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From the Office

The “National Service of Thanksgiving” on 3 May at Westminster Abbey (see page 6) attracted a lot of attention — and several new members! If you are one of these new members — welcome!

If you require any info and prefer to phone, I am in the office on Monday and Tuesday until about 2pm. (I also work for Peace News and Network for Peace, in Kings Cross) I am happy to put you in touch with other members in your area if you would like to contact them (with their, and your, permission).

We are small but growing and it would be nice to hear about people getting together locally, perhaps organising a meeting, letter writing, vigil, stall, or other events. If you do this, please let us know (with photos; even better!) and we can put details in the next Ploughshare (to encourage the others!).

Please do keep in touch, we love to hear from you!

Claire Poyner
Writing this just after Easter and prior to attending the NPT PrepCom in New York, I contrast the Easter reminder of God’s love for everyone, with the sad indication of human weakness depicted in glacial movement towards disarmament.

Too many accept peace can only come about through force. In the time of Jesus, the population was Roman dominated. Dissenters on crosses were an effective control and it was believed any Messiah would necessarily be a warrior. But Jesus was not of that ilk. He said, “Follow me.” Quite a different approach! It means successful peace building is not through fear, but emulation of the Saviour. Love, non-violence and humbleness are some of his qualities. Proclaiming allegiance to him, yet most of the time relying on nuclear weaponry, sounds like serving two masters! “Thy will be done” means focussing one’s own will out and away from one’s self. It’s an essential beginning to the great but joyful task of building peace throughout the world.

The last issue presented ideas on campaigning techniques. This one contains material about the controversial event at Westminster Abbey.

Michael Pulham

Bruce Kent leads us in an act of repentance
Tuesday

7.45 am Arrived at Ralph Bunche and hung up white ‘Now we Pray Together’ banner to welcome the interfaithers.

8.15 Patricia conducted the Liturgy. Each person present said something about themselves before a ball representing our planet was passed from hand to hand. While holding it, the holder referred to a situation needing prayer, before rest said “Hear our prayer”. Then a story about the effectiveness of a snowflake was read out. Lastly, all said peace prayer together and wished each other peace.

Wednesday

Two new participants today. We were all very moved to hear people’s stories which ranged from serious illness to solving problems at work or just waiting for family difficulties to be resolved. We were delighted to see ex-CCND staff Tim Wallis and wife Vicky.

Thursday

Today’s vigil rather smaller in number. One group, including Emily from WCC had problems with transport but luckily we had the prayers from Tuesday so we used them as a base.

Passers-by are very willing to take photos for us! See photo below: Mary, on the right has looked after the banner overnight. She is in Pax Christi. The next two are from Netherlands. Anthony, on the far left, Catholic Worker, ICAN etc. (I showed him the Church Times Advert, and he has sent it to a C of E clergy person he knows in London) and the young Japanese woman from Tokyo and Soka Gakkai.
Friday

Today’s theme was “Mothers”, as it was Mothers Day in Japan. We began by singing a song in Japanese! Then people shared their thoughts on their own mothers and what was learnt from them.

We will miss the vigil group so much. We have formed a really close bond, perhaps because each day’s vigil has included stories from the vigilers from their own lives.

Patricia and Michael Pulham

Linking with delegates

Michael was especially keen on meeting with African attendees.

Breakfasting in the cafe we met Edward from Tanzania (right photo) and performed our Africa task. Then same with Bamba, Premier Conseiller of Mission Permanente du Senegal (photo on left).

Michael later met a woman from Mali who was asked to pass on Russell’s letter to H.E. Mr. Issa Konfourtou at the Mali Mission in NY. Mordecai Ogada an exec director from Kenya similarly dealt with. Other contacts include Burundi, Mali, Zambia, and another Senegalese and Kenyan.

Interfaith Statement

The handing over of the Interfaith statement to the PrepCom Chair took place in the East Delegate’s Lounge. I was asked to hand over the statement together with Kimiaki! An enormous privilege for CCND. It also involved a short speech so I told H.E. about our morning vigils and he said how he appreciated our prayers.

Patricia Pulham
On Friday 3 May more than 150 Christians from across the country came together for a witness for peace outside Westminster Abbey. Inside Prince Williams was among those attending a National Service of Thanksgiving for 50 years of British nuclear weapons being at sea, described by the Royal Navy as a ‘celebration’.

Christian CND among others had called for the service to be cancelled. More than 200 Anglican clergy members signed our statement and more than 1000 people signed a petition to the Dean of Westminster. Unfortunately we were not able to prevent the service, but we were able to demonstrate the mainstream Christian view that nuclear weapons are nothing to be thankful for.

The event outside, which was supported by Pax Christi, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Church and State, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, Community of Reconciliation and the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, included Bible readings, prayers and contributions from a range of denominations.

