No Fooling -
these are messages of peace!

Messages attached to the fence at AWE Aldermaston on April Fool’s Day 2013

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Thank you, to every Member! This needs saying loudly and often, because without you the organisation would perish. We cannot work without your support and prayers.

Care is central to our faith. God has made it evident that He cares about everyone. Care is the reason we say no to nuclear weapons and why this organisation promotes the moral issue. (At the recent PrepCom, for the first time, moral arguments were raised at a side event.) Below are things that relate to our duty of care for all of you:

* Data Protection The database is regularly 'backed up' and safeguarded against loss.

* Attention is given to your vital contributions. Careful checks take place and we watch out for anything that might divert or diminish the essential funds you supply.

* With an eye on the possibility (arguably remote) that a sudden influx might 'take over' the organisation, our Constitution was amended to say that people could not vote unless they had been Members for at least a year.

* Our very successful Membership Survey indicated the importance of concentrating on the argument against nuclear weapons. Someone said that if an extra issue were to be taken up, our effort would be diluted - our basic aim even finding itself on the back burner. Another pointed out that Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth already campaign against nuclear power, for example. However, the connection between nuclear weapons and nuclear power is appreciated and Christian CND has produced a leaflet on this subject in our series of 'link leaflets', which are used to help us relate to other campaigns - from 'nuclear weapons and poverty' to 'nuclear weapons and the environment'. The Survey confirmed the main wish of the Members of this campaign; to get rid of the weapons.

* We help Members with their campaigning by including action pages in 'Nuclear Weapons - What Can Christians Do?' These pages contain tips on the various ways one can make one's voice heard; most without leaving home! And what about using Twitter or making squares for a peace quilt or contributing to the knitting project in the last Ploughshare?

* We are sensitive to the fact that some Members might not find it easy were subscriptions to be increased. (They have not been raised for many years.) We now ask Members to include an extra amount, but only if they can afford to. Please do this if you can. It provides more revenue and certainly demonstrates your support. Do give what you can, because there is always a lot to do. - Again,
EASTER MONDAY - cold but at least dry! CCND had been asked to coordinate the Tadley Gate, designated for the day, the "Faith Gate".

We decorated it with the bunting that was last used at the Queen’s Peace Party and our banners. Placards with the symbols of six of the world’s great faiths bordered the entrance to welcome all who wanted to join us. On a table in the middle of the grass were various items to add to the decoration. There were cut-out doves to colour or to write messages on, cut flowers and bulbs and seeds to plant.

The Speakers Van toured all the gates beginning with the Faith Gate. Our own Angela Rayner spoke for the Aldermaston Women’s Peace Camp, joining other eminent speakers such as Kate Hudson and Bruce Kent.

When the van had left, we started with an Easter Liturgy, resurrecting the Alleluia buried on Shrove Tuesday outside the MOD in London. This was followed by a Buddhist chant, prayers from other Faith traditions and the Universal Prayer for Peace. The fence decorating followed before the Speakers Van made a return trip.

Many people commented that the Faith Gate was the best decorated and the most supported and had the most to do…(it did help, of course, that there...
For a number of years now, CCND have undertaken an Embassy Walk, visiting those embassies and High Commissions of countries which either have nuclear weapons or belong to groupings which work vigorously internationally to keep states to their NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) promises. This year the number had reached eighteen, so it was necessary to divide into three groups. Following a preliminary letter, appointments had been offered with representatives from South Africa, Sweden, New Zealand, Pakistan, Mexico, Brazil, Germany and Russia. We were also invited to a round-table discussion at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

It is very helpful to hear what the different nations believe about the progress towards a nuclear-free world and their part in making this happen. The walk date is set for March so that the group going to the UN for the NPT conference can benefit from these insights, but it is interesting for anybody wanting to know how nuclear disarmament could actually come about. The 'countries' we visit are asked about progress during the last year and also if they can suggest a contact for those going to the UN.

As we are a faith-based group we began with a short liturgy in St Martin-in-the-Fields where we were joined by the Rev. Richard Carter. We had leaflets to leave in the churches we passed during the day to explain what we were doing, and why, and a short prayer to say outside each embassy for peace for the people of that nation.

During the year, cards have been sent to these embassies on days of special significance to them, or if there is a national disaster, promising our prayers. We are grateful to Anne Malins from Anglesey for

Briefing in the Dick Sheppard Chapel, St Martin-in-the-Fields before the Embassy Walk commenced
The Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) conference in Geneva this year was the second of three before the next Review Conference of the Non-Proliferation Treaty takes place in 2015.

A small group from the CCND Exec went for the first week when most events are open to NGOs. This year we had been working very hard together with Abolition 2000 to prepare a side event on the Teutates Treaties, the treaties signed in 2010 which tie UK to 50 years of nuclear weapons research with France!

