Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all our Members!

Canon Paul Oestreicher in the ruins of the old Cathedral in Coventry at our Pilgrimage to Peace event

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We are so grateful to those of you whose generosity made our “Pilgrimage to Peace” Jubilee event possible and for the grants from the Christian Peace Education Fund and Coventry City Council which went a long way to covering the costs. You will find some photographs and a short report later in this issue. It is our hope to be able to produce a booklet with more details so that others can share in what was a most inspiring event and have been considering ways to fund it.

It was John Methuen, a member of our Executive Council who sadly died in the summer, who chose the title and was emphatic that it should be “Pilgrimage to Peace” and not “for Peace” or “of Peace”.

It has been suggested that we produce this booklet as a memorial to him. Should anyone wish to contribute to this particular project, contributions will be gratefully accepted. There is an obituary to John on page 10.

Because of CND’s own financial difficulties, we have recently learnt that we will no longer receive any grant from them in the future. We have learnt to manage on a diminishing amount in recent years but were still dependent on the proportion of our income that they gave us. £1000 is now reduced to £0! Donations you give directly to CND will no longer include a part that would eventually come to Christian CND. We are grateful, of course, for our office space and the help that various members of staff give us. We now need to look at ways of campaigning within our budget without losing the expertise we have gained. Let us know your suggestions for what should be our priorities.

We have just held the AGM. The annual report is included in this edition. So much work has been done this year, may it bear fruit and lead us to a more peaceful future.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a New Year full of hope and joy.
Pilgrimage to Peace

CCND stall in the Cathedral

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Coventry with Patricia Pulham

Bruce Kent’s talk on Friday evening

Wonderful collages done in Roy Ray’s workshop

‘Reconciliation’ sculpture at the old Coventry Cathedral

Birthday Cake

See report on page 8 and more photos on pages 5, 9 and 11
We were members of Essex Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and met Yoshiatsu Takamura, a lawyer, at the International Nuclear War Tribunal held in London some 25 years ago. On this occasion Yoshi gave us his business card and in return was given a Christian CND badge. Soon after it was decided that candles would be exchanged from Essex CCND and Hiroshima and lit on Hiroshima Day in remembrance of the suffering of the people of Japan which continues still, and to work for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons still proliferate worldwide and there must be those who clearly intend to use them, simply by their mere possession.

Every year since that time we have commemorated this day and on two occasions Yoshi has been present at our ceremonies, most notably the one held at Westminster Abbey on the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the bomb. On this occasion a service was held jointly with Clergy Against Nuclear Arms. The service has been held at other Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and in the Churches of a number of denominations.

The first use of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and then on Nagasaki teaches the world that nuclear weapons are not a concept, a so-called “deterrent” but are real and their use catastrophic, unthinkable, immoral. It is also clear that they are illegal under international law.

We took four candles to Japan, one from Essex Christian CND, one from Brentwood Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, one from National Christian CND and another from Clergy Against Nuclear Arms. We urge other nations to support us in this act by sending candles to be lit at the peace ceremony in unity with the people of Hiroshima and the world, and by organising their own Candle Commemoration, based on their religious or cultural traditions.

“It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness”

During the evening of Hiroshima Day we attended the lantern floating ceremony. Each paper lantern has a wish inscribed upon it for peace. Some 200 of the delegates to the conference attended the Ceremony. Beryl gave two of the messages she had received for Hiroshima. The first from Thomas McMahon, Bishop of Brentwood. He reiterated the words of Pope John Paul “To remember the poor is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace”. The second message was from Dr Caroline Lucas, Green Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion. She said “On behalf of the Green Party of England and Wales I stand alongside all of those gathered in Hiroshima in calling for peace and for global nuclear disarmament. ‘Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous’ (George Bernard Shaw) and I would like to also pay tribute to all those working so hard to secure a future free from conflict for us all.”

Roger gave a short speech “Why Light Candles?”. He said to do so worldwide on 6th August, Hiroshima day, each year is like the glare of a thousand suns. It is to throw light on the dark places of mankind’s soul where nuclear weapons have their origin. It challenges nuclear weapons states to consider why they need such terrible weapons and what progress has been made towards
their elimination. It continues to remind them that every day there are casualties of nuclear weapons, the poor and hungry everywhere denied access to the world’s economic and intellectual resources otherwise devoted to weapons of mass destruction. It is a renewal of our debt of honour to all those that perished and were damaged when the atomic bomb was used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to continue the struggle for the eradication of nuclear weapons globally - for ever.

An article appeared in Shinbun Akahata, a newspaper, which Yoshi has translated for us: “Lantern Floating Hoping No Nuclear Weapons. At the A-bomb Day, the 6th night after 65 years, there was a lantern floating ceremony in Hiroshima. Many citizens on both sides of the river committed their hopes to the floating lanterns.”