Along those taking part Revd Matt Harbage from London read Romans 12:9-18 while Alyson Peberdy from Oxford brought us Colossians 1:15-20. Paul Parker, Quakers in Britain Recording Clerk spoke about the contribution Quakers have made to peace and disarmament efforts throughout the past 60 years while Father Joe Ryan prayed for those submariners involved with the Trident programme. Bruce Kent led an act of repentance for the possession of nuclear weapons and the service finished with an impromptu rendition of Amazing Grace.

While we regret that the Abbey service took place, the strength of unity among Christians opposing nuclear weapons, along with the media coverage of the event including in Church Times and on Premier Christian Radio will really invigorate our campaigning for the coming season.
Clergy Statement on Westminster Abbey Service

We are clergy within the Church of England and we believe the planned “Service of Thanksgiving” at Westminster Abbey to mark 50 years of Britain’s nuclear weapons being on constant patrol at sea should not go ahead.

At a time when the United Nations has agreed a new Treaty to ban nuclear weapons and the Church of England General Synod passed a motion calling on Christians to “work tirelessly for their elimination across the world”, we believe this service sends the wrong message to the global Anglican communion.

We hope that the Dean of Westminster Abbey will urgently reconsider the planned service and instead engage with the campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons across the world.

208 signatures. Full list at: http://christiancnd.org.uk/clergy-statement-on-westminster-abbey-service/

Bruce Kent leads us in an act of repentance
Estella Newsome Memorial Prize-Giving Ceremony at Kings College, London

Estella, one of our dedicated Members, left Christian CND a generous legacy when she passed away. We were so grateful, we decided to commemorate her name and publicise our organisation by offering a prize of £100 each year for five years to scholars in higher education who produced exemplary work on the subject of peace.

This picture captures the first winners (joint prize winners) receiving congratulations from Professor Brewer, Head of the Philosophy Department at KCL. He reports that competition among students was strong.

Amedeo Robiolio’s offering took the form of a long and entertaining debate between Greek scholars, while Pablo Dopico’s 3000 word essay was entitled, ‘Augustine of Hippo: just War, Christian pacifism and the paradox of self-defence’.

A bequest from a previous lecturer, Alan Lacey, had enabled the department to invite visiting speakers, and we were pleased to listen to one concerning non-violent resistance. A special buffet had been set up in Alan’s honour.

*This is an opportunity to thank everyone for your support and contributions, your regular subscriptions, occasional additions — and especially your prayers. Christian CND depends for continuance on all its members. Legacies such as Estella’s are rare, but help greatly to expand our work. (Our legacy guide is always available!)
Bike for Peace

Bike for Peace is a Norway-based organisation which uses cycling to bring communities together to promote peace and a world free of nuclear weapons. On February 27th Christian CND was among the peace groups which gathered in Westminster Hall at the Houses of Parliament to give them a send-off on their latest global tour, which is taking in four continents. Speakers included Tore Naerland, the Global Co-ordinator of Bike for Peace. Tore, who is 90% blind and rides on a tandem, spoke powerfully about the vision of the organisation and the aims of its 2019 tour. Read more at https://www.bikeforpeace.no/

Barbara Sunderland is 90!

Long-serving Christian CND Exec member Barbara Sunderland (who ‘retired’ from the Exec in 2009) had her 90th birthday recently. Around 25 people came along to her party, some from the village where she used to live, many from her church, and her eldest stepson. Trident Ploughshares activist Lyn Bliss went and represented Barbara’s previous activism.

Barbara had many cards (including one from Christian CND) and obviously enjoyed her day.

Happy Birthday Barbara with all our love! (Below, a photo taken circa 2005)
Pat’s Party

What sort of party do you like? If it’s a relaxed gathering of all the people you don’t normally get enough chance to talk to, with ample refreshments and something good to celebrate then 13th April was the party of the year.

In this case the something was someone, very special. The celebration for Pat Gaffney’s retirement after 29 years leading Pax Christi UK was indeed a memorable occasion.

The speeches extolled Pat, who has worked, travelled and campaigned for peace, disarmament and non-violence throughout a portfolio of challenges. Both the co-presidents of Pax Christi International were there, Marie Dennis from USA and Bishop Kevin Dowling from South Africa; and there was Paul Lansu from the secretariat in Brussels, our ‘own’ Bishop Malcolm and good friend Bishop Thomas McMahon; all these illustrious people being gratefully eclipsed by well over 100 of our co-workers for justice and peace in all its different forms.

When I saw all these people, with whom Pat has been working for so long, I suddenly thought: How did she have time for me? How did she make time to encourage and empower and never show impatience? I can’t be the only one thinking like this. We wish her well and thank her for all the help and understanding she has given us.

