Happy New Year to all our Members!

Our completed Peace Quilt
See page 3

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Plus news, events and prayer diary
2014 - a year when we are constantly being reminded about the start of the First World War. As peace people, we can note and support any events that present war as a tragedy and obscenity, not as a glorious and patriotic act. Each war lays a foundation for the next and the human price increases. “The old lie, the old story” is still being told. Any of you who work in schools may have to counter this propaganda. We wish you strength and courage.

This year sees a continuation of the International Conference on the Catastrophic Consequences of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo in 2013, and taking place in Mexico in the spring. This is why the annual Embassies Walk will be held a month earlier than usual so that this important event can be the focus. We will be working with ICAN so that more Embassies can be visited and we will need as many people as possible to take part. Remember, you don’t have to be an expert and there will be someone in each group who has done it before. See page...

…and for those who are unable to take part in London events, here is something very valuable you can do at home. Pass on the new Churches’ Guide to your minister (when you have read it yourself, of course!) This will be enormously helpful in getting our peace message to as many parishes as possible.

Thank you for all you do, for your prayers and support.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR to YOU ALL!
Well, dear readers, after two years’s work it is finished! I had not realised how long it would take to get everything together and assembled.

Special thanks are due to all the contributors — the 50 members who responded so enthusiastically and sent in squares, Janet Bonner who made and donated the quilt that formed the background, Ann Alwyn who gave us the centre panel, and the group of Chilean women refugees (Talca, Chile) who made the large squares. Thanks to Clare and John Prangley from Oxford for passing these on.

Some of the small squares came in individually and some from groups, the Peace News Summer Camp for instance.

The knitted frill at the bottom was made up from small strips given by residents at Tinkers Hatch home for learning-disabled adults, and I was able to take the completed quilt to the home recently and show them how their work had been used. I hope that on our next trip to the UN in New York we can take it and display it with other banners.

If there are any more ideas out there for using it to spread the message of peace, please let us have them.

Many thanks to you all….and now you can all get on with knitting pink strips for the Aldermaston to Burghfield “scarf” (see page 9).

Patricia Pulham

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The new Guide for the Churches is an updated version of Nuclear Weapons — What Can Christians Do?

It has been launched now because our country is entering the crucial time when it decides whether or not to extend the life of Trident.

Everyone needs to realise that not only is mass destruction incompatible with ‘Thou Shalt Not Kill’, but also that having the intention to use nuclear weapons means living with death in the heart (the consequence of credible deterrence). A nation living like this is enfeebled rather than ennobled. The condition can subtly emasculate.

What we have done: Copies of the Guide have been sent to the various denominations asking their relevant agents to publicise its availability among their clergy. Please play your part too.

What YOU can do:

1. Read the copy enclosed with Ploughshare.
2. Note the ideas for action it contains and select something you can do.
3. Think whether there is anything else you can do (please let us know).
4. (This is also important!) Please take the copy of the guide to your minister.

Try to have a conversation with him or her. Perhaps you could let us know the outcome?

We will send you another free copy.

5. Remember that prayer is fundamental.

LET US ALL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THE DECISION MAKERS!

Thank you!
There and back again/or All the way to the Valduc Centre de Recherche Nucleaire, north of Dijon, France, when we could just have gone to Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment, just west of London.

Why? Because of the 2010 Teutates Treaty between the UK & France to share advanced facilities at Valduc and at Aldermaston to research Nuclear Weapons for the next 50 years. ‘We’ were a group of Christian CND and people whose main interest is Aldermaston. Our core intention was to make a living link with the people monitoring and protesting at Valduc, and ourselves and those focussed on Aldermaston. At its simplest level we wanted to actually see Valduc and meet the Dijon Peace group.

In defiance of all good story-telling I’m going to tell you the ending first. On the demo day, Sunday 4th August, Francoise Faitot, the ‘Responsible’ of the French Mouvement de la Paix Dijon Group, guided us from our campsite on the Lac du Kir to the photo and TV shot she had organised. We arranged ourselves with our banners with the nice backdrop of the lake. The journalist filmed and took our press release. Then we got back in our van and followed the Dijon group in their cars. It was a very nice drive, little hills, beautiful wooded countryside, harvested fields, ancient villages. Then we stopped on a very minor road, high up. This is the best, the only, view of Valduc. There it was, a white space age town far away on the horizon in the middle of the woods.

