

# Ploughshare



The journal of Christian CND

September 2020

*Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world*

## Caroline Gilbert 1942–2020



Caroline interviewed by French tv journalists during the trip to Valduc in 2014

---

### **In this issue:**

**Caroline Gilbert – an appreciation**

**Our AGM**

**100 seconds to Midnight**

**Our 60th Birthday Hymn**

**Plus news, reviews, events and prayer diary**

## Contents

Page 2-3	From the office	Page 14-15	Irish Archbishop Statement
Page 3	Editorial	Page 16	Memories
Page 4	AGM	Page 17	From the Exec
Page 5	Hiroshima Day in Chelmsford	Page 18-19	Obituaries
Page 6-7	Caroline Gilbert	Page 20	Speaker Network
Page 8-9	100 Seconds to Midnight	Page 21	Prayer Diary
Page 10	RC Bishops' Statement	Page 22	Events
Page 11	Our Birthday Hymn	Page 23	CO Day
Page 12	Hiroshima & Nagasaki Days	Page 24	Photo and membership form
Page 13	New online store!		

*Ploughshare* is published by Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DQ, Tel 020 7700 4200, christians@cnduk.org <http://christiancnd.org.uk/> Twitter: @ChristianCND

Editorial team: Rebecca Dillon, Mike Gilbert, Claire Poyner, Michael Pulham, Patricia Pulham.

Opinions expressed in signed articles may not correspond to CCND's official position.

Copydate for next issue: 6 May 2020  
Christian CND Executive:  
Co-chairs: Martin Tiller and David Maxwell.  
Treasurer: Mike Gilbert  
Executive Council Members:  
Martin Birdseye, Rebecca Dillon, Geraldine Ellis, Kelvin Gascoyne, Mike Gilbert, Michael Pulham and Patricia Pulham.  
Office manager: Claire Poyner.  
Development Manager: Russell Whiting.  
Members can be contacted via the office.

## From the office

There's been a bit of Christian CND activity in Aberdeenshire (see p 12), with one of our newer members getting locals involved in campaigning, with the support of Aberdeen CND.

We would really love more members to get together in their local areas and revive some local Christian CND groups!

Whilst our members seem mostly to be evenly spread around the country, we have noticed a few clusters. If you live in any of these areas and fancy getting together with other members, perhaps with a view to starting up a local group, to write a few 'Don't Bank on the Bomb' letters, hold a vigil, prayer meeting, whatever, then please contact the office and I will facilitate that.

I have had new members ask about others in Sheffield and south Wales. Get in touch if you live nearby and would like to meet up with these members; I know there are a few of you but most of you haven't ticked the 'I agree to share

We reach out to you, our members and friends, from the strangest summer most of us have ever experienced, but one that has enabled us to experience hidden depths and talents. Let us use these to further our work and bring Disarmament nearer.

Sadly, this summer has also seen the loss of two of our amazing people, working from the two complementary parts of our campaign. In order to achieve the aim we want so much, we need to work in both high profile and low profile ways.

Caroline Gilbert, who will be known to many of you, epitomised the high-profile work approaching church leaders, MPs and diplomats directly. Beryl Lankester represented the no-less-

important aspect, building the local campaign. She was best known for her work with Essex CCND and with arranging the annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration in both Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals, as well as Friends House in London. You will learn more about these two remarkable women on other pages of this journal.

We all have different skills, abilities and personalities and all can be used to build God's Kingdom of Peace. As one of our members has always written at the end of her emails: "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito!"

Join our AGM in October and leave it with the ideas and enthusiasm to help you buzz away!

---

## From the office, cont...

my contact details with other members' box so I cannot pass on your details.

Other clusters: Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Nottingham/Derby, Devon, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire. And London of course (which could be divided into north and south London).

How do you get started? Having made contact, meet up and discuss what you could feasibly do. If there is a local CND group in the area, make sure they know you're having a Christian CND meeting; they could well have a few hints and tips, and there may be Christians in the CND group who haven't joined CCND.

Get in touch with the office for materials you might need, flyers, copies of *Ploughshare*, items to sell on a stall, etc. If any of you are used to using a computer (and after the last *Ploughshare*, I hope some of you were inspired to get online!), set up a Facebook group (see Aberdeenshire Christian CND's Facebook page), make contact with them, and CCND of course, and share ideas.

And let us know how you get on, share your news, photos etc.

Thank you!

## Christian CND AGM 2020

We had been greatly looking forward to visiting Newcastle for our Conference and AGM this year on Saturday October 3rd, but sadly due to the on-going Covid-19 restrictions we have had to take the decision to move to an online only event. We are already looking forward to coming to Newcastle in 2021, so watch this space!