Martin Birdseye

The new Director of Pax Christi UK is Theresa Alessandro. We very much look forward to working with her.
We were going to that great party for Pat Gaffney. Patricia and I travelled early so that we could first take in the Cold War exhibition at the National Archive. We walked from Kew station to view memorabilia displayed in a ‘nuclear bunker’ format.

It took us back to those scary days when everyone was wondering if nuclear war was going to erupt. All our government could do for the populace was distribute the notorious ‘Protect and Survive’ leaflet. Its advice about how to erect a shelter under the stairs had been incorporated in the exhibition. We looked inside that little space with its small supply of essentials and realised just how inadequate it was. Survival? A slim chance indeed.

The picture shows the toilet arrangements. The shelves held only a meagre amount of tinned food. No thyroid-protecting anti-radiation tablets either. There was nothing to use if entombment occurred. (In World War II, my father kept a length of timber in the Morrison shelter to lever rubble aside.)

Governments could do a whole lot more for their people than this. How about them prohibiting nuclear weapons altogether?

We added our own messages to the Cold War Witness board. Michael’s read: “To have the firm intention to press the button (in order to try to make deterrence work) is to be ready to kill and maim great numbers of human beings. This intention means one has to carry MURDER in one’s heart. It is not a Christian characteristic. Thou shalt not kill.”

And mine said “I campaigned at Greenham Common in the 1980s because of my family. I still campaign against nuclear weapons because of my Faith.” We hoped these would balance one written in 1945 from the Public Reaction to the Atom Bomb report.

“I think in the long run it may save lives by shortening the war. Anyway, it was the Americans who used it, not our people. We are not responsible.”
It was a cold wet and windy day as we gathered at the Embankment Gardens for the Annual Ash Wednesday walk and Witness.

There were smiles as we caught up with news and met friends from Catholic Worker, Pax Christi and Christian CND.

Pat Gaffney led the service of Prayers and singing during which ashes were distributed, a cross being placed on the forehead of each person.

We then set off in silence, carrying our banners, to the Ministry of Defence, stopping along the way to tie purple and black ribbons to the railings of the building.

During the service at the Ministry of Defence we gave the Sign of Peace to the police who were there, who returned the Sign of Peace back to us with a smile.

We were all there for the same reason, to convey to the government our concern for the future of humanity and the environment and to stop the use of nuclear weapons and the threat of their use.

Very cold and wet, we said our goodbyes knowing we had played a small part in trying to change things for a world without nuclear weapons.

Geraldine Ellis
On Tuesday 12 March Christian CND gathered in London to visit diplomats from NATO Member States to discuss the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We managed to visit 25 Embassies despite the terrible weather, talking about the need for NATO members to take a lead on nuclear disarmament.

The Netherlands is the only NATO Member State to have engaged with the TPNW, sending a delegation to the United Nations for the negotiations in 2017 following a resolution in parliament. However since then there have been no further positive steps.

A recent report from the Human Rights Clinic at Harvard showed how NATO members can join the TPNW without having to leave the alliance. Although they would have to renounce their status as being under the NATO ‘nuclear umbrella’, there is no obligation on NATO members to support, have or even host nuclear weapons.

As part of the day we also handed in the Christian CND petition to Downing Street calling on the government to join the TPNW. So far the UK has joined the other nuclear-armed states in refusing to engage with the Treaty.

Thanks to everyone who came along and made the day such a success.
Many of you will be aware of the significance of RAF Molesworth in the history of the peace movement. During the 1980’s a protest ran at the site at the same time as the Women’s Peace Camp at Greenham Common, both raising awareness of the US Cruise Missiles to be stationed at the sites.

At Molesworth Christians joined those from other faiths and none in witnessing for peace, including Quaker Ian Hartley. Christian CND was also involved during that time, including a legal challenge over the sale of some of the land from the local Anglican Diocese.

Today Molesworth continues to be a US Air Force base, part of the National Security Agency spy network, but a reminder of the part remains in the shape of a peace garden and cross just outside the perimeter fence.

Christian CND has been working with a group of local volunteers to restore the garden, and an event will take place to celebrate the history of the site on Saturday 29 June. We’ll have speeches, memories and a chance to come together to pray for peace. More details will follow, but for now put the date in your diary.

Interview with Ian Hartley

Throughout the 1980’s RAF Molesworth in Cambridge was the scene of protests against the hosting of US cruise missiles. Among those who set up a peace camp was Quaker Ian Hartley and his wife Jennifer from Suffolk. Ahead of the event at Molesworth Christian CND caught up with Ian to hear his recollections about that time, and his hopes for the future.

How did you first become aware of what was happening at Molesworth?