The French brought binoculars. France is so much bigger than the UK, there are big fairly empty parts. The River Seine rises here and flows west to Paris, other small rivers flow the other way down to the Rhone and then the Mediterranean.

Then we got back in the van, and Francoise got in with us to ‘explain’. We turned onto an even smaller road, and with an actual sign ‘Centre du recherché nucleaire’ and there was a car full of police on a farm track joining the road, and the next farm track there was another. Francoise said it’s always like this when they have a demonstration. It is possible that there were more because they were feeling miffed because Greenpeace had breached the security of a nuclear installation, with good press coverage, about a fortnight before.

We got to the gate with a complete line of police across it. It came to me that we should at least pray, we are the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament after all. So the police were asked, and said yes, and in fact turned off their engines. So we said the Lord’s Prayer there at the gate. The thing about the Lord’s Prayer is that it prays, ‘Thy will be done’, important in that place, where nuclear weapons would be researched for the next 50 years, not the will of our God I think.

I then asked the French to say it in French, but they said ‘We do not know the words’. They must come from the strong anti-clericalist secularist strand of French politics, as we imagined, which is why we had nothing prepared as it might have been divisive. Then we went slowly on, and climbed into our van and cars and drove off.

We stopped at a beautiful village where there was a Knights Templar tower, and the journalist did some more filming. I think the police were with us there, and then on for a picnic at the Source de la Seine, with police parked nearby again.

The point of all this detail is to show that it is perfectly possible and indeed pleasant to demonstrate against the continued development of nuclear weapons outside Valduc, just like outside Aldermaston. The absolutely vital thing is to do it in conjunction with the French group at Dijon. Nothing would have been possible without them. The event came naturally out of our long co-operation with the French peace movement, particularly with Dominique Lalanne. Our group then returned to Paris to take part in the International Fast against Nuclear Weapons, which also took place at Burghfield near Aldermaston, and in the Netherlands, and in Berlin.

For the future, Francoise will deliver the questions we have been unable to ask the Director at the Centre du Recherche Nucleaire. We hope for a productive Anglo-French co-operation for Peace.
Hold the date! We’re travelling across the world again....

Okay, not really, but our embassies walk will take place on Thursday 13th February and we’d love to have some more volunteers. This year, we’re teaming up with ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and we’re increasing the numbers of embassies we plan to visit. We usually visit embassies prior to the UN NPT Preparatory Committees or Review Conferences, but this year some members of ICAN will be heading to Mexico to a conference that will be looking to pave the way for a complete ban on nuclear weapons. The contacts we make with the embassies help make contacting ambassadors from different countries much easier when abroad.

Some of the embassies of countries we hope to visit for the first time ever include Nigeria, Thailand, Denmark and Chile. You might wonder why we’re off to talk to countries that do not have nuclear weapons... As well as visiting the same old nuclear-weapons owning countries and asking them to comply with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, we’ll be encouraging countries that do not have nuclear weapons to put pressure on those that do by lobbying for a ban of nuclear weapons.

Although we will have volunteers from ICAN, we still need some additional bodies. Even if you’ve never visited an embassy before, we’d like this to be your first year. We’ll provide you with an information sheet about the countries of the embassies you’ll visit (and a little about their history in terms of disarmament) and we will team you up with people who have more visiting experience. It’s good exercise and a chance to meet other people passionate about nuclear disarmament.

We will gather for a half hour service at 10am at St Martin’s in the Fields Church in Trafalgar Square (nearest station is Charing Cross) and will meet shortly after the service (at 10.30am) for a briefing. After that, we set off in teams for the embassy walk dropping in on some embassies and hand delivering letters to others.

If you’d like to volunteer, it would be helpful to know in advance. If you want to bring friends who don’t wish to attend the service (or if you’re running late), it’s fine to meet us at 10.30am for the briefing.

Please contact the CCND office (0207 700 4200 christians@cnduk.org) as soon as possible to let us know if you’re coming — late notifications may result in some embassies refusing entry if they require names in advance — though you’d still be welcome to join us on the walk and other embassies are not so strict! Feel free to invite friends.

Despite appearances on this page - we recommend you wear shoes or boots! Bring a packed lunch and be prepared for all weathers — the walk(s) will go ahead whatever the weather!

