Valduc - now twinned with Aldermaston?

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We've reached the end of another campaigning year - a year that began, sadly, with the loss of one of our Co-Chairs, Bob Russell. We hope he would have been happy with all we have managed to do, even without him.

This year was the year of links - links with national events, links with other peace groups and links with other campaigns. It saw the launch of our Link Leaflets, and our take on the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebration.

We have had joint meetings with French peace organisations to draw attention to the agreement between UK and France for sharing nuclear facilities in Aldermaston and Valduc and CCND have submitted a resolution for CND Conference on this subject. We are beginning to plan a joint Anglo-French demo in Valduc. When we explained the significance of the ‘Aldermaston, now twinned with Valduc’ placard at the Queen’s Peace party to our attendant police persons, they said “nobody tells us anything!” but that is not surprising as nobody told parliament or the British public either.

Come along to our AGM on 27 October (see page 7) and bring your suggestions for the next year and help us make banners for our cross-channel expedition.

Aldermaston - twinned with Valduc, France?
At Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival I helped on the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, NCPO, stall. Greenbelt has been described as a unique collection of arts, faith and justice. It is held on the August Bank Holiday weekend each year at Cheltenham Race Course and up to 20,000 people attend. The NCPO stall was trying to show how Christian peace organisations are doing their small part in saving paradise, because ‘Saving Paradise’ was the theme of Greenbelt. The backdrop of the stall was a black and white picture of children playing by the separation wall in Bethlehem, the innocent victims of war. In front of that was a children’s playground representing paradise, a world where people can live and play together in safety. The playground was artificial grass, a small see-saw and hula hoops. The stall was decorated with bunting with the name of an NCPO member organisation written on each flag. Listed on a chalk board were peace talks people might like to go to. A toy box held the leaflets of the organisations.

John Dear talked about demonstrating against nuclear weapons in USA. 50 people dressed in sack cloth spread ashes at Oak Ridge to repent for their country’s possession of nuclear weapons. John Dear is a peacemaker from the USA, he is a Jesuit priest and pastor. The important thing I learned from his talk is that if I want to be a pacifist I need to live peace in the way I treat, talk to and think about every person I come in contact with. Also from the USA speaking at Greenbelt was Shane Claiborne.

I heard David Porter from Coventry Cathedral giving a talk about forgiveness, justice and reconciliation. Giles Fraser, who resigned from St Paul’s Cathedral because he could not agree with the way the Occupy protesters were forced to leave, was at Greenbelt speaking about how soldiers make moral decisions on a battlefield. I met someone who was so impressed by a talk by Logan Mehi-Laituri, that she bought his book.

NPCO prepared a leaflet listing over 20 talks on the Greenbelt programme, talks which will inform, inspire and challenge Christian peacemakers. These leaflets were given out at the stall. As there were so many peace talks, it was decided that NPCO only needed a stall in the G-Source marquee where lots of other Christian organisations have stalls. In previous years NPCO has hired larger space in the marquee and called the space the Peace Zone.

By Kelvin Gascoyne.

See the Network of Christian Peace Organisations website http://www.ncpo.org.uk.

You can now listen to the talk Bruce Kent gave at Greenbelt 2010 for free at http://www.greenbelt.org.uk.
On 3 June, we went to Aldermaston to celebrate the Queen’s Jubilee in our own special way - with an alternative Peace Party!

We invited the Queen, of course, with the following covering letter which was sent alongside the ‘Commoner’s Address’, reprinted on the next page.

We had a best hat or crown competition with food and drink, balloons (Kelvin entertained the children with his balloon sculptures and carried out face painting for them) and Rebecca Johnson led some singing.

“In common with many British people, we too will be celebrating your Diamond Jubilee on 3rd June. As workers for peace, we have chosen a venue for our “Queen's Peace Party” which you might feel is rather odd. During the afternoon, we will be reading out an Address, which explains the reasons for this choice.

It is unlikely that you will be there to hear it in person, though you would be most welcome, so we have enclosed it with this letter.

We assure you of our prayers in your work for the peace of our nation and the Commonwealth.”
A Commoner’s Address to Her Majesty, the Queen

Your Majesty, we party here outside the atomic weapons establishment at Aldermaston on the occasion of your Diamond Jubilee. You have continued through thick and thin for many years and we, who protest against nuclear weapons, are equally persistent. We celebrate with you, as Head of the Church of England, the Synod vote against the renewal of Trident and the similar announcements made by the other Christian denominations.

