Ploughshares
The journal of Christian CND

June 2015 Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

CCND’s Kelvin and Martin followed by one of the Peace Pagoda nuns on the Embassies Walk 2015

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Plus news, events and prayer diary
Well, the election is over, and the NPT Review Conference concluded with no planned reduction in nuclear weapons - is this a reason for giving up or a determination to campaign even harder? We have recently celebrated Pentecost, when the down-hearted and demoralised disciples left their despairing huddle with new vigour and strength for the task ahead - and 2000 years later, their message is still resounding.

This year marks 70 years since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the United Nations recently, 1000 Japanese joined other NGOs in New York for the Review Conference of the NPT. They ranged in age from elderly Hibakushas to school students, all determined that the world would never suffer in the same way again. Over and over again, most of the world's nations made impassioned pleas for consideration of the horrific humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and begged for them to be outlawed but the P5 still clung to their old excuses!

Our Trident Weapons System threatens the world with many times the appalling suffering and devastation of August 1945 and this message needs to be spread among our own MPs as they come towards their momentous decision about the renewal of Trident. We have details of some MPs’ religious affiliation (where known) - get in touch for details.

Have faith. Take heart and the Spirit of Pentecost be with us all.

One of the demonstrators at the rally in New York prior to the NPT Conference
The first day, Saturday, was called 'Peace and Planet'. This was the day when anti-nuclear-weapons people could attend related morning and afternoon workshops held on three sites. The workshop day ended with a Plenary for all at 4.30. At the Pax Christi workshop that day Michael met the head of International Pax Christi, who we have invited to be one of the main speakers at the annual NJPN Conference (the Pulhams are on the on the planning group for that). He outlined the newly stressed pronouncement of Pope Francis - about n. weapons being not only wrong to use, but also wrong to possess.

26th April was the Peace and Planet March from Union Square back to UN and the start of the Global Wave. This was preceded by a multifaith service in the Interfaith Chapel. Michael unfurled the multi-faith banner ('Now we Pray Together') outside and a Chilean helped hang it on a tree.

Monday Morning - the first early morning vigil. We were joined by two Buddhists who added their chants. We have to leave our banners in the security office each day before we go in to the UN proper. The main Conference started and the new President of the NPT, an Algerian woman was installed, and duly congratulated. The NPT has decided to go completely paperless which may be environmentally sound, but means it is difficult to find out the order of speakers or get a copy of their presentations. They are slow to put them on the web.

CND ran a good fringe meeting in the afternoon on Trident and how the decision could be affected by the election. Michael entertained them with a report of our visits to Valduc, taking this opportunity to let everyone know what Christian CND had been doing. Caroline went also to a meeting chaired by the Swedish Ambassador.

On Tuesday afternoon we went to a meeting on nuclear modernisation with lots of pictures of shiny new weapons systems. Our main thought was that someone was making an awful lot of money out of this. The day finished with a session on the Marshall Islands and their case against the US and their lack of adherence to the NPT.

One of the interesting meetings we attended was 'Nuclear Weapons: International Humanitarian Law and Morality' with legal professor Kaplow, Johnathan Granoff and Douglas Roche as speakers.

If you’re interested in a longer
report from CCND, get in touch with the office!

Patricia and Michael Pulham

From ICAN: 159 countries signed the Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons ... and speaker after speaker expressed concern about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, welcoming the three humanitarian impact conferences that took place in Norway, Mexico, and Austria in 2013 and 2014. 84 countries have so far pledged to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons, and there were strong calls by countries from all continents for a legally binding instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons which would implement and strengthen Article VI.

http://tinyurl.com/qyvjje

2015 NPT Review Conference outcome is the Humanitarian Pledge

The final document of the NPT Review Conference was prevented from being adopted by Israel—a non-state party. The US, UK, and Canada issued statements refusing to accept the proposal on convening a meeting about potentially developing a Middle East weapon of mass destruction free zone, thus preventing the adoption of what would have been the weakest disarmament outcome in the Treaty's recent history. Instead, the outcome from this Conference is the Humanitarian Pledge, representing a commitment of more than 100 states to work for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

http://tinyurl.com/nsuok6r

CCND people joined by two from the Finish delegation (left and middle)
The ‘Now We Pray Together’ banner in New York

A colourful scene at the pre-NPT rally in New York
Embassies Walk

Every year we choose a day to visit a group of Embassies in London as part of the “Dialogue with Decision Makers” aspect of our campaigning and in preparation for the Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference at the United Nations. This event does not just include people who are experts on international affairs or those who are going to take part as NGO representatives. 16 people took part this time. We always start the walk with a short service in St Martin-in-the-Fields and we were grateful again to Rev. Richard Carter for leading us in worship.