Last year we were shocked to discover that most delegates we met knew nothing about it - (nor did our own MPs) though Iran used it to criticise lack of good faith from our two countries.

We were delighted that we were able to field a panel consisting of the permanent Ambassadors to the Conference on Disarmament from both UK and France; Jo. Adamson and Jean-Hugues Simon-Michel, as well as Peter Burt from the Nuclear Information Service and Dominique Lalanne, Abolition 2000 France. Caroline Gilbert took the Chair.

Our meeting was well attended. When we had asked Jo. Adamson to take part, she said she would come “to refute some myths about Teutates”. However, Peter and Dominique drew attention to those “myths” so adequately, that anxieties about the Treaty remained.

Several of the official delegates commented on how useful they found this session and Ambassador Adamson herself at a later meeting said it had been a highlight in her week!

What else could our small group contribute? Our daily short prayer vigil was the first item on the daily timetable; our side event “Entente Nucleaire” was advertised together with Michael’s cartoon in the Reaching Critical Will daily publication “News in Review”. We had informal meetings with delegates from Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Holy See and FCO; took minutes at a morning Abolition Caucus; made suggestions and asked questions at many meetings and took our banner along to the Japanese demonstration outside their Mission. We were able to plan our August trip with the French group too.

CND held a very good side event on Trident and we were there in support. We also went to a meeting on the Morality and Ethics of Nuclear Weapons (not a topic you usually hear about at these events); Civil Society participation and UK and Norway’s Initiative on Verification. The big topic this year was about the Catastrophic Humanitarian Consequences of a nuclear detonation. Sadly the P5 states had boycotted the Conference on this in Oslo earlier this year. There will be a follow-up conference in Mexico that it is hoped will be attended by all. The “Humanitarian” statement has been signed by many nations. ICAN asked CCND to lobby Jordan and Cuba and Angela and Sue took this on.

You can read the Statement on page 6.
I am taking the floor on behalf ... (88) States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Our countries are deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. While this has been known since nuclear weapons were first developed and is reflected in various UN resolutions and multilateral instruments, it has not been at the core of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation deliberations for many years. Although it constitutes the raison d’être of the NPT, which cautions against the “devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war and to take measures to safeguard the security of peoples”, this issue has consistently been ignored in the discourse on nuclear weapons.

Yet, past experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has amply demonstrated the unacceptable harm caused by the immense, uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature of these weapons. The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation are not constrained by national borders - it is therefore an issue of deep concern to all. Beyond the immediate death and destruction caused by a detonation, socio-economic development will be impeded, the environment will be destroyed, and future generations will be robbed of their health, food, water and other vital resources.

In recent years, the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has increasingly been recognised as a fundamental and global concern that must be at the core of all deliberations on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. This issue is now firmly established on the global agenda: The 2010 Review Conference of the NPT expressed “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” Similarly, the 2011 resolution of the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement emphasised the incalculable human suffering associated with any use of nuclear weapons, and the implications for international humanitarian law.

The March 2013 Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo presented a platform to engage in a fact-based discussion on the impact of a nuclear weapon detonation. The broad participation at the Conference reflects the recognition that the catastrophic effects of a detonation are of concern and relevance to all. A key message from experts and international organisations is that no State or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation or provide adequate assistance to victims. We warmly welcome Mexico’s announcement of a follow-up Conference to further broaden and deepen understanding of this matter and the resolve of the international community to address the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

It is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. The catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed. All efforts must be exerted to eliminate this threat. The only way to guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used again is through their total elimination. It is a shared responsibility of all States to prevent the use of nuclear weapons, to prevent their vertical and horizontal proliferation and to achieve nuclear disarmament, including through fulfilling the objectives of the NPT and achieving its universality. The full implementation of the 2010 Action Plan and previous outcomes aimed at achieving the objectives of the NPT must therefore not be postponed any further.

Addressing the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons is an absolute necessity. As an element that underpins the NPT, it is essential that the humanitarian consequences inform our work and actions during the current Review Cycle and beyond. This is an issue that affects not only governments, but each and every citizen of our interconnected world. By raising awareness about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, civil society has a crucial role to play, side-by-side with governments, as we fulfil our responsibilities. We owe
Informal discussion with Irish Delegate, Robert Jackson (second from right) in Geneva. One of the topics discussed was the Humanitarian Statement, of which Ireland is a signatory.

Demo outside the Japanese Mission in Geneva to ask Japan to add their name to the statement.

French demo at the Place des Nations
Vacances en France

You’ve seen Aldermaston, now visit Valduc!