Christian CND features at the Student Christian Movement conference

One of our Christian CND Exec Members (Angela Rayner) will be on a panel and leading a workshop on prayer and nuclear disarmament at the 2014 Student Christian Movement conference, Peace, Power and Protest: Prophets for a New World. This year the conference theme is peace and we think it will be of particular interest to our members (you don’t have to be a student... it’s advertised as being an event for anyone interested in faith, spirituality, peace and justice).

The event takes place from 14th — 16th February at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire and the cost for the weekend is just £60. Christian CND also plan to have a stall at the conference. We’d love to meet you and see you there...

For more information or to book a place, visit: http://www.movement.org.uk/peacepowerprotest
Most people reading this Christian CND newsletter won’t need persuading of the evils of nuclear weapons. You will already know that they are the most destructive, inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. Both in the scale of the devastation they cause, and in their uniquely persistent, spreading, genetically damaging radioactive fallout, they are unlike any other weapons. They are a threat to human survival.

What is less known is that nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by an international convention. We are campaigning to close this legal loophole. As with the negotiating processes that resulted in treaties banning land mines and cluster munitions, like-minded governments are working in close partnership with civil society to bring about a nuclear weapons ban — regardless of resistance from states possessing the weapons, such as the UK.

Stigmatise - Ban - Eliminate

Thanks to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent, since 2010 the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has featured prominently in discussions among governments and civil society on ways to advance nuclear disarmament.

In March 2013, the Norwegian Government held the first ever Intergovernmental Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons. Participants included 128 countries, the Red Cross movement, several UN agencies, and civil society under the banner of ICAN. Most nations argued that the only way to prevent the use of nuclear weapons is to ban and eliminate them. Some nuclear armed states, such as India and Pakistan, sent delegates to Oslo but the UK, together with the other P5 nuclear armed states (USA, Russia, China and France) chose to boycott the conference. Mexico is hosting a follow-up conference in February 2014.

By emphasising the harm that nuclear weapons cause to people, societies and the environment, the weapons become stigmatised, and the urgency and necessity of negotiating a ban becomes clear.

Non-Nuclear Weapons States

Nuclear-free nations have long complained of the lack of progress being made towards nuclear disarmament. Though frustrated, they are not without influence - after all, they make up the overwhelming majority of states. Working effectively together, they could build on their experience of creating nuclear-weapon-free zones — in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and Africa - and put in place a powerful legal ban on nuclear weapons, with or without the support of nuclear armed states. In this context of international discussions of the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons, it is even more unacceptable for the UK to consider renewing its Trident nuclear weapons programme.

It’s Time to Change the Game

ICAN’s humanitarian approach re-frames the debate away from a discussion of ‘security’ and ‘defence’ to make nuclear disarmament an issue for anyone concerned about human rights, the environment and the prevention of humanitarian catastrophe.

Since 2007 ICAN, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a global coalition of more than 300 NGOs in 80 countries and growing, has raised public awareness about the dangers of nuclear weapons and the urgent need for a ban treaty.

In the UK, ICAN partner organisations include CND and Christian CND, Scientists for Global
The Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons will take place in Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, Mexico, on 13 and 14 February 2014. This conference aims to deepen understanding of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons as a follow-up to the discussions in Oslo in March 2013.

For this conference to be a success, it is important for campaigners to bring attention back home to what is happening in Mexico. Through your engagement and support we will ensure that the significance of this conference resonates across the world.

ICAN will be circulating a series of Action Alerts in the coming weeks with further information about actions you can take in the run-up to and during the Nayarit conference. Queries: mexico2014@icanw.org


NB Christian CND won’t be going — too far and too expensive — but we hope to get a report of the conference for a future Ploughshare.

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**Hold the date!**

Tuesday March 4th, burial of the Alleluia. Meet at the Imperial War Museum at 6pm. for our annual prayer walk and vigil to the Ministry of Defence.... It would be great if people could drop us an email or call if they plan to turn up so that we make sure we wait for stragglers...
The next General Election is due in 2015. The three main political parties all support a Trident replacement programme with some minor differences. The programme is now in its ‘initial’ phase. The formal decision on the main phase is due in 2016.

One thing we can do is attend local anti-austerity protests and meetings, pointing out the cost of Trident and calling for it to be scrapped. The more people who are aware of the costs of nuclear weapons, and how much more we could spend on socially useful things such as education and healthcare — the better! Also do the action on page 3.

