Aldermaston 14 - 15 February 2010:

Vigil and Blockade success

Morning Liturgy at Aldermaston, 15 February 2010

Easter Greetings to all our friends!

In this issue:

Elections - how to lobby your candidates
Christian CND 50th Anniversary
NPT
Other news
Plus news, events and prayer diary
This year has been unusually busy for Christian CND. Sixteen separate activities, with all the intricate planning each one requires!

- Writing to all the C of E Synod members about the Review Conference
- Leafleting them at the February Synod
- The all-night Prayer Vigil at Aldermaston
- The Interfaith Liturgy at the Tadley (Faith) Gate
- Communicating with the nuclear-weapons related embassies
- Visiting them on the Embassies Walk
- Attendance at the Holy Innocents Day Service
- Taking part in the Ash Wednesday Witness
- Writing to church leaders for NPT input
- More work in schools on war and peace (RE departments)
- Preparing our section of the South Coast ‘Flame of Hope’ walk
- Preparing an Easter Vigil at Aldermaston
- Preparing our contribution to Greenbelt
- Arranging to attend the NPT Review Conference in New York
- This journal
- Planning for ‘Pilgrimage to Peace’

As I write we are now working on the last eight. His Holiness, for his visit to Britain, happened to pick the date we had booked for Coventry! This means we now have 29 - 31 October 2010 for ‘Pilgrimage to Peace’.

You will know the importance of the Review Conference in May. There is more hope this time, but the issue needs all we can give it. Please make sure people are fully aware. Publicise its importance both in church and where you live. You will know best how to do things in your locality - see the enclosed booklet, which may help you.

We are compiling a booklet on Peace Women. Can you supply material? Someone has already suggested a title, ‘The Sheroes’! Also, can you find any new members?

Enclosed with this mailing is a donations request. We would have liked to have sent it separately, but the extra postage would be an additional expense. Thank you for your generosity and all that you do.
When CCND was asked to take part in the Trident Ploughshares event, we wanted to organise action that was supportive of our own members and others who were taking part in the blockade itself and also provided an alternative witness for others who, for whatever reason, did not want to risk arrest.

In October 2008, we held an all-night candlelit vigil, which as well as being meaningful for the participants, had an impact on the media, so it was decided to do this again, but October is October and February is February and as the day approached we felt anxious about the weather and the well-being of the vigillers. The temperature rose however, the air was too still to blow our candles out and a hardy core of 8, augmented by others at the beginning and the end, was able to keep a presence through the night. The liturgy was based on Morning and Night Prayer from Iona together with an hourly repetition of the Prayer for Peace. Simon Cottrell, the Bishop of Reading, took part in our 7.00am prayer.

At 11.00am the main interfaith liturgy took place. Chris Wood had put together readings and periods of silence. Among the readers were the RC Bishop of Brentwood, Thomas McMahon, Chris Elliot for the Methodists, and representatives of the Hindu and Buddhist Faiths. The peaceful atmosphere infected the very large number of police who declined to arrest any of the Faith Gate blockaders. Perhaps they felt the ensuing headlines would not be sympathetic.

The blockade successfully stopped all entry to the base for around half an hour (by police estimate). As one gate was cleared of blockaders, another gate was blocked. People came from all across the UK, and other European countries including Spain and Norway. 26 People were arrested but none from the Faith Gate.

The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education said:

“They call this place AWE but we are not in awe of you. You have occupied these 750 acres but they are not yours; the Earth is the Lord’s! ... What right has this government got to spend no less than 20 billion pounds ... on a dangerous prestige symbol at a time when cuts are going to be made in health and education?”

More photos on page 11
This year we travelled a bit further round the world than previously, visiting 16 embassies as part of the preparation for the NPT Review Conference in May. We wanted to hear what stance the national delegations would take, what were their hopes, and what effect they thought the cancellation of the British Trident programme would have on future disarmament negotiations.

We wrote to the 5 nuclear weapons states, the 3 ‘undeclared’ NWS (Israel, India and Pakistan) and the 6 countries which form the New Agenda Coalition (countries which act together to persuade the NWS to do something about disarmament). This year we added Iran (because of its ambiguous position) and Japan (because of its history). North Korea is too far out of central London to visit on the walk day, but we did write with our questions. As a result, we were invited into 11 embassies to discuss our concerns and hopes. The walk had been divided into 3 groups and after a welcome from Rev. Richard Carter from St Martins and a short service in the Dick Sheppard Chapel, we set off into the Spring sunshine. At the end of the afternoon, most of the walkers or tube travellers were able to meet up and exchange notes in the St Martin’s crypt café.

