Bell, Book and Candle
Aldermaston, 27 October 2009

Clockwise from top left: CCND Exec member Kelvin Gascoyne during the all night vigil, the procession round the base, a liturgy at a gate, and the night vigil banner

In this issue:
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Nuclear Weapons Convention
Plus news, reviews, events and prayer diary
Editorial

Well, here we are, all feeling encouraged by the election of Barack Obama in the US and hoping and praying that this will mean a more international outlook - pro UN, NPT and Kyoto. We have written, on your behalf, with our congratulations and promise of prayers.

Perhaps you will remember our regular visits to the London Embassies to emphasise the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. A ‘Walk round the Embassies’ close to Pentecost used to form a regular part of our annual programme, when we celebrated the birthday of the NPT and prepared for the next UN Conference. It might be a good time to revive these visits and contacts in the run-up to the 2010 Review Conference.

In this issue you will find an article on a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. Many feel this is the way ahead to nuclear disarmament. It is a recognition that just as chemical and biological weapons are intrinsically immoral and cannot be used in warfare, so should nuclear weapons be proscribed as indiscriminate, damaging to the environment and absolutely appalling in their effects on human beings.

Looking at our own national defence programme, we certainly need to continue actively campaigning against Trident renewal. The cost alone will strike a chord with the current anxiety on the economy. The Trident Ploughshares ‘Big Blockade’, supported by our own overnight vigil and ‘Bell, Book and Candle’ procession and liturgies, underlined again the central role of Aldermaston in the Trident programme. Have a look at page 4 for a report and photographs, and remember to pray for those (including some of our members) whose witness takes them to court and its aftermath. There are suggestions of things you can do in this journal.

Advent is rapidly approaching and the annual weekly vigils start on 27th November (see page 8). If you are within reach of AWE, please support these if you can. If not, try to join with the vigillers in spirit with a prayer of your own.

We wish you all a joyous celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace and a New Year full of steps towards a peaceful future.

Ex-CCND
Intern Nancy Zook’s two children, Zoe aged 4, and Molly born in August this year. We send our love to the family!
The AGM took place on 27th September at Jacksons Lane Centre in Highgate. Although the numbers attending were small, we had a good and stimulating day.

Anna Liddle, the CND Education Worker ran a workshop on work with schools and we were able to see how some of her imaginative interactive activities worked. This was particularly useful as CCND has agreed to take part in a day of workshops in a London school. Since the AGM we have seen Anna's newly-published Education Pack (see pic) which is really good and has many ideas for introducing the topic of nuclear disarmament into the National Curriculum. If you work, or have the opportunity to work in schools, contact us for a copy.

The new Executive Council was appointed - now including Chris Gidden (photo below). The Annual and Financial Reports are enclosed with this copy of Ploughshare.

Thank you for the offers of help sent in on the nomination forms. It is much easier to put on an event away from London if we know there are some members in that area who might be willing to be involved. And it's not too late to volunteer - just send your form in or just drop us a line.

New Exec member Chris Gidden

More photos of Aldermaston
Above left, Jean Kaye, Patricia Pulham and Mena Remedios during the night-time vigil.

Above right, the procession included Buddhists who had walked from London to join us.

Right: daytime liturgy at one of the gates at Aldermaston.
At 9 pm on 26 October, 13 people gathered outside Tadley Gate at Aldermaston to watch and pray through the night. We stood or sat behind a long banner proclaiming 'Night Vigil'.

The edge of the road was marked out by a number of lanterns and CCND banners. We began with night prayer from the Celtic tradition asking for blessing on ourselves and on our families. During the night the passing of each hour was marked by the saying of the Universal Prayer for Peace.

The weather was better than any had dared hope; a still and starlit night. As it drew on, we wrapped ourselves in blankets (thinking about the homeless who spend every night in the open) and took it in turns to go for a two-hour rest in the cars available.

At 6 am, Michael went off to a nearby garage to get us welcome hot drinks and gradually dawn came. At 6.30 am, others started to join us for the morning liturgy and to being the procession at 7 am. Our bells and candles were blessed and we began to walk round the base.

We had been joined by Buddhistss who had walked from London, others who had walked, bussed or cycled to get there. A circle of prayer round AWE was successfully completed by mid-afternoon.

Patricia Pulham

At 27th October it was done. Did we stop developing nuclear weapons on that day? Well no, life is back to normal at Aldermaston, and the work goes on.

