October 2011
Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

Harvest of Hope

Non violence
Prayer
Demonstrations
Stalls

Peace
Dialogue
Liturgy
Letter writing
Leaflets

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and prayer diary

NOTICE BOARD
POSTER INSIDE
In February 2007, television cameras crowded the balcony in Church House.

I was sitting there listening to members of the Church of England Synod debating whether Trident should be renewed. About twenty spoke. Only a quarter of these supported its continuation. When the vote came, Trident renewal was convincingly rejected.

Actually, all the main Christian churches are against Trident. Though this is so, we cannot assume that everyone in every congregation has absorbed the message. This is why you will find a poster inside this copy of Ploughshare. It is for you to show to others and to put on your church notice board. It is really important that the Christians in the pews are reminded about the deep immorality of nuclear weapons. Putting the poster up will help.

The poster may also help you. In May you received a slip to give to a friend to invite them to join Christian CND. (One of the outcomes from the very successful questionnaire exercise.) You can make use of the poster to back up your invitation to your friend.

At Coventry we celebrated fifty years of commitment and persistent work. Soon after, Britain and France came together to cooperate on nuclear weapons for the next fifty years! We can clearly see that we need our persistence and commitment to continue. God’s love will support us. Let our prayers for peace never stop. Thank you for all you do.

Michael Pulham
“Bishop” the man wrote, “I disagree with you, but how good to see that you stand up publicly for what you believe!” The letter was to the then Bishop of Reading, the Rt. Rev. Stephen Cottrell, who many of us met at Aldermaston and were greatly encouraged by his presence along with other senior members of the clergy.

Bishop Stephen is now the Bishop of Chelmsford and was guest speaker at the evening meeting on Monday 1st September in the Lecture Hall at Southend Central Library, organised by Southend CND. Stephen, who was born locally, chose as his subject “The Christian Tradition of Peacemaking” and spoke of his personal involvement, especially on the issue of nuclear weapons.

He has long standing views on peace matters but the two items that radicalised him in the early 2000’s were:

- the UK’s development of Trident and the decision to replace it beyond its probable service end of 2025.
- The visible development and enlargement of the Aldermaston facilities for the testing and development of nuclear warheads.

Both contradicted our treaty commitment to work in good faith for the total abolition of nuclear weapons in a reasonable time period.

Stephen mentioned several examples of his own peace actions. He believes that very few people in our churches actually disagree with nuclear disarmament and are strongly for peace but too few are willing to be active. He outlined the biblical and moral grounds of peacemaking and spoke of the churches’ contribution over many centuries. He also acknowledged the great work of men and women of other faiths and none, whom we stand alongside. We have to share each others’ good arguments, mentioning the legal case, the financial case, the military options case and, of course, the moral case including the just war issue of proportionality and protection of non-combatants.

Christians must heed Christ’s command to love our enemies, overcoming evil with good and being peacemakers, etc. (Sermon on the Mount). Peace is not when guns stop firing and there is a truce. It is the holistic issue of reconciliation, and creating harmony and justice so that all may live peacefully within communities and nations.

About 55 people were present and the Bishop’s talk was followed by a very lively exchange of views with an audience of various backgrounds.

Bob Russell

Left: Floating lanterns in Oxford on Nagasaki Day
Photo: Francis Carlile
Events
Our last AGM was late in 2010, 27th November at Friends House in London. This was because our 50th Anniversary event ‘Pilgrimage to Peace’ took place at Coventry Cathedral over the weekend of 29-31 October. We count this as one of our big successes of recent years and the commemorative booklet will be available soon.

Advent vigils took place at Aldermaston but support was poor mainly due to the appalling weather. The Holy Innocents service at St Martin-in-the-Fields on 28th December was very good once again.

On 16th February CCND was present at the meeting organised by Abolition 2000 to consider the Teutates Anglo-French Treaty linking the two nations into close co-operation on nuclear weapons. This meeting was chaired by Patricia Pulham in the afternoon.

Christian CND played a major role in preparing for Ash Wednesday vigil at the MoD on 9th March due to the illness of Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi. It was well supported and happily Pat is now much better.