It is perhaps difficult to realise now just how fearful people were in the early 1980’s when it was announced that a new generation of nuclear weapons was to come to the UK. These missiles would be launched from trucks that would be based in two USAF bases, one in Greenham and the other at Molesworth. Under American command, the intention was to take them out from the bases onto public roads where they could be fired at sites in the Soviet Union. With Ronald Reagan as President and Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister, the possibility of a nuclear holocaust seemed increasingly likely. A group of women, including a friend of ours, walked from Wales to Greenham and the women’s camp was set up. Shortly after, a group set up a camp at Molesworth. From early days, Quakers were involved at Molesworth and the protest took on a religious dimension. It was in the summer of 1984 that my late wife Jennifer and I became aware of the symbolic action of establishing a peace chapel on the unguarded base. That year Jennifer visited Greenham and we both went to a demonstration at Upper Heyford where Jennifer was arrested, fined and subsequently sent to prison for non-payment of the fine.
Molesworth

What made you buy a caravan and set up at Molesworth?

I was struck recently when listening to Greta Thunberg, that what she describes as the existential threat to life on the planet posed by climate change, is what we, and hundreds of thousands like us, felt about the bomb. It was a time for action and we felt non-violent direct action was called for. Jennifer proposed we buy a caravan and take it to Molesworth. We spoke to a young Quaker couple, Tim and Bridie Wallis who had a caravan and explored our intention. We decided that I would leave my paid employment, let our home and go and live there from January 1985.

What was it like being there throughout your time?

Within a month of arriving, Mrs Thatcher’s Minister of Defence, Michael Heseltine had coordinated a combined police and army operation to evict the peace camp and secure the perimeter with a barbed wire fence. Overnight, the police evicted all those on MoD land. Luckily, we had placed our caravan on an old lay-by and the police did not have the authority to move us. The next day we were all that was left of the peace camp, but we were not alone. We had a regular stream of visitors over the coming months. We began to hold a regular daily vigil by the fence. This was a spontaneous act of worship for all faiths and none.

What did it mean to know that people were standing with you in prayer?

For me, that experience led me to understand what it means to be upheld by prayer. The knowledge that so many people were prayerfully supporting our action, made it possible to put up with the conditions — no running water, inadequate heating. There was much practical support as well; local people who offered us an opportunity of a hot bath, others who brought home-made cakes and other delicious food.

What does Molesworth mean to you now?

It was the time I felt most alive, the time I felt able to fully commit to a cause and a way of life I believed in. It is difficult to know whether anything was achieved, though soon after in December 1987 Reagan and Gorbachev signed the INF Treaty and land based ballistic missiles were banned. Thirty years later Trump is proposing to tear up that treaty.

What are your hopes for Molesworth in the future?

I fear that it will continue to have some sinister military role but I hope that it will always be remembered as a place where peacemakers stood up to be counted. That today’s peace activists will take inspiration from an example of non-violent witness.

A full account of this incredible time at Molesworth is included in Ian and Jennifer’s memoir: Paths are Made by Walking.
In 1967 Rev Martin Luther King Jr visited Britain to receive an honorary degree from Newcastle University. 51 years after his death, he is widely recognised and honoured in Newcastle, across the UK, and beyond.

But to properly honour King’s legacy we must live up to his radical ideals. King was loathed by much of American society because he challenged not only racism and capitalism, but US militarism and its overseas wars. Shortly before visiting Newcastle, he described his own country as “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world”. As the UK starts the process of renewing the submarine-based Trident nuclear weapon system, King’s perspective is worth recalling.

King was an outspoken opponent of nuclear weaponry, declaring his “hatred for this most colossal of all evils”. He took this position for the same reason that he opposed racism and poverty – the Biblical idea that all human life is inherently valuable because we are made in God’s image. As King memorably put it, “every human being has etched in his personality the indelible stamp of the Creator”.

King’s “image of God” theology should lead us to oppose Trident renewal for three reasons.

Firstly, it is too destructive.

The 1945 atomic bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshimi are estimated to have killed a quarter of a million people. Each of these men, women, girls and boys are of infinite value because they are made in the image of their Creator. Each has a story.

One survivor of the Nagasaki bombings, Sanae Ikeda, recalls: “The explosion took away the skin of my hand and I started to bleed. The light was green and then I couldn’t see anything.” He remembers the moment he discovered the horribly deformed body of his sister: “I found this body completely black, charred. I held it with my hands and it had no face. Then I found the ribbon of the waist of her pants. The outer part was all burned by the explosion, but inside the ribbon it was fine. I saw the little flowers and I could tell that this was the body of my little sister.”

Lactantius, the third century church father, wrote: “It is always unlawful to put to death a human being, whom God willed to be a sacred animal.” Nuclear weapons kill indiscriminately. King argued unequivocally that “the development and use of nuclear weapons should be banned”.

Secondly, Trident is too expensive. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has calculated that it will cost £205bn to replace and maintain it.

With this eye-watering sum of money we could tackle global warming by buying every household in the country solar panels, and still have enough left over to employ an additional 150,000
nurses or scrap student tuition fees for the next 30 years.