CCND had contacted 12 Embassies both from Nuclear Weapons States and others with a special interest in nuclear disarmament. This year we were invited to meetings with 7 of them. We were particularly glad to talk to diplomats from the "Nuclear Exits"countries, those nations which, having started along the nuclear weapons path, decided for various reasons that this was not in the interest of their states. We want to use this information to persuade our own MPs that there are real advantages in not being part of the "nuclear club".

We were also able to ask if there would be somebody from the Embassy willing to take part in a proposed meeting in Parliament in the Autumn. (More information on this, later.) We also had long discussions with representatives from US and the Russian Federation. Although we did not expect to change their minds, it is helpful to learn of individual anxieties, the stance to be taken at the NPT Review Conference, and the names of contacts we can make there. As we had several other opportunities to visit the FCO recently, the UK was not included in this year's walk.

We keep contact with these embassies during the year, sending them cards on their national days, religious festivals and in the event of a national disaster expressing our concern and promise of prayers.
Burghfield Lockdown 2 March

Around 6.30 am Christians joined others at the North Gate into AWE Burghfield this morning, to play their part in the all-day blockade of AWE Burghfield. For more than 10 hours two entry gates to Burghfield were closed by protesters and the third was partially closed. Despite a huge police presence there were no arrests - a tribute to the non-violent nature of the actions. AWE Burghfield is one of two factories involved in the loading of nuclear warheads.

Prayers, readings and songs were shared each hour and included testimonies from those whose lives have been damaged by nuclear testing; reflections from US peace campaigners currently serving prison sentences for their nuclear protests and passages from scripture that urge people to put faith into action and to realise the vision of the prophets of a world where swords will be turned into ploughshares.

The gathering was international, with peace groups from France, Finland and Belgium taking part in the full blockade. Reports from other gates here: http://tinyurl.com/ojk8pwm

The whole event was organised by Action AWE. Tel: 0845 4588 362. http://actionawe.org/
Ash Wednesday Photos by Pax Christi


Placards bearing the words of Pope Francis were carried in procession around the building. Earlier in the day the building had been marked with blessed charcoal procession by Dr Ray Towey. He wrote the words Trident = Genocide, Choose Life.

Left: Israeli CO Mia Tamarin speaking at the Conscientious Objectors’ Day in Tavistock Square, London.

Mia was one of a group of COs who refused military service in Israel in the 1980s and after studying Peace Studies in the UK, now works in London.

Photo by Claire Poyner
In December, the Vatican submitted a very positive paper to the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons.

In January, Pope Francis said nuclear disarmament was a major goal (speech to his diplomatic corps).

The Holy See's Ambassador to the UN, Archbishop Bernadito Auza, says the Pope has pushed the moral argument to a new level; not only against the use of nuclear weapons but also against their possession.

In May, addressing the delegates at the NPT Review Conference, Archbishop Auza said the Holy See is very concerned about the commitment of the nuclear-capable states. "It perpetuates the 'injustice' of the NPT regime, which was supposed to be temporary while nuclear disarmament was in progress."

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is trying to move the Holy See's discussion forward in the US, and is deepening its theological and political attention to disarmament.


In New York we learned more about how the poor people of The Marshall Islands are taking the UK and US governments to court over the dreadful harm its nuclear testing created.

They are not doing this just for themselves but for all who want to make a stand against nuclear weapons.

We can all follow the course of this action by googling 'Marshall Islands' and adding our names to petitions etc.
Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Fast

This year the annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Fast is coming to London! The fast is an international initiative which has been followed in France for over 30 years now, and for several years in Germany also. For two years running it has also been held in Burghfield with support from Action AWE and Trident Ploughshares.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, and there is a strong will across Europe to mark the occasion in different ways, and to say: never forget, never again, nuclear disarmament now.

In France, the fast has been held in Paris itself since 2005, and as numbers and support for the fast grow it has spread to other symbolic sites: the Valduc Weapons Research establishment in Burgundy and also the nuclear science directorate CEA-CESTA in Le Barp, near Bordeaux where research is conducted into simulating nuclear tests.

In Germany, the fast will again be held outside the Buchel NATO base, the only base in Germany at which nuclear weapons are still stationed. There is also talk of the fast being followed in Russia and Ukraine as well as in parts of Africa.

We have decided to fast in London this year in a deliberate bid to raise media profile, and to bring the issue to the very seat of power, in and around Whitehall. We will be camping and holding vigils in Whitehall Gardens, and protesting peacefully outside Parliament, outside Downing Street, and outside the Ministry of Defence.