Did we have an effect? Well for the day the transportation system around the area was certainly disrupted, the blockage at one end of the road around the main gate caused three heavy transporters with earth moving equipment to block the other by the west end, they were held there by police and nothing could pass.

Well what changed? It did not get any national coverage, we are not surprised - are we? Government policy rolls on. We will have the replacement unless public attitude changes.

I travelled from London on Sunday afternoon to stay over with friends just up from the Wycliffe Church at Cemetery Junction. I mention this as I talked to a Reading University student sitting next to me on the train. I talked about Aldermaston. First she did not know where it was, and she had been at the university for two years. She did not know about nuclear policy, but knew that there was nuclear power. From this I understand that unless the information about weapons and their use and consequence is taught it will pass this generation by, just as I think the previous generation.

How are we to re-balance the information deficit? Well it is not only by demonstrating but with an information drive to get the message out there. It is up to us to be the hands, ears, eyes and especially the voice. There are no others but ours. If we are committed, we need to do the work. We do need to organise and co-ordinate so our small reserves of people have the most impact. It has to be tactical and persistent. But by the grace of God it will turn the tide.

I walked around the AWE site with Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. We held a liturgy at every gate and I had a prayer with Jean on the main gate (she was a bit chained up at the time with a couple of associates and others). We said a liturgy based on Adomnan's bells of anger and forgiveness. It took seven hours and was well worth it.

Wild Goose Publications, the publishing house of the Iona Community (http://tinyurl.com/3bka5c) has a copy of the liturgy and maybe for a small donation will make it available to you. Tel 0141 332 6292.

Patricia Pulham

Chris Gidden
A most colourful and challenging experience awaited those who visited the Peacezone at Greenbelt over the August bank holiday weekend - our theme was ‘A journey through Christian Nonviolence’ and featured a gallery of panels each one depicting an individual linked to Network of Christian Peace Organisation member bodies, who had worked for peace. Christian CND’s panel featured Jean Kaye. A number of all-age activities were on hand, linked to each panel. Our own was a world map to be covered with doves, which visitors attached after making a pledge to work for peace in a variety of ways. This was very popular and often provoked discussion. The pledges ranged from taking part in a vigil to writing to your MP - about 50 were made in all… ..

At the end of the ‘gallery’ a mirror was placed showing the visitor their own face instead of the next panel. This was labelled: ‘What will YOU do? Anyone can work for peace… ’

Speakers at the zone included Jan Benvie and Donna Hicks from Christian Peacemaker Teams, Adam Dickson from SPEAK and Maya Evans (who also spoke on the main programme). All speakers were invited to talk about a figure who had most inspired them to work for peace.

The main art activity in the zone was a huge ‘mandala’. This means ‘unity’ in Sanskrit, and consisted of a round mosaic of many sections, each to be painted in with different designs by visitors throughout the weekend.

The concept of Christian peacemaking was very evident, not only at the Peacezone itself, but throughout the Greenbelt festival this year. No longer a ‘special-interest’ issue to be shunted into the corner of a tent somewhere - several events throughout the festival covered peace related issues.

Christian CND attended the festival as part of the NCPO, which co-ordinates the Peace Zone at Greenbelt each year. We were again situated within the G-Source, a huge marquee full of a wide range of organisations, charities and NGO’s.

Christine Titmus
Legally-binding, international agreements to ban other weapons of mass destruction such as chemical and biological weapons have already been agreed. It is vital for the security of our world that a similar agreement, a Nuclear Weapons Convention, to ban nuclear weapons is negotiated. Without this, nuclear proliferation and nuclear weapons use are ever-increasing dangers. Now is the time to outlaw nuclear weapons worldwide.

A Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) is a proposed treaty to ban nuclear weapons and ensure their elimination. Countries are legally required to negotiate such a treaty, and experts have already produced a draft text. They argue that a NWC is more likely to succeed than a series of fragmented and inconsistent approaches to nuclear disarmament.

The draft treaty is modelled on similar conventions outlawing chemical weapons, biological weapons and anti-personnel landmines. It would complement rather than undermine existing nuclear weapons treaties, such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). It is feasible, necessary and long overdue.

What would it do?
The NWC would prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the production of fissile material suitable for making them (either highly enriched uranium or separated plutonium). It would require all nuclear-armed countries to destroy their nuclear weapons in stages (see below), the last stage being to place all fissile material under international control to prevent nuclear weapons ever being made again.

How would it be verified?
The NWC would establish an agency to ensure that countries comply with the terms of the treaty. This body would receive progress reports from nuclear-armed states, conduct inspections of weapons facilities, acquire data via satellite photography and remote sensors, and monitor the production and transfer of materials suitable for making nuclear weapons.