On the riverside near Aisibashi Bridge, about 200 representatives of the World Conference participated in “The Lantern Floating Ceremony, remembering 65 years after the A-bomb”. Yoshiki Yoshioka, one of the Organising Committee, appealed that “The World Conference concluded the solidarity with grass-rooting movements all over the world, under the NPT conclusion. We will expand the voices of No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, No More Hibakusha”.

Beryl and Roger Lankester

Coventry photos

Beryl’s photo of the Industrial Promotion Hall, now known as the Atomic Bomb Dome

Peace Pilgrims outside Coventry Cathedral
Review of Year’s campaigning

As you will know, this year is Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament’s 50th Anniversary. So what have we been doing this year?

Aldermaston
The AWE base is a major player in nuclear weaponry for the UK and probably NATO, and it is growing. Therefore we made it a focus of our activities. Peace vigils were held at Tadley Gate every Thursday during Advent 2009 and another took place on Easter Monday. Our two major events were:

14/15 February: Overnight candlelit vigil preceding the national Big Blockade (pic below). The closing ceremony at 7am attracted an unusually large crowd including the Bishop of Reading and the RC Bishop of Brentwood. Afterwards we joined other demonstrators at the gate.

5 June: Our contribution to Nuclear Abolition Day was a colourful presentation at Main Gate entitled ‘Strictly Disarming’, a novel way of making the case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). Below: Kelvin making ballons shaped into the letters NWC looked on by Rebecca Johnson, Chris Wood, Peter Burt of Nuclear Information Service and Michael Pulham.

Embassies Walk, 1 March. We contacted and visited sixteen embassies in London, securing interviews with officials in most. This was in advance of the NPT Review Conference and we were seeking to know how their countries would be reacting. The general response was good apart from Israel where we seem to have lost our previous contacts. Follow up letters were sent and two later visits took place. Below: the group at the Swedish Embassy.

Flame of Hope Walk. We organised and took part in the Lydd to Hastings section of this south coast peace pilgrimage on Easter Day, 4th April. at stops along the way we were greeted by senior clergy, the Mayor and Mayoress of Rye and the MP Michael Foster. Below: walkers arrive at the Friends Meeting House in Hastings.

NPT Review Conference, New York, May. Patricia and Michael Pulham, Caroline Gilbert and Chris Wood went from CCND. We arranged daily interfaith prayers before each session and engaged in the NGO activities. Good contacts were made. The conference itself did not live up to people’s hopes but was an improvement
Review of Year’s campaigning


Education projects. Between January and March we gave our peace education presentation to three church schools, each taking up a full or half day. Kate Hudson joined us for the February date. We hope to repeat this activity in 2011.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki, 65th commemoration. Several local events took place nationwide on 6/9 August involving our members. Roger and Beryl Lankester from Essex went to Hiroshima and participated in the 2010 Conference Against A and H Bombs. (see report on pages 4 - 5) We were glad to have been involved in the exhibition at Friends House, London 2nd -11th August which attracted between 100 to 225 visitors each day. The exhibits and pictures from Japan were very moving and are now in Coventry.

Greenbelt, 27th - 30th August. We were again involved in the Peace Zone and were instrumental in arranging for Bruce Kent to address a large crowd at the festival, pictured right..

Holy Innocents Day 28th December. Ash Wednesday at the MoD on 17th February and International COs Commemoration event on 15th May. We again took part in these regular gatherings.

Pilgrimage to Peace, 29th - 31st October at Coventry Cathedral. This was our big event marking our 50th anniversary. An enormous amount of work was involved. It was a festival of peacemaking and we were strongly supported by the Cathedral officers and Pax Christi. Nuclear disarmament was our main theme and we remembered activities and activists past and present. Our keynote speakers were Bruce Kent and Canon Paul Oestreicher. Workshops were arranged on peace theology, creative art, etc. and we joined in liturgical tours of the Cathedral and the ruins. On Sunday there was a very fine service in the Cathedral - a full house! - and Canon David Porter, director of their peace and reconciliation ministry, preached a challenging sermon based on our weekend and its themes. It was a great event. (Photos page 3 and report on page 8)

Churches. We wrote to every member of the C of E Synod, took part in various inter-faith events and were at the J&P Conference gatherings.

Future. We go into the coming year with more hope than expectation, for times are uncertain. But we shall seek peace and pursue it as opportunities arise, especially in our campaign to see the end of the UK’s Trident nuclear weapon system.