Having the event online does create some opportunities, but it also poses challenges. It will mean that we can gather a much larger group than would have otherwise been the case but like all organisations Christian CND is still learning how to do online meetings in the best possible way, and there won't

be a chance to chat over a nice cup of tea at lunch time!

Another innovation we're trialling this year is the use of remote voting for our Executive Committee. This will hopefully enable many more members to take part and help shape the future of Christian CND. You should have already received a ballot paper, so please make sure you either vote online or by post before the deadline. The results will be announced at the AGM.

The Conference and AGM are totally free, you can register through the website if you haven't already done so.



Caroline gets to hold the Nobel Peace Prize in person!

## Remembering Hiroshima in Chelmsford Cathedral

It was an emotional service to Chelmsford Cathedral on Thursday 6th August to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. Beryl Lankester had planned the event, but due to Covid it was uncertain if it could go ahead. Then in July Beryl became very ill and died after a short stay in hospital. We were all saddened to hear the news and determined that the service should go ahead, within the current guidelines.

The service itself went very well, the Dean Rev Nicholas Hershall welcomed everyone and gave a blessing at the end of the service. Everyone involved at the Cathedral was incredibly helpful in ensuring we could go ahead. The message was given by Bishop Roger Morris, the Bishop of Colchester, who had previously spoken at the Christian CND AGM in Brentwood. Bishop Roger spoke about the horrors of nuclear weapons and the reasons we must ensure no one else has to endure what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We also heard a moving testimony from a survivor of the bombing, known as Hibakusha,

from local artist Yoko Wiffen, while her husband Keith did the Bible reading from 1 Corinthians 13 on the importance of love. We then lit a candle that had been sent from Hiroshima and each member of the congregation in turn lit their own candle.

Beryl's husband Roger spoke about her work in Essex for Christian CND and her many years of organising a Hiroshima service to ensure that people continue to remember. The evening ended with a beautiful red sunset, the perfect end to a wonderful but very moving day.

*Geraldine Ellis*



Bishop Roger Morris, Geraldine Ellis and Yoko Wiffen with the candle sent from Hiroshima

## Caroline Gilbert, 1942–2020

Caroline Ilse Maas was born 20 August 1942 in Berlin, and she and her mother stayed in the devastation of Berlin until 1947 when they moved to Oxford. Caroline's mother was strongly against all forms of nationalism and was also a very early campaigner against nuclear weapons, taking Caroline along on the second Aldermaston March in 1959 organised by CND. Caroline was still campaigning against nuclear weapons within days of her end. Caroline went to Milham Ford Grammar School, and read English at Leeds University. She started studying for a teaching diploma in London but this was cut short by the arrival of her son David in 1965. Caroline worked as a supply teacher and became a qualified teacher in 1971.

In 1973 she got a three-year contract in Ethiopia, teaching English. She met me and we married on the 29th of November, 1975. We left Addis Ababa in 1976 and returned to Oxford, then to Nairobi for five and a half years. Caroline painted a Nandi Flame Tree there for her terminally ill mother. This was a pivotal event and when we returned to the UK to Kew she took painting and drawing classes, discovered printmaking and became a founder member of the Richmond Printmakers. Later she did all her work at Oxford Printmakers and became a full member of the Oxford Art Society. She loved choral music, particularly early church music and Benjamin Britten, and one of her regular treats was going to Choral Evensong at Christ

Church. Her last request was for 'Spem in Alium' by Thomas Tallis.

The other important happening on our return from Kenya was the Cruise Missile Crisis, the great resurgence of CND and the setting up of the Greenham Women's Peace Camps. Caroline took part in several demonstrations and got arrested and charged with 'defacing the fence'. Caroline was a passionate supporter of the Greenham Women but then discovered Christian CND (CCND) and became strongly involved with it. She went on to be a co-chair and initiated many activities, in particular the very well attended Treaties Day Schools and trips to France to highlight the Anglo-French Teutates agreement. Caroline was also actively involved with Abolition 2000 and No Trident Replacement and was elected to CND Council. She went to New York, Geneva and Vienna to lobby at United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) meetings and the meetings that led to the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, signed by 122 nations and now nearing the 50 full ratifications needed to make it a binding law. The International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for their part in achieving this and one of Caroline's proudest moments was to have been involved and to get to hold the real Nobel medal.