How would it happen?
1. Take nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
2. Remove nuclear weapons from deployment
3. Remove the warheads from their delivery vehicles
4. Disable the warheads by removing the explosive “pits”
5. Place the fissile material under United Nations control.
Why a Nuclear Weapons Convention? We already have the NPT!

“(The Foreign Office) line is that to suggest negotiations aimed at abolition would somehow conflict with negotiations related to the NPT. This I just do not understand. The NPT does not set out a framework for negotiations. It just says they ought to be pursued. It is the Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) that provides the framework. It is the NWC draft which deals with the usual objections - How can we be sure that someone is not cheating? What about terrorists? Inspection on demand? Protection of whistleblowers?” (Bruce Kent, June 2008)

UN Secretary General calls for a NWC

In October 2008 United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on governments to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention as part of a five point plan to eliminate the risks from nuclear weapons. Ban Ki-moon called for the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligation under the [nuclear Non-Proliferation] Treaty by pursuing a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments. Or they could consider negotiating a nuclear-weapons convention, backed by a strong system of verification, as has long been proposed at the United Nations. Ban Ki-Moon informed the conference that “Upon the request of Costa Rica and Malaysia, I have circulated to all United Nations Member States a draft of such a convention, which offers a good point of departure.”

Who is campaigning for this?

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was set up by the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) to work alongside CND, CCND, Medact, Abolition 2000, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and many other organisations.

What is ICAN’s role?

In 2007 ICAN coordinated redrafting of the model NWC and launched Securing Our Survival (SOS): The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. It reflects on the changed global security environment and answers critical questions relating to the process of nuclear disarmament. ICAN calls on all countries immediately to commence negotiations for an NWC. It is an idea whose time has come.

What can we do?

Sign the online petition at: http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/nuclearweaponsconvention/index.html

Get a copy of ‘No to Trident Replacement, Yes to Nuclear Weapons Convention’ A4 factsheet from CND, 020 7700 2393 or from www.cnduk.org

Contact your MP. Make sure he/ she knows about the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. You could send a copy of the four page pamphlet (see below). There will be a new Early Day Motion at the start of the new parliamentary year, supporting the UN Secretary General’s call for a NWC. Check with Sam Akaki at CND (020 7700 2393) for details.

Contacts

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN), PO Box 1379, Carlton, Victoria, 3053, Australia. http://www.icanw.org/

Medact
The Grayston Centre
28 Charles Square
London N1 6HT
E-Mail: info@medact.org
http://www.medact.org/

There is a four page pamphlet on the Nuclear Weapons Convention available from the CCND office. Please send a stamped addressed envelope for a copy.

“The Nuclear Weapons Convention opens up a closed mental door. Other negative assumptions still have to be dealt with but at least one of the existing ones gets a direct challenge - abolition is not impossible. It will require some new thinking. It will require a changed view of national sovereignty but is possible and must be attempted.” Bruce Kent, 21st June 2008
Advent Vigs at Aldermaston AW E

27th November then 4th, 12th, 18th December between 1 - 2pm.

Join us in Advent Vigil at the Tadley Gate. Bring candles; all Faiths and none welcome. Tadley Gate is on the A340, parking opposite.

Each week's vigil is organised by a different group:
27th November: Oxford CCND, 01865 241 290
maasgilbert@hotmail.com

4th December: Clergy Against Nuclear Arms - contact as above

11th December: Oxford Catholic Worker - 01865 248288

18th December: Oxford Pax Christi - contact 01865 725801

See CCND website for updates.

Holy Innocents 28 December

Holy Innocents is this year organised by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship under the auspice of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations. 10.30 witness at the Innocent Victim's Stone outside Westminster Abbey followed by a service at 12 noon in St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. Contact APF on 01908 510642 for details.

Time for New Priorities - a Global Call for Action on Military and Social Spending

The International Peace Bureau is inviting civil society organisations of all types to endorse this call. The plan is to send copies of the text, with as many organisational endorsements as possible, to the UN conference in Doha on Financing for Development. The deadline for responses was 15 November just prior to the opening of the conference, but the deadline has been extended into 2009. The IPB are not accepting individual endorsements at the moment but it may be a possible development for a future edition.

You can help by raising it at the next meeting of your group and by passing details on to other groups who may be interested.

