Happy and Peaceful New Year: are you ready for successful Campaigns in 2019?

Campaigning in Minehead, spring 2018

In this issue:

Campaigning in 2019
2019 Embassies Walk and petition hand-in
Molesworth Peace Garden
Plus news, reviews, events and prayer diary
Dear members

Thank you to all who responded to our annual appeal and sent in a donation. We are very grateful for your continued support. It’s not too late to send a donation, if you have any cash left after the big spend of Christmas and New Year: every little helps! We will let you know how much has been raised later in the year.

Someone sent in a Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) cheque (thank you!). Please note, dear members, that we are not a charity alas, so we cannot accept CAF cheques, nor can we claim tax relief, so please bear that in mind.

What we can do, however, is accept legacies. If you want to know more, please ask for a legacies leaflet (or download one from the website ‘Free Downloads’ page) which explains what you have to do to remember Christian CND in your will.

Contributions to this issue from:
Ben Niblet, Bruce Kent, Geraldine Ellis and the Editorial team.

“Ploughshare is published by Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DQ, Tel 020 7700 4200, christians@cnduk.org http://christiancnd.org.uk/ Twitter: @ChristianCND

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Copydate for next issue: 1 May 2019
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From the Office

Dear members

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The Roman God, Janus, after whom January is named, had two faces so he could look both forward and back. If he looked back now to the achievements of the disarmament movement last year, ie more and more countries endorsing the Ban Treaty and the Resolution passed at the Anglican Synod, he would be smiling broadly (provided he were not of a warlike nature.) The face that looked forward would be altogether more troubled.

Fortunately, we do not have to rely on the help of Roman Gods and we can build on last year’s achievements to get closer to our aim this year. 40% of our members belong to the Church of England and it is largely due to their hard work that the Synod proposed and passed the resolution asking the Government to engage with the Ban Treaty.

Unfortunately, this does not mean that it will agree, any more than it did after a resolution in 2007 condemning the renewal of Trident, unless it feels that the population is behind it. There are 5 million practising Christians in the UK. Quite a start! The other denominations, too, have issued their own statements.

This New Year’s issue is focussed on campaigning and you will not only find the information you need but ideas for using it and events where we can come together to meet decision makers and share our experiences. We look forward to meeting you during the year.
The Christian CND Embassies Walk will be taking place again in 2019. We will be making our usual pilgrimage around diplomatic missions in London to discuss issues around nuclear weapons.

This year we are focussing on NATO Member States, following a recent report which showed that it would be possible for them to sign up to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons without having to renege on NATO membership. Despite 122 states supporting the Treaty, only the Netherlands of all NATO members attended the negotiations in 2017, following a motion passed by the Dutch parliament.

On Tuesday 12 March we hope to talk to ambassadors and others about the Treaty and other issues ahead of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting in New York. We will start as usual with a short service at St-Martins-in-the-Fields. No prior experience is needed as a full briefing will be given and an experienced Embassies walker will lead each team.

As part of the day we will also be visiting Downing Street to deliver the petitions, which many of you have signed, to the Prime Minister, calling on the UK Government to sign the TPNW immediately.

As some Embassies require a list of those attending, it is useful for our planning if you can confirm if you plan to come. Please get in touch with the Christian CND office if you want to play a part in international diplomacy in 2019.

From the archives: an Embassies Walk outside India House, we can’t remember the year!
Christian CND nominates Pat Gaffney for international peace award

Christian CND has nominated Pax Christi General Secretary Pat Gaffney for the International Bremen Peace Award, in recognition of her decades of faithful campaigning for peace.

Many of you will know Pat through her work at Pax Christi, where she has been General Secretary since 1990, but her work in the peace movement began in the late 1970’s through the Justice and Peace Movement.

Pat’s work has taken her around the world, from East Timor where she showed solidarity with those suffering at the hands of the Indonesian regime fuelled by British arms sales, to Palestine, where she has made many visits in recent years.