Rebecca Johnson is continuing her ‘Scrap Trident’ speaking tour to the end of February. Later, Bruce Kent will be touring the country speaking especially to faith groups. His tour provides another opportunity for public meetings. To book Bruce to speak at your faith group (rather than your CND/CCND group) please contact CND on 020 7700 2393 — the earlier the better as he’s getting booked up!

Time to Cut Trident - sign EDM 150

MPs have tabled Early Day Motion 150 Trident Replacement which calls on the Government to cancel plans to replace the Trident nuclear weapon submarines, arguing the case on both security and spending grounds.

Contact your MP and ask that they add their name in support.

Atoms for Peace

New Nuclear Information Service study on university research and nuclear weapons — Launch event 12 February.

Over the last two years Nuclear Information Service and Medact have been working on our ‘Atoms for Peace’ project: a ground-breaking investigation into links between the Atomic Weapons Establishment — where the UK’s nuclear weapons are designed and made — and British universities.

The study has found that more than fifty universities — over one third of all British universities — have received funding from the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), with AWE’s ‘Technical Outreach’ programme with universities mainly supporting scientific research in the physics, materials science, high performance computing, modelling, and manufacturing disciplines.

The final report from the study — ‘Atoms for Peace? The Atomic Weapons Establishment and UK universities’ will be published on 12 February 2014 and the launch event entitled ‘Combat and the Campus’ — will be at University College London. The centrepiece of the event will be a panel discussion on the ethics of military research in universities with our guests for the evening, Sir Jonathon Porritt (Forum for the Future and Prince of Wales’s Business & Sustainability Programme) and Professor Andy Blowers (Open University).

The evening will conclude with a cheese and wine reception. Everyone is welcome and attendance is free, but advance registration is strongly encouraged as places are limited, and priority for entrance will be given to those who have pre-registered. Nuclear Information Service, Ibex House, 85 Southampton Street, Reading RG1 2QU 0118 327 7489 Booking: http://tinyurl.com/combatcampus

To find out more about the ‘Atoms for Peace?’ study see http://tinyurl.com/awescience.
Campaigning

Wool against Weapons Update

Campaigners everywhere are working on creating a 7 mile long knitted peace scarf to stretch between Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield, Berkshire, where nuclear weapons are made.

This is part of a larger campaign to put pressure on the Government to ditch a planned £80bn spend on renewing the Trident Nuclear weapons programme.

Each unit should measure 60cm wide and 100cm long - any thickness of yarn, any style, any stitch - be creative. You will need approx 80 - 95 stitches across if you use dk yarn on roughly size 7 needles, with about 100 rows. Grab a tape measure as it’s a bit tricky, and varies wildly! Thicker wool and/or thicker needles will need a different number of stitches, as will crocheting. Needle size has been a bit of a hotly debated issue - just pick up your nearest needles and give it a go….it doesn’t really matter. Any shade of pink!

So pick up your needles and crochet hooks and help us to protest in a pink, powerful and pro-active way to say No! to more investment in war in the U.K.

Have a look at the website for some great inspirational photos of people from all over the country (and in India!) knitting, and photos of the finished pieces. Lovely!

The scarf will be ‘rolled out’ on 9 August, Nagasaki Day. See diary page.

After we have finished, the scarf will be taken down and re-purposed into blankets for local hospices, emergency areas and war zones. Nothing wasted.

Finished pieces can be sent to: Jaine Rose, Rowan Tree, 27 Bowbridge Lane, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2JP.

Please don’t send them to CCND as we now have an address to send them - help save us postage costs!

Petition: Stop under-18 recruitment

“We call on the UK Government to stop its policy of allowing 15 year olds to apply and 16 and 17 year olds to be recruited into the Armed Forces. The recruitment and targeting of young people and vulnerable groups has been criticised by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. 2014 is the year to end this policy.”

Why is it that in 2014 the UK is the only country in Europe — and the only country among the permanent members of the UN Security Council — to recruit 16 year olds into its armed forces?


The petition will be handed to the Ministry of Defence in April 2014.

A paper copy of this petition is enclosed with this mailing — for more copies email info@paxchristi.org.uk or download from http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/

For more information see http://tinyurl.com/FW-Recruitment
Advent Vigils 2013

The Advent Vigils at Aldermaston continued in December.

As usual, Vigil days were co-organised and led by various groups including Oxford Pax Christi and Clergy Against Nuclear Arms.

Look out for more Vigils in December 2014! We would love for there to be a greater Interfaith input - ideas to encourage this welcome!