The Global Call for Action introduction:

‘As the world struggles to understand and react to the unfolding financial crisis, civil society organisations urge action on one of the most important elements in the world’s economic system, which could make a huge impact on the fate of the world’s poor: the military sector.’

‘We call for the following five steps to be adopted as a matter of urgency:

1. Each government should revisit its defence doctrines and policies and adopt a more pro-active human security approach, one that places less emphasis on military force and more on tackling the threats to everyday security faced by each one of us.
2. It should examine - through the democratic process - areas of excessive military spending that can be reduced over, for example, a 5 year period.
3. It should explore ways for the monies saved to be re-allocated to a set of social and economic programmes to benefit the poorest communities both at home and abroad.
4. It should ensure that a fixed proportion of the resources removed form the military sector be channelled into a multilateral fund for the mitigation of, and adaptation to, global climate change.
5. It should explore more specific proposals such as the 10% Option, a unilateral and multilateral initiative to convert, on a systematic basis, 10% of military spending into public investment for social development in order to combat poverty.’

To read the full text of the Global Call, go to www.ipb.org or contact the IPB at: 41, rue de Zurich, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel +41 22 7316429 Fax +41 22 7389419 mailbox@ipb.org

This has been endorsed by Christian CND.
Campaigning in the Churches

Christians were in at the start of campaigning against nuclear weapons and have actively protested ever since, but such violence horrifies a wide cross-section of people, Christian or not. Hearts everywhere cry out against that spectre.

If reaction to nuclear weapons is independent of any creed, what specially is it that we Christians bring to the situation? Lots of people of no particular faith slog away at campaigning just as hard as anyone else. Any Christian should admire them for their unflagging persistence and exemplary effort. What do they make of the Christians alongside them? Well, that’s anyone’s guess (apart from additional numbers being welcome).

What is important is that we ourselves know why we campaign. It says in the Pack for the Churches, Nuclear Weapons, What can Christians do?:

‘Christians believe in a God who is good and life-giving. He lovingly created the world and all it contains. He created people in His image and He desires their happiness. Followers of Christ emulate Him. They too seek to act in life-giving ways. Responding to God’s love, they work to witness to the Kingdom, where all that threatens or oppresses is erased.

This broken world contains many evils, but nuclear destruction is so great, indiscriminate and pervasive, it seems to epitomise blasphemy against God and His plan.’

We are called to witness. This means we pray where we can be seen, taking our services into the open, standing there for those who would be harmed. We stand with Christ against such wrongdoing. Our presence may well make authorities uncomfortable and hopefully gives many food for thought, but we are there principally because it is our Christian responsibility.

Many without faith struggle heroically, thinking the only way the world will change is by their efforts. Christians, while understanding the need not to be idle, know they are not alone, that ultimately it is God who will actualise the fullness of the Kingdom. We try to do whatever we can - some are on record for making big sacrifices - yet we present ourselves in our weakness to a loving God who can do marvels with little. Witness in itself is an act of loving prayer, the right thing to do. Both those of faith and those of none can obtain a serenity in standing for good.

Christians are obviously under constraints on their personal behaviour but this certainly does not mean they are ineffective. The pack shows how they can co-operate with dignity in many different ways, always with prayer and respect for others. Why not ask for a copy for your church?

Michael Pulham

How to join CCND

Annual membership subscriptions are:

☐ Waged, individual: £12 (£15 household)
☐ Unwaged individual £6, (£8 household)
☐ Group affiliation: from £10
☐ I/ we wish to be a member of CCND
☐ Please send a standing order form
☐ I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to CCND) to include the following:
  Membership: £..............
  Donation: £................... (Thank you!)
  TOTAL: £...................

Name.......................................................... Address..........................................................
Telephone.................................................... Email: .................................................

Please return form to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ

Denomination/ church position: ..........................................................

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.
Peace in the Post-Christian Era by Thomas Merton
Orbis Books
ISBN 1-57075-559-0

This important book finally emerged in 2004, forty-two years after its intended publication date! Merton had to suffer censorship and, in the foreword, Jim Forest tells how that happened. Merton agonised but realised how necessary it was for his peace work that he remained a Trappist monk. He had a moral mission to find ways of warning against great evil. From his example we learn tenacity for long and difficult tasks. It is easy for Christians to feel frustrated, not just by politicians, but by slow responses from fellow Christians.

Born in the Cold War, this book has equal relevance today. Nuclear weapons have not gone away. After Vatican II a new system of censorship, together with a possibly fortuitous accident, enabled Merton's masterly critique of war to become more widely known. This, his ultimate book, presents his views quite comprehensively.