Pat has done great work in raising awareness of issues around nuclear weapons among Catholics and beyond. Last year she was invited to a major conference on the Nuclear Ban Treaty at the Vatican, which included an audience with Pope Francis.

Christian CND has been working with Pat for many years, particularly through the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, which she has both chaired and served as coordinator. The award will be presented in November 2019 and the winner is due to be announced in the New Year.

Please pray for Pat as she comes to the end of her time at Pax Christi, we know that her excellent work for peace will continue into retirement.

Left, Pat meets the Pope, right, Pat at a Pax Christi event in 2016
“Hello – my name is Rachel Leather and I am a new member of the CCND Exec. I live in Worcester with my husband, David, two sons, Gabriel (18) and Jared (17) and dog, Talisker.

I have spent much of my career working in volunteer management with the Citizens Advice Bureau, but last year I changed direction and am currently training to become a minister in the Methodist Church. As part of my training I am doing an MA, and my chosen dissertation focus is on the Methodist response to nuclear disarmament. I am passionate about politics and see both politics and the church as amazing agents for change.”

David Maxwell, the other new member of Exec is in the picture below, second from the left.
RAF Molesworth may be one of the lesser known bases in the UK, situated in the Cambridgeshire countryside, but it has a remarkable history which is being brought back to life in 2019.

You may be familiar with the story of RAF Molesworth and the Peace Camp established there in the 1980s in opposition to the stationing of American nuclear Cruise Missiles. Christian CND supported the camp at the time, including supporting a court case to prevent the sale of a field next to the base where the camp continued. As a result of the camp Molesworth Peace Garden was established, to be a witness against the on-going use of RAF Molesworth as a cog in the war machine.

A Chapel was built from the remains of an old runway; with services taking place on a daily basis until one night it was surrounded by troops, before eventually being pulled down. Some of the material from that same runway is now used in the garden.

Today the garden is in need of some attention, and a small group of local volunteers is working to bring it back to its former glory. They are in need of people who would be willing to give some time towards working on the garden. Christian CND is supporting these efforts as a way of continuing to demonstrate a witness for peace in the area and to celebrate the history of the site. If you’d like to be involved, or want more information, please get in touch with the Christian CND office.

Roger Sawtell came to our AGM and told the meeting about the current state of the Molesworth Peace Garden and the plans for refurbishment.

Left: The Eirene Chapel, Molesworth, behind wire.
From Waking the Sleeping Giant, The Story of Christian CND by Valerie Flessati.
Photo (C) Sanity
Growing Christian CND

Thanks to everyone who voted for me as Co-Chair for Christian CND at the Coventry AGM. My aim is to grow CCND both in membership & status.

As we are ecumenical we can attract members right across the spectrum of church affiliations. For this growth, both in membership, and status, we need to hold events interesting to prospective members and ideally having some political effect.

The big news for me, and I actually think the wider Peace Movement here & internationally, is still about the Church of England Motion 8th of July 2018 at York.

About a fortnight before the General Synod, we sent out a letter to all our members asking them to get in touch with their General Synod Representatives. I assumed our members would know who theirs were, or how to get hold of them ... this was a mistake, and that’s where our members came to the rescue. They phoned the office, they phoned me, they phoned their deanery, they did stuff, they are used to doing stuff, they do it all the time.

The member in Lincoln sent a hand written letter to her representative, her daughter found the rep via the internet. A vicar on the Welsh borders rang her diocesan synod to complain about the lack of democracy in the difficulty people had in getting hold of their General Synod Representatives. The CCND member near Winchester got onto his deanery synod.

So that’s why I said at the AGM at Coventry, ‘I want a new relationship with our members’. I want the Executive to access that competence.

