

IN THE SPIRIT OF OSCAR ROMERO!



The graphic features the text 'IN THE SPIRIT OF OSCAR ROMERO!' in large, bold, blue letters with a red outline. To the right of the text is a black and white portrait of Oscar Romero with a halo effect. Below the text are four red stylized human figures. To the left is a green hand holding a leaf, and to the right is a green hand holding a globe, followed by the text 'JUST1' in black.



[Click here for Spirit of Romero Introduction](#)

[Click here for United Nations Observance Days](#)

[Click here for Sing Out for Social Justice](#)

[Click here for Speak Out for Fairtrade](#)

[Click here for Grow Your Own Gallery of Good Examples & Inspirers
at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary](#)



SCHOOLS STAND UP! SPEAK OUT! JOIN IN!

A TEACHERS' GUIDE to some simple term-by-term timely ideas for any school keen to grow good citizens - and be voices for the voiceless of the world





WELCOME TO A SLIDESHOW ABOUT SPIRIT OF ROMERO HAPPENINGS

It's meant as a cheerful list of suggestions for teachers, exploring several activities on social justice for schools in class or assembly.

But it's mainly about the colourful collaboration that led to the creation of the Spirit of Romero Gallery at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School in Bracknell.

More information is at www.spiritofromero.org

Hugh Gibbons, Creator & Conductor of Just1





IN THE SPIRIT OF ROMERO is a working term for Just1's patchwork of spirited activities for schools - to help teachers anywhere with growing good citizens for tomorrow.

Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador is a hero for many ordinary people in many countries. So churches, schools, groups and organisations like to honour his life and legacy - often in services around the time of his assassination on 24 March 1980. There are many elements of conventional liturgy and tribute available.





In the Spirit offers a different take – that may also help pupils get used to the idea of being in solidarity with and appreciating everyone round the world campaigning for social justice.

It assumes that Romero would have liked the idea of practical support for those in need, would applaud young people leading the way, and would encourage them to take part and do good works.

So In the Spirit offers ways to "aspire not to have more but to be more" – to stand up, speak out, join in and be today and tomorrow's "voices for the voiceless".





The suggested activities for schools here

- are all free to use and adapt as you want
- take only a few minutes in classroom or assembly
- are simple to handle, in non-churchy language
- generate good news stories about schools
- are not about raising funds - and don't demand budgets

There are four suggestions

- Stand up for United Nations Days on social justice
- Sing out against Poverty & Inequality
- Speak out for FairTrade
- Grow your own Permanent Gallery of Good Examples



Suggestion 1

STAND UP FOR UNITED NATIONS DAYS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE





Through the year, the UN has many Days relating to social justice. These are ready-made for schools to recognise with a few words in class or assembly - and can be part of the school calendar.

The Days illustrate the great diversity of issues connected with social justice.

Three Days have traditionally been marked by Just1 activities, in which tens of thousands of pupils, staff, parents and others have taken part.





- 27 January** International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
- 6 February** International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation [WHO]
- 20 February** World Day of Social Justice
- 1 March** Zero Discrimination Day [UNAIDS]
- 8 March** International Women's Day
- 20 March** International Day of Happiness
- 21 March** International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21 March** International Day of Forests and the Tree
- 22 March** World Water Day
- 23 March** World Meteorological Day [WMO]
- 24 March** International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- 25 March** International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 25 March** International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members
- 4 April** International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
- 6 April** International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- 7 April** Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide
- 22 April** International Mother Earth Day
- 29 April** Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare



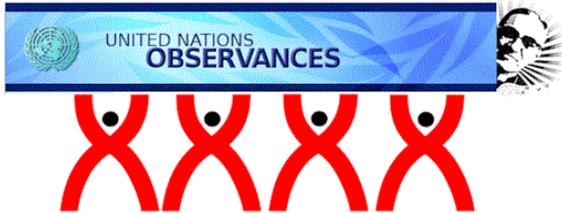
- 3 May** World Press Freedom Day
- 15 May** International Day of Families
- 21 May** World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 29 May** International Day of UN Peacekeepers
- 1 June** Global Day of Parents
- 4 June** International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- 5 June** World Environment Day [UNEP]
- 8 June** World Oceans Day
- 12 June** World Day Against Child Labour
- 14 June** World Blood Donor Day [WHO]
- 15 June** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 17 June** World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 20 June** World Refugee Day
- 23 June** United Nations Public Service Day
- 26 June** International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 26 June** International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- 5 July** International Day of Cooperatives
- 11 July** World Population Day
- 12 July** Malala Day for Children's Right to Education
- 18 July** Nelson Mandela International Day
- 30 July** International Day of Friendship
- 9 August** International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12 August** International Youth Day
- 19 August** World Humanitarian Day
- 23 August** International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Abolition
- 30 August** International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances





- 5 September** International Day of Charity
- 12 September** United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
- 15 September** International Day of Democracy
- 21 September** International Day of Peace
- 2 October** International Day of Non-Violence
- 5 October** World Teachers' Day [UNESCO]
- 6 October** (First Monday in October) World Habitat Day
- 9 October** World Post Day
- 11 October** International Day of the Girl Child
- 13 October** International Day for Disaster Reduction
- 15 October** International Day of Rural Women
- 16 October** World Food Day [FAO]
- 17 October** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 24 October** United Nations Day
- 24 October** World Development Information Day
- 2 November** International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
- 6 November** International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 10 November** World Science Day for Peace and Development
- 16 November** International Day for Tolerance
- 19 November** World Toilet Day
- 20 November** Universal Children's Day
- 22 November** Africa Industrialization Day
- 25 November** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 2 December** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 5 December** International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 5 December** World Soil Day
- 9 December** International Anti-Corruption Day
- 10 December** Human Rights Day
- 18 December** International Migrants Day
- 20 December** International Human Solidarity Day





STAND UP SING OUT



AGAINST POVERTY & INEQUALITY

Each year,
whenever suits
on or around

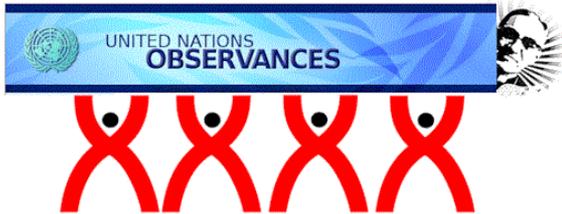
17
OCTOBER

STAND UP AGAINST POVERTY
around 17 October each year, Just1's
Schools Stand Up Against Poverty &
Inequality marks the UN International Day
for the Eradication of Poverty

In many cases schools have renewed
Promises to the Poor, based on the eight
Millennium Development Goals.