Here are some points made by various embassy representatives:

Ireland: to get as much positive commitment as possible to existing agreements, i.e. the 13 steps from 2000 and pressing hard for a nuclear free zone in the Middle East.

Iran would be pressing its right to peaceful development of nuclear power. (An unexpected result of this contact was an invitation to an expenses-paid visit to a conference on nuclear issues in Teheran, but for various reasons we felt unable to accept!)

Japan emphasised free and open inspection of nuclear facilities as a major way to make the Treaty work and increase trust.

Sweden was hopeful for substantial movement, thought our FCO was progressive and there was still an
opening for Trident cancellation but it would only be one bargaining chip.

**Russia** on the other hand said this move would be very important and would change the whole political atmosphere.

**China** underlined its own No First Use policy and said it would make unremitting efforts to promote the nuclear disarmament process. Even if there was only 1% success at the Review Conference, China would carry on working for peace. We should visit China and not base our ideas on the media!

Caroline Gilbert and Claire Poyner were part of an Abolition 2000 UK meeting at the FCO the following day. We met three junior members and heard the usual government line.

Our grateful thanks to all who came along and especially to those who took notes and sent in reports.

Full reports and copies of official papers available on request.

A general election has to be held sometime before 3 June 2010, with predictions for 6 May, the same date as many local elections in England.

Several Christian organisations have produced briefings to help and inspire you.

**Churches Together in Britain & Ireland**

Two papers: *Faith in Politics: Preparing Churches for the General Election 2010*

And *Planning a Hustings Meeting*

Both available to download from the website. You can also find hustings events in your constituency where you can question your election candidates.

There's also a briefing on countering far right political parties and racists politics.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX  020 7901 4890
http://www.ctbi.org.uk/ CFH/ 427

**NCPO**

Network of Christian Peace Organisations have produced an election briefing. There is a copy enclosed. Extra copies can also be ordered from NCPO, c/o FoR, 19 Paradise Street, Oxford OX1 1LD.

**NJPN**

National Justice & Peace Network has some 'pre-election statements' which could be useful.
NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX  Tel: 020 7901 4864
http://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/

**Online petition**

There's a new online petition at
http://www.endnuclearweapons.org.uk/

"We the undersigned believe that the use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction is immoral... We call on nuclear weapons states to refrain from updating their nuclear arsenals and remind them of their "unequivocal undertaking" to meet their obligations to eliminate all nuclear weapons under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)."

This is a collaboration which includes the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the United Reformed Church, the International Affairs Department of the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, the Catholic Bishops Conference of Scotland and the Archbishop of the Church in Wales.

**Secular organisations**

Many campaigning organisations have produced; or are about to produce, campaigning resources including online 'lobby your candidate' tools, printed briefings you can send off for or download, and sample letters to send candidates.

**CND**

CND have produced a detailed election briefing. Contact them for a copy: 020 7700 2393 or download it from:

**Sign the Rethink Trident statement**

CND and Compass have brought together a coalition of over 100 leading figures from across British public
life to call for next week's Pre Budget Report to halt Trident replacement and re-deploy the resources saved to more socially useful areas.

High-profile signatories fronting the campaign include Air Commodore Alistair Mackie; leading politicians Jon Cruddas MP and Caroline Lucas MEP; former members of the MoD ministerial team Peter Kilfoyle MP and Eric Joyce MP; former Mayor of London Ken Livingstone; architect Lord Richard Rogers; actors Prunella Scales and Tony Robinson; musicians Damon Albarn and Thom Yorke; comedian Mark Steel, and religious leaders the Bishop of Reading and Cardinal Keith O’Brien.

You can sign up here: http://action.compassonline.org.uk/page/s/stoptrident

Early Day Motions

You can also contact your MP and ask him/her to support the following EDMs, and/or you can contact your candidates asking their opinions on this EDM.