Prayer Diary

February 2nd: Candlemas … That the light of Christ may be seen in our lives and that the Spirit, the Dove of Peace, may prompt us in all we do.

February 13th; The Embassies Walk… We remember the people in the ‘countries’ we are visiting and pray this event has positive results.

February 14th ; St Valentine’s Day… May our work for peace be done always in a spirit of love.

March 1st: St David’s Day… For our loyal members and ardent campaigners in Wales.

March 4th: Shrove Tuesday… “Buruing the Alleluia” and walk to MoD

March 5th : Ash Wednesday…. That these commemorations prepare us for Lent and help us reach out to new people.

March 17th..St Patrick’s Day…For the people of Ireland and the healing of old divisions.

April 20th Easter Sunday … Alleluia!

April 23rd St George’s Day… for a new spirit of peace and compassion to be born in our nation.

April 28th to May 9th The NPT PrepCom in New York

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
I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to CCND) to include the following:
Membership: £………………
Donation: £……………… (Thank you!)
TOTAL: £………………

Or
☐ Please send me a standing order form

☐ 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.

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

Please return form to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ
13 February: CCND Embassies Walk. 10 am, Dick Sheppard Chapel. (see article).

4 March: (Shrove Tuesday), Burial of the Alleluia, Imperial War Museum, 6 pm.

Other events


12 February: ‘Combat and the Campus’ — New Nuclear Information Service study on university research and nuclear weapons launch event. Harrie Massie Lecture Theatre, University College London. 5-9 pm. See page 8.


14 - 16 February: Peace, Power and Protest: Prophets for a New World. Join Student Christian Movement in partnership with the Fellowship of Reconciliation for our annual conference! The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. CCND Exec members will be there! Info: 0121 200 3355 lizzie@movement.org.uk http://www.movement.org.uk

15 February: NJPN Open Networking Day. York. Speaker: Trish Griffin, former worker with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine/Israel. All welcome. Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee provided. St Bede’s Pastoral Centre, 21 Blossom Street, York YO2 1AQ. Tel: 020 7901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

22 February: Network for Peace Annual General Meeting. 1.30 pm at Friends House, London. Includes discussion on plans for forthcoming Global Day of Action on Military Spending. All welcome. NfP Tel: 07794 036 602 Email: mail@networkforpeace.org.uk

5 March: Ash Wednesday. Events at the MoD in London and elsewhere around the country. Meet in Gardens between Northumberland Avenue and Horseguards Avenue for start of liturgy at 3.00 pm. We will then process to Horseguards Avenue. More details from Pax Christi 020 8203 4884 info@paxchristi.org.uk

15 March: March and Rally: Remember Fukushima: no to Nuclear Power. Meet at 12:30 pm at Hyde Park Corner near the exits to Hyde Park from Hyde Park Corner tube, 3:00-4:30 pm rally with speakers and music on Old Palace Yard opposite the Houses of Parliament. For further info contact London Region CND on 020 7607 2302.


14 April: Global Day of Action on Military Spending. Events around the UK and the rest of the world. Keep GDAMS informed of your events: gdams@ipb.org Info: http://demilitarize.org/

26 April: Chernobyl Day.


17-23 May: Week on Iona ‘Pilgrims for Peace; celebrating 100 years of Nonviolence, peacemaking, forgiveness, compassion and reconciliation’. www.for.org.uk office@for.org.uk

6 August: Hiroshima Day

9 August: Nagasaki Day.

9 August: Wool Against Weapons Roll-out. Demonstration at AWE Aldermaston & AWE Burghfield. Hundreds of people are currently involved in knitting pieces of a seven mile long pink peace scarf as part of the Wool against Weapons initiative. The scarf will be rolled out between the atomic weapon factories at Aldermaston and Burghfield on Nagasaki Day in a protest against Trident. For more information about the event and the knitting, see www.woolagainstweapons.co.uk/

Phone Jaime Rose 01453 751604.

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

CCND stickers New! 10 stickers for 50p, 50 stickers for £2

Legacy Guide Free

Churches’ Guide 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: Church Porch Poster, 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 8DQ
Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357
Email: christians@cnduk.org Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/
French peace activists given a scrapbook of our visit and joint campaigning

CCND’s trip to France, summer 2013

CCND group with banners in Paris

International banners against nuclear weapons — including our banner on the right!