[Click here to see the sort of activity](#)





Each year,
whenever suits
in the days before
24
MARCH

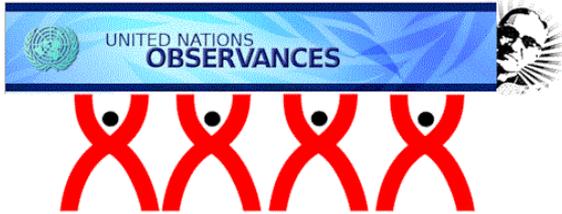


In the days before 24 March each year, Schools Acclaim Campaigners is linked to the UN's International Day for the Right to Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. (The actual date 24 March is when Romero was assassinated.)

It's been an opportunity to celebrate and acclaim all those who campaign for social justice in any setting.

[Click here to see the sort of thing from 2013 - linked to the IF Campaign.](#)





Each year,
whenever suits
on or around
**12
JULY**

STAND WITH MALALA FOR
CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO
EDUCATION is on the UN's
new special day

It's also Malala's birthday on
12 July! Blow her a kiss and
maybe light a candle.



Suggestion 2

SING OUT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE





Sing Out for Social Justice!

As schools love to sing, Just1 has a small repertoire to suggest. All of them are simple in words and tune, work well in any key and tempo, and sound fine without any accompaniment. They also lend themselves to extra verses, harmonies and arrangements.

COUNT ON US was written by Hugh Gibbons to launch Sing Out Against Poverty in 2011. Over 20,000 pupils, teachers, parents (and at least one bishop, "scaring the cat") took part. See more at www.just1.org.uk/singoutagainstpoverity.



CARRYING A CANDLE was written by Hugh Gibbons to launch Spirit of Romero for schools in March 2013. The candle is being carried for Romero, social justice, and all campaigners - and Malala was added in June. See more at www.just1.org.uk/carryingacandle





Bing Bong Songs for Social Justice

are fun ready-to-run any time!

The tune is that of the chimes of Big Ben at Westminster, and the words are whatever you want.

For example, schools and congregations have used them to turn towards London and sing We're/For/Fair/Trade. and Hung/Er/For/Change to the G8 leaders in Northern Ireland - as the basis for news releases and letters to governments, MPs and others. Get the idea? Go for it!

Here are two examples.





*Good morning, Prime Minister
We are St Margaret Clitherow Catholic
Primary School in Bracknell, and we
have a message for you today!*

BIG BONG BING BONG...

**WE'RE FOR FOOD BANKS
FOR THEM GIVE THANKS
WE'RE FOR FOOD BANKS
FOR THEM GIVE THANKS**





Pupils warm up before they sing 'We Thirst for Change'

Photo: Lynda Mussell

Choirs direct protest song at David Cameron

NEARLY 700 pupils and parishioners from Bracknell and Ascot took part in a unique show of support for the Cafod campaign Thirst for Change.

Conducted by local supporter Hugh Gibbons, they formed big choirs facing towards Westminster as they sang "We Thirst for Change" to the tune of the chimes of Big Ben.

The song was directed at Prime Minister David Cameron as part of a nationwide effort asking

him to encourage his counterparts to end water poverty when they all meet at the G8 summit in July.

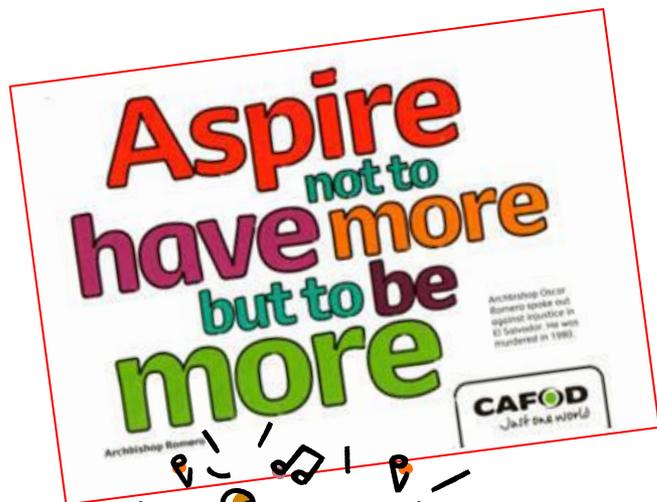
On March 19 an assembly of pupils, staff and governors at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School in Bracknell led the way at the start of a week that raised nearly £800 for Cafod. Mr Gibbons said: "Everyone knew the very appropriate tune. Reception started things off with bings and bongs, followed in turn by each Year."

Pupils were also briefed on how their parents could join in by signing campaign cards to send to Mr Cameron.

The following weekend, Mr Gibbons conducted "We Thirst for Change" with more than 500 Massgoers at St Francis of Assisi Catholic church in South Ascot, during a talk to thank them for supporting Cafod over the last 50 years. Parishioners waved campaign cards in the direction of Westminster.

Mr Gibbons said: "I can write to the Prime Minister with some good news: that so many people of all ages in the care very strongly about helping meet the basic needs of people elsewhere.

"In the UK, we can take water for granted, but worldwide nearly a billion people lack access to clean water. Diseases caused by dirty water and poor sanitation claim more lives every year than from all forms of violence, including war."



A GOOD FUN SUGGESTION FOR ASPIRING COMPOSERS (ie anyone with a tune in their head)

ASPIRE/NOT /TO HAVE MORE/ BUT/ TO BE MORE is a famous saying of Oscar Romero.

It's perfect for quiet, reflective singing.

Schools might like to compose their own tunes to suit the words - for class or assembly or solo use - in the spirit of Romero.

You might think to make it Taize-like : gentle, rhythmic, flowing. Yes?





Suggestion 3

SCHOOLS SPEAK OUT FOR FAIRTRADE

to passers-by
to congregations
to other schools
to clergy





Speak Out for Fairtrade!

Many schools have Fairtrade certification, and many others support it in a variety of ways.



In the spirit of Romero, Schools Speak Out for Fairtrade offers lively and enjoyable suggestions and actions to take the message out to passers-by, congregations and others.



Suggestions include asking PTAs to make banners to go outside schools or churches; dressing the inside of churches; getting pupils into pulpits to encourage the annual renewal of the commitment to the Fairtrade movement by parishes and other communities. And to literally feel the collar of clergy who may be a bit slow on the uptake...

[For full information, click here.](#)

[Back to starting menu page](#)

Suggestion 4



This is something eye-catching that may appeal to many schools – and churches – with a suitable space.