We participated in the big London demo on 26th March organised by the TUC against government cuts to public services. Along with the CND contingent we stressed the relevance of scrapping the Trident programme at this time.

Aldermaston vigils were held in Lent (a new development) and CCND people were involved in the 25th anniversary event for Chernobyl on 26th April.

We were again active in the International Conscientious Objectors’ Day on 15th May, especially the one in Tavistock Square, London, which attracts good crowds.

Nuclear Abolition Day on 25th June was given wide coverage in Ploughshare, urging and suggesting individual action nationwide.

Embassy visits to the Pakistani and Indian High Commissions and the embassies of Sweden, Japan and Russia took place between the end of June and mid-July. These were very worthwhile and written reports have been prepared. Contact the office for a copy.

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Days
Numerous events took place and were listed in the July Ploughshare Plus. Exec members went to the Pax Christi vigil at Westminster Cathedral and some remained for the lantern ceremony at the London Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park.

Two of our Exec members were active in the planning for the Peace Zone at Greenbelt at the end of August.

CCND members supported the DSEi Arms Fair day of action and prayer vigil in Docklands on 13-16 September.

Christian CND matters
We have been busy working on the future programme of school visits. We have contacted as many schools in the south east as possible, introducing our schools team and offering a talk on war, peace and nuclear weapons.

We had a successful members’ questionnaire earlier in the year and many of the suggestions offered by our members were discussed in more detail at our AGM. Michael put a lot of work into this.

Our finances were affected by the news that our annual grant from CND had been cut to zero. Although we do benefit from an office and use of the facilities at 162 Holloway Road and are grateful for these, not having the grant has meant we have had to be very careful indeed this year.

We produced our booklet on CCND’s peace women; Sheroes.

At our AGM in September, the existing members of Exec: Michael Pulham, Patricia Pulham, Bob Russell, Kelvin Gascoyne, Chris Gidden all agreed to continue; as did Chris Wood and Neil Berry (our treasurer) though these were unable to attend. We were delighted to welcome two new members of Exec: Angela Rayner and Sue Bruno. In addition to these formal Exec members we also benefit from the help of Caroline Gilbert and Barbara Sunderland. Exec members represent Christian CND on CND Council, NCPO, Abolition 2000UK, NJPN and other important links.
Claire Poyner does a wonderful job for us as our part-time worker in the office and we are truly grateful to both Claire and Patricia for the commitment and service to the cause.

Ploughshare and Ploughshare Plus come out regularly to keep members in touch with events and the publication standard is high. Many thanks to the editorial team and all the contributors.

Claire Poyner adds: We had a total of 14 new members since the last AGM and 18 were lapsed in the same period; 3 have died, most of the others were non-renewals. Most of the new members had requested further info in one way or another; one came via the revamped ‘Q&A’ flyers. The CCND website has a contact box, which arrives as an email with the subject: ‘Hello you from….’ Now that we know these emails are not spam they are responded to with an information mailing! We have had one new member that way.

The members’ questionnaire was very popular; we got some interesting comments and it’s good to know our members are so supportive. Evidently our members were glad to know we are interested in their opinions.

A total of 20865 visits were made to the website over the last 12 months. The most popular pages are the events, Ploughshare and links pages.

We have started a Facebook page and set up a Twitter account. Most of our 83 followers in Twitter are not members but found us via other groups such as Trident Ploughshares or are other individuals including “A self-sufficient, lefty, Quaker, chemist and writer” and “artist, blogger, community activist, Vicar, writer” to name but two, both unknown to us!

Our Facebook page can be found by just entering ‘Christian CND’ in the search box on the Facebook website and there is also a ‘groups’ page. Our Twitter account can be found at: http://twitter.com/ChristianCND

We also have a new elist for CCND members and friends. You can join the elist by emailing: christiancnd-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Then you can post a message using: christiancnd@yahoogroups.com

Lastly, thanks to all our members and friends for their support and encouragement in what are often discouraging times.

The future
Who knows? But we shall continue to go forward in faith, hope and peace as we have done for many years.