Probably her most successful bit of individual lobbying was at the Church of England General Synod. She informed

## Caroline Gilbert, 1942–2020

the Archbishop of Canterbury that the C. of E. was out of line with all the Churches that had produced clear statements denouncing nuclear weapons. The then Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell managed to set up a fringe meeting for Caroline to discuss the morality of nuclear weapons which led to a full debate on the subject at the next General Synod in 2018 when Stephen Cottrell, now Archbishop of York, successfully moved motion GS 2095 asking the British Government to ‘respond positively to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons by reiterating publicly its obligations under Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and its strategy for meeting them...’ and the General Synod went on to pass the motion decisively.



Caroline was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2017 but this was treated successfully. After the start of the Covid-19 lockdown we were told that Caroline had an untreatable grade 4 carcinosarcoma. Her last actions, just days before her end, were to dictate a message to Stephen Cottrell, asking him to be the keynote speaker at a meeting to celebrate 60 years of CCND and then dictate her thoughts on how CCND should go about helping to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

This is a shorter version which also appeared in the newsletter of Oxford CND. For the full version go to:

<https://christiancnd.org.uk/about-us/caroline-gilbert-20-august-1942-30-june-2020/>

*Mike Gilbert*

## 100 Seconds to Midnight: What does it mean? What can we do?

This was part of the Abolition 2000 webinar series on issues and actions for nuclear abolition.

I participated in this webinar\* primarily to give a short tribute to Caroline, who was well known to many of the participants.

It is good to know that Abolition 2000 (I was A2000 UK's paid worker for a while in 2000-2001) is still active, I do receive their emails but, time constraints, you know, means they are rarely read.

This webinar was co-sponsored by Abolition 2000, Basel Peace Office, Human Survival Project, People for Nuclear Disarmament, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), World Future Council.

In January 2020, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the Doomsday Clock to '100 seconds to Midnight' indicating that humanity is the closest we have ever been to a potential catastrophe from climate change or nuclear weapons use that could have a devastating impact on civilisation.

Since then, COVID-19 has impacted on nuclear security, tensions between nuclear-armed States have deteriorated, the US Senate has authorised funding for resumed nuclear tests and the few nuclear arms controls that still exist are being further eroded.

The webinar explored the risks of nuclear weapons use by accident, miscalculation or intent, and initiatives at national and international levels to reduce these risks.

Marzhan Nurzhan, (Convenor, Abolition 2000 Youth Network. PNND Coordinator for Commonwealth of Independent States Countries) provided an introduction to Abolition 2000 and to the Abolition 2000 webinar series.

Rachel Bronson, (Bulletin of Atomic Scientists) introduced the 'Doomsday Clock', currently set at '100 seconds to midnight', and updated us on how, and why, the clock has moved forward. Climate change has caused a move towards midnight, but, as Rachel said, the Covid pandemic has also affected the position of the clock. However:

"While concerns about climate change and nuclear war were the major drivers in moving the Doomsday Clock to 100 seconds to midnight, the 2020 statement issued by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists: <https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time/> returns over and over again to the same underlying problem: The deliberate erosion by politicians of science and our core institutions."

You can read more of her excellent presentation here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7emsxcd>

## 100 Seconds to Midnight: What does it mean? What can we do?

John Hallam, (Director of People for Nuclear Disarmament. Convenor, Abolition 2000 working group on nuclear risk-reduction) gave a presentation entitled: “100 seconds to midnight, nuclear risk reduction in the light of COVID-19” and contrasted threats from pandemics and threats from the use of nuclear weapons.  
<https://tinyurl.com/yyu5s934>

Aaron Tovish (Executive Director, Zona Libre. Former Director of Peace and Security Programs at Parliamentarians for Global Action) spoke on “12 Propositions” (he didn’t cover all twelve due to time limits!).  
<https://tinyurl.com/y4yk8sc7>

Dr Manpreet Sethi, (Distinguished Fellow and head of the Nuclear Security Project at the Centre for Air Power



Studies, New Delhi) reported on “Nuclear Risk Reduction: Closing Pathways to Use”.  
<https://tinyurl.com/y326zofc>  
(this document is 208 pages long!)

“Invited interventions” included speakers giving a short 2 minute response: Tytti Erästö, Author of SIPRI report “Towards Greater Nuclear Restraint: Raising the Threshold for Nuclear Weapon Use”. Marion Messmer, Author of BASIC report “Strategic Risk Reduction in the European Context”. Arthur Duforest, Introduction to the “HairTrigger game/app”. And Alfredo Labbe, of Chile, one of the former leaders of the De-Alerting Group of Countries.