Enclosed with this Ploughshare is new leaflet with the complete text of the Motion, with the same campaigning ideas as before, and also a letter from Canon Brown of the General Synod. Please refer to it as you read this, the reason the news on the campaigning on the C of E Motion is on the leaflet is that I would like you to use the leaflet, i.e. give it to someone who would be interested. It’s part of my idea of how we can grow from our existing membership, perhaps even getting small locally based groups, imagine if our 350 members in their particular locality, see the leaflet, and give it to someone else. That immediately doubles our exposure.

11th November Oxford CND held its usual event at Bonn Square, at our Peace Plaque. We were invited to participate in the New Rd Baptist Church service where the congregation processed out just before 11am to our Peace plaque. We all observed the silence together.

We drove up to Scotland, to go to the Faslane demonstration, via Iona while we were at it...so we left a pile of the leaflets on the Iona Community table in Iona Abbey, and also at Bishops House.
The Faslane demo was fantastic, best turnout they had had in years, international speakers & also Kathy Gallagher of the Iona Community.

At the CND AGM in Bristol 20th October we proposed the resolution that CND congratulates the Church of England on its Motion and calling on CND to urge its local groups to use this as an peg for campaigning.

Right now, I’ll reply to the letter from Rev Canon Dr Malcolm Brown, Church of England, Director, Mission for Public Affairs, Archbishops Council, who wrote a very supportive letter (see leaflet). I’ll thank him and ask about the possibilities for us having the verbatim record of the debate as a small booklet for stalls etc, and also about the Lambeth Conference, that must be what (c) in the Motion refers to & Bishop Stephen Cottrell must be one of the Lords Spiritual referred to.

Mid January is deadline for submissions to the House of Lords International Relations Committee: Call for evidence: The Nuclear Non proliferation Treaty & Nuclear Disarmament International Relations on nuclear weapons. We are putting one in a submission.

Looking ahead

February 2&3 the Exec will have an AwayDay. I would like input from our members, so send in any thoughts you have.

February18 -23 Church of England General Synod, Church House, Westminster. Too late to organise a meeting but we will certainly leaflet outside. Contact us for details in due course.

Saturday June 8, Brighton, Launch of CCND Annual Barbara Eggleston Memorial lecture. Barbara founded CCND as we know it. It will be a one day event, one part devoted to memories of Barbara, the other to the Inaugural lecture. Perhaps we’ll get the beginnings of a CCND network there again; Sylvia said there was a group of a 100 CCND members there once.

2020, our 60th Birthday!
We want a year to remember! Brighton will be a little rehearsal. Exhibitions? Local exhibitions? Start thinking now!

Memorable events, Conference on Iona...that would be memorable. I remember the last one we had there, a very long time ago...it was how I discovered Iona. We could join other Christian/religious Peace Groups, especially Scottish ones & of course, the Iona Community. An Iona Community member said she thought the Iona Community would welcome something like that. It would have to be the summer 2020 when the Abbey open again after renovations.

Caroline Gilbert
I’ve been campaigning on climate for 13 years, with Tearfund, and on other aspects of poverty for a bit longer, with Jubilee 2000 and various others. I’ve won some campaigns and lost some! I first joined Christian CND in 1988, lapsed in the 90s and rejoined a couple of years ago.

There’s a very long way to go indeed on climate change, but over the last 20 years in the UK we’ve seen a lot of progress raising it up the churches’ agenda, and the default position in most church circles is that the church wants to take action on climate to care for creation and for the love of our neighbours. This has helped win the Climate Change Act in 2008, the world’s first, and success decarbonising our electricity faster than any other large economy, though slower than we could have, and with much less effort in other areas like transport.

There are still some sceptics, but not very many, and the common sense view in the pews is that climate change is important and action on it is good. The next stage needs to be moving it from ‘important’ to ‘urgent’. Here’s some lessons that I hope will be useful for the struggle to get rid of nuclear weapons.