We will also join up with other commemorative protests in this period: the CND commemoration in Tavistock Square on Hiroshima day, and the Pax Christi prayers and vigil outside Westminster Cathedral on Nagasaki day.

We will be conveying a simple message concerning the urgency of nuclear disarmament worldwide, and a specific message aimed at the British government calling for non-replacement of Trident.

We welcome the support of anyone who can spare an hour or so to come along and support our presence. To find us and join in you can ring Angie on 074-565-88943 or email at reforest@gn.apc.org or email Marc at marcwmorgan@btinternet.com, or visit http://tridentploughshares.org/fast-2015-whitehall-gardens-london/
Father George Zabelka, a Catholic chaplain with the U.S. Air Force, served as a priest for the airmen who dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, and gave them his blessing. Over the next twenty years, he gradually came to believe that he had been terribly wrong, that he had denied the very foundations of his faith by lending moral and religious support to the bombing. Zabelka, who died in 1992, gave this speech on the 40th anniversary of the bombings.

The destruction of civilians in war was always forbidden by the Church, and if a soldier came to me and asked if he could put a bullet through a child’s head, I would have told him, absolutely not. That would be mortally sinful. But in 1945 Tinian Island was the largest airfield in the world. Three planes a minute could take off from it around the clock. Many of these planes went to Japan with the express purpose of killing not one child or one civilian but of slaughtering hundreds and thousands and tens of thousands of children and civilians – and I said nothing.

As a Catholic chaplain I watched as the Boxcar, piloted by a good Irish Catholic pilot, dropped the bomb on Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki, the center of Catholicism in Japan.

For the last 1700 years the Church has not only been making war respectable: it has been inducing people to believe it is an honorable profession, an honorable Christian profession. This is not true. We have been brainwashed. This is a lie.

Today the world is on the brink of ruin because the Church refuses to be the Church, because we Christians have been deceiving ourselves and the non-Christian world about the truth of Christ. There is no way to follow Christ, to love as Christ loved, and simultaneously to kill other people. It is a lie to say that the spirit that moves the trigger of a flamethrower is the Holy Spirit.
It is a lie to say that learning to kill is learning to be Christ-like. It is a lie to say that learning to drive a bayonet into the heart of another is motivated from having put on the mind of Christ. Militarized Christianity is a lie. It is radically out of conformity with the teaching, life, and spirit of Jesus.

Now, brothers and sisters, on the anniversary of this terrible atrocity carried out by Christians, I must be the first to say that I made a terrible mistake. I was had by the father of lies. I participated in the big ecumenical lie of the Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox churches. I wore the uniform. I was part of the system. When I said Mass over there I put on those beautiful vestments over my uniform. (When Father Dave Becker left the Trident submarine base in 1982 and resigned as Catholic chaplain there, he said, “Every time I went to Mass in my uniform and put the vestments on over my uniform, I couldn’t help but think of the words of Christ applying to me: Beware of wolves in sheep’s clothing.”)

As an Air Force chaplain I painted a machine gun in the loving hands of the nonviolent Jesus, and then handed this perverse picture to the world as truth. I sang “Praise the Lord” and passed the ammunition.

As Catholic chaplain for the 509th Composite Group, I was the final channel that communicated this fraudulent image of Christ to the crews of the Enola Gay and the Boxcar.

I asked forgiveness from the Hibakushas (the Japanese survivors of the atomic bombings) in Japan last year, in a pilgrimage that I made with a group from Tokyo to Hiroshima. I fell on my face there at the peace shrine after offering flowers, and I prayed for forgiveness – for myself, for my country, for my Church. Both Nagasaki and Hiroshima. This year in Toronto, I again asked forgiveness from the Hibakushas present. I asked forgiveness, and they asked forgiveness for Pearl Harbor and some of the horrible deeds of the Japanese military, and there were some, and I knew of them. We embraced. We cried. Tears flowed. That is the first step of reconciliation – admission of guilt and forgiveness. Pray to God that others will find this way to peace.

Each one of us becomes responsible for the crime of war by cooperating in its preparation and in its execution. This includes the military. This includes the making of weapons. And it includes paying for the weapons. There’s no question about...
Blessing the Bombs

that. We’ve got to realize we all become responsible. Silence, doing nothing, can be one of the greatest sins.