It is a work that is easy to read since Merton writes with great clarity. I think any peacemaker (and especially any Christian peacemaker) will receive it as a blessing. It informs the conscience and, even after four decades, tells us what we still need to know now.

The pages contain food for both theologian and strategist. The formation of Christian views of war is outlined. Origen, Augustine, the crusades and Machiavelli feature, along with Pius XII's distinction between 'national life' and 'nationalistic politics' and John XXII's insistence that peace must be based upon

'appraisal of true brotherhood - a resolution of sincere cooperation that stays clear of all intrigue and those destructive factors that we will once again call by their proper names without any disguise: pride, greed, callousness, selfishness.'

Merton provides much detailed exposition and telling argument. He concludes by explaining the responsibility Christians have and points out a fundamental issue: 'It is not merely the possible destruction of the human race. It is something more subtle and more demonic.'

Michael Pulham

The Frontier Gandhi

Many years ago I saw a photograph of Mahatma Gandhi on one of his Indian independence walks which so enraged Mr Churchill. In the small group was a tall, elegant, bearded man and I recall wondering "Who's that?" Now I know.

The man was Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a Muslim whose life was devoted to non-violence, social reform and reconciliation. An important influence on his long life (1890 - 1988) was of course Gandhi, but his principles were firmly rooted in Islamic teachings. Ghaffar Khan was of the Pathan people from the north-west frontier region now part of Pakistan. Like Gandhi, he wanted India to remain one nation after independence, but following partition in 1947 he became head of the Pakistan People's Party. However, soon after the assassination of Gandhi in 1948 Khan was put under house arrest because he was considered too pro-Hindu.

Ghaffar Khan spent one third of his 98 years under arrest in one form or another, first under British rule and then under the military/Islamic rulers of Pakistan. How often does this seem to the lot of the peacemakers? Happily his moral stand and achievements were widely recognised in his lifetime and it is a pity he is not better known in the west.

This short illustrated biography of this remarkable man of peace has recently been published by Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) and is worth reading.

The Frontier Gandhi - Abdul Ghaffar Khan by Shireen Shah; price £3.

Available from MAW Orders, 1 Thesiger Road, Abingdon, OX14 2DY. Enclose a cheque for £3 plus 60p p&p made out to MAW or download an order form from: www.abolishwar.org.uk/orderform.shtml

Bob Russell
Meet the Members

In your last Ploughshare Plus it was suggested that small informal gatherings might be held in members’ homes, to enable some of you to meet each other, for ideas to be shared and for the Exec. Council to find out ways in which they can help you with anything you want to do locally.

We have already had responses from York, Anglesey and West London. It takes a little time to get letters out to people. (This has to be done through the office because of the Data Protection Act.) If anyone else would be willing to host such a meeting please contact us at Holloway Road.

Trident Ploughshare Big Blockade arrests

CCND members Jean Oliver and Douglas Shaw, members of the Adomnan of Iona Affinity Group, took part in the blockade at Tadley Gate, Aldermaston.

Jean was arrested and charged with ‘obstruction of the highway with a non-motor vehicle’ (although she had no vehicle with her, only two teddy bears!) and Douglas got a parking ticket! Jean is due to appear at Reading Magistrates’ Court on 4th December.

Please remember them and other members of their Affinity Group in your prayers.

Prayer Diary

December: During Advent we remember those taking part in the Vigils at Aldermaston, as we wait for the coming of the Light of the World.
“Lord, by your presence light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present that we might live in it with Love.”

January: May the New Year be one of hope and new steps towards a peaceful world.
“Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch walk and pray may we always be ready to encounter the Lord who is always always with us.”

February: Candlemas, 2nd, Ash Wednesday, 25th.
“God of living, God of all Loving,
God of the seedling, the snow, and the sun,
Teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.
Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for our children tomorrow will bear.”

March: Lent.
“Forgive us, God, for the times when we had come upon injustice but passed by on our journeys; when we were unmoved by the cries of children, the tortured screams of women, the cry of your beautiful and precious creation being rent and broken and violated.
Forgive us, God.”

This material was taken from the ‘Bell, Book and Candle’ Iona Liturgy used at the Aldermaston Procession on 27th October.

Essex CCND

The Essex Christian CND Hiroshima Service
“Remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki” was this year held at St Mary’s Church, Maldon. The service was led by Father Durrant. We are an increasingly elderly congregation and sadly decreasing in number but, nevertheless “when two or three are gathered together”, that is all that matters. There were considerably more than three present though. Father Durrant’s sermon was thought provoking and the retiring collection went towards the work of the Child Death Helpline. The helpline is operated by parents who themselves have experienced the loss of a child and receive no state funding.