**Political strategy.** Everything you do in a campaign needs to be aiming for the change you’re seeking, and that’s most likely to be a decision by government and led by politicians (possibly business leaders, usually politicians). Usually a change in attitude and behaviour by the public isn’t an end in itself, it’s a step towards a change by government. Keep that aim in mind and don’t get distracted — remember you need to change people’s minds first and turn that into changing politicians’ decisions second, and the second part won’t happen automatically. And think about the decision you want, who will make it, and what it will take to influence, pressurise, and persuade them.

**Audience.** It’s good to speak to anyone you can, but work out who you want to talk to most. Who can you reach? Of the other people in the movement you’re part of, who are you the best placed to reach, and who is someone else best placed for? Who are the hardest to persuade, and who are the most strongly supportive already?

You probably want to focus on people who haven’t made up their minds. To do that you need to talk to your strong supporters and equip them to persuade those around them, but don’t mistake talking to people who are interested and agree with you for winning the argument.

**Framing.** Once you know who you want to talk to, think about how to frame what you want to say so it will persuade those people, and what will get them to start listening so you can persuade them. What’s the story you want to present? It might be that we’d be safer without nuclear weapons, or that all weapons are evil, or that
We learnt a lot about framing from climate campaigning, and the biggest lesson is that telling people that climate change is killing polar bears worked well because it’s clear, simple, tangible, memorable, emotive and bad — nobody wants to kill polar bears — but worked badly because polar bears are a long way away from Britain and killing them makes no difference to our everyday lives. It means people see climate change as sad, but distant and not very important, and doesn’t help people see it’s urgent.

So if you’re campaigning for the UK to abandon nuclear weapons, you can focus on the moral case and say these things are evil because of the huge, indiscriminate damage they would do, and remind people how destructive Hiroshima was and a modern nuclear attack would be; and this will persuade some people but will motivate others against you to think they need nuclear weapons to be safe from other countries that have them.

Or you can focus on the financial case and say that we can’t afford nuclear weapons, and focus on how expensive they are and how much more they cost than forecast, and remind people how many hospitals we could pay for or how much national debt we could get rid of instead; and this will persuade some people but make others who don’t agree that we’re short of money stop listening. You can make both cases at once but you need to work out how much emphasis to give to each.

**Listening.** You need to listen to your audience and make sure what you say interests them, makes sense, makes them join you with their hearts, and wins the argument in their minds. Which means you need to acknowledge and deal with the objections you hear most often, and know when the answer is mainly about evidence and facts – such as that wind power really is very low carbon and is now cheaper than fossil fuels.

But it’s always more about emotions, helping people feel that campaigning against climate change helps them to be more fully the person they want to be; or overcoming a fear that tackling climate change means less fun or less money.

**Moral conviction.** Your passion that something is wrong and that you must right it is your motive power, and you need to nurture it. Your story about why your campaign matters to you, and how you discovered it, is also very powerful, and you should keep telling it. It won’t convince people by itself, but it’s a good start. Without that heartfelt conviction, clever framing doesn’t go very far, though without good framing heartfelt conviction alone doesn’t usually transmit to others either.
Messengers. Who do your audience trust? Pope Francis or Justin Welby are powerful messengers, who speak personally and memorably and can reach huge numbers. Church hierarchies like the Church of England Synod or Catholic Bishops Conference are also trusted, but their voices and decisions are much less likely to reach people in local churches, or beyond, so when they say something you love, as the Church of England did in 2018, you need to transmit it. Once they’ve said it, you can keep repeating it for decades.

People often listen to their local church leaders, as well as their national ones, so it’s worth trying to influence them, and trying to influence what’s said in student Christian groups and church leaders’ training to help shape how future church leaders think. People trust some celebrities, as David Attenborough has reminded us about plastic pollution. People trust their friends and family, though not uncritically. There’s a particular value in unexpected messengers, as when an army general questions the value of nukes, for example.