The bombing of Nagasaki means even more to me than the bombing of Hiroshima. By August 9, 1945, we knew what that bomb would do, but we still dropped it. We knew that agonies and sufferings would ensue, and we also knew – at least our leaders knew – that it was not necessary. The Japanese were already defeated. They were already suing for peace. But we insisted on unconditional surrender, and this is even against the Just War theory. Once the enemy is defeated, once the enemy is not able to hurt you, you must make peace.

Militarized Christianity is a lie. It is radically out of conformity with the teaching, life, and spirit of Jesus.

As a Catholic chaplain I watched as the Boxcar, piloted by a good Irish Catholic pilot, dropped the bomb on Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki, the center of Catholicism in Japan. I knew that St. Francis Xavier, centuries before, had brought the Catholic faith to Japan. I knew that schools, churches, and religious orders were annihilated. And yet I said nothing.

Thank God that I’m able to stand here today and speak out against war, all war. The prophets of the Old Testament spoke out against all false gods of gold, silver, and metal. Today we are worshipping the gods of metal, the bomb. We are putting our trust in physical power, militarism, and nationalism. The bomb, not God, is our security and our strength. The prophets of the Old Testament said simply: Do not put your trust in chariots and weapons, but put your trust in God. Their message was simple, and so is mine.

We must all become prophets. I really mean that. We must all do something for peace. We must stop this insanity of worshipping the gods of metal. We must take a stand against evil and idolatry. This is our destiny at the most critical time of human history. But it’s also the greatest opportunity ever offered to any group of people in the history of our world – to save our world from complete annihilation.

August 17, 2005

This article was originally published by Bruderhof.com. It is an excerpt of a speech Fr. Zabelka gave at a Pax Christi conference in August 1985 (tape of speech obtained from Notre Dame University Archives).

I’m most active in CAAT. I went to the S.W. Meeting in Salisbury on 20th January. We campaign against the new University Technical College which is too closely linked to the arms trade.

The Wrap Up Trident Day was very successful, beginning with the Service at Martin in the Fields. On the steps afterwards the Joint Methodist/URC statement was one of those read out. Every year on Holocaust Memorial Day I attend ‘Space for Peace’ in Winchester Cathedral. It’s an exciting opportunity to explore a new way of music, prayer and meditation, a musical vigil for peace performed by community choirs, schools, the university and different faiths conducted by Revd. Prof. June Boyce Tillman.

On my birthday I went to Sarum College in Salisbury where Prof. Mary Grey launched her new book *The Spirit of Peace*. I went to the Network of Christian Peace Organisations’ meeting at Friends House on 18th March. It clashed with the Embassies Walk. It was Millius Palayiwa’s last as Chair. I used to teach him in Zimbabwe. My role in NCPO is to produce the Service of Worship for CAAT. I went to the CAAT AGM on Arms to Renewables at Conway Hall on 21st March. The service is to be on 13th September in all our churches. I need a lot of help with this as my computer always imposes a Security Warning on anything involving CAAT.

It was good to have been at George Farebrother’s Memorial Service. I miss his advice on what to say to my MP.

Locally I am active in the Stop Hinkley Campaign. I went to the last meeting in Taunton on Radioactive waste in Somerset at Temple Methodist Church.

Salaam, Shalom, Peace, Hazel Barkham.
Chas Raws
October 31st 1939 - 30th December 2014

Christian CND member Chas died last December. The Memorial Meeting to celebrate the life of Chas in Heswall Hall, Wirral on January 20th was one of the most inspiring such events I've ever been privileged to attend. The Hall was packed with his relatives and friends from many walks of life. It was a truly joyful occasion much in keeping with the Quaker faith he had discovered in the 1960s.

His memorial tribute told how he found great strength, inspiration and solace through his faith. Many Quaker and followers of other faiths paid tribute to his life.

His tribute card and speaker after speaker revealed his many interests and enthusiasms.

Janet Laycock, Merseyside CND

George Farebrother
1937 - 2015

George Farebrother was a deeply committed member of the global anti-nuclear movement who was intricately involved in moves to mount legal actions against governments that possess nuclear weapons.

For many years he had been a history teacher, but from the moment he learned about the World Court Project in 1991 he took early retirement and dedicated the rest of his life to its activities. Applying his Quaker beliefs and teaching experience, he came up with the idea of collecting individual “declarations of public conscience” against nuclear weapons, which were accepted by the International Court of Justice as “citizens’ evidence”.

Some of us present had known him through one branch of the peace movement or other, CND, World Disarmament Campaign, Church House and Merseyside Peace Council.

Perhaps for me the most moving tributes were paid by members of the asylum seeker community based at St. Anne’s Church in Kensington, Liverpool where he was Chairman of Merseyside Asylum Link until recently when ill health forced him to give up this role.