However, inside this abominable factory, warhead development continues. We ask, “What has happened to the spirit of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty?” A fifty-year collaboration with France on warheads has been announced. Your government’s statement that it is “fully committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons...” unfortunately ends “...in the long term.” Those words point up the need for persistence on our part. You can be sure we will persevere until they are no more.

The existence of nuclear weapons is a threat to everyone. History tells something of what would happen were they used again but even before use they damage us. Not only by their financial cost but also by their cost to our very humanity. Toleration degrades our sensitivity and corrodes our moral discernment. Saying they are merely a deterrent cuts no ice, because they cannot deter without the intention to use them. Possession makes us potential murderers and the immorality of accepting them spreads a subtle contagion, blunting our integrity in general. We will not have that. With the hibakusha in Japan we have to cry, “No more nuclear weapons!”

Weapons of mass destruction cannot provide true security. People of all faiths and none realise that. Your Majesty, our choice of this sad place to party at is to challenge its doom-ridden pretence of security and share with each other the life-affirming vision of a world without nuclear weapons. A world where all people can celebrate friendship together in a truly noble humanity.

Thank you, Ma’am, for listening. 3/6/2012

Buckingham Palace responds...

“The Queen has asked me to thank you for your letter of 29th May, telling Her Majesty of your plans for celebrating The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee on 3rd June.

It was thoughtful of you to take the time and trouble to write as you did and The Queen is grateful for the assurance of your prayers.

I am enclosing a person message from Her Majesty in response to your congratulations on The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.”

“I send you my grateful thanks for the words of loyalty and support which you have so kindly send on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of my Accession to the Throne.”

Elizabeth R 2012.

We assume the Buckingham Palace press office has a very old database of contacts for CND/CCND as the reply was addressed to ‘Mr Trippett’ (Lionel Trippet was CND’s information worker many years ago!).

The ‘personal message’ consists of a folded A4 card of photos of the Queen over the years and reads:
Last May, five CCND members went to Vienna to attend the PrepCom of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and we promised you a report in this “Ploughshare”. You may wonder what we as non-experts do at UN meetings. This, and our London Embassy contacts, result from a suggestion made by Janet Bloomfield, a past Chair of CND, to carry on “Dialogue with Decision Makers”- approaching seemingly important people as fellow human beings with the same personal concerns as the rest of us. The NPT conferences are open to NGOs with a particular interest in the subject. They offer the opportunity to attend the general sessions in the Main Conference Chamber, to hear what the official delegates have to say, to lobby or set up private meetings with these delegates and to go to various fringe events. Each day after the Abolition Caucus, one of the delegates came to give his/her interpretation of what was happening. I was able to give the Iranian Ambassador a copy of Martin Birdseye’s Nuclear Morality Flow Chart after one of these sessions. Informal contacts with ambassadors in the canteen are also informative. (I regret to say I mistook the Mongolian Ambassador for the representative from Japan which amused him somewhat. As he said “all Asians look the same to Europeans just as Europeans look the same to us!”) In addition to this, CCND arranged a morning interfaith prayer vigil at the start of each day’s programme and distributed suitable leaflets. We were also able to meet and exchange ideas with peace campaigners from all over the world.

Following our suggestion to send congratulations to those South American Countries that had made an official statement condemning nuclear weapons, CCND took on the responsibility of buying, collecting signatures and delivering “Dank” cards to these delegations.

This year was the first of the three Preparatory Committee conferences that occur between each five-yearly review of the NPT. At the last Review Conference in 2010 an Action Plan was drawn up with more than 60 suggestions for implementing the Treaty. One of the tasks of this May’s PrepCom was to devise some way in which the nations could report back to the UN on what had been achieved.

Our group was able to meet with the Irish delegation, the Vatican Observer and our own Foreign Office. The UK always assures us that they too believe in nuclear disarmament “in the long term”.

The Vatican pressed for a Nuclear Weapons Convention in its official presentation. More and more nations now see this as the way ahead, but not, as yet, the big players. This year, for the first time, the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons were highlighted - and indeed the International Red Cross have taken this up. There will be a major conference in Norway on this subject next year.

The texts of the papers presented by the different states are available on line. The Iranian statement drew attention to the agreement between UK and France to collaborate on nuclear weapons development, seeing this as directly contrary to the NPT. (The FO says that this is only a sharing of facilities done to save money).