Bob Ingliss is a US Republican former congressman who illustrates the importance of messengers. He says that Al Gore said climate change mattered, and for him that was enough to make him sure climate change wasn’t real because he already knew everything the Democrat Vice-President Al Gore said was wrong. Later Bob’s son convinced him that climate change was real, and he’s worked on finding right-wing, free market solutions to it, and convincing his party, ever since, but he needed to hear it from someone he trusted before he’d believe it, and when he heard it from someone he despised, he didn’t believe it. Finding good messengers and avoiding bad ones is very powerful.

Action. What do you most want people to do? There’s room to ask people to do more than one thing at a time, but it’s limited – overwhelm people with options and they’ll probably not do anything. Make sure each thing you ask people to do fits as part of the same big story over time, but each time you ask people to do something, think hard about what the main thing is, and make sure you present that clearly and simply. It’s always worth offering more for those who want to do more and go deeper, but most people are busy most of the time and will respond better if you keep it simple. (Never think people are stupid, but always think they’re busy, and remember most people don’t think about nuclear weapons or climate change very often.)

Subconsciously your audience are asking themselves ‘Why should I do this and not someone else?’ And ‘Why should I do this now, not another time?’ You need to answer both questions and make sure the things you ask people to do really will be powerful and effective.

People’s sense of powerlessness in the face of large problems is often the single biggest obstacle to overcome,
and giving them a big vision of where you want to get to in the end, an achievable next step towards that destination, and a reminder of past victories are usually the three things you need to do to overcome it.

Alliances. Obviously working with others strengthens all of you, though at the cost of extra meetings. Working with others who aren’t like you probably adds the most, so on climate, combining Michael Howard, Surfers Against Sewage, Greenpeace, the RSPB, Jeremy Corbyn and the National Trust is a good mixture; and you don’t have to coordinate to reinforce each other. Look for allies and not just allies who look like you.

Campaigning’s an art not a science, and many of you have been doing it longer and won bigger changes than I have, but I hope that’s helpful. If you’d like any further reading, I recommend The Climate Majority by Leo Barasi.

Ben Niblett, senior campaigner at Tearfund, writing in a personal capacity
It was Christian CND that first drew me into anti-nuclear weapon work back in 1959.

I could not then, and cannot now, accept that it is morally permissible to have a real intention to commit mass murder if given the order to do so, let alone to obey any such orders.

That did not make me a pacifist but pacifists and non-pacifists can unite on this one!

Christian CND was and is a specialist section of CND. Para 2.16 of the CND constitution says that the purpose of specialist sections is ‘to further the aims of CND within their own sphere of influence’.

We now have several such specialist sections—Labour, Christian, Youth and Student, and Green.

Christian CND has a rather large ‘sphere of influence’. Of course some smaller denominations like the Quakers do not need persuading. But there is a lot yet to be done in the rest of the Christian world in England and Wales. Happily the Church of England has, in the light of the issues raised by the renewal of Trident, moved some way in our direction. My own Catholic Church in England and Wales, at top level, is now in a rather embarrassing position. Pope Francis has made it more than clear that the possession and intention to use nuclear weapons in any circumstances, is as morally wrong as their use. In other words he has rejected the ‘deterrence’ aim which used to be somehow acceptable.

There is much work to be done. Church notice boards are full of pilgrimage and piety. There ought to be a Christian CND message on every one. Spending over £200 billion on more weapons of mass murder, while hospitals get their budgets cut, calls for indignation and action.

Bruce Kent
No matter what our Church Leaders say about nuclear weapons, it seems that most of our congregations know nothing about it. So we have to help spread the news. This is something most of us can do at some level.

Start gently. Don’t expect to fill a coach to the next demo right away!

Workshops on getting the peace message on to the Parish agenda resulted in the suggestions below, that had been used successfully by participants at a conference at Aylesford Priory. Maybe one or more could be tried by our readers. If so, let us know how you get on. You might have other ideas yourselves.