His tribute card and speaker after speaker revealed his many interests and enthusiasms.
A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHOSE HEARTS CARRY THE WEIGHT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands you have placed the fate of this planet. We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and intoxicating hope. We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light.

Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth. In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped. Amen

Rt Rev William E Swing
United Religions Initiative

Join with people throughout the world to pray for peace at 12 noon daily and particularly on the following dates:

**June 16th** The anniversary of the first nuclear bomb test, sadly named "Trinity".

**July 17th - 19th** "The Things that make for Peace" Conference at Swanwick

**August 6th - 9th** 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for all commemorative events especially the Fast outside the MOD.

**August 27th-31st** Greenbelt

**September 21st** International Day of Peace

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**Subs and Donations**

Thank you to all our members who have kindly donated to the ‘New Website’ appeal. We’re now on the way to getting ourselves a brand new website. You will be able to subscribe and buy merchandise online!

If you’re not into computers, we will still be able to process your orders and subs in the regular manner.

It’s not too late to send in a donation!

**Standing Orders**

If you have been paying by standing order, you will get a form with this issue of Ploughshare. If you haven’t increased your sub in line with our new rates, and as long as you can afford it, please use the form to change your payments and send the form back to us. Please tell us if you’ve cancelled your SO.

Thank you for your continued support.
17 June: Concert for Peace. Chamber concert by Musicians for Peace and Disarmament (formerly MANA). Wind Quintet including Ileana Ruhemann, Chris O’Neal, Tony Lamb, Lindsay Kempley (horn) and others. Hinde Street Methodist Church, Thayer Street, London W1. 7pm. Details from Gill on 020 8979 2482 or gill@gill-hurle.plus.com Bookings: http://www.wegottickets.com/event/320179


4 July: Annual Independence FROM America demo at the gates of NSA/NRO Menwith Hill (HG4 2RF) from 5-9 pm. Speakers, musicians, excellent food and much more. Info: Lindis Percy or Brigit-Mary Oates blondfairy2@hotmail.com 01423 884076 more.http://www.caab.org.uk/

30 July - 3 August: Peace News Summer Camp. Join people from across the broad specrum of British activism for five days sharing ideas, experiences and strategies. Crabapple Community, Shrewsbury SY5 6HA. £20-£100 depending on income. www.peacenews.info 020 7278 3344 peacenewscamp@gmail.com

Organising Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day events? Send us details for next Ploughshare Plus (and photos if you have them).

1 August: Hiroshima Day Vigil in Bromley, 12noon - 3pm, outside the Churchill Theatre. anncgarrett@yahoo.com

6 August: London Region CND’s annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration at the commemorative cherry tree in Tavistock
Square, noon-1pm. 0207 607 2302
david.lrcnd@cnduk.org

6th-9th August: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration Fast in Central London. Every year, an International Fast is held in France, Britain and Germany between Hiroshima and Nagasaki days (6th-9th August). This year, the fast takes on particular significance in Britain. In the final year before the decision on Trident replacement, the fast will take place near the seats of military and political power in Britain: Whitehall, Downing Street, the Ministry of Defence. Everyone is welcome to join the protest, whether you’re fasting or not and whether you’re staying for an hour or three days. For all the details, contact Angie Zelter reforest@gn.apc.org 07456 588943

8 August: Peace Trail Walk. Discover some of the people and places in London associated with international peacemaking. Guided walk along the Central London Peace Trail with Bruce Kent and Valerie Flessati of the Movement for the Abolition of War. Meet by Gandhi’s statue in Tavistock Square at 10.30am. Let us know if you plan to come. info@abolishwar.org.uk


26 September: The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. A day for public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. - See more at: http://tinyurl.com/n3jywbp

CCND goods

Pack of 24 A4 sheets of Interfaith quotations £1 a pack. CCND stickers 10 stickers for 50p, 50 stickers for £2. Legacy Guide (Free). Churches’ Guide (Free). T-Shirts (£12), cotton bags (£3). Picasso greetings cards. £2.50 for six. Christmas cards, £2.50 for six. Church porch A4 poster of church quotes on Trident (free), badges (30p), enamel brooches (£1.50), window stickers (50p), pens (£1) and a history of CCND (£2.50).

See your membership insert for details and an order form.

New membership flyers, available free, contact the office.
Nuclear Weapons And... Link leaflets. Contact the office. NEW! Nuclear Weapons and Democracy.

Send orders to Christian CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.
How to join CCND

Annual membership subscriptions are:

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

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

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

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

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

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