Yours will be unique to you – as you'll see from the story of the first and colourful collaboration.



GENESIS OF THE FIRST GALLERY

In the beginning, in February 2013 Christine Duerden, the RE Co-ordinator at St Margaret Clitherow Primary School in Bracknell, Berkshire UK, asked Hugh Gibbons if he would consider making a wooden Romero Cross to go on the panel above the screen



This was to replace the metal one that had been in the school hall for many years, but was an awkward fit with the new big screen.

Hugh said No.



Hugh actually had form on this, as in 2012 he'd made a copy of the familiar small and colourful crosses provided for CAFOD by a family of artists in El Salvador.

Hugh simply scaled up the outline available on the CAFOD website.



Later, he made this house in the back garden - which housed a family of long-tailed tits in Spring 2013 - complete with St Francis, bird, butterfly and armadillo.



He then made a larger version of the cross - to go outside St Francis of Assisi parish church in South Ascot, as a public thank you for their 50 years of support for CAFOD.



The extra length of the upright meant room for St Francis, Oscar Romero, and some happy faces - being shown by a parishioner who had actually visited El Salvador and experienced the Romero story at first hand.



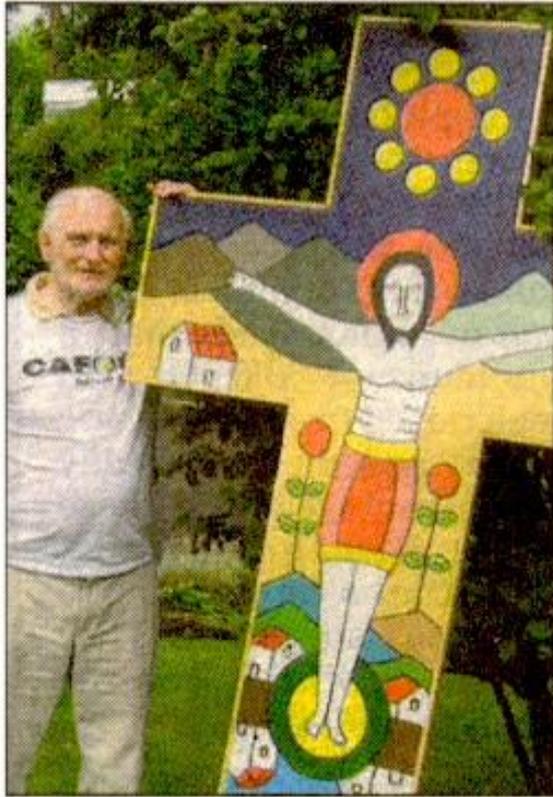
Hugh is not an artist, and has no studio - so his garage had to double up. Acrylic paint was the main medium, with a touch of Wickes white emulsion.



The first public viewing was as part of the CAFOD stall at the summer fayre at St Margaret Clitherow Primary School.

It also went on show at St Francis Church - and St Joseph's in Maidenhead.





Hugh's show of solidarity

A COLOURFUL cross will stand proud as a symbol of solidarity with poor people around the world.

To mark 50 years of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD), education volunteer for the Bracknell branch, Hugh Gibbons, has created a seven-foot version of the Romero Cross, famous in El Salvador. He is pictured with it.

The creation is on display at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Coronation Road, South Ascot where Father Tom

Taaffe is encouraging parishioners to visit and touch the cross as a sign of solidarity with disadvantaged people across the globe.

Mr Gibbons said: "The Cross is a thank-you to everyone in the area for their many years of support for CAFOD. It seemed to me that it would be good to have something public for the next 50 years. So I thought of a sort of wooden stained-glass window outside for all to see as they go along Coronation Road!"

This was a write-up in the local paper.

The photo shows the first occasion Hugh was able to see "Big Oscar".

THOUGHT for the week



Important landmark now has fitting home

BIG Oscar' now has a fixed home – outside the church, facing along Coronation Road, South Ascot. Made to celebrate CAFOD 1962-2012, it's our 7ft, all-weather, home-made version of the colourful wooden crosses hand-painted by family artists in El Salvador.

Ours includes a little figure wearing trademark spectacles – to show solidarity with the spirit of Oscar Romero, the archbishop of El Salvador honoured worldwide for championing social justice.

The UN made March 24 its International Day for the Right to Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. On that 1980 day Romero was assassinated in the chapel of the little Carmelite hospital where a couple of humble rooms were all he needed as home. By coincidence, my friend Jan Graffius has just been there again. An expert conservator, she's responsible for caring for the relics of Romero, so that the world – and posterity – can see and cherish the personal side of his story.

And here's the story updated in December 2012 in another local paper

No, not bones, but poignant possessions. The shirt with its bullet-hole over the heart. Sweat-stained trousers. Three pairs of black socks. Spare glasses. A blood-sugar testing kit (he had to fight diabetes, too). The towel embroidered O.R. by the nuns. It's no surprise Jan cries.

The manual typewriter in the cubbyhole office helped Romero be "the voice of the voiceless" – for all faiths, and none. Here's an ever-apt 1978 Thought – December 4!

"Outside the church, anyone who struggles for justice, anyone who makes just demands in an unjust atmosphere, is working for the Kingdom of God. This person may not be a Christian. The church doesn't have a monopoly on the kingdom of God."

Hence Big Oscar's location – to be there for anyone outside the church, not just in.

Hugh Gibbons
Member of the Justice & Peace Group
St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Ascot



And in back in the school hall?

Hugh felt that even the largest cross on the panel above the screen would be lost. The biggest is shown on the piano.

But he suggested an alternative vision - thinking laterally, literally.

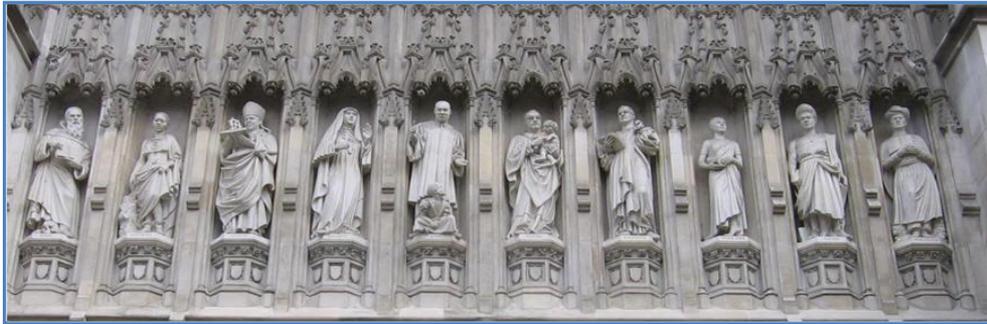


Get a 30cm wooden cross from CAFOD.

