer to God

**Pax Christi Scotland chaplain Fr Jim Clarke s.x.** explores the concept of the Jubilee Year that we now enter - invited by Pope Francis to become Pilgrims of Hope.

Pope Francis has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. In The Old Testament, Leviticus reminds us of its origin:

*“And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property, and each of you shall return to his clan.”*

The theme is “Pilgrims of Hope” and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

Pilgrimage is a journey of purpose. It is a voyage in faith with the hope of encountering God in a deeper and more intimate way. But like every journey, we return and with a pilgrimage we are being charged to return, better, more in tune with God’s will and more committed to the Kingdom that God so desires.

The Pope has made it clear of how we are called in this Holy Year to act concretely and where to focus our energy for the sake of the Kingdom. He speaks of the evil of war, the negative effects of the pandemic on individuals, communities and nations and the disaster which is immanent if we do not address the climate issue which spells death, especially to the poorest nations.

After the COVID Pandemic when we learned to pull together, share intelligence and resources and put on

a global front to combat this deadly disease, I had hoped that as a world we would see sense. Not so! Ukraine is invaded, Gaza is systematically destroyed, the Sudan faces unprecedented famine, Yemen continues to face multiple crises, including ongoing conflict, economic insecurity and widespread malnutrition, and who knows what future is ahead for Syria.

The Geneva Academy to date maintains there are 110 ongoing conflicts in our world. Aligned with this we have the news that 2024 will have been the warmest year since records began, 1.5 Celsius above the pre-industrial level. “Climate catastrophe is hammering health, widening inequalities, harming sustainable development, and rocking the foundations of peace. The vulnerable are hardest hit,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

The temptation is to despair, but despair has no place for those who follow the Gospel. Yeah, we can beat our breasts, in tears, at the foot of the cross or we can run with joy from the empty tomb. It depends on our optic and how we view the same glass! The important thing is to move, to take to the streets.

The history of Christian Pilgrimage is about change! The reasons vary from asking for favours, seeking forgiveness, escaping the everyday routine, seeking healing and re-evaluating one’s life. And from the first pilgrimage, which was that of the disciples to the empty tomb, to all those timeless ones to Rome, Lourdes, the Holy Land, Compostella...or wherever; it is change that is sought. A new hope, a new vision, a new way, a new dawn, a new peace, both inner and outer,

***The Holy Year is an invitation to journey, to move, to go closer to the God of love and peace.***

A well-known West of Scotland expression, when mothers were at their wits’ end with demanding children was, “Away an gie ma heid peace!” May our journey of Holy Year as pilgrims of hope, see us move away and give peace.

A blessed journey.

*Jim Clarke, s.x.*



**Giulia Bordin** is Advocacy officer at Pax Christi International. With more than 7 years of experience in advocacy at European and international level, Giulia Bordin currently holds the position of Advocacy Officer at Pax Christi International in Brussels. She has an academic background in human rights, international relations and political science, and has dedicated 15 years to volunteering, supporting initiatives for peace, justice and equality.

## Together is our only way forward

Looking back on my first year as Advocacy Officer at Pax Christi International, I feel deeply grateful for having the opportunity to serve such inspiring movement. Its historical legacy of reconciliation, nonviolence, and Justice serves as a compass for everything we do, it is a daily reminder of the responsibility and privilege of contributing to such an important mission.

This past year, I have witnessed a renewed energy throughout the movement. At a time when the world is facing growing issues, this determination is essential. Now, more than ever, we need to come together, act in solidarity, and focus our efforts to make Just Peace a reality.

The ongoing and escalating violence in the Middle East, with a genocide unfolding in front of our eyes in the occupied Palestinian territories, has made our mission even clearer. It underscores the urgent need for efficient, coordinated action. The immense suffering and its global impact demand that Just Peace become central to every decision-making process, as Peace in the Holy Land could serve as a cornerstone for humanity's future. This crisis highlights the interconnectedness of global challenges: the arms trade, resource exploitation, failed peace accords, criminalisation of NGOs and human rights defenders, and widespread violations of human rights all stem from the same system. To achieve Just Peace, we must adopt a holistic approach and address the root causes of conflict. Human rights violations in one region have a ripple effect globally, and we all play a part in sustaining these systems. Acknowledging our interconnectedness requires each of us to reflect on both external forces and our own contributions to these issues.