Our condolences to the family of Cpt John Chennell who died earlier this year.

John was a long-standing member of Christian CND, Wirral Christian CND and Wallasey CND.

From Essex Christian CND October newsletter
**Diary**

1 December: Prisoners for Peace Day. www.wri-irg.org/co/01dec.htm

**Wednesday 3 December:** 'Nuclear Weapons - Time to abolish the Lot!' Speaker: Bruce Kent. 7.30pm Friends' Meeting House, Lechlade Road, Faringdon Oxon SN7 8AQ. 01367 710308 www.faringdonpeacegroup.org.uk

4 December: Advent Vigils at Aldermaston. Join at the Aldermaston Gate. Bring candles; all Faiths and none welcome. Aldermaston Gate is on the A340, parking opposite. 01865 241 290 maasgilbert@hotmail.com

8 December: Pax Christi Advent Service: Readings and Carols for Peace. 7.30 pm at St Aloysius Church, Phoenix Road, Euston, London NW1 1TA.


**Saturday 13 December:** Speaker: Prof Paul Rogers, Dept of Peace Studies, Bradford University on 'Change in The White House - What will it mean for Nuclear Disarmament?' 12 - 1pm at Civic Hall Leeds, Portland Crescent, LS1 1UR. Yorkshire CND AGM at 1 - 3pm. 01274 730795 info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

18 December: Advent Vigils at Aldermaston. Join us at the Aldermaston Gate. Bring candles; all Faiths and none welcome. Aldermaston Gate is on the A340, parking opposite. Oxford Pax Christi - contact 01865 725801

28 December: Holy Innocent Day events organised by Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. 10.30 witness at the Innocent Victims' Stone outside Westminster Abbey followed by a service at 12 noon in St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. Contact APF on 01908 510308

1 January - 4 February: A series of evening sessions on approaches to peacemaking: exploring Nonviolent action and Civil Disobedience, Accompaniment and Solidarity, Conscientious Objection and Empowerment for Change. Organised by St Ethelburga’s Centre for Peace & Reconciliation and Pax Christi. 6.00pm - 8.30pm. Venue: St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation & Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AG. 020 7496 1610. Venue is wheelchair accessible but parking may be difficult.

**Saturday 14 February:** Network for Peace Annual General Meeting. Speakers on Iranian peace movement (tbc). Venue: Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn. More details later.


27 February - 1 March: Soundcheck 09. The Speak Network hosts a warehouse gathering, a weekend of inspiration, prayer & creativity. Speakers, workshops, live music, creative arts, spoken word and DJs. Speak is a network connecting students and young adults to pray and campaign on issues of global injustice. www.speak.org.uk speak@speak.org.uk 020 7249 4309.

28 February: Building Alliance for Joint Action Against War. A one day conference open to all, aiming to unite groups and individuals campaigning for justice and peace into a broad alliance which would be strong enough to challenge the renewed arms race and the perpetual planning for war. Organised by Network of Oxford Women (NOW) for Justice and Peace, NOW are inviting interested groups to support the event by co-sponsoring, offering financial support and/or sending a delegation of up to 6 people to the conference. Contact Margaret Stanton, co-ordinator of NOW, 1 Charles Ponsonby House, Osberton Road, Oxford OX2 7PQ. www.nowpeace.org.uk

3 - 4 April: Join CND in Strasbourg at the international demonstration marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of NATO. More details, including transport information, to follow. Visit CND’s No to NATO campaign page.

18 April: Essex CND AGM with speaker and bring & share lunch. 10.00 at Brentwood Quaker Meeting House, 49 Hutton Road, Shenfield. Details: 01277 735 3450.


4 - 20 May: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in New York. For info see: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/nptindex1.html

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**CCND goods**

Pack of 24 A4 sheets of Interfaith quotations on peace as used at the Creation Conference £1 a pack

Legacy leaflet Free

Churches’ pack Free

T-Shirts £12 each

Cotton bags £3 each

Picasso Greetings Cards £2.50 for six

Christmas Cards £2.50 for six

Other CCND items available: badges, enamel brooches, window stickers, pens and a history of CCND. See your membership insert for details and an order form.

Send orders to:

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

162 Holloway Road, London N7 8BQ

Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357

Email: christians@cnduk.org Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/