Surround it with figures, painted in the Salvadoran style.

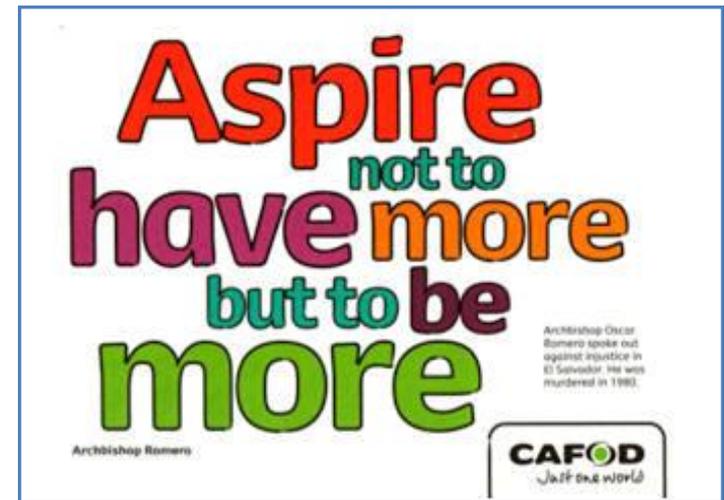
Ask the children and staff to specify the figures.

Paint it in the garage.



Hugh had partly in mind the gallery of statues of Martyrs of the 20th Century above the West Door in Westminster Abbey - in which Romero features.

He suggested that the Gallery should include Romero in his role as "voice of the voiceless". He could also carry his well-known advice, often quoted in CAFOD material - as a verbal message for everyone to see in the hall every day.





TRY-OUT

Hugh made a couple of outline sketches to show Christine - and head teacher David Masters.

They liked the idea!

As Hugh pointed out, it would be a snapshot of the ethos of school in mid-2013 - and provide a permanent education resource for classroom and assembly for many years ahead, as well as being something unique for the school to treasure.

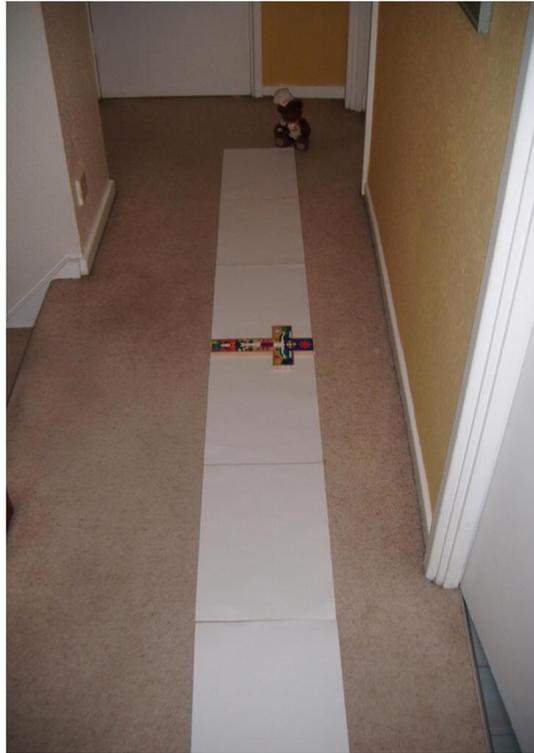




During March 2013, the pupils and staff discussed and settled on the choice of other big figures for Hugh to paint.

He then started sketching out how they might look - and where they'd fit.

Early on, he decided that they should be facing out, and carrying something.



Christine bought the 30cm wooden cross from CAFOD.

Hugh bought the 2.4m panel from HomeBase, and laid the one on the other - to get a feel for how things might be.

The first layout had all the figures pointing towards the centre.



It was time to commit art.

The board was smoothed and sealed.

Then after days and days of dithering, Hugh drew in the outlines of the figures.



By this time, he'd decided to have the big figures in twos.

This showed that there'd be room for some smaller figures. They gradually suggested themselves and got painted in.



Note the powerful blue of the sky, and the Salvadoran landscape holding everything together.



As the painting took place in Hugh's narrow garage it was difficult for him to do what artists need - space to stand back and get the overall view.

So every now and again he lugged the Gallery into his sitting room - which gives you some idea of the size of the emerging Gallery. The red cross in the middle was ready to take the wooden one.

In the background is a 2008 Muchas Gracias to everyone around in East Berkshire for their support for CAFOD - from Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras, now a key member of Pope Francis' team.



In early June, the mighty blue sky was in place to set off the figures.

The framing gave an extra neatness.



The largest brush used was 5mm wide. Upwards of 50,000 brushstrokes were needed as Hugh modified and corrected and fussed.

At the end, the Gallery was given several coats of picture varnish, and half a dozen eyelets on the sides - for attaching banners and bunting.

HANDOVER

In late June, Hugh presented the Gallery to the whole school - set on the handy piano so it would be at eye-level for pupils.

The youngest child in the school came forward, put the Romero Cross in place, and promised to return in 2063 to tell the story of the Gallery to the pupils then.

Everyone sang Happy Birthday to Malala, learned how to do the FairTrade arm cuddle, and got used to waving at Sam the Donkey.

On 4th July 2013, the Gallery was fixed in place!



THOUGHT for the week



Children are inspired by Malala's example

ON JULY 12, find a minute. It's the new United Nations' Malala Day, a focus for the basic human right to education. Face towards Edgbaston High School in Birmingham and sing happy birthday to Malala Yousafzai (the Pakistani schoolgirl shot by the Taliban for promoting girls' education). It's her 16th. Many thought she'd never make it; blow her a kiss, to show you care. In schools you'll often see Malala's picture. Children especially have been greatly taken with her courage and determination to see social justice.

Year 6 at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary in Hanworth chose Malala as one of the figures surrounding a Romero Cross, for the Spirit of Romero gallery I've just painted for their hall. Pupils can wave back at them every day.

Reception asked for Our Lady; Year 5 went for David Beckham (a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador); Year 4 chose Isaac Newton, shown high-fiving with The Queen, who was chosen by Year 3. Year 1? Florence Nightingale, please.

The very next day, this Thought appeared in the Bracknell News

I added some small figures who can do with our acclamation: for example, teachers, aid agencies and Lazaro Rodriguez in El Salvador who painted the original Romero cross – in memory of the Catholic bishop assassinated after campaigning for human rights.