**EDM 380 Trident Replacement:** “That this House notes that the UK is facing its biggest economic crisis since the Second World War and can ill afford to spend in excess of £76 billion on replacing the Trident nuclear weapons system; further notes that the UK’s security needs are not met by nuclear weapons which do nothing to combat the threats posed by terrorism or climate change; further notes that while countries such as the UK justify their retention and replacement of nuclear weapons on the grounds of an uncertain future, the more likely it is that non-nuclear states will use the same rationale to justify developing their own weapons systems; and calls on the Government to cancel the replacement of Trident, to re-orientate the skilled manufacturing base towards the needs of a post-carbon future, making significant investment in green jobs and reallocating funds towards socially useful spending.”

**EDM 144 Negotiating A Nuclear Weapons Convention:** "That this House notes the forthcoming nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May 2010 and the opportunities it presents for progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; endorses the unanimous opinion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith, and bring to a conclu-
Flame of Hope

Spring is sprung! Now does a walk along the South Coast seem more attractive?

We have planned and pre-walked the part of the route from Lydd to Hastings, discovered that there is a bus from Hastings to Lydd on Sunday mornings in time to join the walk, contacted churches, press, civic dignitaries and provided a car and driver to give lifts when necessary. All we need now is FEET!

The planned timetable is printed below and there is possible accommodation with the Hastings Stop the War group.

8.45am Meet LYDD Parish Church for short ceremony and prayers.
9.00am Start walk towards Camber. Bus from Hastings arrives at Lydd Camp at 9.10am. Other walkers could join here.
10.45am Arrive at JURY’S GAP. Dungeness Nuclear Power Plant and Camber Wind Farm both visible from path on top of shingle bank. Car-parking in lay-by.
11.00am Re-commence walk to Camber.
11.30am Arrive at CAMBER. Bus arrives at 11.03am
11.40am Leave towards Rye.
12.45 Arrive in RYE, stopping place St Mary’s Church. Lunch. Bus arrives station at 12.47pm
1.15pm Leave Rye for Winchelsea.
2.15pm Arrive WINCHELSEA, “Wesley Tree” outside church.
2.30pm Leave for Cliff End.
3.30pm Arrive CLIFF END.
3.40pm Leave Cliff End for Fairlight Visitor’s Centre.
4.40pm Arrive FAIRLIGHT.
4.50pm Leave Fairlight for Hastings Old Town.
6.00pm Arrive HASTINGS OLD TOWN. To be met by Hastings group for a party!

Just as we were beginning to put flesh on the bones of our Pilgrimage to Peace 50th Anniversary event in Coventry, the Papal visit was announced for the same dates, so we had to start again! Then the suggestion was made that we join in the annual Coventry Peace Month and find a date in November so that we could take advantage of the good will and peace-awareness that was already created. The best date for us was the weekend before the main Peace Month events. So now our weekend is scheduled for 29th - 31st October following the same pattern as already planned.

Friday: a social and speaker, a time for remembering where we had come from and the places and the campaigns we had undertaken - the first stage of our pilgrimage.

Saturday: Reflecting on the work we are doing, helped by workshops and speakers, and our main liturgy of thanksgiving and offering - a pause in our journey.

Sunday: Recommitting to our work for peace, with a service in the ruins of the Old Cathedral and a prayer-vigil at an arms-related venue - our pilgrimage continues.

This change in date means a new start in finding workshop leaders and speakers. Any ideas?

... and another opens
WMD are haram

Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei denied that Iran seeks to possess nuclear weapons. He said that weapons of mass destruction are illegal and haram, or forbidden and prohibited by Islam. (Friday 19 Feb 2010).

Might be useful when entering into dialogue with some countries that have nuclear weapons...

Blackaby Paper No 8

Abolition 2000 UK is shortly to publish the 8th Blackaby Paper: Nuclear Weapons Abolition: an idea whose time has come" by Rebecca Johnson. The paper was specially written with an eye on the NPT Review Conference and includes 'basic elements for a nuclear weapons convention'. For a copy, please send a cheque for £3 (made out to Abolition 2000) to: Abolition 2000, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 9DQ.

Japanese bishops call for nuclear arms ban

Bishops from Hiroshima and Nagasaki have called on world leaders to work toward the total abolition of nuclear weapons. In an open letter to President Obama and the Japanese government, they said it was time to take the 'courageous step' and to 'make utmost efforts to abolish nuclear weapons'. The bishops urged world leaders to reach an agreement on reducing nuclear weapons at the NPT Review Conference in May.