CCND Trip to Valduc (north of Dijon) We started this talking to people in the French peace movement at last year’s NPT PrepCom. We want to highlight the Teutates treaty by a UK trip to our French Twin, Valduc, & participate (if desired) in the “Un jeûne commun” Fast in Paris on August 6th, Hiroshima Day.

Itinerary:
Friday 2nd August, leave UK, arrive Paris,
Saturday 3rd August, leave Paris, arrive Valduc area (N of Dijon, woods & mountains? Alpes not far)
Sunday 4th August, Valduc, at the French nuclear weapons research centre, event organised with the French peace movement local to the area.
Tuesday 6th August, Paris: take part in Hiroshima / Nagasaki memorial events.

France and the UK have agreed the Teutates Treaties to share facilities at Aldermaston and Valduc to research nuclear weapons for the next 50 years.

Practicalities: Hire a van if we have enough people; otherwise train/car or join us in Paris.

In Paris we can sleep in a ‘Gymnasium’ with the Fasters; at Valduc we will camp.

If at all interested, get in touch & we will go from there.

Trusty Tour Operator: Christian CND: chris-tians@cnduk.org
020 7700 4200

Caroline Gilbert, maasgilbert@hotmail.com

Angela Rayner acrayner@yahoo.com

Kelvin Gascoyne (our trusty van driver) KelvinGascoyne@hotmail.com

You know what we’re doing this summer!

Teutates:

TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

RELATING TO JOINT RADIOGRAPHIC/HYDRODYNAMICS FACILITIES. Signed November 2010.

From the preamble:

Reiterating their mutual interest in keeping their independent nuclear forces at the highest level of safety and reliability, at least cost, and determined to co-operate to this end in the industrial, technological and scientific fields, . . . To share a new hydrodynamics research facility at Valduc in France and facilities at the Joint Technology Development Centre at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston They say (but we doubt it) that:

* The agreement is limited to collaboration at
Campaigning

Aldermaston - Burghfield blockade

This is a linked event with those in Paris and Berlin.

A 4 day fast in sorrow at the destruction caused by the US nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians and destroyed these 2 cities in 1945. Please join for as long or short a time as you wish.

Itinerary

Tuesday 6 August - Fast begins at main gate of AWE Burghfield - with Hiroshima shadow painting.

Wednesday 7 August - Peace Crane Walk from AWE Burghfield to AWE Aldermaston and back.

Thursday 8 August - Slow Walking Meditation around AWE Burghfield.

Friday 9 August - Nagasaki Lament at AWE Burghfield.

For more information please contact Angie on 0845-4588-362.

TP Camp at Burghfield

Also on 26 August - 7 September - Trident Ploughshares camp at AWE Burghfield. Trident Ploughshares camp, part of Action AWE, takes place from 26th August to 7th September and welcomes all peace loving people. If you can make it to camp for a short visit, a few days stay or for the duration please see the website: http://trident-ploughshares.org. Alternatively, please phone 0845 45 88 366.

Other things you can do

1) See if any Iona Pilgrimage venues are near you and meet up. If you no longer have your last Ploughshare with itinerary, we can help with information.

2) See if some of the material in the centre pages might form the basis for an article for your parish magazine.

3) Ask your MP to request that the UK is represented at the next Humanitarian Effects of Nuclear Weapons Conference in Mexico.

Members’ news

Member, Rowena Thomas from Bwlchgwyn, told us recently that while listening to the radio one morning, during all the reminiscences about Mrs. Thatcher, part of a phone-in programme was broadcast from that time. She was amazed and chuffed, to hear Rev. Alf Willets’ voice pointing out the cost of the Trident Programme. Many of you will remember Alf in his dog-collar and fluorescent socks, with his stole covered in peace badges. (At his funeral a few years ago, those of us who were there were delighted to see this stole displayed at his
Christian CND have been using Twitter to publicise our events for a few years. Twitter is best described as a public text messaging service that enables users to send a text of only 140 characters at a time. Most broadcasted messages can be read by all those that follow you (if they are logged in at the time you're writing) or all those searching for the subject you're writing about. Whilst that makes it a powerful tool, it also means that every text message (the messages are known as Tweets) disappears very quickly to be replaced by somebody else’s message. Thus it's a communication tools that requires continual input.