The IF Campaign and Fairtrade have a place. Pope Francis doffs his white cap to the world, saying Buona Sera. St Francis of Assisi holds a globe alongside a giraffe. A family represents the voiceless poor. But Oscar Romero is there for them, loudspeaker in hand – and the nuns who looked after him.

Year 2? They wanted the Good Samaritan. His arm steadies and comforts the bloodied casualty. I like to think the Bible missed a bit.

When they got home, Mrs Samaritan said: and where've you been all this time? So the donkey explained things, and she said, 'well done, I'm so proud of you two'.

Blessed are those who show appreciation. Such as singing happy birthday, and blowing a kiss. Yes?

Hugh Gibbons

CAFOD Portsmouth diocese education volunteer



BACKGROUND!

The Gallery was first in use at the leaving party for Maureen Anscomb - the last figure to be added. It was also a good backdrop to a Macmillan Coffee Morning.



SOME SUGGESTIONS ON CLASSROOM USES OF THE GALLERY FOR TEACHING

What do a couple, or several, or all of the figures, have in common?

If you could meet one of the figures, what would you want to ask them?

If our class did a play about some of the figures, who would be best to play them?

Thanks



Huge hug to take home to families



THE BIG FIGURES



Archbishop Oscar Romero

David Beckham
choice of Year5

Florence Nightingale
choice of Year1

Sir Isaac Newton
choice of Year4

Our Lady
Choice of Reception Class

St Margaret Clitherow

Malala Yousafzai
Choice of Year6

Anne Gibbons
Choice of the Staff

Queen Elizabeth II
choice of Year3

The Good Samaritan
choice of Year2

THE SMALL FIGURES



Carmelite Nuns in El Salvador

Hugh Gibbons the creator of the Gallery

Pupil at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School carrying a candle

Pope Francis I

The Unknown Voiceless Family

Beaky the Blackbird

Maria in Colombia

Lynda Mussell & Laura Bigoni of CAFOD

Lazaro Rodriguez painter of the Cross

FairTrade Symbol

StMC pupils holding Sing Out Award

Teachers Christine Duerden & David Masters

Maureen Anscomb, Teaching Assistant

Margaret Horton and Spitfire AB910

St Francis of Assisi; giraffe, bee and butterfly

Emily Mbithuka of Kenya and the IF Campaign

Three corgis belonging to The Queen

Springer spaniel Fred, with Fr John Keenan

Five volcanoes in El Salvador

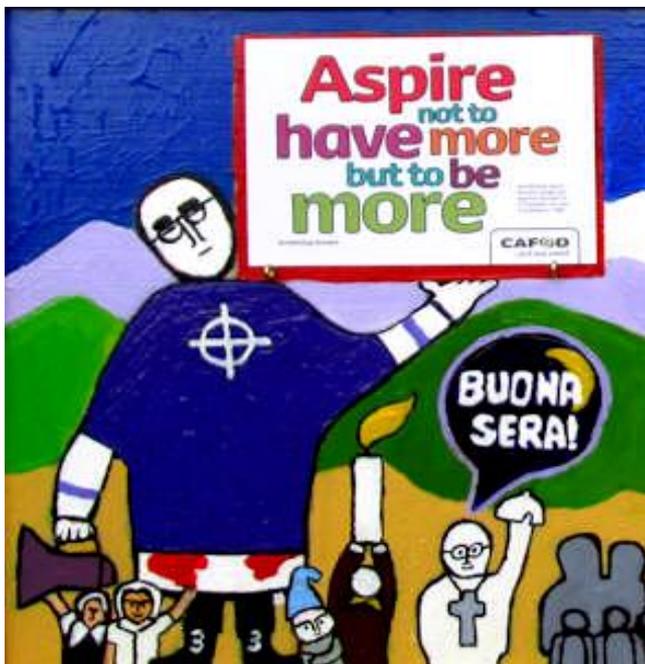
THE FIGURES IN DETAIL



going from left to right across the Gallery

and including some of the plaudits coming in -
called Palmaditas en la Espada,
which is Spanish for Pats on the Back





Archbishop Oscar Romero

holding a loudspeaker - as worldwide "voice for the voiceless".

An outstanding champion of social justice and human rights, Romero was assassinated during Mass in the little chapel of the hospital on 24 March 1980. He is shown carrying his famous saying *Aspire Not To Have More But To Be More*. This rests on two brass pins, so that a different message can be placed there. Note that carrying even inspirational messages needs quite an effort.



Romero is wearing *Socks#3* - a reference to his modest lifestyle even as an archbishop, having only three pairs of socks - one on, one in the wash, one in the drawer. They were in the care of...



Carmelite Nuns

at the Divina Providencia cancer care hospital in San Salvador where Oscar Romero made his modest home as Archbishop.

They were present at Mass in their little chapel on 24 March 1980 when Romero was shot - and were first to tend to him.

On the Gallery, they represent the compassion and care of nuns and nurses worldwide.

The nuns run the hospital, and the little museum in his rooms - which displays clothing, books and other personal possessions (also known as relics). These include his three pairs of socks, as well as the blood-stained clothing he was wearing at the time of his assassination.





Pope Francis I

wearing his simple cross, taking off his cap to the world, and saying *Good Evening* in Italian - his first public words on being elected.

The white zucchetto cap worn by the Pope is a symbol of his authority - supposed to be taken off only before God. But on 9 May 2013, Francis had a different idea - and the photo inspired the cheery portrayal of him on the *Spirit of Romero Gallery*.





"In effect, Monsignor Wells has become the interpreter and point of contact between the Vatican and the entire English-speaking world. He's the first port of call for Anglophone churchmen, diplomats, activists, and other movers and shakers who need entrée, who have a project to promote or a bone to pick, or who'd simply like to know what's going on."

National Catholic Reporter
26 August 2013
"The American Insider in
Francis' Line-Up"



**Letter from
Monsignor Peter Wells,
Assessor, Secretariat of State,
The Vatican
14 October 2013**

Dear Mr Gibbons

His Holiness Pope Francis has received your letter and he has asked me to reply in his name. He appreciates the sentiments which prompted you to share your artwork with him.

The Holy Father will remember you in his prayers and he invokes upon you God's blessings of joy and peace.



A pupil at St Francis of Assisi Primary School in South Ascot UK

carrying a candle for social justice - blown about, but with the flame strong and determined.

In March 2013, their choirs gave the first performance of the *Carrying a Candle for the Spirit of Romero Song*.

They also sang an off-the-cuff "congratulations and have a good lunch on Sunday" to the new Pope Francis I.



The Carrying a Candle Song

Poverty we want to end
And injustice too
So together we'll send out
A song of what we do!