You can watch the whole thing:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Abolition2000> (look under ‘videos’). I am not sure how many more of these webinars are planned, but if you’re interested, get in touch with A2000 at [secretariat@abolition2000.org](mailto:secretariat@abolition2000.org)

Previous webinars are here:  
<http://www.abolition2000.org/en/resources/webinars/>

\* For the uninitiated, a ‘webinar’ is a seminar conducted over the internet. No, I didn’t know either, until early last year. It’s come in handy during the pandemic.

*Claire Poyner*

## Statement on nuclear weapons from the Bishops of Scotland and England & Wales

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings the following powerful statement has been released by the Catholic bishops of Scotland, England and Wales.

Tuesday 4 August 2020

During his historic visit to Japan last year, Pope Francis declared that “the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possession of atomic weapons is immoral”. Seventy-five years on from the unprecedented and horrific destruction of life at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we are called to reflect prayerfully upon the UK’s own possession of nuclear weapons.

Pope Francis reiterated that the threat of mutual destruction, the massive loss of innocent lives and the annihilation of any future for our common home, is completely incompatible with our efforts to build peace. “If we really want to build a more just and secure society, we must let the weapons fall from our hands”, said the Pope.

He also reminded us that it is unjust to continue squandering precious resources on manufacturing, maintaining and upgrading ever more

destructive technology. The cost of nuclear weapons should be measured not only in the lives destroyed through their use, but also the suffering of the poorest and most vulnerable people, who could have benefited were such vast sums of public money invested in the Common Good of society instead. The Scottish and English and Welsh bishops’ conferences have in the past called on the UK government to forsake its own nuclear weapons.

We therefore recommit ourselves to the abolition of these weapons and to the Holy Father’s call to pray each day “for the conversion of hearts and for the triumph of a culture of life, reconciliation and fraternity. A fraternity that can recognize and respect diversity in the quest for a common destiny.”

+William Nolan,  
Bishop of Galloway and on behalf of  
the Commission for Justice and Peace  
of the Bishops’ Conference of Scotland.

+Declan Lang,  
Bishop of Clifton and Chairman of the  
international Affairs Department of the  
Catholic Bishops’ Conference of  
England and Wales

<https://tinyurl.com/yxjcysko>

## CCND's 60th Birthday Hymn

There is something about Peace groups that attracts creative people. We are particularly fortunate in having two talented hymn writers among our members so we were delighted when Christopher Idle and Sue Gilmurray wrote a special hymn for our 60th

birthday. You will find it here plus a link to an audio version. Please "Let us Raise our Voice" and introduce it to our church music groups peace groups and J and P groups and spread the message of peace and justice far and wide!

Christopher Idle Sue Gilmurray

### Let us raise our voice (SATB)

Let us raise our voice for the sake of the plan-et, for the earth we love.

SOPRANO  
ALTO

Let us raise our voice for the sake of the plan-et, for the earth we love.

TENOR  
BASS

6 — to be free from fear; we will take a stand for our friends and neigh- bours:

S.  
A.

to be free from fear; we will take a stand for our friends and neigh - bours:

T.  
B.

12 nei - ther bomb nor gun shall in-fect us here. vv.1-4 Let us v.5 grace.

S.  
A.

nei - ther bomb nor gun shall in fect us here. Let us grace.

T.  
B.

2  
Let us join the march  
for the sake of our children,  
and a future hope  
that can still be theirs;  
we will walk the miles  
with a mind to make it;  
we will sing our songs,  
we will breathe our prayers.

4  
Let us plead our cause  
for the sake of the nations;  
with the Lord's great love  
still at large today;  
we will wear the badge  
of our clear commitment  
as we tread the path  
on the pilgrim way.

3  
Let us set our goals  
for the sake of the needy;  
let us persevere  
though the road seems long;  
we reject all faith  
in the stockpiled weapons;  
we will speak the truth  
to the rich and strong.

5  
Let us trust in God  
for the sake of the Kingdom;  
let us take the cross  
into every place.  
We will look to Christ  
for his fruitful Spirit,  
building peace on earth  
by his love and grace.

## Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day events



Essex Christian CND: Bishop Roger Morris and Yoko Wiffen with the candle from Hiroshima



A tribute to Beryl Lankester, who organised the Hiroshima service for over 30 years in Essex



Aberdeenshire Christian CND Group on Hiroshima Day, with their banner



Merseyside CND's Hiroshima Day event in Liverpool

## New Christian CND online shop!

We have expanded our CCND-branded goods, to include new t-shirts, sweatshirts and tote bags. There are also children's t-shirts. The designs are by Bridget and Lucy Tiller, daughters of CCND Co-chair Martin Tiller, they also worked on setting up the online store.