From The Universe

School visits

CCND schools team have done presentations on War and Peace in three schools this year. Bishop Ramsey in Ruislip, St Olave’s in Orpington, and La Sainte Union in Hampstead have all requested our presence to help with their syllabuses on the war and peace section of their RE revision.

This has been an enjoyable experience, hopefully to the pupils and teachers as well as the CCND team.

We have found that many young people are not aware that nuclear weapons still exist; they find the extract from Barefoot Gen harrowing and want to know what they can do about it.

At the sixth form conference at St Olave’s, Kate Hudson from CND agreed to be a member of the panel for the ‘question time’ session. Even Kate, with all her experience, was shocked at the attitude of some of the boys at this school, some of whom advocated the indiscriminate use of nuclear weapons in the Middle East especially.

At another school, a student was heard to state: “what do nuclear weapons have to do with RE?”

We hope that our arguments made them think again!

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: £
☐ Denomination/ church position: .................................................................
  (Optional)
☐ To help with local campaigning, I agree that my contact details can be passed on to other CCND members.

CCND will never pass members’ details to anyone who is not a CCND member.

Please return form to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ
Ilse Bell 22/2/1924 - 31/1/2010

CCND member Ilse Bell passed away peacefully on 31 January. Ilse grew up in Breslau, Germany, which is now Wroclaw in Poland. She came to England as a Kindertransportee in 1938, when child protection meant putting your child on a train and praying for their survival, when your own was unlikely. Ilse’s parents perished in the holocaust.

Ilse led a very active life until age and frailty got the better of her. Among other things, Ilse was a teacher, active in CND and CCND, Mothers for Peace, Christian Aid, her own family and Search for Meaning, adventures in religion. Above all, Ilse will be remembered for the loving and generous spirit she showed everyone.

Ironically, in the same week we received news of Ilse’s passing, we also received a letter from someone, professing to be a Christian, telling us why we must vote for the party which reflects Christian values. Indeed. Where we differ from the writer of this letter is in the party he recommends. Yes, you guessed, the writer is campaigning for the British National Party. The party whose leader has in the past denied the Holocaust (and no doubt still feels the same way in private). We don’t need to go on, surely? See pages 6 & 7 for further campaigning ideas for the forthcoming election. Above all, please, dear friends, remember to use your democratic right and vote, just in case we get a government which decides we don’t need, or shouldn’t have, that right at all.


Back in Chester in the early 1980s, I first came across Alfred. Even in a city that had a large store of notable sights, Alf was eye-catching in his peace badge adorned stole and his fluorescent socks. When the official Town-Crier stepped down from the Chester Cross, Alf stepped up to do his ‘shout’. People hung over the balustrades of the Rows to get a better look and to hear about the evils of war and nuclear weapons. No heckler could get the better of him; he dealt with them with the humour that often led to comparisons with his friend Donald Soper. The last great peace witness he undertook was a pilgrimage to preach his message of peace outside each of the 44 cathedrals of the Church of England.

Alf’s previous work as a vicar in Manchester together with his beloved wife, Phoebe, aroused his passion for the poor and disadvantaged. He railed against all forms of injustice, including the injustice he saw in his own church in denying ordination to women. The invitation he offered to an ordained woman-priest from the US to celebrate Communion in his parish created a furore.

No-one dared wear black at Alfred’s funeral in Stevenage on 4th March - it was joyous as he had been. It was an honour to be there to say ‘Goodbye’ to my inspiration and my friend. (Photo above from the Chester Chronicle.)

Patricia Pulham
**Prayer Diary**

**April:** Easter Sunday. Turn with joy to the Risen Lord who makes all things new. Pray for the success of the Flame of Hope walk and the Aldermaston Vigil.