*We're carrying a candle
For the spirit of Romero!
So that the world knows we care.
For the spirit of Romero
Carrying a candle
Count on us to carry his light today!*

2. For the voices of the voiceless...

3. For all campaigners...

4. For social justice...



Poverty we want to end
And injustice too
So together we've sent out
A song of what we do!



The Gallery artist Hugh Gibbons

portrayed wearing a Phrygian cap - a well-known symbol of the liberty enjoyed by the people of Phrygia - in solidarity with the Salvadoran people.

The cap appears on their coat of arms, together with five volcanoes (which the Gallery includes - see one above Beck's left arm).

Huge is the only figure on the Gallery with arms folded - to keep his hands warm and show he's at last done and dusted with painting!





Palmadita en la Espada!

A pat on the back from the Ambassador of El Salvador to the UK & Ireland, His Excellency Werner Romero e-mail to Hugh Gibbons in July 2013

Dear Hugh

Thank you so much for sharing this great news of the Gallery with us. I love the Malala Birthday initiative. We'll propose it to our Ministry of Education.

Also with your permission, I'd like to post this news in our "Salvadoreños en el Reino Unido" Facebook page.

My very best

Werner



Year 5 Choice David Beckham



portrayed with socks rolled down to show his highly-regarded commitment and skill as a professional footballer - including captaining England.

Fitting his role of Goodwill Ambassador, he is portrayed holding the hand of the symbol of UNICEF's Rights Respecting Schools initiative, with which the school is involved.



He also represents Good Sports of All Sorts - certainly as someone who has aspired to be more (and perhaps surprised himself in the process.)

Note the volcano against the skyline - one of the five on the Salvadoran coat of arms.



The Unknown Voiceless Family

representing the millions of poor and disadvantaged of the world that social justice campaigns aim to help.

The family is deliberately shown without any form of identification.



Beaky and his pal Andy the blackcap, ready to welcome visitors to Hugh's home.

Beaky's song goes
ta-ta-ta ta-ta-ta ta-ta-ta:
ta ta-TA!

Beaky the Blackbird

is another popular singer in schools.

He is part of Hugh's small but hard-working team of assistants - bears Caffy, Maurice (on secondment from Bears Sans Frontieres) and Barney from St Mary's Hall in Stonyhurst College; and birds Owly, Andy and Beaky.

Beaky usually leads, asking audiences to give each other a pat on the back in return for his cheery song.

October 17 is the annual International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The school has led the way in Hugh's Just1 Stand Up & Sing Outs to mark the Day. In 2009, they were the first of over 50,000 pupils, parents and families showing solidarity with nearly 200 million other people taking part.



Year 1 Choice FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

is shown holding a sort of lamp - and a bloodied cloth from cleaning wounds.

She is in the Gallery representing nurses all healthcare workers of the world.

A good quote?

"I attribute my success to this - I never gave or took any excuse."





Letter from Professor Helen McCutcheon, Head of Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery, Kings College, London, on 1 August 2013

Dear Year1 Pupils

I was so pleased to learn from Hugh Gibbons that you chose Florence Nightingale to be one of the figures in the wonderful painting in the Spirit of Romero Gallery at your school.

The whole painting is very colourful and full of energy, and shows many great people. But Florence Nightingale is especially important to me as I am a nurse myself and the head of a school of nursing in London called "The Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery.

As you know, Florence was determined to do her best for sick people in very difficult circumstances and many people have been inspired to become nurses because of her example. You are lucky to be able to look at the painting every day, and I hope that all the figures in the painting continue to encourage and inspire you.



Maria in Colombia

a young lady who featured in a 2011 CAFOD social justice campaign. Her family grows coffee in a mountain village - hence the coffee bean plant on her right. They are part of a FairTrade co-operative that ensures fair prices.

In a video Hugh showed to all pupils at St Margaret Clitherow, Maria said she loves to sing - and they loved her.

Taken with the idea, Hugh wrote the Count On Us Song which the school sang in assembly on 17 October that year, leading the way for 20,000 others (and Good Sport Bishop John Pritchard of Oxford who said he scared his cat).



Count On Us



SING OUT



AGAINST POVERTY & INEQUALITY





Verse 1

Poverty we want to end,
And injustice too.
So we promise this together -
We'll stand up for you.

You can count on us!
We're with you!
Side by side and hand in hand,
We'll stand up for you.



Verse 2

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8;
Families, teachers too
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 -
We'll speak up for you.

You can count on us!
We're with you.

Tell the whole world that we've promised:
We'll speak up for you.



Verse 3

15, 16, 17, 18 -

Looking out to you

With our arms outstretched so you know

We'll reach out for you.

You can count on us!

We're with you.

North and south and east and west, Yes!

We'll reach out for you.



Verse 4

Ones and tens and hundreds, thousands!
More than just a few.
Count us in to bring you in as
We sing out for you

You can count on us!
Yes us too.
Hear us now make this vow
We'll sing out for you.



Verse 5

To the poorest of the world
We want to be true.
So we promise with our actions
We'll shout out for you.

You can count on us! We're with you!
So you'll know as we grow:
We'll shout out for you.

WE WILL!





WELL DONE!

Now sing yourself a
pat on the back.





Lynda Mussell and Laura Bigoni of CAFOD Portsmouth Office.

CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development - the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England & Wales, and a member of the 160-strong organisations in Caritas Internationalis. It provides emergency relief, long-term livelihood projects, education, and campaigning for social justice.



Note the careful attention by the artist to Laura and Lynda's hair-styling!

Like so many schools, St Margaret Clitherow Primary have given many years of support - fundraising and taking part in campaigns. And for many years, the school hall was the venue for the St Margaret Clitherow parish Lenten auction, which raised thousands of pounds for CAFOD.



**From Lynda Mussell, Manager,
CAFOD Portsmouth**

to David Masters, St Margaret Clitherow Primary Head

I'm writing to thank you for all your hard work in assisting Hugh Gibbons (our wonderful CAFOD Education Volunteer) to put together the school's Spirit of Romero Gallery. It looks fantastic!

I hope the children really enjoyed choosing their examples of people whose lives have enriched and supported so many others across the world. We've looked at the different panels and the variety of people chosen is extraordinary. It's so good to see the people that CAFOD has worked with on the panels such as Emily Mbithuka from the Kitui region of Kenya, as well as CAFOD's former partner and inspiration, Archbishop Oscar Romero.

It's rather an honour for me and Laura to be featured at all on the Gallery in such illustrious company!

I hope the children, staff and parents continue to enjoy and be inspired by the painting in many years to come.

Thank you so much for all your incredible support for CAFOD.