You can view the new items here:  
<https://christiancndtees.teemill.com/>

Teemill enables organisations to set up a store with very little effort, and none at all when it comes to processing orders! We get some of the profit made. When you consider staff time in processing it does represent good value.

The t-shirts are all organic cotton, using

renewable energy, fairly paid staff both in India and at home, and all packaging is plastic-free. In fact the packaging is so nice, you might want to use it as wrapping paper. See <https://teemill.com/the-journey/> to see how their products are made and distributed.

Of course, at the moment this is only available online. At some point, we will work on having the new designs available in a leaflet for you to order by post (wait and see!).

Hope you like them. We're really excited!

Below: a screenshot of the children's t-shirts.



A little reminder that we still have other items in stock, cards, (get your Christmas cards order in early!), bags, fans, pens, badges, etc.

I am going to the office around twice a month, so there may be a delay in getting items to you (this does not

include the Teemill store), so please bear with me. I promise to get any Christmas cards order out to you in good time, as long as you order them by 1 December at the latest.

*Claire*

## Ireland: Message for Nagasaki Day by Archbishop Martin

Archbishop Eamon Martin gave the following message for Nagasaki Day at Saint Patrick's Church, Pennyburn, Derry.

“The development of atomic energy for war and the possession of atomic weapons is immoral and incompatible with our faith” – Archbishop Eamon.

It was around this time 75 years ago that an atomic bomb was detonated above the Japanese city of Nagasaki. Three days earlier another atomic bomb had devastated Hiroshima. Together these attacks caused more than two hundred thousand immediate deaths, and led in the years to come to tens of thousands of others who perished from direct injuries, cancers and other effects of radiation.

The bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki seventy five years ago are still seen by many as among the worst examples of what we humans can do to each other. The devastation caused on the ground was unimaginable – last Tuesday's horrific explosion that ripped through the port in Beirut, causing such terrible death and destruction, was small in comparison. And yet, several countries continue to hold, develop or test weapons of mass destruction which are capable of unleashing many times over the horrors of 1945.

Last November, Pope Francis visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a pilgrim

for peace. He passionately pleaded for an end to the development and threat of such armaments, including the use of the deterrence argument – that having such weapons helps to guarantee world security and peace. He said “the possession of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is not the answer”. Instead it fosters “a false sense of security sustained by a mentality of fear and mistrust, one that ends up poisoning relationships between peoples and obstructing any form of dialogue.” It is “incompatible” he said to try to build and sustain peace “upon the fear of mutual destruction or the threat of total annihilation.”

Pope Francis also strongly denounced the arms race pointing out that “in a world where millions of children and families live in inhumane conditions, the money that is squandered and the fortunes made through the manufacture, upgrading, maintenance and sale of ever more destructive weapons, are an affront crying out to heaven.”

In today's readings at Mass we contemplate the presence of God, not in the earthquake wind and fire, but in the still, small voice spoken to Elijah out of the gentle breeze on Mount Horeb.

We hear the words of Jesus in the midst of the storm holding out his hand to Peter who was losing confidence, encouraging him: ‘Do not be afraid, you of little faith’.

## Ireland: Message for Nagasaki Day by Archbishop Martin

The psalmist sings of justice and peace embracing, mercy and faithfulness meeting as he cries out 'Let us see o Lord your mercy and give us your saving help'.

This week here in Derry we have laid to rest one of our greatest sons, the Nobel laureate John Hume who throughout his whole life urged people never to see violence as a way to solve differences and achieve aspirations.

On this Nagasaki Day, it is worth reminding ourselves that the development of atomic energy for war and the possession of atomic weapons is immoral and incompatible with our faith in Christ the Prince of Peace. Pope Francis urges us to pray and work every day for the abolition of nuclear weapons, "for the conversion of hearts

and for the triumph of a culture of life, reconciliation and fraternity." And so we pray:

Lord, make me an instrument of  
Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to  
Eternal Life. Amen.



Beryl  
Lankester's  
photo taken  
in Hiroshima  
in 2010

## Memories

Do you remember any of these events?

There were others as well. If so, please tell us about them. Just a verbal snapshot will do, and if you actually have any photographs you can lend us, even better. Please send them in to us, so we can make displays for our anniversary exhibition.

Did you go to our AGM in Birmingham where we had a Caribbean meal, or Bristol where we remembered the Slave Trade, in Cardiff where we went to Llanishen and duplicated our Liturgy in Welsh – in Glasgow, Manchester or Oxford?

What about our Interfaith weekend in Douai Abbey, or our Interfaith Forum in the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster?