1) Drop a peace news item into your chat at coffee.
2) Suggest a Prayer of Intercession for special dates. (eg Hiroshima Day)
3) Article or quote for Parish Magazine or Newsletter.
4) A Peace Prayer Service on a relevant day.
5) A Peace Walk (mini –pilgrimage) from church to church. Interfaith?
6) Set up a Peace Garden.
7) Suggestions for children’s activities, eg Peace doves to colour.
8) A Justice and Peace Notice Board.
9) An Exhibition for Hiroshima Day
10) A Peace Poster competition.
What will 2019 bring? I watched as the dawn of New Year’s Day crept through the bedroom window and cast my mind back through so many years of Christian CND. That it has been such an extended and continuous struggle could, I think, be significant.

Others may have their own ideas — and please don’t hold back from airing them to us. I am no theologian, so there may be people in our affiliated religious bodies who may wish to comment also. Whether or not you think what I have written here is plausible, please let us know.

Now could there be something fundamentally sinister about nuclear weapons? They are so destructive they are a threat to Creation itself. As a Christian, I ask myself who would delight in that?

It would seem the answer might illuminate the work of Christian CND, since, at Baptism, the Devil is renounced (as are his works). Instead of growing tired or despondent, this thought can revive and confirm one in doing the will of God.

However, at the same time, we mustn’t forget how cunning the adversary is. Every weakness in us can be exploited. Christ withstood temptations in the desert. One was the offer of superiority and power. Another offered a way of escape from the situation. When we find ourselves attracted by the former, do we succumb, or do we say, “Get behind me, Satan”? When there is a chance to escape responsibility, do we stick with doing the right thing, or show indifference? Remembering that ‘Peace begins with me’ is needed, as is consistency in prayer life and imitation of the nature of Jesus: Three examples are humility, non-violence and love itself:

We can’t humble ourselves as tremendously as He did, but we need selflessness, deference to our Father’s will and respect for others. Then there is non-violence. Though we campaign against the most violent of weapons, violence exists in many other forms. We don’t wheel nuclear bombs around, but we can easily find ourselves being destructive in other ways. One’s self-control is ever at risk.

And love? The two characteristics I’ve mentioned above spring from this. Realisation of God’s great love can help us to be channels of love. I think Christianity is all about love and relationship. Perhaps the Trinity relationship is the springboard. (Going back to that bit about prayer life, maybe a good alternative to insomnia could be personal conversation with one’s maker in the quiet of the night?)

Each of us in Christian CND depends on everyone else. At this time of New Year, let us wish each other well, with thanks for all the prayers and support. Happy New Year!

*Michael Pulham*
I went with my sister to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford for the 10am Remembrance Day Service and to see the Shrouds of the Somme.

We were not sure what to expect but as we arrived at the park the sheer scale and sight of 72,396 shrouded figures lying on the grass were stretching out as far as the eye could see. It was the most amazing sight we had ever seen to think that each figure represented a service-man killed at the Battle of the Somme.

Meeting Rob Heard and seeing the shrouded figures reduced my sister and I both to tears. It was an emotional morning, one we will never forget.

*Geraldine Ellis*

“War memorials and poppies are often quite familiar and comforting to us as a society. Rob’s work is different. It is unsettling, and I think that is sometimes what we need. It is too easy to slip into those rituals of remembrance and to say the usual words without really thinking about them.”

*Commonwealth War Graves Commission chief historian Glyn Prysor*
Warlike Christians in an Age of Violence. 
The Evangelical Case against War and for Gospel Peace
By Nick Megoran, 2017

This new book deserves to be read by all Christians, whether currently involved in the peace movement or not. The title is a nod to Ron Sider’s seminal 1978 work “Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger”, which helped to awaken western Christians to the Gospel imperative to care about the world’s poor. Megoran’s book similarly aims to awaken Christians to the Church’s long romance with war, and to call us back to a vision of peace. It is a thoroughly biblical book (the index contains references to well over half the books of the Bible!) which seeks to throw off our cultural bias and listen to what God has really told us.