Year4 Choice

Sir Isaac Newton

As there's no actual evidence that the apple fell on Isaac's head, Hugu decided to be historically meticulous (ie a right fussyboots) and encase it in a question mark - the best tool a school can equip their pupils with and one that Newton knew well.

The idea of Isaac being a prism occurred after he had been painted in - to fill the space! The colours of the spectrum? Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo and Violet (or you can use the mnemonic Richard of York Gave Battle In Vain!)

The weight that he's lifting in his right hand is partly an allusion to gravity and partly to say that regular exercise helps to build and strengthen both body and mind.

The pebble at his foot alludes to his saying:
"I was like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."





From Sir Paul Nurse, President of the Royal Society And Nobel Prizewinner, on 2 September 2013



Dear Year 4 Pupils

I was very pleased to receive a letter from Hugh Gibbons informing me that you chose Sir Isaac Newton to be represented as one of the figures in the beautiful Spirit of Romero Gallery at your school. It is a very interesting painting and you must be proud of having helped create it.



Like Isaac Newton, I am a scientist; I do research in genetics, which means that I work with genes, which are sets of instructions contained in a human, plants and animal cells and determine what we are, what we look like etc.

I am also the President of the Royal Society, which is the UK's academy of science. The Royal Society has been supporting science and great scientists from all over the UK and Commonwealth for a very long time now: 353 years! Sir Isaac Newton, who was also President of the Royal Society, was a great scientist and his discoveries were important in helping people to understand how the world works. He was willing to ask lots of questions and to investigate natural phenomena to find answers to those questions.

Scientists like Isaac Newton are people who are curious about the world we live in and they can help to solve important problems, such as climate change, or to create great things, such as vaccines and smart phones. Science is an important part of our lives, and I hope you will continue to be inspired by people like Isaac Newton and that you will be encouraged to ask questions and think about things in a different way.

Yours sincerely

Paul



Lazaro Rodriguez

whose family in the little town of La Palma in El Salvador paint many Romero Crosses - for people worldwide to appreciate and enjoy.

Lazaro is depicted carrying a quiver of paintbrushes, with which to send beauty like arrows out into the world. The strap is in the national colours of El Salvador.



Centrepiece Archbishop Oscar Romero Memorial Cross

30cm high - painted by Lazaro's family - it came from CAFOD, and cost about £30.

On the front are the words "*La Nueva Creacion*" - the New Creation.

On the back it has Romero's words: "*As a Christian I do not believe in death without resurrection. If I am killed, I shall rise again in the Salvadoran people*".



Archbishop Oscar Romero - born 15 August 1917 Died 24 March 1980.

When the Gallery was first shown to the school, the youngest pupil in Reception Class came solemnly forward to hang the Cross in place. There's be a reunion in 2063.



Reception Choice

Our Lady, the Virgin Mary

She is shown holding an empty pushchair - to symbolise mothers letting children (of whatever age) go.

Together with Lazaro Rodriguez and St Margaret Clitherow, she is shown touching and supporting the cross.



Hugh Gibbons said that this was by far the most difficult figure to paint - and the face took him six overpaintings on six days.

Note that her feet are bare - something she shares with The Good Samaritan on the Gallery. Others have various forms of footwear.

St Margaret Clitherow



is shown holding a key - used when she was hiding priests in York. She therefore represents everyone who protects people from people from persecution, for whatever reason - such as faith, politics, nationality, gender or ethnicity.

As one of the figures at the centre of the Gallery, she is shown holding up the Romero Cross.



The statue of St Margaret was bought for St Margaret Clitherow church by the parish's Catholic Women's League. It is now in St Joseph's Church in Bracknell Town Centre

FairTrade Symbol



is in the Gallery as a reminder of the support given by the school and many others in being voices for fairness to small producers around the world. NB The arm - which pupils are taught can double as an arm to comfort others.



FairTrade banner made by St Francis of Assisi Primary in South Ascot



Huge demonstrates the FairTrade comforting arm to Winkfield St Mary's Primary

Over 500 schools have Fairtrade status - along with 500+ towns and boroughs, and 4000+ churches and faith groups. Both St Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow parishes were registered as Fairtrade in about 2006, as the Diocese got certification. Sales in the UK are over £1billion and increasing - despite pressures on family budgets.

Each year Fairtrade Fortnight gives a focus to the movement. Schools can play a part in encouraging churches to renew their three simple pledges in the Just1 Speak Out For Fairtrade initiative - in the spirit of Romero.



Year 6 Choice

Malala Yousafzai

holding a dove as a sign of peace. She is wearing the uniform of Edgbaston High School in Birmingham, and carrying the date of her birthday - now the UN's annual Malala Day.

Malala is the courageous and spirited young woman who spoke out for the right of everyone to basic education - not only in her own country of Pakistan but across the world. In October 2012 an attempt was made to silence her by assassination. She was brought to the UK for treatment in Birmingham - and recovered to resume education, albeit in a setting she and her family (and others) never expected. The laurels next to her are an allusion to both EHS and the national coat of arms of El Salvador - and appear on the school badge.



On 12 July 2013 - her 16th birthday - Malala addressed the United Nations - as a voice for the voiceless young. On 19 June 2013, the pupils at St Margaret Clitherow sang happy birthday and blew her a kiss - well, it takes a long time for sound to cross the Atlantic!



From Gordon Brown

UN Special Envoy for Global Education;
former UK Prime Minister



Dear Pupils

I was so thrilled to find out from Hugh Gibbons that you selected Malala Yousafzai to be included in your Spirit of Romero Gallery.

As you know, Malala campaigned from a very young age for the right of all children, particularly girls, to go to school in her home country of Pakistan. As the schools around her were being attacked, Malala never wavered, and bravely continued her campaign. Even when Taliban gunmen shot her on her school bus last October they failed to silence her and she became a symbol of hope around the world.

On 12 July this year, Malala marked her 16th birthday with a speech at the United Nations in New York, telling the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and an audience of over 500 children that "one child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world."

As the UN Special Envoy for Global Education, I am committed to ensuring education for all. By the end of 2015, we aim to provide education for the 57 million children around the world who are not currently in primary school. I congratulate you all on your enthusiasm and participation in various UN days and campaigns, and I hope that you will continue to be inspired by Malala and take part in the wider campaign for the right of education for all. In this movement, the voices of the young are truly the strongest.





Two pupils at St Margaret Clitherow Primary

carrying the Sing Up Silver Award that they achieved.

Sing Up is a not-for-profit music education organisation based in the UK aiming to promote quality singing activities in everyday learning.