Were you able to come to Peace Pentecost demonstrations in Upper Heyford, Lincoln or Faslane – Holy Innocents in London, the Christian Gate at Greenham, the 'Blessing of the Broomsticks' or 'Dare to be a Daniel' at Aldermaston?

Did you take part in the Summer Pilgrimages on the South Coast and were you able to join us in campaigns abroad, in Paris, Valduc, New York?

These are some of the things you might remember, but what about ideas for the future?

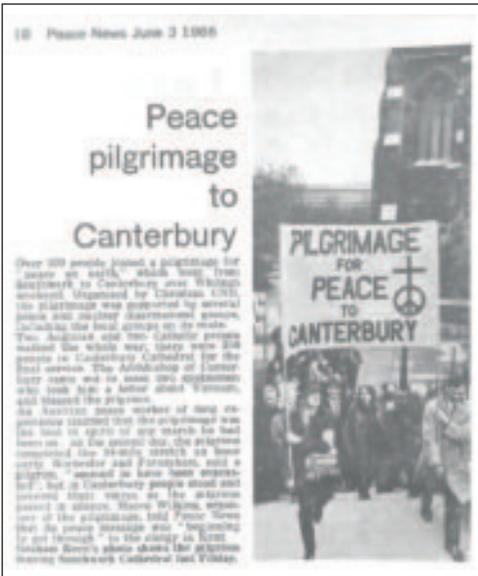
We value what we have done in the past but also hope to go from strength to strength until we are no longer needed!

None of your ideas are too trivial to suggest, or your memories too slight to tell us about.

We hope to make collages, posters and displays to show the depth and range of our organisation.

Thank you all.

*Patricia Pulham*



Above; a news item from *Peace News* in June 1966. You might not have any memorabilia from quite that far back. Or do you?



which all members are welcome.) We still look forward to meeting in person again when we can, of course. Meanwhile spare a thought and prayer for the technology boffins who make all this online wizardry possible – they are among the unsung heroes of this pandemic!

The July Exec meeting was rather overshadowed by the recent death of Caroline Gilbert, reported elsewhere, but the meeting went ahead as we had important matters to discuss. This included the preparations for the 75th anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We also agreed some changes to our constitution which allow for remote voting at the AGM.

Talking of the AGM, we reluctantly took the decision to make it an online-only event this year, as it felt unlikely that many people would be comfortable travelling to a physical meeting as soon as October 3rd. We are all very disappointed not to be visiting our friends in the north-east, but hope to go there instead in 2021.

Once again our meeting took place using Zoom, and for the first time this felt, in some ways, like a benefit rather than a drawback. (The use of this technology has also led to the bi-monthly online prayer meetings to

When Exec met again on Zoom in September most of us were becoming very familiar with the idea of ‘attending’ a meeting by sitting at home in front of a screen. We were encouraged that fifteen people had put their names forward for ten places on next year’s Exec. We wondered if this healthy crop was partly due to this new-found ability to meet in cyber-space when physical travel is impractical.

We discussed ways to enable a wider range of members to get more involved in Christian CND activities which align with their individual passions. We looked at the year-end financial results from Mike, our trusty treasurer. We discussed various ideas for workshops at our AGM Conference. We began and ended the meeting with prayer. All in all we covered a lot of ground during this meeting and everyone contributed.

What more could one ask?!

*Martin Tiller*

It has been our usual practice to include in *Ploughshare*, where possible, an obituary of any member who has died.

So if you are related to a CCND member who has passed away do please send us a few words about them (around 250-

300 words) and a photo would be great.

Meanwhile, please spare a prayer for the following members, and their loved ones, who have died recently:

Coral Hallums, Beryl Lankester, Caroline Gilbert, Tony Forder, Runa Mackay

## Tony Forder 20.09.1925–10.01.2020

With Tony's death we have lost a very dear friend and remarkable campaigner for peace, justice and the community.

Family ties and religious beliefs were the bedrock of his life, underlying everyday activities to make life better for all, especially the underprivileged.

He was our Wallasey CND Chairman these past 30 years, good at approaching local councillors and MPs, both red and blue, writing persuasive letters to Ministers on our behalf.

He believed, too, firmly in local street campaigning, talking face to face with passers by exploring ways to solve problems in non-confrontational ways – ways leading away from violence to reconciliation.

He was a founder member of Wirral Christian CND until it decided to merge with local Peace groups to widen and strengthen their appeal.

When they disbanded they discovered that

they were the longest serving local CCND group in the UK.

Merseyside Peace Council was another local group he joined to spread peace making into the wider community.