The book follows a clear and straightforward structure, starting with the Old Testament’s attitude to war, though the New Testament and early church, to Constantine, the Crusades, the two World Wars and the “wars on terror”. It exposes in excruciating detail the way in which, starting with Constantine, the church has often been more interested in gaining worldly authority than in living faithfully by the non-violent message of Christ. It also describes how many, often a silent majority, in the churches have stayed faithful to that peaceful message, even at great personal cost. Two whole chapters address the question “What about Hitler?”, and the closing chapters call to the Church to rediscover its central mission, to live and teach the Gospel and thereby to present the world with a radical alternative to violence in all its forms.

The book does not cover nuclear weapons in great detail, although there is a powerful passage about the destruction of Nagasaki and its Christian community, wiped out by a single bomb from a “Christian country”. For me the book would have benefitted from some explicit discussion of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and a consideration of how weapons of mass destruction have taken the problem of war to another level. Perhaps that will make a good sequel!

This is an excellent book, written by someone whose faith is clearly the starting point for his worldview, rather than the other way round. In spite of the many painful examples of Christians getting it wrong, the writer is excited to conclude that, just as caring about poverty has become a mainstream Christian concern, the church may now be about to “ditch our addiction to war and become authentic followers of the Prince of Peace”. This book will help to make it so.

Martin Tiller

The GDPR is a regulation drawn up by the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to give citizens more control over how their data is used online.

It’s primarily aimed at organisations that send out direct marketing appeals and the like, but there are parts of the regulations which do apply to membership organisations.

One of the most important features of the regulation is what information we hold about you, the membership. You will know the answer to this; it’s your name, address, other contact details where you feel like sharing them (email, phone), the date you joined (if it was in the last 15 years or so), your denomination if you’ve shared it, and the amount of your last subscription. If you’ve filled in a standing order form we will have a copy of that with your bank details. By filling in a membership or renewal form, you are agreeing to be contacted by us, by post (or by email if you requested it), with copies of our newsletter, Ploughshare/Ploughshare Plus, and very occasional other mailings about special events.

If you tick the box that says, ‘Please send me occasional emails with urgent news and information’ then we will add you to our list to receive occasional emails (usually around 2 a month). If you once ticked the box but now want to opt out, please go to the bottom of the email for the ‘unsubscribe’ link.

We do occasionally send out appeals, and all members would get the same appeal letter; we never send out ‘targetted’ appeals to individuals.

If you have ticked the box that permits CCND to share your contact details with other members who would like to contact others in their area, then your contact details will be shared only with other members and NEVER with outside organisations.

So who will have access to your contact details once they are on the database or in the filing cabinet? Well me, basically. I do lock the filing cabinet when I leave for the day, and there’s a password to get on to the computer. And the office door is locked at all times with a keypad for entry. Of course no computer is completely invulnerable to hacking but we do our best and we are covered by CND’s data protection and anti-virus software.

When I file away your renewal forms, old forms are removed and then shredded.

Finally, if you require your details removed from the database for any reason, I will do that, though bear in mind you will not then get any mailings including your copy of Ploughshare.

If you would like to know more, or want to know exactly what information we are holding about you, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Claire Poyner
Some time last year, a member asked, when renewing his subscription, what percentage of CCND members are Church of England, Catholic, Quakers, etc.

We have long asked on the renewal forms; ‘Denomination’; although this is not compulsory many people have declared themselves as Anglicans or whatever.

Currently we have:
Total membership (includes the complimentary members) 368
Church of England 54
Roman Catholic 37
Methodist 19
Quaker 16
Other Christian 9 (denominations not covered elsewhere or those stating ‘Christian’
URC 6
Baptist 6
Ecumenical 3
Church of Scotland 2
Combined 2 (where a couple are different denominations or one person identifies as more than one)

Pentecostal 1
Presbyterian 2

Interesting, eh? Surprising there are no Unitarians. Bear in mind of course that a lot of people have not declared themselves. If you haven’t already, and you would like to, just add that info to your membership renewal form when the time comes.