In 2024 Pax Christi International has tackled a range of urgent global concerns, including advocating against land exploitation and defended Indigenous rights in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Pacific regions. We also addressed humanitarian crises and severe human rights violations in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where conflict and resource exploitation fuel cycles of violence and inequality. In the Philippines, we emphasised the need for an inclusive peace roundtable to ensure no one is left behind. In Colombia, we focused on supporting peace initiatives and fostering dialogue among all parties. Meanwhile, the alarming rise in violence in Haiti has highlighted the need for greater international engagement. We have also urged the European Union and UN Member States to adopt a more peaceful, nonviolent approach in their policies, raising awareness of the dangers posed by increasing funding for violent defence mechanisms, such as nuclear weapons and AI in warfare.

All of this has been possible thanks to locally led advocacy efforts, the testimony of direct witnesses on the ground, the good practices and concrete examples of nonviolence and peacebuilding, and the collaborative work with sections of Pax Christi International, International Representatives, partners, and other organisations. These collective efforts ensure our responses are grounded in reality and amplify the voices of those most affected. Together, we do not only underline the issues, but we also provide proof that what we believe in can actually be achieved.

A special mention should be made of the inspiring work with the sections of the Pax Christi International movement. The variety of resources and knowledge, the passion, dedication, and creativity of members around the world never fail to inspire me. From grassroots projects that promote reconciliation to interfaith dialogues and advocacy at international levels, every contribution strengthens what we can achieve together. I am especially inspired by how we have started aligning our advocacy efforts to ensure our collective voice has the greatest impact globally.

As the saying goes, "teamwork makes the dream work". That has been so clear to me during my first year at Pax Christi International. The trust, collaboration, mutual listening and understanding of the whole movement have been key to everything we have achieved. The need of fast response, consistent presence and coherent contribution, requires a team that can interact quickly with awareness and understanding, and I am very grateful that the International Secretariat has increasingly seen this harmonious interaction coming together.

Together, we can turn hope into action and ideals into lasting change. This collaborative effort will remain essential as we face the challenges of today and tomorrow.

I have learned this past year that we must carry forward our mission with a sense of hope, not just for ourselves but for the children of today and future generations. They deserve a world where Peace is not an aspiration but a lived reality, and we owe it to them to continue striving toward that goal with unity and purpose.

Pax Christi International's mission has never been more urgent, nor the opportunity to achieve it more real. With the passion and dedication of this incredible movement, I am confident we will continue to make a difference for Peace and Justice worldwide.

*Giulia Bordin*

**"Those who remain silent are responsible."  
Edith Stein, Saint Teresa  
Benedicta of the Cross**



# Zionism - How do we respond?

*Dr Rosalyn Mauchline is a retired hospice doctor and has a long-standing involvement with issues around gospel non-violence. She is a member of the Executive Committee of Pax Christi Scotland, a Laudato Si animator and a member of ICAHD (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions) following a visit to Palestine some years ago*



Rosalyn Mauchline

**At** a recent meeting I was asked to relate how I had become involved with the cause of the Palestinian people. Afterwards, Pax Christi Scotland chair Marian Pallister, who had also spoken at the event, asked if I would put this to paper.

So - my story starts in 1982 when due to family bereavement I found myself unexpectedly working as a GP trainee in the outskirts of London.

The practice had a large Jewish population and over time I began to know some of the elderly Jewish patients, who I found to be open and friendly despite the major traumas many had suffered. They had a great sense of community, but if I had been asked beforehand about my knowledge of Israel/Palestine I would have thought of Palestinians as women in headscarves who blew up planes and Israel as this haven for the Jewish people to live after the horrors of the Holocaust.

I had seen the movie *Exodus* starring Paul Newman and so I had a very "Western" view of Israel. However, all that changed one day in the summer of 1983. An elderly gentleman came into my surgery and as he sat down, he commented on how busy the practice was that day. Knowing he was Jewish I explained that there were many young people coming in to have their medical forms completed to go out to the Kibbutz.

His displeasure was evident and when I asked why, he replied with the following words:

***"Israel is not about being Jewish but about being Zionist. The Zionists are no better than the men who put us in the camps – you think we of all people should know better."***

To say I was taken aback is an understatement, made more so by the fact that as he was saying this, I had been preparing to check his blood pressure and could see the number tattooed on

on the inside of his arm.

He was a survivor of the Holocaust, so needed to be listened to - and so we began to talk, and I openly admitted my ignorance. I made a promise to him that I would learn, and over subsequent years made myself increasingly aware of the reality for the Palestinian people.

This was later aided by a study tour to Palestine arranged by the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and although I thought by then I was quite knowledgeable, nothing had prepared me for this new awareness of the huge injustices Palestinians were facing in their daily lives.