Likewise he supported local and international actions like 'One World Week', Refugee action, UN Peace Day (Peace One Day) and through the Labour Party keeping community services running.

With other volunteers he set up a night shelter for rough sleepers, 'The Ark'.

He was a very sociable, kindly man, enjoying our group efforts at local fetes and fairs promoting peace and environmental causes, walking, cycling, selling home grown produce – his marmalade was much in demand – and as you can see from the photo he enjoyed games. Here he is multi-tasking playing Jenga while eating an ice cream. Don't try this yourself! RIP, Tony, We'll miss you so much.



*Janet, Wallasey CND*

## Beryl Rosemary Lankester – Peace Campaigner

April 1946 – July 2020.

Beryl was brought up an Anglican but was always uneasy about its acceptance of the just war concept and apparent acceptance of nuclear weapons as the so-called deterrent. The catalyst came after the 1982 Falklands War when Beryl realised that the nuclear deterrent was in the hands of an irrational administration motivated by the most primitive of human instincts that were clearly incompatible with the possession of nuclear weapons. This initiated the joining of CND and CCND.

During this period Beryl attended demonstrations in London (the great march for peace from the Embankment to Hyde Park where 750,000 people attended), Molesworth Cruise Missile Base (a first strike weapon), Greenham Common, Aldermaston, the Battersea Peace Pagoda and many other anti nuclear demonstrations. Feeling increasingly alienated from the mainstream Christian religion Beryl became a Quaker and in doing so found her natural spiritual home.

In 1985 Lawyers for Nuclear Disarmament organised an international tribunal on the Legality of Nuclear Weapons. One of the speakers was Yoshiatsu Takamura – a member of the Hiroshima Bar Association and campaigning for justice for the Hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivors) and upon the exchange of contact details it was agreed to initiate the exchange of candles between Essex CCND and the anti nuclear movement in Hiroshima.

Since then this exchange has taken place to commemorate and remember the first use of the nuclear weapon every year on the 6th August at numerous venues where the Hiroshima candle was lit, including Brentwood Cathedral, Chelmsford Cathedral, Friends Meeting House, London. All these events were organised by Beryl and in doing so built up an extensive network of anti nuclear campaigners, mainly from a Christian background.

This led to the fortieth commemoration of Hiroshima taking place in Westminster Abbey with Yoshi coming over from Japan to make a presentation on the evils of nuclear weapons and to reinforce the Hibakusha's wish that nuclear weapons must be eradicated worldwide if humanity was to survive. Beryl's mission was to continue to organise this event although in later years failing health meant she could no longer attend CCND demonstrations. Although she put together the peace service at Chelmsford Cathedral this year on the 6th August alas she died of heart and kidney failure on the 12th July aged 74. Fortunately Geraldine Ellis stepped in to finalise the details of the service.

Beryl was never one to take the limelight but worked quietly behind the scenes to keep alive the anti nuclear and peace concept and it is hoped that her legacy will continue as the lasting testament to nearly 40 years of peace campaigning.

*Roger Lankester*

## Helping you share the message of peace

One of Christian CND's objectives is to reach more believers and engage in a discussion around nuclear weapons. We already do this in different ways; online we reach around 50,000 people every month and in normal times we visit various events and festivals to talk to those attending.

Now we want to help equip you to have conversations in a range of settings, from talking to friends and family, to the leaders in your church to groups

of Christians, whatever you feel comfortable with. We've set up an online survey so we can get a better idea of how we can serve you. You can take the survey online at [www.shorturl.at/yCHIK](http://www.shorturl.at/yCHIK)

We're looking to set up a Speaker Network for those interested in giving occasional talks to groups in their locality, with full training and support given. If you'd be interested in more information, get in touch with the office.



You too could end up speaking at a meeting in the UN!  
On the right, CCND and Scottish CND campaigner Janet Fenton. CND chair Dave Webb is second left.  
Photo taken at the Ban Treaty Conference in 2017

## September

**26:** The UN Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons – pray for all those around the world who are working to bring this about.

Pray that more states would sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons so that it can come into force soon.

## October

**3:** The Christian CND Conference and AGM is taking place online – pray for a successful event which will lead to more engagement in our work

**11–18:** Week of Prayer for World Peace with various events and prayers throughout the week.

**24–30:** UN Disarmament Week – pray for all those working not just on nuclear disarmament but for peace and conflict

resolution around the world.

Thank God for the work of Christian CND Exec, staff and members throughout the past year.



## November

**11:** On Armistice Day pray for all those who live in war zones, with the consequences of war or under the threat of war around the world.