Bob Russell
September 2011
Approaches to Peace Theology

Some extracts from a workshop at the Pilgrimage to Peace event last year by Rev. Brian Cooper - Churches and Interfaith Secretary, Uniting for Peace

B rian began with asking what we need a Peace Theology for. Non-faith people have humanitarian or ideological motivations for peace activism - so do people of faith need a theological motivation?

Many Christian peace activists, e.g. Christian CND, were impelled by their personal encounter with Jesus.

We each need a personal peace theology. He suggested some theological directions.

1 There is an “Urgent context” for a theology of peace because

   a) many people associate religion with violence. We know of Islamic Jihadism, US right-wing Christian fundamentalists, the Zionist pro-war advocates but also Sri Lankan Buddhists.

   b) The equation Christianity = Peace is not readily evident. In the UK, Churches have uncertain and mixed messages. They are generally against Trident Renewal, critical of the Iraq war but almost silent on Afghanistan. For many, Peace is primarily a personal matter, a private issue.

   c) Peace activism is a minority concern among churchgoers but the Church is supposed to be a community of hope in a world where hope is a scarce commodity. A Peace Theology is necessary to enable the Church to engage more significantly with State and Society and to nurture a new young generation of peacemakers.

2 Can a Peace Theology be derived from the Old Testament?

The biblical framework stretches from the Garden of Eden to the City of God. We live in the “time between” yet we have been entrusted with the commission of making the Kingdom of Peace in this world, pointing to that which God alone can bring. Peace is God’s blessing (Ps 29) and we must seek it (Ps 34) In the creation stories “Shalom” means wholeness and harmony in terms of three relationships, with God, with fellow human beings and with the environment.

In the “Fall” the “eating of the fruit” was the irresponsible/selfish use of creation. Peace is the
“positive commitment to life, harmony and integrity” under God. Jesus, as the second Adam, lives and dies to reconcile the world back to God, to restore that peace. Shalom also means “security” in the Old Testament, always linked with justice in society. Security based on injustice is immoral and unrealistic. Isaiah’s vision of “swords into ploughshares” was remarkable and revolutionary, part of a developing theology of God’s purpose for all mankind. Amazingly amid all the primitive preoccupation of the Jews of the Old Testament with war and violence some came to see the will of God was something else- the way of peace. The Messiah would bring salvation-justice, peace and an end to wars -a vision of peace for all creation, not only all humanity.

3 The Coming of the Prince of Peace.

At Christ’s birth the angels proclaimed ‘Peace on Earth’ as a mark of the New Age heralded by Christ’s coming. But Christ’s birth was accompanied by the Massacre of the Innocents and the child Jesus went as a refugee into Egypt. Even so, God’s will amid the sin of man was “PEACE ON EARTH”. Jesus was seen as the Light of the World, reaching out in peace and reconciliation to all. He commissioned His disciples to take the Good news of God’s salvation into all the world in peace and love. The Kingdom of God was not one of violence and the early church was constrained to be a peace community in accordance with the life and teaching of Jesus.

Later, when the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of Rome, pacifism was largely abandoned for Holy War, but many held to the way of Peace. This inspired the Church Fathers to institute the Just War Doctrine intended to prevent the worst excesses of war. Sadly it has not been very effective in time of war but has inspired peace initiatives such as the United Nations Organisation and is a powerful argument against nuclear war, which endangers the sacred gift of life on our planet.
David Platt gives his talk whilst Bruce Kent and Kate Hudson wait their turn at the Nagasaki Day Commemoration in Oxford.

Photo by Francis Carline

The Peace Zone at Greenbelt. CCND Exec member Kelvin Gascoyne is on the left.

Photo by Dave Pybus
How to join CCND

Annual membership subscriptions are:

☐ Waged, individual: £12 (£15 household)
☐ Unwaged individual £6, (£8 household)
☐ Group affiliation: from £10

I/ we wish to be a member of CCND
Please send a standing order form
I enclose a cheque/ PO (payable to CCND) to include the following:
Membership: £.............
Donation: £............. (Thank you!)
TOTAL: £.............
Name: .......................................................................................
Address: ..........................................................................................
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
O bituary: Pearl and Sam Marriage

Devoted Chelmsford couple Sam and Pearl Marriage who had been married for 64 years died within 15 days of each other. Lifelong Quaker Sam Marriage, aged 94, passed away on April 30, followed by Pearl on May 15 aged 86. The memorial Quaker meeting in Chelmsford on Friday 20 May 2011 to give thanks for both their lives was attended by over 180 people.