The UK today has suffered years of cuts to libraries, swimming pools, welfare, and the arts. While 1.6 million food bank parcels were given to people in crisis in the UK last year, worldwide 150 million children suffer from stunting as a result of under-nutrition. Yet we can find £205bn for bombs we will never use!

King said: “We are challenged to rid our nation and the world of poverty. Like a monstrous octopus, poverty spreads its nagging, prehensile tentacles into hamlets and villages all over our world ... true compassion is more than flinging a coin at a beggar, it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.” A good way for our nation to contribute to this is by ditching Trident and spending the money more responsibly.

Finally, Trident should be scrapped because it is too ineffective.

Field Marshall Lord Bramall, former head of armed forces, has said that Trident is “completely useless as a deterrent to the threats and scale of violence we currently, or are likely, to face”, such as Islamic State.

But that’s only part of what I mean. Nuclear weapons cannot get to the heart of the problem. As Nobel peace prize winner Alexander Solzhentsyn said: “The line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.”

For King, Jesus lived a life of nonviolent enemy love and died on the cross praying blessings on his enemies, rather than burning them up in heavenly thermonuclear fire. He did this to end the cycle of violence that neither nuclear nor any other weapons are able to halt, and to create a new, international community of peacemakers out of old enemies reconciled. King called this “the beloved community”.

We build it not by expending the best minds of our young on making and deploying these death-dealing devices, but on creating global societies where they become unnecessary.

We do this not by preparing to kill our enemies with this nightmare weaponry, but by addressing the grievances they have. We do this not by prosecuting foolish foreign interventions like those in Iraq, Libya and Syria that destabilise regions and create enemies, but by sharing our wealth to ensure that all have food for their bodies, education for their minds, and dignity for their spirits.

Nick Megoran is the author of “Warlike Christians in an Age of Violence” is a chaplain and lecturer at Newcastle University
The disarmament situation is gloomy: there is the collapse of The Cold War nuclear weapon treaty system and there is a continuing high level of military expenditure. Therefore the peace movement needs to do things differently.

Here is an idea for a “Peace-Industrial Complex”.

The term “Military-Industrial Complex” was popularized by President Eisenhower in his 1961 Farewell Address to Congress. He had been a professional soldier for most of his working life and had seen how the US military had been transformed from a small fighting force into a large permanent warfighting establishment.

In 1940 the Greek army was larger than the US army. The US entered World War II on December 7 1941 (after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour) and so there was a rapid expansion of the US defence forces. The US was transformed during 1941-5 and so ended the war as the world’s major military power.

Eisenhower had lived through all this. As a traditional “small government” Republican he worried about how a new expensive industrial complex had been created to exploit the new military era – all at great cost to taxpayers.

The small number of corporations in the Military-Industrial Complex are not necessarily violent or warlike: they just want to make an easy profit. The workers in the Military-Industrial Complex are not necessarily violent or warlike: they just want a job.

The factories and other facilities are scattered around the US. Any attempt (as President Clinton found out in the post-Cold War 1990s) to cut back on military expenditure, will hurt voters in a constituency and so they lobby their member of Congress to protect their work.

In retrospect Clinton failed to provide a vision of what the conversion of military facilities to peaceful uses would entail. For example, all military contracts should contain a provision requiring the contractor to have alternative plans to cope with the ending of a military contract and the redeployment of the workers to peaceful purposes.

In my second PhD, I looked at the need for the creation of a “Peace-Industrial Complex”. There is not a lack of ideas for disarmament – but a lack of political will. The creation of a Peace-Industrial Complex would be a way of generating political will.

Money is important for the shaping (if not corrupting) of US politics and so perhaps that same reasoning could be applied to ending the arms race: corporations could use their influence in the interests of peace.
Only a handful of companies make money out of war. Many more benefit from peace (such as health, law, education, tourism, and fast food outlets).

For example: Joan Kroc (1928-2003), the widow of the McDonald’s CEO Ray Kroc was a supporter of The US peace movement, and she gave US$50million for the University of Notre Dame for the Joan B Kroc Institute for Peace Studies. Her argument was that in the event of World War III there would not be a market for fast food.

Therefore it is necessary to mobilize businesses for peaceful interests.

As to the fears that many people have for their defence-related jobs, they just want employment. Therefore, the proposed Peace-Industrial Complex would need to campaign to ensure that as defence jobs declined, there was a compensatory rise in the non-defence employment sector (health, education, welfare and public transport are all very labour intensive)

A campaign for a Peace-Industrial Complex will require some new ways of thinking, such as new coalition thinking. It will require peace groups to be in a dialogue with business interests and business councils such as institutes of company directors.

If we redefine “national security” from just a focus on military matters to also include economic and social indicators, the peace movement needs to build a coalition with welfare, anti-poverty groups.

The growing popular action on climate change has already generated some new coalitions (such as the insurance industry being aware of the economic impact of climate change). We could finance environmental programmes via the conversion of military expenditure to environmental protection.