The “Reaching Critical Will” project of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom organises the NGO participation for the NPT and produces a daily news briefing “NPT News in Review” which gives an excellent rundown of each day’s events (available from reachingcriticalwill.org).

No.1 is headed “A new review cycle, a new chance to ban nuclear weapons” and the final edition “Insecurity of the status quo”. Perhaps that demonstrates the length of the journey ahead!

Patricia Pulham
Two years ago we wrote to tell you that our financial circumstances were bad enough to cause us to consider whether CCND could continue. Your generous response has put us on a sound financial footing and in addition there was overwhelming support for the work we do.

Our problem now is that of not having enough people to organise our campaigns. Every year at this time we ask you to consider helping on our Executive Council. Understandably, most of you are reluctant to commit yourselves to this, perhaps feeling you are not experienced enough or that it would be too time consuming. So this year we are asking you if any could make a more limited commitment. Could you, for instance agree to help for two or three months? This would mean coming to two Saturday meetings in London (expenses paid) or helping to organise one event, perhaps in your area.

We have outline plans for prayer vigils at NATO Bases in different parts of the country during the year, a bike ride from Aldermaston to London, “Burying the Alleluia” at the beginning of Lent, A “Holy Fools” demonstration on Easter Monday (All Fools Day this year!), a trip to Valduc in France to highlight the Teutates Treaty, the Annual Embassies Walk and the NPT Prep Com in Geneva in May. As well as these special events there is, of course, our ongoing work in churches and schools. Maybe you can think of more things we might do.

Following our request for somebody to take on our regular correspondence with our Embassies, we were delighted to hand this responsibility to Anne Malins from Anglesey with our gratitude.

Without labourers in the vineyard the grapes will wither on the vine.

Sue and Angela, who joined Exec last year, say they have found the experience to be thoroughly worthwhile and would recommend it to anyone who feels they have something to offer, and who wants to get more involved with anti-nuclear campaigning. However, there’s no need to feel ‘I haven’t got time’ as there is no compulsion to take up lots of extra work; your input and prayers at meetings would be invaluable! We are now holding meetings on Saturdays at the CND offices so if you are working Monday-Friday you could still come along. Please consider joining us!

The AGM will take place from 12noon at the London Buddhist Centre, 72 Holloway Road, London N7 8JG (just a short walk from CCND/CND headquarters). Please bring a vegetarian lunch to share.

Map of venue: http://www.northlondonbuddhistcentre.com

After the initial reports, and elections to Exec, we will have our shared lunch.

Afternoon workshops include quilting, letter-writing to church leaders and banner-making. You are welcome to bring quilting materials and/or materials for making banners, but we will have the basics including some blank banners for decorating, material scraps etc.

CND Conference

CCND has tabled a resolution for CND Conference on 13 October (the International Conference is on the 12 October; business meeting on 13 October).

This Conference notes that Britain and France have signed the Teutates Agreement, relating to Joint Radiographic/ Hydrodynamics Facilities. They signed it so that they can continue developing nuclear weapons despite the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The enormous cost of hydrodynamic testing means that the two countries have to share research facilities. The Teutates Technology Development Centre is planned for Aldermaston, UK, and Valduc, France. Hydrodynamic testing recreates the extreme conditions found inside a nuclear explosion.

This conference is concerned about the Teutates Agreement Treaty because:
1. The Treaty will commit the two countries to 50 years of nuclear weapon research.
2. Britain will not be able to rid itself of nuclear weapons while this Treaty is in force.
3. Britain and France cannot claim that they are moving toward the cessation of nuclear arms at an early date as they agreed in article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.
4. The Treaty breaks the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
5. Britain and France invite international criticism.
6. The general public are not aware of the Teutates Agreement.

This conference calls on CND to:
1. Increase public awareness of the Teutates Agreement Treaty and its consequences.
2. Form links with French organisations campaigning against nuclear weapons so we can demonstrate against the Treaty together.
Above: the release of the doves following the service held on 17th June at Chelmsford Cathedral entitled “Sport in the service of peace”. This was initiated by CANA, Pax Christi and Essex CCND. The Bishop, Stephen Cottrell, gave a wonderful sermon on peace issues and it can be found accessing Bishop Cottrell’s own website www.stephencottrell.org and opening “Olympic truce offers hope of inspiring peace”.

