

Ploughshare Plus



News update from Christian CND

November 2020

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

CCND AGM

The Christian CND AGM took place on Zoom on Saturday 3 October with 40 members and supporters gathering to hear the latest in our campaigning and share ideas for the future. We had hoped to visit Newcastle, but current government restrictions meant that wasn't possible, but the positive aspect of being online was to gather so many people from around the country, long-term supporters and those new to our work.

The day started with some inspiration from Bruce Kent, who spoke about the progress made on approaches to nuclear disarmament among the churches, and the urgency with which we need to act. Martin Tiller, who finished his four-year term as Christian CND Co-Chair then ran through some of the highlights of the year and our vision for the future.

Attendees then broke into workshops, which also ran in the afternoon. Topics for discussions were planning for our work in 2021; making linking between nuclear weapons and climate change and bringing nuclear weapons into the mainstream. The workshops came up with many great ideas and these will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting in November.

After lunch we heard from Martin Newell from Christian Climate Action. Martin spoke about his own journey into activism and the role CCA plays in the wider Extinction Rebellion group. There is no doubt that climate change and nuclear weapons are the twin existential threats that humanity faces and that the carbon footprint of the wider military is huge, meaning that peace and disarmament must be part of efforts to decarbonise the economy and society.

During the business section of the AGM the Christian CND Annual Report was presented and the results of the election to the Executive Committee were announced.

Elected to Exec: David Maxwell (Co-Chair)
Alexandria Adamson, Sue Bruno, Rebecca Dillon,
Geraldine Ellis, Michael Gilbert, Michael Pulham, Patricia Pulham, Bridget Tiller, Martin Tiller.

Sue is known to some of us as she served on Exec a few years ago. Alexandria and Bridget are new to Exec. We welcome them, and welcome Sue back. Hopefully we will have a short introduction from our new Exec members in the next issue of Ploughshare.

NUCLEAR BAN TREATY REACHES ITS 50TH RATIFICATION

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has today reached 50 ratifications, meaning that it will enter into legal force on 22 January 2021. Honduras confirmed ratification of the Treaty in New York today after Jamaica and Nauru joined on Friday

The Treaty was agreed by the United Nations in July 2017 after negotiations lasting several months. 122 states voted in favour of the Treaty at the final stage and since then many votes at the United Nations have confirmed the position of the international community in opposing nuclear weapons. The Treaty will ban nuclear weapons on the ground of their humanitarian consequences, in the same way that chemical and biological weapons have previously been banned.

This is a moment of great joy for all of us who have been working for this Treaty for so long. Christian CND is proud to have been part of this global movement through our partnership with the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 for its work on bringing the Treaty about.

Please join us as we thank God for the decision of Jamaica, Nauru and Honduras to join the Treaty and for those campaigners around the world who have been working to bring this moment about.

There will be much more work to do in the future, especially in calling on the UK to engage with the Treaty, along with the other nuclear-armed states, but for now we celebrate the Treaty and give thanks to God.

Sunday 1 November @ 6pm: Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Thanksgiving Service

To celebrate and give thanks, we're gathering on Zoom on Sunday evening for a short service with prayers, singing, readings and some messages from some very special people!

Register now for this free Zoom event –
<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJArdOGurzksEgOw-nYYLUp4D-7fzr1oM-66>

You won't get this copy of Ploughshare Plus on time for this event, for technical reasons this issue was delayed. However there will be a recording on the website so do look out for it!

If you are organising any event, especially online events, do let us know.

8 November: Remembrance Sunday. There will be events around the country, some online, some social distanced physical events. See <https://www.ppu.org.uk/events>

11 November: Remembrance Day. At 11:00, Merseyside CND will be holding the annual Remembrance Day event in St. John's Gardens, Liverpool, which will include a wreath laying and poetry. merseysidecnd@gmail.com

7 December: This year the Pax Christi Advent Peace service will be an online event. Full details will follow soon but there will be music, song, powerful readings, messages for Palestine, and a 'virtual' marketplace afterwards. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/>

17 January: Peace Sunday. Pax Christi will be working on creative new ideas. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/>

From the office

Staff based at the CND headquarters (CND, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, London Region and ourselves) continue to go to the office one at a time but mostly working from home.

If you have placed an order for goods there may be a slight delay in getting them to you. If you order Christmas cards (see the two designs below), I will do my very best to get your order to you in good time, but you will need to place your order early.

I would also like to apologise if you sent a cheque to the office months ago and have only just noticed the money coming out of your account. I recently got hold of some paying in envelopes to post cheques to the bank rather than go there in person, so from now on cheques can be banked within a few weeks of receiving them rather than a few months!

We hope all members are staying safe.

Claire Poyner



Christian CND Zoom Prayer Meetings:

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

Thursday November 12 @ noon

Tuesday November 24 @ 8pm

Tuesday December 8 @ noon

Wednesday December 16 @ 8pm

To join, follow the links on the events page:

<https://christiancnd.org.uk/events/>

CCND goods

Robin Christmas Cards: £2.50 for six.

'Submarine' Christmas Cards: £2.50 for six.

Picasso Greetings Cards: £2.50 for six.

CCND stickers: 10 stickers for 50p, 50 stickers for £2

Legacy leaflet: Free

Churches' pack: Free

T-Shirts: £12 each.

Cotton bags: £4 each. **Mini bags:** £1.50.

Pack of 24 A4 sheets of Interfaith quotations on peace: £1 a pack

Other CCND items available: Church Statements Poster (free), badges (30p), enamel brooches (£1.50), hand-held fans (£2), pens (£1) and a history of CCND (£2.50).

Shop online at: <https://christiancnd.org.uk/shop/>

Or send orders with cheque made out to Christian CND to:

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ

Please include £2 for p&p. for single small items and £4 for larger items (such as t-shirts). Phone the office if you have any queries (Monday and Tuesday mornings) 020 7700 4200, or email

christians@cnduk.org

In these unusual circumstances, please contact the office if you want some items urgently. We *might* be able to get them to you. Otherwise, it will be a wait of several weeks, Covid permitting. Goods will usually be sent by Royal Mail second class post.

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DQ Tel: 020 7700 4200

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