Both were staunch campaigners for peace.

In January 1940 Sam joined the Friends Ambulance Unit. As a conscientious objector he had to prove to a tribunal in April 1940 that his pacifist convictions were genuine. They assigned him to “Ambulance work under Civilian control”. He did relief work in the London Blitz. He was one of the people who drove through the night after the bombing of Coventry to be there in the morning to set up field kitchens - a skill that came in handy when he later organised the food stops on the Aldermaston marches. From 1941-1943 he drove the generator truck to power the mobile No 1 tented hospital which moved backwards and forwards across the North African desert according to the military situation. He was in Benghazi in 1941 and Tripoli and Tunis in 1943. In 1944 he went to Italy to work with Jewish refugees. From 1945 until 1946 Sam was in charge of the programme to help the local peasants in the Abruzzi in Italy to rebuild their houses destroyed in the war.

Pearl worked long and hard in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. She organized the production of a special pink sea side rock with the CND sign running through. It was a great fund raiser until the manufacturer found out what the symbol meant and refused to make any more for her. She marched to Aldermaston, Wethersfield, Greenham Common and Molesworth. She was a member of Christian CND and a pillar of Mothers for Peace. Not only did she and Sam host joint visits from Russian, Japanese and American women to England but they travelled together to the Soviet Union to build bridges with our so called enemies in the cold war.

With Glasnost, the cold war ended and as the nuclear threat seemed to diminish Pearl’s considerable energies moved to campaigning about third world debt and, closer to home, the homeless in the seemingly affluent south east town of Chelmsford. Working through Quakers together with the other Churches she was pivotal in the setting up of the Chelmsford night shelter. Even in her advancing years she would do nightshifts as the warden at the shelter. Sam in his mid eighties would go too, to make sure she was safe.

Caroline Melotte

O bituary: Roy Eggleston

We were sad to learn of the recent death of Roy Eggleston. Roy was the father of our first and much loved and admired coordinator, Barbara. He and her mother, Sylvia, continued to give us support and encouragement after her loss.

As a young man, Roy was a courageous conscientious objector refusing National Service. Later, he had a printing concern and was responsible for the design and printing of the Christian CND booklet, “The Sleeping Giant”, the history of our movement. He also advised us on the way we should produce “Ploughshare”, which resulted in the form so many of you enjoy.

We send our sympathy and love to dear Sylvia, his widow and the other members of the family.

Don’t buy it!

We mentioned these three new short films from the WMD Awareness Programme in the last Ploughshare Plus, but the last line (with the all-crucial web address) was missing. You can view the films at http://www.dont-buy-it.org/

Petition the government!

Please sign the Government e-petition sent in by Abolition 2000 UK about a Nuclear Weapons Convention on http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/12697

An E petition is an easy way for you to influence government policy in the UK. You can create an e-petition about anything that the government is responsible for and if it gets at least 100,000 signatures, it will be eligible for debate in the House of Commons.
Join our Facebook group!

If you’re connected to the web in any way why not visit our Facebook group and help get the message across and connect with other members? There’s a link on our home page or you can go to Facebook and search for ‘Christian CND’. Then click ‘like’! There is also a ‘Groups’ page for those who want to get more involved. See below.

Get to know a new member!

Also, we have a new member in south London who would love to get together with others in the area (even in north London!). She says: “I was envisaging a full scale attempt to visit churches in London and Southwark over the next few years with a renewed call to discuss the issues and promote membership of the group.”

We have already made some progress on this with one member in West London contacting his vicar with a view to having a talk in church.

If you’d like to get in touch, contact her via the office or by email at angela.rayner@gmail.com

Join our elist!