We originally asked this question because there may be times when we ask our members to contact their senior church people about an issue, and it would be helpful to just ask the right members rather than all of you. It’s sometimes useful to know if we have members living in a particular Diocese so I’ve been adding that information to the database.

If you find any of this information useful in your own campaigns, do use it (and let us know if it’s effective!).

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From the archives...
Cruisewatch demo in 1986, from a Christian CND postcard
January 20: Peace Sunday — pray that many congregations would hear a message of peace and engage with issues around nuclear weapons. Pray that a new generation of Christians would rise up to work and pray for peace.

January: pray that 2019 would be the year the Nuclear Ban Treaty comes into force and that the nuclear-armed states would seek to engage with the Treaty for the first time.

February: pray that more UK local authorities would follow the example of Renfrewshire and Manchester and pass motions in support of the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

February 20-23: Church of England Synod — pray that as Synod meets there would be momentum behind the motion passed last year in support of the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Pray that progress would be made on campaigning around the country.

February 23: Church and Peace Conference — pray that as delegates gather for the Church and Peace Conference in Birmingham God would move among them. Pray that the speakers and the Holy Spirit would stir those in attendance.

March 8 – 10: Pathways to Peace Conference — pray for those from many Christian groups who are gathering in Leeds for their annual conference.

March 12: Christian CND Embassies Walk — pray for us as we meet diplomatic missions in London to discuss the Nuclear Ban Treaty and other issues.

Also, please remember in your prayers:

Court proceedings arising from the blockade of AWE Burghfield in October: Seven defendants appeared at Reading Magistrates Court on Thursday, charged with obstruction of the highway at various locations: Jan Jones and Brian Jones all in their 60s and from Wales, Catriona McNeil, 40 from Glasgow, Jed Picksley, 39 from Herefordshire, Julia Mercer, 69 from Yorkshire, Chris Bluemel, 38 from Southampton, Marie Walsh, 62, from Didcot. All seven defendants pleaded not guilty. Awel Irene from Wales was excused attendance on grounds on illness, and had a not guilty plea recorded. (A ninth person arrested at the time had accepted a caution.) It was a surprisingly long hearing, but this was because the sitting District Judge (to her credit) was keen to avoid the need for further case-management hearings. Catherine Jackson of Bindmans Solicitors outlined that the defendants would be arguing that their actions were reasonable in line with Article 10/11 right to protest.

The date set for trial is Tuesday/Wednesday 23-24 April.

20 — 23 February: Church of England Synod, Westminster


12 — 21 April: Holy Week Walking Pilgrimage. Student Cross is a Christian pilgrimage organised by and for students, young adults, and pilgrims of all ages, which began in 1948. London to Walsingham. www.studentcross.org.uk/about.htm


19 — 21 July: Forgotten People, Forgotten Places; finding church on the margins. Annual Justice and Peace
Events Diary


2 — 13 September: Events to Stop the Arms Fair. See below.

10 — 13 September 2019: (Defence & Security Equipment International) Arms Fair, Docklands, London. Every two years, the global arms trade comes to London. DSEI, one of the world’s largest arms fairs, returns in September 2019. https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/ As in previous years, there will be days of action, vigils, meetings etc. Watch this space!

Coventry Cathedral
How to join CCND

Annual membership subscriptions are:

Waged, individual: £18 (£22 household)
Unwaged individual £9, (£12 household)
Group affiliation: from £20

☐ I/we wish to be a member of CCND
☐ I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to CCND)
  to include the following:
    Membership: £..................
    Donation: £.................. (Thank you!)
TOTAL: £.................. Or
☐ Please send me a standing order form

Denomination/church position:
............................(Optional)

☐ To help with local campaigning, I agree that my contact details can be passed on to other CCND members.
CCND will never pass members’ details to anyone who is not a CCND member.

Name............................................................................................................
Address............................................................................................................Postcode............... 
Telephone/email.....................................................................................

Please return (or photocopy) to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