Finally, the economics profession could be brought into the debate by being challenged to think about how US$1.7Trillion is being so badly spent each year: what does such a high level of military expenditure do to distort the rest of the economy?

To conclude, the campaign for a Peace-Industrial Complex will require our creating a holistic vision of future society to inspire a wide variety of organizations, companies and individuals to work together.

Keith Suter

Keith.suter@bigpond.com
www.global-directions.com
Global-Truths
Even in these days of social media, local papers are still read from cover to cover and the religious press is somewhere where we should find a sympathetic ear. If we can get our peace message into the press, we can reach more people than we will ever meet.

Have a look at a news story in a newspaper and find these common elements: a sense of drama, obviously written by a good storyteller, has something to do with people and has a beginning, a middle and an end. Don’t think of your item as an issue but as a ‘people story’.

News editors get a lot of material, so how can you get their attention?
1) Think of a snappy title. (One that makes them read on).
2) Try to get as many of the essential ‘w’s (who, what, where, when, why) as you can into the first paragraph.
3) Keep the interest going. You could tie your local event to something happening nationally.
4) Make it a ‘people’ story. Use a quote if you can.
5) Think of your target audience.
6) Draw attention to good photo opportunities. If your event has already happened, send one of your own photos.
7) Find out the deadline for news items.
8) Be prepared for a phone-call. Make sure you have included a phone number.

9) Head your item “Press Release” and make sure it fits onto one side of paper.

Don’t be disappointed if your item is not covered. Somebody will have read it and this itself spreads our message.

Here is an example, though on a different topic. Michael and I recently got a half page article on climate change plus a photo on a very local effort to collect signatures and draw attention to this into a local daily paper. It was timed to coincide with the schools’ strike, (national event), sense of drama (dozens of signatures from local residents) people story, (helped that we were in our eighties) quote, “Save our grandchildren from global heating” on our placard.

See what you can do and don’t forget to tell us.

Patricia Pulham
When you were at school, were you given the chance to acquire knowledge on nuclear weapons and peace issues? Were you empowered to make independent and informed decisions on these vital topics?

For many of us, the answer is ‘no’. But for today’s students the situation can be different, thanks to the work of CND Peace Education. Each year, our acclaimed free workshops, teaching resources and teacher training help thousands of students develop lifelong peacemaker skills such as critical thinking, empathy and co-operation. We also build their confidence that they have a valuable voice and can effect change in the world.

We are very proud of our work: it is unique, growing yearly in impact, and particularly valuable in the current global context.

However, our future is currently under threat, and without your help we may not be able to continue beyond 2020. If you can, please, make a donation today, and help ensure that future generations can be inspired and empowered by our crucial work.

Find out more at https://cnduk.org/education.

As Kofi Annan said: “There has never been a greater need for education in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation ... changing concepts of security and threat have demanded new thinking. Such new thinking will arise from those who are educated today”.

Help guarantee that tomorrow’s change-makers aren’t deprived of the opportunity to think critically about peace and nuclear weapons. If you can, make a donation to CND Peace Education today by sending a cheque made out to ‘CND’ (writing ‘CNDPE’ on the back), to CNDPE, 162 Holloway Road, N7 8DQ.

Alternatively, to set up a regular payment, or if you are a taxpayer and would like to increase the value of your donation, please call the Fundraising team on 02077002393.

Lastly, please pass the enclosed leaflet about our work on to any teachers you know! Thank you.

Owen Everett,
CND Peace Education Officer
The Christian CND Exec team continues to meet roughly every two months.

After the thrill of an escape to Loughborough in June, we were back to our usual venue of CND headquarters for our September, November and March meetings. In September we talked about updating our range of Christian CND merchandise; we reviewed various events over the summer; we talked about our website, social media and fundraising; we looked forward to our Coventry AGM; we discussed potential roles on Exec (“succession planning”, to use the jargon); and we started thinking about how to mark our 60th anniversary in 2020. We also had the added innovation of sushi at lunch time!

In November we welcomed our two newest Exec members, Rachel and David. It is great to have them on the team and they make us even more ecumenical (a Methodist and a Quaker respectively). We reviewed the AGM and Conference, mostly with great pleasure but also learnt some lessons. We sketched out our plans and dates for 2019. Neil, our (outgoing) treasurer provided a half-year update on our finances and we finalised plans for our Christmas fundraising appeal. And we finished the meeting spot on time at 4pm too!

In March the Westminster Abbey service was a major topic of our planning and discussion. It is ironic that our best opportunities often arise from the most unwelcome external developments. This Royal Navy “celebration” of nuclear weapons gives us a big unexpected chance to get our message across. We also reviewed the recent Embassies Walk – some of us felt like we had only just finished drying out and warming up! As we are now getting into the busy season for festivals and events, there was lots of planning to do. We also prayed together as we always do, and looked at some recent work on a new ‘disarmament liturgy’.