You join our new elist by emailing: christiancnd-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Then you can post a message using: christiancnd@yahoogroups.com

CCND: Invitation to join!

The ‘invitations’ we sent out with the last Ploughshare Plus caused a bit of confusion for some members - these were intended for you to pass on to friends who might like to join Christian CND if only they knew we existed!

The invitations were not meant to replace your renewal form - as some have pointed out; “my sub's not due for renewal yet” - we will be sending out a regular renewal form when your sub is due as usual. You will find another invitation with this Ploughshare but don’t use it to send us a renewal if you are already a member; please pass it on to a friend.

Church Statements (Enclosed poster)

1) Please put the poster on your church notice board. Many Christians do not know about the stance their church has regarding nuclear weapons and the official statements of church leaders do not get much publicity. It is very important that people are informed.

2) Scattered across the country, Christian CND Members valiantly try to counter hopeless acceptance of nuclear weapons. You yourself probably experience this difficulty first hand. The poster is designed to make your task easier.

3) The poster is also an aid to help you in inviting a friend to become a Member of the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Prayer Diary

OCTOBER

Pray that the ideas and plans put forward at the AGM bear fruit and take us another step along the road to peace.

15th -16th October: CND Conference and Day of Action at Menwith Hill
24th October: United Nations Day
25th October: Vigil at UAV Engine Factory at Shenstone

NOVEMBER

1st November: All Saints Day. Give thanks for all those who have inspired us by their lives spent working for justice and peace.
11th November: Remembrance Day. Pray that nations may find a better way than war to solve disputes and for all suffering as a result of all wars going on today.
27th November: 1st Day of Advent

DECEMBER

Pray for our Advent Vigils at Aldermaston and that those who work there may find life-giving employment.
25th December: Birth of the Prince of Peace
28th December: Holy Innocents Day. Pray for all innocent victims of war and violence, and for the Holy Innocents Commemoration at St. Martin in the Fields

JANUARY

1st January New Years Day: We pray that 2012 will be a year of hope for a more peaceful future for the world.
Monday 7 November: The Environmental Realities of War. This event is hosted by Campaign Against Depleted Uranium and timed to mark the UN International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict and the International Day of Action Against Depleted Uranium. 7-9pm Small Meeting House, Friends House, 173 -177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ.

Wednesday 9 November: The Morality of Intervention, Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and the Role of United Nations. A Uniting for Peace Public Meeting on Arab Spring and Uprising in Middle East and North Africa. Chair: Lord Frank Judd (Former Minister for International Development). Speakers include: Geoffrey Robertson Q.C., Vijay Mehta (Chair, Uniting for Peace), Rev. Brian Cooper (Co-ordinator, Uniting for Peace). Venue: House of Lords, Room 4A, Westminster, London SW1P 3, UK. 6.00 pm-9.00 pm. Contacts Vijay Mehta 07776 231 018 or 0207 377 2111, Email: vijay@vmpeace.org Brian Cooper, Coordinator 0131 446 9545.

11 November: Remembrance Day. Remembrance Day 11am wreath laying at St. John's Garden, Liverpool with local music by Black Lamp. mcnd@care4free.net

13 November: Bromley and Beckenham CND White Poppy Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday - at Martins Hill memorial, Church Street, Bromley at 10.50 a.m. Contact Ann 020 8 460 1295 for more details.

13 November: 2011 Remembrance Sunday Lecture: ‘Development and Disarmament: The Kindest Cut of All’ Speaker: Sir Richard Jolly, Honorary Professor and Research Associate of the Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex. 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm at The Cinema, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1. Preceded at 11am by a short remembrance ceremony and at 11.15am by the 2011 Annual General Meeting of Movement for the Abolition of War in the first floor meeting room. Imperial war Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/events.php?p=4

18 - 20 November: Trident Ploughshares Annual Gathering. Calstock village in the beautiful Tamar valley. The village lies 30 minutes train time from Plymouth. If coming by train book directly to Calstock. Telephone Michal on 01822 832815 for further details of venue are needed. There is an option to stay over until Monday 21st.


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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@ccnd.org.uk Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/