Bob Russell
Coventry round-up

“Coventry Cathedral hosts pilgrims celebrating Christian CND role” is the headline of Brian Cooper’s article in the Church of England Newspaper. The article continues:

“Christian peace activists from across Britain met at Coventry Cathedral last weekend for ‘Pilgrimage to Peace’, a celebration of 50 years of peace-making activism by Christian CND and the prelude to a month of cathedral and city peace-related events marking the 70th anniversary of the November 1940 blitz on Coventry.”

Bruce Kent set the tone for CCND’s jubilee event on Friday evening with an encouraging keynote talk which reminded us, not only of those past peacemakers who have been an inspiration to us, but of the work still to do.

We were also fortunate in having input by the artist Roy Ray, explaining his installation in the Cathedral, “Where their footsteps left no trace”, on the innocent victims of the Coventry Blitz, Hiroshima, 9/11, Dresden and Auschwitz and a practical collage-making workshop to follow.

Canon Paul Oestreicher was keynote speaker on Saturday. He said of nuclear weapons: “Their use is precluded by international law and totally incompatible with the teachings of Jesus.”

The peace pilgrimage included workshops on peace and war in Old and New Testaments, Christian-Muslim relations, and special liturgical events including a “meditation walk” around cathedral memorials specially focusing on remembering civilians killed in war.

One of the poems written in the poetry workshop:

**EPSTEIN’S ARCHANGEL**

Michael, I see you soaring over Satan,
Yet agonised. He was your friend. And so
Your spear is pointed not at Satan’s pleading
Vulnerable face and form, but to
The Heavens, and to God the source of Goodness:
The high-tech spear and armour not deployed
To kill the Enemy. Satan lives to fight
Another day.

Where does this war take place?
Where is the battlefield? Within your heart

And mine. This battle cleaves me head from heart,
Body from soul, belief from non-believing.
And so my Schizoid self divides my friends,
My family, my enemies. When comes
The Truce, the Treaty, the Ceasefire? When I
Myself am Peace, am Love, myself entire.

David Platt
Coventry October 2010
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...................................................................................................................
Postcode..................
Telephone...................................................................Email:……………………………………………………………..

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

CCND AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 27th November at Friends House, Euston Rd, London. Although numbers were small it was a good and productive meeting.

The Executive Council agreed to serve another year and all were returned unopposed. We considered the priorities in our campaigning which must continue in spite of the reduction in our income. Trident will continue to be a focus, as will “Star Wars” and a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Look out for a new series of simple A5 leaflets which we intend to produce on these subjects. “Sheroes”, (our own women peacemakers) is still in the pipeline. Full minutes are available on request.

CCND member, Margaret Parry, from Cambridge sent a letter which we felt was well worth sharing with you. She writes: “I am afraid I have nothing to offer but my prayers which will be regular and heartfelt. (I have set up a prayer circle in Cambridge Churches, all denominations, on the third Sunday of each month - praying for peace).”

Thank you, Margaret. We need people like you!

TORN

Sunday: Let’s turn to God.
Time to pay our weekly Supernatural Life Insurance.
Then it's Monday.
Revert to the reality of the world!
On we go
Doing the sensible things, the practical things,
Till Sunday comes again
And we throw once more the switch
Of our split spirituality.

Michael Pulham
Coventry October 2010

Pilgrims on the ‘meditation walk’ look out over Coventry from the Chapel of Industry
Obituaries

John Methuen

There is so much one could say about John; his absolutely unshakeable faith in God and in his vocation to the Church of England; his passionate belief in justice for all which led to his involvement in poverty, housing, unemployment, education, immigration (the Viraj Mendis sanctuary and anti-deportation campaigns being the most recognised), Amnesty International, nuclear disarmament and world peace and so many other issues wherever we lived.

However, those would only be the tip of the iceberg. He was a great communicator with a real talent for getting on with people of all ages and backgrounds. He was a real Renaissance man with an incredible knowledge about art, music, theatre - he was a talented director and a great theatre goer - and history. His particular passion, however, was Egyptology and I know he would have loved to have been part of a dig, had his health allowed it.

He was a larger than life man, a great optimist, who always looked for and expected the best of everyone, even if all the evidence did not support his view. He was also very sure of his beliefs and this did not always endear himself to others!!

If anyone wanted to send a donation in memory of John, the charity that we have suggested people support, if they wanted to, is St. Luke’s Hospice, Kenton Grange, Kenton Rd., Harrow HA3 0YG as their support was amazing and allowed him to die at home - he so hated hospitals. However, I am sure that just keeping up the good work of CCND would be quite sufficient.