However, it is only recently, especially with the events in Gaza, I have realised the huge destructive force of Zionism which this man had tried to explain to me back in 1983.

Many Jewish people are vocal about their opposition to Zionism but for us as followers of the Way we need to be aware of the threat of Christian Zionism.

I would suggest the work of Stephen Sizer on this topic.

*Rosalyn Mauchline*

*Dr Stephen Sizer is founder of Peacemaker Trust, a registered charity dedicated to peacemaking, especially where minorities are persecuted, where justice is denied, human rights are suppressed or reconciliation is needed. In 2004, he co-authored the statement *Challenging Christian Zionism* endorsed at the 5th International Sabeel Conference in Jerusalem. His books include *In the Footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles*, (Eagle, 2004) *Christian Zionism: Roadmap to Armageddon* (IVP, 2004) and *Zion's Christian Soldiers: The Bible, Israel and the Church* (IVP, 2007).*

## Our website

Blogs, podcasts, the book project, past and future events – these are all on our Pax Christi Scotland website. All newsletters are archived there. You can pay your annual membership fee on the Membership page and make donations. Please explore and share:

<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org>

Continued thanks to webmaster Chris Boles of Caledonian Websites:

<https://www.caledonianwebsites.com/>

## Membership Reminder

Please pay **in November** on the **membership page of our website**, or, if you pay by online banking, please give your name to identify your payment. If you wish to pay by cheque, send to the address below, cheques payable to Pax Christi Scotland.

You can also make regular donations on our 'donate' page or by standing order - thank you.

Membership fees per annum are £10 for waged, £5 for unwaged.

Explore the website for all our activities:

<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org>

## Where to find Pax Christi Scotland:

<http://www.paxchristiscotland.org>

[@PaxScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland)

[@PaxScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland)

[@PaxScotland](https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland)

Snail mail:

Pax Christi Scotland  
c/o Xaverian Missionaries  
Calder Avenue  
Coatbridge ML5 4JS

## YouTube Channel

You can find recordings of all our events at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@paxchristiscotland>

<https://www.youtube.com/@paxchristiscotland>

<https://www.youtube.com/@paxchristiscotland>

Click on the word 'Subscribed' and you will be informed whenever a new recording is posted.

Pax Scotia Dec 2024-Jan 2025 Issue 53



# Genocide?

Amnesty International has named the situation in Gaza as genocide. On December 19, Human Rights Watch said that in depriving the people of Gaza water, Israel was committing a "crime of extermination, acts of genocide in Gaza". (<https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/israel/palestine>).

Back in September, British Jews wrote an open letter to the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, urging him to take into account the diversity of Jewish opinion on Israel and Palestine, and to widen the range of Jewish organisations that you meet with.

The letter said: "We deplore the unfailing backing Israel receives from the supposedly official voices of British Judaism"

It added: "We ask you to reflect on the shame and horror we feel at being represented as approving of the murderous oppression of Palestinians by the self-declared Jewish supremacist state of Israel. To be tarred with the brush of complicity in pogroms connects us, viscerally, to our own historic experience as victims of pogroms. In the light of this alone, we are resolute in our condemnation of Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their lands.

"As Jews, we have a particular responsibility to condemn Israel's wrongdoing, and to support the right of the Palestinians to live in peace and justice. This is doubly important when the false impression is given that all UK Jews support Israel's colonisation of Palestine and its present savage attack on the population of Gaza."

The Archbishop, as head of the established church, was asked to listen to their voices. Who will now listen? We pray that politicians will. And *our* voices must also be added - our first task of 2025.

## The Pax Christ Scotland Book Project - an update

The Catholic Nonviolence initiative published *Advancing Nonviolence and Just Peace within the Church and the World* in 2020. The text, the result of a global consultation with activists, organisers, Church leaders, social scientists, and theologians, explores how the Church can return to the tradition of Gospel nonviolence and, in doing so, enrich the world.

Pax Christ Scotland launched our online monthly reading group in November to study this inspirational text, led by Anna Blackman. The recording of each meeting can be accessed on our website (<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org/book-project/>). You will be able to access all Anna's notes, etc. at that link. The next meeting is on January 13 at 7pm.

Haven't signed up yet? It's never too late:

Step 1: Register with <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pax-christi-scotland-tickets-1041817703797?aff=oddtcreator>

Step 2: Eventbrite will send you the link to the Zoom meeting. Sign up for all events or singly. All the information is also on our website (<https://www.paxchristiscotland.org>)

There is a link on our website for the book: