

ploughshare plus



news update from Christian CND

November 2005

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

Come and celebrate 45 years of Christians campaigning!

Ok, we realise that it would be better, really, if we were not celebrating our 45th birthday, and instead were celebrating the end of nuclear weapons. But as long as these immoral, illegal weapons of mass destruction are with us, we will be there, at vigils, at blockades, at meetings, on demos, with our Christian presence, praying for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

And of course we can not do this without you. Nor can we celebrate 45 years without you. So if you are able, please do come along to Friends House on Euston Road on Saturday 10th December. If you can come to the AGM (which is in the morning) you will be very welcome - especially if you come prepared to offer your volunteer services! We would be especially pleased to get offers to join our Executive Council -

there's no need to get nominated - you can nominate yourself. Exec meetings happen in London every 6 - 8 weeks or so on a day to suit.

The party will start at about 2pm. We will have guests including Bruce Kent, and we will have cake (but feel free to bring more!). We would like you to bring your memories, and if you have any photographs or old newsletters, leaflets, posters or other items for display that would be wonderful. A member who is unable to come has already sent us a fantastic selection of memorabilia.

So join us on the 10th December. Meet your Exec and office worker (see photo below) and you can even buy a t-shirt or cotton shopping bag! (See page 2)



The Feast of Holy Innocents

This year's Holy Innocents commemoration is on 29th December, at St Martin-in-the-Fields, London at 11am. There is a leaflet enclosed with this mailing. It would be good if you could put the leaflet up on your church notice board. And please do come along!

The actual Church Feast of the Holy Innocents is December 28th. Our event is on the 29th for practical reasons. We will assemble in the Porch of St Martins', process into the church, then to St Martin's statue of Baby Jesus which this year is in Trafalgar Square, on to Downing St, finish at the memorial to the Innocent Victims outside Westminster Abbey. The event will be interactive. We want as many children as possible. Times, lunch, etc to be finalised soon. Keep in touch, suggestions welcome.

New CCND goods!

Due to popular demand (well a couple of people anyway!) we have purchased some t-shirts emblazoned with our logo and slogan. These are made from organic cotton in a pleasing creamy colour, and are ethically traded (of course!). There are two styles, a big and baggy uni-sex style in Large and Extra Large, and a fitted style which comes in Medium and Large (which is not so large actually, will fit about a size 16). They are all really soft and the unbleached cotton means you mustn't wash them in soap powders with "optical brighteners" or they'll end up looking a bit whiter than they ought. £12 each.

We also have cotton bags. You will know of course that most plastic bags end up in landfill, some can end up in the sea. Wildlife can suffer; turtles will swallow plastic

bags thinking they are jelly fish, birds scavenging on rubbish dump choke on plastic bags. It's not good. So say "No" to plastic bags and carry a couple of our very useful shoppers with you all the time. There are two styles, one with a gusset and short handles useful for heavy shopping and the other with long handles which you can carry over your shoulder. Again they are made from organic cotton (cotton production is very heavily dependent on pesticides and producers don't often much care about the health and safety of cotton-pickers) and ethically made. £3 each.

We still have some of the "Robin" Christmas cards but we thought we'd try some blank cards for use at any time. So we used the Picasso peace drawings for a set of 6 cards, two of each design. We hope you like them. £2.50 per pack. There is an order form with this mailing.

Quaker Peace Testimony Fairford

Quakers' testimony to peace is perhaps their best-known attribute. Individual Friends live out this corporate testimony in many different ways. Several people from Gloucestershire Meetings hold a Quaker Meeting for Worship outside the main gate of Fairford USAF Base on the 4th Saturday of each month for an hour from 2pm. Fairford is where the new ultra high tech B2 stealth bomber, the B52 Stratofortress and B1 Lancer bombers are kept. This is not a protest meeting or demonstration but a witness to peace. All are welcome to join us, with the suggestion that warm clothing should be worn and a folding seat brought. Information from Cynthia Barron, 11 Star Court, Pittville Circus Road, Cheltenham, GL42 2GD.

CCND at Synod

CCND Co-chair Micheal Pulham is pictured (below) outside Church House lobbying Synod members and getting signatures on the "No Trident Replacement" petition.

We got quite a few signatures including one or two Bishops.

There is a copy of the petition enclosed - you have until next March to return it so there is plenty of opportunity to get loads of signatures. If you need more copies get in touch.



UK people oppose developing new weapons system

When presented with the estimated cost of replacing Trident, a majority of the British public opposes the development of a new nuclear weapons system, according to a recent poll done for Greenpeace. The British public understands that money would be better spent on defeating poverty at home and abroad, and providing for employment, education and health.

Add your voice to the campaign to say no to Trident and join the ten signature challenge. CND and CCND are urging members and supporters to each collect ten signatures for the petition so that we can send a clear message to Blair: No Trident Replacement. There is a petition with this mailing, contact CND on 020 7700 2393 for a Trident Replacement briefing.

No Trident Replacement meeting

CND Public Meeting, 6.30 - 8.30pm, Tuesday 6th December, Committee Room 10, Houses of Parliament. All welcome.

CND demands that a full public and Parliamentary debate takes place on the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system.

This must include the option of not replacing Trident and a full Parliamentary vote should determine the matter.

A replacement will undermine the Non-Proliferation Treaty - at a time when the latest US doctrine foresees the use of nuclear weapons once again - and will cost the British taxpayer an estimated £25 billion.

Join the campaign to say No Trident Replacement! Speakers include:

Clare Short, Labour MP

Michael Meacher, Labour MP

Gordon Prentice, Labour MP

Jeremy Corbyn, Vice-Chair CND and Labour MP

Kate Hudson, Chair CND

Bruce Kent

Baroness Tonge, Lib Dem

Angus Robertson, Scottish Nationalist MP

Elfyn Llwyd, Plaid Cymru MP

Jenny Jones, Green GLA member

November letter

West Midlands CND's letter writing campaign is focussed this month on the renewal of Trident.

This month we are still writing about the replacement of Trident, one of the most important issues to be resolved in this parliament. At present, we are concentrating on having an open and transparent debate, and getting out information to MPs, some of whom know very little about it. So, if you think it appropriate, please send a copy of your letter to your MP. Please write to Rt. Hon Tony Blair, 10, Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA.

Ask that:

- There should be a thorough review of Britain's security needs and whether a replacement for Trident is really the best way to address them.
- The review should consider how to enhance national and international security.
- There should be an open and honest debate on Trident replacement. Parliament should be given all relevant facts, including the full costs of maintaining a nuclear system.

Say that, while we are attempting to establish democracy in Iraq, we must lead by example - democracy can function only when there is openness, transparency and knowledge.



Dates for your diary

Thursday 1 December: Prisoners for Peace Day. Info from: War Resisters' International, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, infoatwri-irg.org

Thursday 1 December: Dirty Dealings (or how the military industrial complex is profiting from the war on terror across Europe). Public Meeting, 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester.. Greater Manchester & District Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St., Manchester M4 7HR Tel: 0161 273 8283

Saturday 3 December: World Poverty and Disarmament, World Disarmament Campaign Autumn Conference. Speakers: Rebecca Peters, Director, International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA) Caroline Lucas, MEP (Green) and Linda Melvern, Arms Reduction Coalition. Bloomsbury Baptist Church, London. Info: Peace Services, WDC, PO Box 28209, Edinburgh EH9 1ZR. WDC.

5 December: Pax Christi Advent Service. Venue: St Aloysius Church, Eversholt Street, London. Time: 7.30 pm. Music and singing led by Bernadette Farrell. Also Christmas Market with Christmas cards from Pax Christi, gifts from Peru, Pax Christi East-West stall, Jesuit Refugee Service stall and more.