Pray for the new Executive Committee as they take up their role following the AGM.

## December

At the start of Advent join us as we pray for peace around the world as we look forward to the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.



Beryl Lankester  
(see obituary, page 19)

**Zoom Prayer Meetings:**

We'll be gathering together every month to pray for our nation and our world. Upcoming dates:

Monday 21 September @ 8pm

Contact [christians@cnduk.org](mailto:christians@cnduk.org) for a Zoom link

**26 September:** The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. A day for public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and to mobilize international efforts towards achieving the common goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. See more at: <http://www.un.org/en/events/nuclearweaponelemination/>

**3 October 2020:**

Christian CND Conference and AGM – taking place **online**. Speakers include Nick Megoran, lecturer in political geography at the University of Newcastle, specialising in geopolitics, religion and the war on terror. Nick is also Co-convenor of the Martin Luther King Peace Committee. For more details see <https://christiancnd.org.uk/conference2020/> or contact us on [christians@cnduk.org](mailto:christians@cnduk.org) 020 7700 4200. It is possible to join a Zoom conference via your phone (though perhaps not ideal).

**7 October:** Musicians for Peace and Disarmament Song recital with James Gilchrist and Roger Vignoles. This will be live streamed. The programme will include works by Mozart and Beethoven, and by English composers Jonathan Dove, Gerald Finzi and Ivor Gurney. Details on how to join online to follow. [info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com) <http://www.mpdconcerts.org/>

**10 October & 18 October:**

Campaigning in the post-virus world: CND Annual General Meeting and Conference. The CND AGM and Policy Conference will take place on Saturday October 10 and, the following weekend, on Sunday October 18 London Region CND will host a public conference of discussion and workshops. All online. <https://cnduk.org/cnd-conference-2020/>

**24–20 October:** UN Disarmament week. The annual observance of Disarmament Week begins on the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, was called for to highlight the danger of the arms race, propagate the need for its cessation and increase public understanding of the urgent tasks of disarmament. and increase public understanding of the urgent tasks of disarmament. <http://www.un.org/en/events/disarmamentweek/>

## Conscientious Objectors' Day

Usually on May 15th ceremonies are held around the UK, but due to the Coronavirus outbreak most ceremonies for 2020 took place online. Events were held by groups around the UK, including in Leicester and Edinburgh.

Instead of the usual ceremony in Tavistock Square in London in front of the Conscientious Objectors' Commemorative Stone, on 15th May 2020 hundreds of people attended the National Online Ceremony. Among them was Donald Saunders, 95, who was a British conscientious objector in World War 2.

Niat Chefena Hailemariam from Network of Eritrean Women spoke about military service in Eritrea, which is compulsory for both men and women. "There are many Eritreans who for

moral or religious reasons have refused to join the military," she told the ceremony. "Their objection has caused them to flee, and some of them have been imprisoned indefinitely for years and years... Many have died and some have developed respiratory and skin disorders... They have friends and family who miss them dearly."

During the event, the actor Michael Mears performed a new piece based on the testimonies of conscientious objectors during World War Two, including British objector Dennis Waters and Austrian objector Franz Jägerstätter. He has also filmed, during lockdown at home, a version of his play *This Evil Thing* on Britain's conscientious objectors in the First World War, which is now available online (see below).

---

## Michael Mears Essential Theatre

Some of you may have been lucky enough to catch Michael Mear's one-man play "This Evil Thing" about conscientious objection during the First World War. Or you may have seen him doing a reading on Conscientious Objectors' Day.

Four dramatic online perspectives on war and nuclear weapons are still available:

The Priest's Tale  
<https://vimeo.com/438259377>

The Mistake film-collage  
[https://youtu.be/QURQZ6WUU\\_g](https://youtu.be/QURQZ6WUU_g)

This Evil Thing  
<https://michaelmears.org/this-evil-thing/>

The Doctor's Tale  
<https://vimeo.com/438273483>



Caroline, when she wasn't campaigning for peace: at home and printmaking (right)

**How to join CCND**

Annual membership subscriptions are:

- Waged, individual: £18 (£22 household)
- Unwaged individual £9, (£12 household)
- Group affiliation: from £20

- 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: £..... Or

Enter your debit/credit card number here: .....  
 And the expiry date: ..... Last three digits on the back of the card: .....  
 Name as it is written on the card: .....  
 Address if different to above: .....  
 Signature: ..... Payment amount: .....

Or

- Please send me a standing order form/Direct Debit Form

Name .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Telephone/email .....

Please return (or photocopy) to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ

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 add me to the email list (approx 2 emails a month)  
 Email: .....