Left and below: the Hiroshima Candle Service which was held at St Mary’s Maldon, hosted by Father Louis Darrant, on the 6th August. The candle was lit by Yuko who Beryl & Roger Lankester met through a green group. The candle came from Yoshi Takamura our friend and peace campaigner in Hiroshima.
The use of unmanned drones to launch attacks from great distances continues to grow. Over the past years, Britain, the US and Israel have used armed drones in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen, Libya and Gaza. Drones have become the new way to wage war.

While politicians and military commanders argue that these new weapons enable armed strikes to be targeted and precise, there are numerous, reliable and corroborated reports of civilian casualties. But perhaps the greater concern is that drones make war more likely. Drones mean that politicians and military commanders can now launch armed attacks and undertake military intervention anywhere around the globe at little or no cost. Remote warfare will mean more warfare.

Around the globe opposition to drones is growing. Here in the UK, as part of International Keep Space for Peace, we are holding the second Drone Week of Action from 6th - 13th October.

Leaflets, petitions and other resources will be available to download from our website soon, but why not plan what you are going to do now? Suggestions include:

- Organise a street stall to raise awareness and collect signatures against growing use of drones
- Join the anti-drone peace walk which will visit sites connected to the drone wars during the week of action
- Come to one of the protest vigils at a site connected to the drones
- Sign & promote the national petition being launched in the week
- Hold a public meeting on the issue (Drone Campaign Network can help with speakers)
- Write to your local MP about the issue and encourage others to do so

For more information and resources see: www.dronecampaignnetwork.org.uk

Organised by Drone Campaign Network

c/o Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, Oxford OX1 1LD info@dronecampaignnetwork.org.uk

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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: ...........................................................................................................
Postcode: ...........

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

Please return form to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ
How many organisations can you name that witness to peace through seeking the abolition of nuclear weapons? If you're reading this, you're probably a member of Christian CND and perhaps also CND itself. You may be aware of other religious bodies or organisations that have undertaken to witness in this area, perhaps Buddhists or Jews who don't form large enough numbers to create separate groups.

You'll no doubt be aware of ongoing Trident Ploughshare actions and also the monthly presence of Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp and perhaps WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom). On an international level, you might have heard of ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) and Abolition 2000 (international campaign involving 2,000 organisations) and Mayors for Peace. Then there are people who often work alone or in small groups of twos or threes (groups such as Grannies for Peace and the Muriel Lesters). And that's just to begin...

If the multiple groups are becoming too hard to follow, you may be pleased to hear that a number of people (already involved in various different anti-nuclear and peace campaigns) have come together to form AAWE or, to give it its full title, Action Atomic Weapons Eradication, with the hope of harnessing public attention on Aldermaston and Burghfield in the lead up to the next General Election.

The proposed two year campaign will attempt to bring nuclear abolition (and the planned Trident replacement) to the front of people's minds whilst the country faces rising unemployment and a decrease in spending on education and healthcare. AAWE seeks to act as a networking-style initiative which will, for those who desire it, compile a calendar of actions by autonomous groups such as ours and help to link disparate affinity groups with larger organisations such as CND.

Additionally, they will work to amplify a variety of voices, helping to give everybody's actions wider press coverage than they might otherwise receive. AAWE understand their role as being to facilitate ongoing actions and also to provide speakers, legal advisers, information packs and direct action training as needed.

The Christian CND Executive Board agreed with enthusiasm to work with AAWE. We hope this will give us a platform for more widely advertising our own actions and events, as we continue to witness Christ's disruptive peace, in the knowledge of our faith, being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. We believe that the peace we have received in Christ should be demonstrated by participation in actions that witness our belief that the powers of darkness have already been overcome. We hope that our work with AAWE might further that end.

Angela Rayner

CCND stall at Swanwick
OCTOBER

13th October: Aldermarston Women's Peace Camp. Please pray for the women who meet monthly to protest at AWE.

20th October: March against public spending cuts. Please pray that this government withdraws money from Trident which could be spent on jobs and health.

24th October: United Nations Day

27th October: AGM: Pray that all who attend are blessed with the strength of our Lord to carry on the fight for peace.

NOVEMBER

1st November: All Saints Day. Give thanks for those who have inspired us with 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.

DECEMBER

2nd December: 1st Day of Advent
Pray for our Advent Vigils at Aldermaston and that those who work there may find employment that does not mean death and destruction to others.