Bridget Methuen

When the Very Rev. John Methuen agreed to be a member of the Exec, we were thrilled. As retired Dean of Ripon, his contacts and advice on how best to get our disarmament agenda into the Church of England was invaluable. As a member of our schools team his previous experience with young people came into use; after all, he had been a teacher at Eton. When dressed in his liturgical clothes it helped make our group appear respectable, (though this must have amused John who had gained some notoriety in going against the grain at times). I first heard his name when as a young vicar in Manchester he gave shelter in his church to an asylum-seeker and called on the old law of Sanctuary to bar entry to the police. We miss him dreadfully - not just his gifts as a communicator and his Biblical knowledge - but his humour and imagination at our Executive meetings.

Dear John, we shall continue to look to you for help! Thank you - and rest in peace.

Patricia Pulham

Audrey Bartron

Audrey Bartron, who died on 19th September was a long time member of Peterborough CND and Christian CND.

Some of you will remember the conferences we held at the Eirene Centre, the old headquarters of FOR, not far from Molesworth. Audrey was a faithful attender at events here and played the organ for us in the little Parish Church next door.
In our prayers we honour and glorify God and give thanks for the blessings we receive. But a time of silence and quiet reflection is also good to allow God to get through to us. So let us “Be still in the presence of the Lord” and not rush to bombard him with our, no doubt, worthy petitions.

December:

We join in the celebration of Christ’s birth among us and a season of goodwill. Let us also meditate upon the words of the prophet Isaiah which are read during Advent and are often heard in Christmas music:

“For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given; And the government shall be upon his shoulder. His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Is9:6)

January:

We remember with thankfulness the faithful service and witness of friends we have known during the 50 years of Christian CND.

“We have this large crowd of witnesses around us…so let us run with determination the race before us” (Heb.12:1)

February:

The dark, weary month! All of us in the peace movement trying to serve the Prince of Peace experience disappointment and dashed hopes.

Nuclear weapons are still here; the people suffer through war, violence and exploitation and the wealth of nations is not used for the good of all. Our togetherness cheers us up and keeps us going, but we need more and it is there;

“Come unto me all who labour and are heavy laden” (Mat.11:28)

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength..” (Is.40:31)

Grace and Peace to you all.

Bob Russell
Monday 6 December: Annual Advent Peace Service with music led by Bernadette Farrell. Followed by mulled wine and alternative Christmas Market. 7.30. St Aloysius Church, Phoenix Road NW1 1TA. Pax Christi, St Joseph’s, Watford Way, London, NW4 4TY. 0208 203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

6 - 10 December: Nobel Peace Prize Exhibition. London members of Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) have arranged for the Bradford Peace Museum exhibition of about 40 Nobel winners to be on display in Haringey Library early in December. The Mayor of Haringey will officially open the event at 10:30am on Tuesday 7 December. Location: Wood Green Central Library. Please contact Bruce Kent on brucek@uk2.net or 020 8340 6639 for more information.

Saturday 11 December: Yorkshire CND AGM. Colin Challen, former MP for Morley and Rothwell plus other speakers, will discuss what the change of government means for the anti-nuclear movement. Leeds Civic Hall, 1pm. 01274 730795 Yorkshire CND 2 Ashgrove, Bradford, BD7 1BN. info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk

28 December: Holy Innocents service beginning at 11.00 am at St Martins-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London. The service entitled “And the children still are crying “ (the words from a new hymn by Andrew Pratt whose recent hymns and verses will feature in the event). All singers would be most welcome - there will be a practice session at 10.30. The event will also include extracts from Tony Harrison’s “Nativity “ from The Mysteries (the medieval play in modern language). We are looking for people to read some of the parts and would like to hear from anyone who would like to do so. Please call 01908 510642 or email sue.gilmurray@anglia.ac.uk. This will be followed after lunch at 2.00 by a 30-minute witness at the Innocent Victims’ Memorial outside Westminster Abbey. These events are being organised by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship for the Network of Christian Peace Organisations.


26 February: ‘Israel/Palestine - the Untold Stories’. With Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi, recently returned from a visit to Israel/Palestine in November. Incorporating the Network for Peace AGM. Venue Peace House (FOR headquarters), 19 Paradise Street, behind the Oxford Castle visitor centre. All welcome. 1.30pm. 07794 036602 mail@networkforpeace.org.uk www.networkforpeace.org.uk


Saturday 16 April: “UN Reform, Peacekeeping, Disarmament and Development “. Unitig for Peace AGM and Spring Conference. The conference will look at International Security and Peacekeeping reforms and mechanisms for disarmament for development agenda. 10:30am - 4:30pm at Wesley Chapel, 49 City Road, London EC1Y 1AU. For registration and advance booking: UNITING for PEACE 97 Commercial Rd. London E1 1RD. 0207 377 2111 vijay@vmpeace.org


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:

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162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ
Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357
Email: christians@cnduk.org Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/