In addition to these meetings we had an Exec weekend away in February at the beautiful Broadlands Orchard in Sussex. This gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better and included holding our own Sunday service, a frosty early morning walk, lots of food, a film night (“The Mouse that Roared”) and compline in the chapel. We also held our regular meeting during the weekend and had a separate discussion about a 5-10 year strategy. We spent some time on some team-building games too – not the sort that make you cringe, but real constructive fun.

We feel really encouraged by these meetings. We keep reminding ourselves that a crammed agenda is actually a good thing as it shows how much is happening! Exec’s role is not to do all of Christian CND’s work but to help the wider membership to feel inspired, share ideas, and get involved. The next opportunity to join the Exec will be at our AGM in October. There will be vacancies arising! If you are interested please contact the office and one of the current team will call you for a ‘no obligation’ chat.
A 2 day hearing before a District Judge at Reading Magistrates’ Court into Obstruction of the Highway charges of 8 defendants took all day to open & adjourn until 8th & 9th July at High Wycombe Magistrates’ Court.

First the defendants’ barrister from Matrix Chambers failed to turn up in the morning due to a mix-up of days; she had Wednesday & Thursday in her diary, whereas the actual dates were for the Tuesday & Wednesday.

When she did arrive at 1.0 pm the court gave her one hour to liaise with her clients.

At 2.0 pm when the case finally might have started there were two more hurdles. First the DJ was extremely concerned that because the case was starting late there might be an 8 week hiatus between the beginning of the case & the end which would militate against justice being done – especially as there were 8 defendants some of whom were defending themselves.

Secondly the Prosecutor wanted to change the charge for the 4 defendants who had blockaded AWE Burghfield at the Main Gate off the Mearings. He wanted to change the charge to the more serious one of Aggravated Trespass. He claimed the unfettered right to change the charge within the 6 months and a day (ie 25th April 2019). He also claimed that he was having to do this as the defendants were suddenly raising the issue of whether or not where they were on The Mearings was a highway. The defendants pointed out that all their defence statements had asked the prosecution to prove all elements of the case – ie that there was wilful obstruction, without lawful excuse, of a public highway (s.137 Highways Act). As this is expected of the prosecution in any case it was puzzling why he had waited until the trial should have started to make this application. The DJ gave him 2 weeks for a skeleton argument setting out in law why the court should allow the substitution of the charge in all the circumstances of the case, and 2 weeks thereafter for the defence to respond. After which there would be a hearing to which the defendants did not have to appear as to whether the court would allow the new charge.

The other 4 defendants who had blockaded the Pingewood Gate on the opposite side of the base also made clear that the prosecution would have to prove they were blocking a public highway rather than the MOD owned bell-mouth of the gateway. The prosecutor stated that the Highways Agency had adopted the bell mouth with the proviso that the MOD could re-acquire the rights to the bell mouth at will. The defence barrister stated she would be disputing that the bell-mouth was highway as the Land Registry & AWE Burghfield Byelaws maps both showed the MOD to be the legal owners (I’m not quite sure of the legal terminology for this bit!).
Good with money? We need you!

CCND needs you! After 23 years in the role our Treasurer Neil Berry is stepping down and we are seeking a replacement.

Could you offer to fill this position? Day to day finances are managed well by our office team, therefore this is largely an oversight role and not as demanding as it might sound.

You do not need to be a qualified accountant, just have a head for figures!

The role has involved the following elements, although there is the potential to review the precise nature of the role in the future:

1. Being a member of CCND national committee
2. Being a signatory to the account and one of the nominated persons for online banking; processing occasional transactions when the office staff is away
3. Reviewing income and expenditure transactions and producing quarterly summaries for committee meetings
4. Producing annual accounts for the AGM
5. Completing Corporation Tax returns and arranging any payment due
6. Oversight of the different bank/investment accounts holding our legacy money
7. Being a member of the grants committee

We are looking for someone to take over from the next AGM in October 2019. Neil will offer an induction/handover and will be on hand for the first full annual cycle for assistance if any is needed.

If you feel that this might be something you could take on, please contact the national office (christians@cnduk.org) for a conversation with the office staff and/or Neil.
Please join us in continuing to pray for an end to nuclear weapons and a renewed enthusiasm for the work of Christian CND.

**June 9:** Pentecost – as we celebrate the unifying work of the Holy Spirit, pray that God’s Holy and life-giving Spirit will transform the world, and that as we seek to be God’s agents of love and peace, we might be filled with energy and power.

**June 29:** Molesworth Peace Garden rededication – pray that this will become a symbol of peace and a beacon of hope and give thanks for all those who have committed to help restore this garden.