The organisation maintains an online library of over 500 curriculum-linked songs and warm-ups for primary-aged children, teaching tools for schools and organisations and an integrated training and support programme.





The Gallery's Inspirers! RE Co-ordinator Christine Duerden & Head Teacher David Masters

carrying a tick mark to represent the vital part they played in saying Yes and encouraging the creation, form and content of the Gallery. They're examples of good sports who know when to let others get on with things!

And Good Sports at the summer fayre, too...





Maureen Anscomb

a teaching assistant who retired in July 2013 after 20 years' service at the school. On the Gallery she represents the great contribution not only of classroom assistants but all other staff - such admin, catering, and maintenance.

Maureen's figure in the familiar leopardskin dress was added a couple of days before the Gallery was put in place - as a little extra leaving present before she cut the cake at a party in the hall.





Spitfire Vb AB910

of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, occasionally seen and heard over the school transitting round the west of London to and from air displays.

LACW Margaret Horton was left clinging to the tail when it took off from RAF Hibaldstow in March 1945! FO Neil Fox, the pilot, knew only that the Spit was tail-heavy.



Why on the Gallery? A lesson for everyone is in the hero of the day, the Air Traffic Controller. He spotted what had happened, Kept Calm and Carried On, advising Neil Fox to return at once and land gently "in case there's anything wrong with the plane, old boy".

Neil was later reprimanded for carrying an unauthorised passenger. Margaret was fined for losing her gloves (one is shown). They were cheerfully reunited at the Battle of Britain Flight a few years ago. Happy landings!





Staff Choice Anne Gibbons

As a Foundation Governor, Anne represents all members of governing bodies in schools everywhere.

The heart is a symbol of the commitment shown by Anne to the school for many years. Governors give great - and usually unsung - voluntary commitment to schools. Anne is wearing an identity badge.

Anne is holding a piece of red and white gingham check cloth with which she had available as the model for the girls' uniform for daughter Maggie - the day before the school opened in February 1976. They also serve who only sit and sew.





St Francis of Assisi

shown looking after the globe, as he has a role as Patron Saint of the Environment.

He is propping up a giraffe, while the bee and butterfly prepare for an aerobatic display. Why a giraffe? Well, why not?

St Francis also appeared on the big Romero Cross made for St Francis of Assisi church in South Ascot - on the wall facing down the road for all passers-by to see.





Emily Mbithuka

of the Kitui region of Kenya, holding a reminder of the Enough Food For All IF Campaign aimed at the leaders of the G8 summit meeting at Lough Erne in Northern Ireland 17-18 June 2013.

During the major drought of 2011, Emily and her husband often went without food to make sure that their children had more to eat. She never complained, despite her increasing illness and exhaustion. In partnership with CAFOD, Emily's Catholic diocese gave her seeds for her garden, including the mung beans shown.

Hungry for change



**HUNGRY
FOR
CHANGE**

Taken the action
already?

Now's the time to get clued up on
food. Download resources to help
you share the campaign with your
group, parish or school

Get clued up: Food >

Emily was featured in Hungry for Change, the CAFOD contribution to the Enough Food For Everyone Campaign. Huge was one of the 40,000+ people who gathered in Hyde Park in London on 8 June 2013.

Next G8 gathering in the UK will be in 2021.





Year3 Choice

Queen Elizabeth II (with added corgis)

The Queen is shown with crown, pearls and handbag. She is the only human figure on the Gallery in profile - the way she is seen on coins.

As she never carries money, she's been given a real halfpenny minted in 1926, the year of her birth.

At her feet are three corgis, a bit puzzled by Fred...





Letter from Susan Hussey

Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Balmoral Castle 13 September 2013



Dear Mr Gibbons

The Queen would like me to write and thank you for the letter sent on behalf of the pupils and staff at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School, in which you tell Her Majesty of the Spirit of Romero Gallery.

The Queen was very interested to hear about your artwork and was very touched to learn that the children of Year Three chose Her Majesty to be one of the figures to be included in this special piece.

The Queen sends her best wishes to everyone at St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School and I am to thank you for your thoughtfulness in writing.





Fred, and Fr John Keenan

Fred was the genial springer spaniel belonging to Fr John Keenan, the parish priest who drove the building of St Margaret Clitherow church, school and parish. Fred sat quietly near him at Mass (well, falling asleep in some homilies) and during school visits.

Fred here represents all animals who bring companionship to homes. Fr John represents all parish clergy who play a part in the governing bodies and other life of schools and colleges.

Year 2 Choice Figure

The Good Samaritan

seen high-fiving with the Queen, while steadying and comforting the casualty. The donkey (Sammy?) has his foreleg raised to show he's keen to get going - a reminder that caring for those in need means doing something!

The Good Samaritan here is also a reminder of the fine work done by the many volunteers helping people struggling to cope.

Martin Luther King has a good take on things.

The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But the Good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'



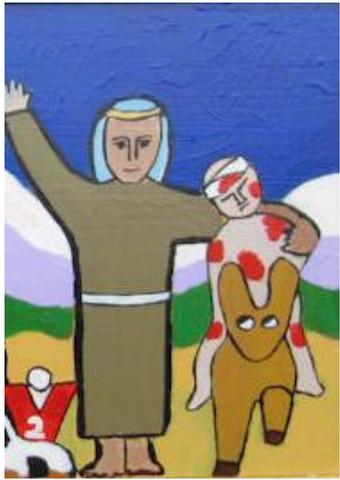


Letter from Catherine Johnstone

Chief Executive of The Samaritans, September 2013

Dear Hugh

Thank you for your letter of 22 August, inviting Samaritans to comment on the gallery you have produced for St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School.



It might interest you to know how the name of our organisation came about. When our founder Chad Varah began operating a helpline for people who were feeling suicidal, it received lots of press coverage, and on 7 December 1953 the Daily Mirror coined the term "Telephone Good Samaritans". Although Samaritans is not a religious organisation, the name has stuck and become synonymous with the idea of people being there for others struggling to cope.

It is very admirable that pupils of St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Primary School have chosen the Good Samaritan for inclusion in the gallery. I hope you will appreciate that Samaritans as an organisation cannot claim to represent this biblical figure. Nevertheless, I am very proud of the good work that our 18,000 volunteers do in order to reach out to people in need. and I would like thank you for referencing Samaritans in such a positive way.



HUGE THANKS FOR VISITING THE GALLERY!



Aspire
not to
have more
but to be
more



**IN THE SPIRIT OF
OSCAR ROMERO!**



Aspire
not to
have more
but to be
more

 IN THE SPIRIT OF
OSCAR ROMERO!