Tuesday 6 December: No Trident Replacement. CND Public Meeting in Parliament. 6.30 - 8.30pm, Committee Room 10, Houses of Parliament. CND, 020 7700 2393, enquiries@cnduk.org www.cnduk.org

Thursday 8 December: Securing Trade Justice. How can we end poverty amidst the current trade in arms? Chair: Bruce Kent. Speakers include Ann Feltham, Campaign Against Arms Trade, Laura Cheeseman, International Action Network on Small Arms, Karl Miller Arms Reduction Coalition, and more. Friends House, Euston Road, London. Contact ARC, PO Box 42567, London E1 2WP. Tel 07899953977 or 020 8502 7673, ngo@arcuk.org www.arcuk.org

12 December: Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp Action For more information contact: helenmenwith@yahoo.co.uk

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament AGM and 45th Birthday Party. AGM in the morning, 10.30 – 1pm, bring lunch to share. Party in the afternoon: 2 – 4.30pm. All welcome. Friends House, Euston Road, London. Special guest speaker Bruce Kent.

29 December: Holy Innocents Commemoration at St Martin-in-the-Fields. Contact CCND for more information.

Saturday 15 January: A Study Day on the Spirituality of Non-violence. 9.30 - 5pm at Capel y Groes, Bodhyfryd, Wrexham. £3.50 or £3 in advance (cheque made out to Wrexham Concern Trust). Contact Owen Hardwicke, Peace & Justice Centre, 35 Kings Mills Road, Wrexham, LL13 8NH.

Sunday 15th January: Peace Sunday 2006. The theme is "In Truth is Peace". Pax Christi will produce liturgy/celebration material on the theme. Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY. Tel: +44 (0)20 8203 4884. paxchristi@gn.apc.org

27 – 29 January: Swords into Ploughshares – Now. WDC Weekend of Services for Peace and Disarmament. See enclosed leaflet. Info: Peace Services, WDC, PO Box 28209, Edinburgh EH9 1ZR.

Sunday 29 January: Mozart 250 Anniversary Concert for Peace. Hinde Street Methodist Church, W1. Organised by Musicians Against Nuclear Arms. MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.

30 January: Gandhi Foundation: MultiFaith Meeting at Kingsley Hall, Bromley-by-Bow, early evening. Full details from the Secretary, 21 Fleetwood Court, Madeira Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6BE, tel: 01932 343614 e-mail: dmoll_gandhifndn@onetel.com

1 March: Ash Wednesday. Annual liturgy and witness of Repentance and Resistance to nuclear war preparations at the Ministry of Defence, London and other military sites. More details to follow.

Peace Camps & Regular Events

2nd weekend of each month: Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp. Nearest train stations: Aldermaston or Mortimer (via Reading or Basingstoke) For more details visit www.aldermaston.net Email: info@aldermaston.net Tel: 0117 939 3747 or 07904 450 307.

Regular Meeting for Worship outside Menwith Hill and Fylingdales US bases in Yorkshire Outside Menwith Hill US spy base and 'star wars' station at 2.00pm-3.00pm at the Main Entrance on **Saturday 3 December and the first Saturday of even months** (Feb, April). Contact Anni on 01943 466405 or Lindis on 01482 702033 or email Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases at mail-to:caab@btlick.com for more information.

Outside Fylingdales joint UK-US 'star wars' station at 12.00pm-1.00pm at the approach road entrance on the **first Saturday of odd months (Jan, March, May)**. This witness has been almost continuous since the 1980s. Contact Anni on 01943 466405 or Lindis on 01482 702033 or email Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases at mail-to:caab@btlick.com for more information.

Every Tuesday: Menwith Hill Peace Camp, 6-8pm, protest vigil. Contact: Anni 01943 466 405.

4th Saturday each month: Quaker Meeting for Worship at USAF Fairford. 2pm.

Permanent: Faslane Peace Camp, 81 Shandon, near Helensburgh, G84 8NT Tel: 01436-820901

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
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