This year one of us decided to use Twitter more comprehensively by Tweeting at least a couple of times each day. In that manner, we're slowly building our number of followers to let people know about the work of Christian CND. We’ve been following Christians, church leaders and news sources that provide information about nuclear weapons or power. We’ve currently 642 followers, which might sound like a lot, but we will probably need 1,000 - 2,000 to start having major influence. It is possible to have your messages amplified when they are shared by other users (sharing a message is known as "retweeting"). To receive good coverage, it helps to have many followers to share your tweets. If you’d like to follow us on Twitter, you can find us at: http://www.twitter.com/ChristianCND

The Christian CND account is now publicising general nuclear news (eg. from CND or ICAN or major news outlets). We are also sharing nuclear information that specifically pertains to Christians (eg. worldwide Plowshares actions or CCND attendance at PrepCom). Sometimes, we like to share the thoughts of Archbishops or theologians or people who have made profound comments on disarmament. Finally, we are using Twitter to encourage wider conversations about the role of our organisation.

Every so often, one is able to speak with somebody that it would be very difficult to reach in real life. Last week, we managed a brief conversation with the US Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Laura Kennedy. She first picked up on a joke that we posted at Prep Com about how the P5 might be entitled to their own parking spaces. Here's our picture (next column):

After that, we began a conversation. Can you see how Ambassador Kennedy stopped responding when we asked her questions about missile defence in Eastern Europe? We then ignored the fact that she had dropped out of the conversation and thus asked a more generic question to the UK Geneva Twitter account, which eventually lead to Jo Adamson, the UK Ambassador in Geneva joining in too:

Twitterings
Prayer Diary

JUNE: The Iona Justice and Peace Pilgrimage continues for the whole of June visiting on its way, Edinburgh, Holy Island, Newcastle and York. Pray that its message of peace is heard by the communities it visits.

June 29th; The feast of Saints Peter and Paul. May we be true apostles for peace in our lives and in our communities.

JULY: The Pilgrimage continues on its way to Westminster. May it encourage all to call for an end to the Trident programme.

July 16: The anniversary of the first nuclear bomb test, code named "Trinity", in New Mexico in 1945. We pray that one day this test and the chain of events it started may be only a distant memory in a peaceful world.

July 19th-21st: May those attending the annual Swanwick Justice and Peace Conference be filled with new strength and confidence.

July 20th: The Iona Pilgrimage concludes. May its message be heard in Westminster!

AUGUST:

August 2nd-7th CCND’s visit to Valduc. Pray that this will be successful and fruitful.

August 6th-9th For the Hiroshima to Nagasaki Day Fasts in Paris and Burghfield and all local events taking place to commemorate these anniversaries.

August 23rd to 26th Greenbelt Festival in Cheltenham - for all who attend it.

Obituary

Long-time CND and CCND member Doris Simpson died on New Years Eve at the age of 85 after a fall and heart attack. Doris was a lifelong Christian and committed internationalist and peace campaigner, who along with her late husband Arthur attended marches and rallies across the country for many years, as well as helping found a local peace action group in the 1970s and hosting Bruce Kent at their home when he came to Sheffield to speak there. She retained a committment to peace and justice even when health and mobility meant that she could no longer actively campaign, and will be missed by her family, friends and church members.

David Simpson

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: £..................

☐ Please send me a standing order form

Name:..............................................................

Address:........................................................................................................Postcode:..................

Telephone:............................................................Email:..............................................................

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.

4 July: Annual ‘Independence FROM America’ day. The American base at Menwith Hill is the largest US intelligence base outside of the United States. Menwith Hill is on the A59 Harrogate to Skipton road and nine miles from Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB). Contact: 01423 884076 http://www.caab.org.uk

19 21 July: Annual Justice & Peace Conference: Breaking Open the Word - A Call to Faith in Action. The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU Contact: NJPN 39 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1BX 020 7901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

6 August: Hiroshima Day. Events worldwide. London event at 12noon in Tavistock Square. david.lrcnd@cnduk.org 0207 607 2302 Pax Christi vigils at Westminster Cathedral 020 8203 4884. Floating Lanterns at Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda at 7.30pm. 01908 663 652 Many more events - send us your photos afterwards!

2 August - 7 August: Vacances en France. You’ve seen Aldermaston, now visit Valduc. France and the UK have agreed the Teutates Treaties to share facilities at Aldermaston and Valduc to research nuclear weapons for the next 50 years. Join CCND on a trip to Valduc, also visiting Paris to join the French Peace Movement’s Hiroshima / Nagasaki memorial events. If at all interested, get in touch & we will go from there. Caroline Gilbert, maasgilbert@hotmail.com Angela Rayner acrayner@yahoo.com or Kelvin Gascoyne

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU Contact: NJPN 39 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1BX 020 7901 4864 admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

23 - 26 August: Greenbelt Festival 2013. Cheltenham Racecourse, Gloucestershire. CCND will be there! 020 7329 0038 http://www.greenbelt.org.uk/


8 September: CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer. At the beginning of the week that one of the world’s largest arms fairs is due to take place in London, join the CAAT Christian Network in

Use our new transparent CCND stickers on your mail etc. Prices below.

CCND goods

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 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: 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