25th December: Birth of our Lord the Prince of Peace

28th December: Holy Innocents Day. Pray for all innocent victims of war and violence throughout the world.

JANUARY

1st January New Years Day: We pray that 2013 will be a year of hope and peace for the world.

Obituary

The Rt Revd Tony Dumper, Bishop of Dudley for over 15 years, has died at the age of 88. He passed away at his home in Bristol on Monday 27 August.

Tony was a pacifist and an active member of CND and CCND. Tony campaigned on issues of racial justice, poverty and nuclear disarmament, taking part in many demonstrations. In 1980 he became a member of the Alternative Defence Commission and was a co-author of its report Defence with the Bomb (1983). He was also a member of the team led by A E Harvey which produced the report Demanding peace: Christian responses to war and violence (1999), which re-examined the debate between pacifist and non-pacifist Christians in the light of developments in modern warfare.

He will be remembered as a committed, passionate, extremely kind man who was completely dedicated to the work of God’s Kingdom.

There’s a ‘Just Giving’ page set up for anyone wanting to make a charity donation in Tony’s memory: http://www.justgiving.com/remember/35367/Tony-Dumper
6 – 13 October: Keep Space for Peace Week.
GlobalNetwork@gn-news.com
http://www.space4peace.org/

Monday 8 October: Down the Drones talk. Chris Cole from the Drone Campaign Network will explain how unmanned drones cause civilian casualties and make war more likely and he will show a short film. This is part of the ‘Ground the Drones’ Week of Action from 6th to 13th October. 7pm. Venue - Margaret Fell room, Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. More info: email londoncaat@riseup.net. phone 07535 992123

9 October: Keep Space for Peace demo at Menwith Hill.
As part of the week of international protest called for by the Global Network Against Weapons and Power in Space (Keep Space for Peace) the regular Tuesday demonstration (6-8 pm) will focus on this (in conjunction with Yorkshire CND). More details nearer the time: see www.ccaab.org.uk / space4peace.org 6pm at: Menwith Hill. Contact: Lindis 01423 884076 mail@ccaab.org.uk

13 – 14 October: CND International Conference on Saturday: Building towards a nuclear weapons-free Middle East. Followed by free wine reception. The event is free of charge and open to the general public. More details to follow. Venue: Institute for Child Health, UCL, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH. Sunday: CND AGM & Policy Conference. Info: officemanager@cnduk.org 020 7700 2393

14 - 21 October: Week of Prayer for World Peace. To order leaflets contact Mrs Lesley Daisley, 11 Montrose Avenue, London NW6 6LE 020 8968 4340 or see: the website: www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com

20 October: Called to be Peacemakers Conference 2012 - ‘Money, Power, and Peace’. A free day-long conference organised by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, in association with Pax Christi and Quaker Peace and Social Witness. For 18-30 year-olds who want to engage with the issues we face today in looking for a better society. 10.30am at: Small Meeting Hall, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London. Facebook page: http://www.facebook.com/events/473049062719783/
youngpeacemaker@for.org.uk

21 October: An interfaith gathering of prayer and peace, 2.30pm at St Ethelburga’s Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AG.

9 – 10 November: 2012 Peace History Conference: From Local to Global the north’s role in peace & co-operation. 9 November at Friends’ Meeting House, Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS. 10 November at The People’s History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER. Please make cheques out to GM&D CND and return booking to: Jacqui Burke, Greater Manchester & District CND, Bridge 5 Mill, 22a Beswick St, M4 7HR. Price: £15 before 30 Sept, £20 after. £5 concessions. Organised by: MAW 02033 973019 http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/


1 December: Prisoners for Peace Day. Since the 1950s, 1 December is celebrated as Prisoners for Peace Day, to highlight the plight of those who face imprisonment for the nonviolent actions for peace - be they conscientious objectors or direct action activists. Write cards or letters to Prisoners for Peace. Contact War Resisters International, 020 7278 4040 or see: http://www.wri-irg.org/co/01dec.htm

28 December: Holy Innocents. Event at St Martin-in-the-Fields, and outside Westminster Abbey, organised by Anglican Pacifist Fellowship under the auspices of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations. Further details to follow. enquiries@anglicanpacifists.com APF Secretary, 11 Weavers End, Hanslope, MILTON KEYNES MK19 7PA

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
162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ
Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357
Email: christians@cnduk.org Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/