

Annual Report August 2014



This year has not seen any of the big campaigns but that doesn't mean that we have been idle. We have kept up our correspondence with our M.P. Iain Wright on various topics which have cropped up e.g. the "lobbying Bill" which various groups like ours were worried about as it could have repercussions on our rights to protest and ask questions.

In September several members travelled to Stockton to hear Tony Campolo speak on "Seeking justice for the poor, at home and abroad" at the Baptist Tabernacle - a meeting organised by NE-CAP. He was one of the spiritual advisers to President Bill Clinton and spoke entertainingly and powerfully.

It was decided that this year we would



have Climate Change and Labour Behind the Label as our main causes and that next year we would be looking to host a hustings before the General Election, particularly focussing on the attitudes of the parties to green issues. This will also be the theme of a forthcoming event in October when Iain Wright M.P. will be answering questions at a coffee morning which will be held in Hunger for Justice week-end.

Photos- Tony Campolo and Lynn and famous tee-shirt

Three of our members turned up outside Matalan to remind them of their financial responsibilities to the families of the workers who were killed in the dreadful clothes factory accident. The company were obviously forewarned of protest and they were told to leave by the security guard, though the company had prepared a written statement.

Instead of the usual One World Week service, members led the town service in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which took place at Oxford Road Baptist Church. This was well supported and a collection raised £202 which was divided between Wateraid and the Hartlepool Foodbank.

The usual Christmas sale of Traidcraft goods took place at the end of November.

Members took part in Fairtrade Fortnight, helping out at stalls in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and at the baking competition. Martin, Lynn and Chris spoke at assemblies at Wellfield School in Wingate. The group helps out by keeping the audit of what shops are selling which fair-trade goods ready for the renewal of the town's Fairtrade Town Status.



Contacts: Susan Atkinson tel.428558 Chris Eddowes tel. 269412

Meetings: Second Monday of the month 8pm St. George's United Reformed Church, York Rd.

All welcome Website: www.hartlepoolpeaceandjustice.org