**25th:** Founding of the United Nations (1945). Let us pray for harmonious relations, between all countries.

**26th:** With sadness we remember Chernobyl.

**May:** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Heavenly Father, we pray for a good outcome.

**13th:** Ascension Day. We look to Christ with hope and love.

**23rd:** Pentecost. Let us ask the Holy Spirit for the strength we need to persevere in our efforts for peace.

**June:** As we appreciate the world we have been given; as we enjoy God’s creation, let us give Him thanks.

**July:** May we see Christ in all we meet, giving them the time they need and building peace within ourselves.

---

**Twitters!**

CCND has embraced 21st Century technology with a Twitter account! If you’re into this sort of thing - join us! http://twitter.com/ChristianCND

If you’re not, don’t worry, you’re not missing much! It’s just a quick and easy way to get messages across but only in 140 characters. Usually used to refer to a website with some important news, but if it’s that important we will make sure you, our members, are fully informed via Ploughshare (or email if you’ve signed up for that). Next stop, a Facebook page!

---

Love from Scotland!
A CND photo

Embassy walkers relax and discuss their experiences in the Crypt Café at St Martins-in-the-Fields
**Diary**

2 - 7 April: Relay along the South Coast from Dover to Portsmouth to carry a Flame of Hope for abolition of nuclear weapons. To register online just click on http://www.peacebourne.serifweb.com/FlameGen/index.html or contact George, 01323 844269.

**Saturday 3 April:** Demonstration as part of a European wide day of action at Nuclear bases. Assemble Faslane Peace Camp at noon to march to North Gate. Scottish Clergy Against Nuclear Arms will hold a service there at 1.15pm.

**Sunday, 4 April:** Flame of Hope. Christian CND Walk on the South Coast. See page 8 for full timetable. If you can’t make this day, why not join the walk another day? See 2 - 7 April above for contact details.

5 April: Time to be announced. CCND’s Easter Vigil and walk round the base at Aldermaston. Details from the office later.

**11 April:** ‘Flame of Hope’ walk. See 2-7 April for details. This section of the walk is organised by South East Hants Peace Council and will be going from Chichester to Portsmouth. Please contact vida.henning@ntlworld.com or Maureen 023 9237 6773.

16 - 17 April: Movement for the Abolition of War Peace History Conference. Venue: Imperial War Museum, London. Speakers include Victoria Brittain on a history of manipulation in war reporting, Sir Richard Jolly on the UN vision for world peace, and more. www.abolishwar.org.uk

17 April: Fellowship of Reconciliation: “Reconciliation: Self, Other...The World?” In Birmingham. Speaker Jo Berry (Building Bridges for Peace) on dialogue with former IRA Activist Pat Magee who killed her father. Practical workshops explore reconciliation form inner reflection to outer action. For 18-30yr olds. Book in advance by £5 cheque. Contact: Amy: amyhaitwood@for.org.uk or 01865 250781. Sorry no disable access.

24 April: West Midlands CND AGM. Business meeting at 11am at office at 54 Allison Street, Digbeth, B5 5TH. Afternoon meeting with guest speaker Bruce Kent on Trident replacement at Carr’s Lane Church Centre, Birmingham from 14.00-15.30. Info 0121 643 4617 wmcndall@gn.apc.org www.wmcdn.org.uk


**Monday 15 May:** International Conscientious Objector’s Day. http://www.wri-irg.org/co/15may.htm In London there will be a ceremony at 12noon in Tavistock Square.

15 May: Open Networking Day and AGM: Speaker, Frank Regan on “New Wine for Old Wineskins?”. 10.30 - 4.00: CAFOD offices, London. Contact The Administrator, NJPN, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, Tel: 020 7901 4864, Email admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

7 - 11 June: Pax Christi ICON of Peace at St Ethelburga’s Centre of Peace and Reconciliation, City of London. Daily meditations, schools workshops on themes of reconciliation and peacemaking, evening meetings . . . . See website for details. Pax Christi, St Joseph’s, Watford Way, London, NW4 4TY 0208 203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

20 June: Campaign Against Arms Trade Day of Prayer. Email christian@caat.org.uk for more information. 44- (0)20 7281 0297 CAAT, 11 Goodwin St, Finsbury Park, London N4 3HQ.

4 July: Annual ‘Independence FROM America’ day. Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB), 9 Swarcliffe Road, Harrogate, HG1 4QZ. Tel no: 01423 884076 http://www.caab.org.uk


23 - 27 July: Peace News Summer Camp is back this year in Oxfordshire. Info later: www.peacenews.info

29 - 31 October: Pilgrimage to Peace. CCND’s 50th Anniversary event in Coventry. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE! More details later!

---

**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 8DQ
Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357
Email: christians@cnduk.org Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/