**June:** as the Exec starts to discuss the 60th anniversary of Christian CND, pray for inspiration and creativity in order that we can reach out to new people in promoting a nuclear-free world.

**July 26:** Justice and Peace Conference (Swanwick) – pray for all those involved in working for peace and justice as Christians come together to discuss these matters.

**July:** South Africa ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in February 2019. Pray that more countries will ratify this Treaty; once 50 nations have ratified this, it will enter into force.

**August: 23 – 26:** Greenbelt – as festivals happen up and down the country throughout the summer, pray for this gathering of Christian (and spiritually curious) people who are committed to social justice, that in their conversations, music and worship, God’s presence will be felt.

Embassies Walkers at the pre-walk prayers in St Martin-in-the-Fields, London
18 May: Pax Christi Annual Gathering. A day of celebration and learning about the work of Pax Christi over the past year. This year the AGM will include the Pax Christi Peace Award ceremony. 10:30 am – 4:00 pm Maria Fidelis School, Drummond Crescent, London NW1 1LY. paxchristi.org.uk

25 – 26 May: Big Church Day Out. Whiston House, West Sussex. We will be there with a stall. Do come and say hello if you’re there too. https://bigchurchdayout.com/south NB We would also appreciate help with running the stall, so if you fancy volunteering please do get in touch with the office. Reasonable expenses paid.


29 June: Molesworth Peace Garden, outside RAF Molesworth, PE28 0QA. Christian CND has been working with others to restore the Molesworth Peace Garden as a witness for peace outside the base. Below: Molesworth in 1986.

8 June: Climb Every Mountain. First Barbara Eggleston Memorial Lecture, Friends House, Ship St, Brighton BN1 1AF. Bring and share lunch at 1pm. 2pm – 4.30pm meeting and discussions with Valerie Flessati and Bruce Kent. Barbara Eggleston (1955 – 2002) was an inspirational leader of Christian CND. Bring photos and reminiscences of her if you’d like to. It is intended that this event is the start of an annual lecture in her memory.

Events Diary

2 – 13 September: (Defence & Security Equipment International) Arms Fair, Docklands, London. Each day will have a focus:

Monday 2nd September:
Stop Arming Israel

Tuesday 3rd September:
No Faith in War

Wednesday 4th September:
No Nuclear Weapons

Thursday 5th September:
Conference at the Gates

Friday 6th September:
Climate Justice

Saturday 7th September:
Festival of Resistance

Sunday 8th September:
Borders & Migration
https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/

21 – 22 September: Action for Peace Weekend. A weekend camp marking International Peace Day, which will explore issues, attitudes and ethics related to nuclear weapons and war.
Camping £20 per person for the weekend/£10 concessions; camper van £30. Vegetarian and vegan catering will be available at reasonable costs. Braziers Park, Ipsden, Wallingford, OX10 6AN. Enquiries pgwثitham@gmail.com

Don’t Bank on the Bomb

Don’t Bank on the Bomb in Oxford. Any friends and acquaintances near you who could do the same? Tell us!

Bunch of Flowers for the Co-op Bank?

I was in the Co-op Bank yesterday; while the banker was correcting my Standing Order, I ran our ideas for Don’t Bank on the Bomb past him.

Scottish CND’s Linda Pearson has written a very useful ‘Stop Funding the end of the world’; MEDACT’s Dr Orgel has sent me stuff, including specimen letters to send to our Banks. Don’t Bank on the Bomb works by persuading more & more companies that it is better for them in every way not to be associated with nuclear weapon manufacture.

We could have a Stall in Cornmarket with DBOB information, specimen letters, Hall of Fame; those companies that have changed their policies, and Hall of Shame for those who still persist in making money from nuclear weapons. We could write/call on the nearby bank managers, ask them where they invest our money.

So, to return to my conversation in the Co-op Bank. I asked, how would they feel if we came round and gave them a bunch of flowers? But was he still ethical? Yes, he said, the Co-op Bank is still ethical, it was one of the conditions of the sale of the Co-op Bank to an American Hedge Fund; otherwise the Co-op, all the Co-op shops, would not have let them use the name. He thought the flowers would be fine.

According to Linda Pearson the Co-op Bank is the only UK Bank in DBOB Hall of Fame. So get in touch and we’ll start getting at the companies that make & fund our nuclear weapons. We do it together.

Caroline Gilbert
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

☐ Enter your debit/credit card number here: .................................................................
   And the expiry date: ................................... Last three digits on the back of the card: ......
   Name as it is written on the card: ...................................................................................
   Address if different to above: ........................................................................................
   Signature: .................................................. Payment amount: .........................................
   Or

☐ Please send me a standing order form/Direct Debit Form

Name..............................................................................................................................

Address.....................................................................................................................Postcode..............

Telephone/email........................................................................................................

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

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.

☐ Please add me to the email list (approx 2 emails a month)
   Email: ..............................................................