Nuclear Weapons: always immoral, now illegal

New York’s UN building tells the world how it is
Photo: Seth Shelden, ICAN

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From the office

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to an improved 2021, maybe later in the year?

As a reminder; all staff based at the CND headquarters (CND, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, London Region CND and ourselves) are mostly working from home and rarely go to the office. Post has been suspended for the current lockdown so please do not send anything as we won’t see it for weeks. This includes renewals (you may notice there’s no renewal form with this mailing). There may also be a delay in replying to a voicemail message (email is best if you can).

Thank you to all members who have responded to our Annual Appeal. It’s not too late to send a donation if you can, every little helps! You can contribute via the website https://christiancnd.org.uk/christmas2020/ and we do accept cheques too (just hold off until current lockdown ends). We hope all members are staying safe.

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Aaron Humphriss, Martin Tiller and the Editorial team.
Welcome to the first issue of *Ploughshare* for 2021. What a year 2020 was! I’m sure that each and every one of us has felt the impact of 2020 in both big and small ways. The pandemic dominated the headlines and it seemed the world went online. At CCND we had (and continue to have) prayer meetings online, where members joined together to pray for peace and a world free of nuclear weapons.

In 2020 we also saw some significant wins for the fight against nuclear arms and have a lot to celebrate in this new year coming. The UN’s Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was finally ratified, with the 50th state, Honduras, signing on in September. The Treaty became law on 22nd January 2021 and certainly points us in the direction of a world without the threat of nuclear weapons. Isn’t this something to be joyful over?

There is much more coming this year as well. We have lots of events planned to look forward to, including a joint event on Ash Wednesday with Pax Christi. Taking place over Zoom, there will be four stations of reflection. You can register on our website and will receive an information pack with more details.

For now, I want to leave you with a message of hope for the year ahead, especially after a year that has seemed to be hopeless. We may not be able to see each other in person yet, but our joint efforts towards a more peaceful world are working and the fruit of our labour is blossoming. Here’s to hope in 2021!

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*Celebrating the ban*

Photo: ICAN | Aude Catimel, October 2020
Friday 22 January was a day decades in the making; the day nuclear weapons finally became illegal under international law. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, agreed by the United Nations in 2017, has now entered into legal force.

Since the Treaty was negotiated states from every continent have been joining, from Ireland and Austria in Europe to Nigeria and South Africa to the pacific island states of Vanuatu and Niue. The international nature of support for the Treaty was also evident in the celebrations which marked its entry into force.

The first state to see the Treaty become law was Samoa (14 hours ahead of GMT), where the government welcomed the Treaty and urged others to sign. In New Zealand campaigners gathered on the beach while in Australia various actions took place to call on the government to sign the Treaty. In the United States our friend Tim Wallis and others visited sites associated with the nuclear weapons program there to highlight the breach of international law.

Closer to home bells rung out in churches across the UK, including the Peace Bell at Coventry Cathedral and in Leicester Cathedral, while nearly 200 Christians gathered on Zoom for a celebration organised by Christian CND alongside friends in the Network of Christian Peace Organisations.

We heard from the four nations of the UK and our friends in the Bargn Nuri Community in South Korea, who have lived under the threat of nuclear war for many years.

While this was a great chance to pause and celebrate, there is still much work to be done. The day before the Treaty became law the Bishop of Coventry asked the government how it planned to engage. The Minister reiterated opposition and said there would be no engagement.

Rt Revd Dr Martin Fair said that the Treaty is rightly described as a “landmark” because when on a long journey a landmark is a place to stop, rest and take stock before setting off again. So with the refreshing of the celebration comes a greater determination to achieve our final goal of nuclear disarmament in the UK and around the world.

Online petition

We are supporting CND in their petition calling on the UK government to sign the Treaty and cancel Trident replacement. Sign up here: https://christiancnd.org.uk/tpnwpetition/
Catholic Bishops call on UK to ‘forsake its nuclear arsenal’

A joint statement from the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales and Scotland has called on the UK Government to “forsake its nuclear arsenal” and to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which comes into force on Friday 22 January 2021.

The statement quotes from a message from Pope Francis to the UN calling the complete elimination of nuclear weapons a “moral and humanitarian imperative”. It also urges the UK to “strengthen its arms control regulations, tackling the manufacture and sale of other weaponry, which continues to destroy so many lives throughout the world.”

See more at: https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41296

Ash Wednesday 2021

This is the time of year when we are in the midst of planning the commemoration at the MOD in London which is organised together with Pax Christi. So what is happening this year?

To start with, it will be taking place on Zoom, but we are trying to keep it as close to the usual event as possible. Following the familiar format, we will take a virtual pilgrimage around the outside of the MOD, and stop at four stations to think and pray about the different victims of the nuclear weapons programme. So that people can be linked in a practical way, if you register in advance giving us your postal address, we will send you a pack containing some items you can use during this service to link in a physical way with the Liturgy.

Another change is that this year, this will take place at 7pm, so that as many members and friends as possible can take part.

For the latest details and the link, look on our website.

CCND Birthday Conference

The 60th Birthday Conference at Westminster Central Hall (site of the very first UN General Assembly) was of course held over from last year.

We are currently planning the conference to take place this year, but it remains to be seen whether this will be ‘in person’ or virtual. Watch this space!
Despite joining CCND last year, I had not always supported the peace movement. In fact, I was not even a Christian until five years ago. Growing up, I developed a deep interest in both politics and the armed forces. This was partially due to the influence of my grandfather. I have memories of him telling me stories about his time in the Irish Guards as a younger man. It became almost a family tradition to watch the Queen’s Birthday Parade every year with him. He would often point out where he stood on the parade when he was taking part. After my grandfather’s death in 2010, I joined the Army Cadet Force (ACF). I became extremely passionate about it and was convinced that I would eventually join the regular forces. Striving to do the best I could, I quickly progressed through the cadet syllabus and achieved the rank of Colour Sergeant.

In 2015, I left the ACF and became a Catholic. It was during this year that I went to university to study Politics and War Studies at Wolverhampton. During my time at university, I lived in the presbytery of SS Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church which is located just across from the main buildings of the campus. This allowed me to discover more about my faith and establish new friendships within the parish community.

Once I completed my degree, I successfully gained a place on the Faith in Politics internship programme organised by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. This meant that I spent a year working in the Westminster office of a government Minister. During the internship, we also studied for a Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Social Teaching (CST).

It was this study, combined with the time I spent working in Parliament, that made me think again about my political positions on key issues. The strong emphasis that CST places on the importance of promoting peace challenged the views I developed on the use of violence as an Army Cadet. We spent time looking at papal encyclicals such as Saint Pope John XXIII’s Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) that urged for the cessation of the arms race and a ban on nuclear weapons. Published just months after the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, it reminds us that we “are called to identify the causes of violence, injustice and warfare and challenge the systems and structures that sustain and maintain them”. Reading documents such as this inspired me to try and find a way of getting involved.

Towards the end of my time in London, I applied for an internship with the Holy See Mission to the United Nations in New York. I went through a tough selection process during which I submitted my CV, a written assessment and attended a video-call interview. Fortunately, I was offered a place for the September 2019 intake. This was significant as it is one of the busiest times of the year at the UN.

After an intense week of training on writing diplomatic reports, I began to
From the ACF to CCND. Steps along the way

go to meetings at the UN Headquarters. The first major event on the agenda was the annual High-Level Week and General Debate where world leaders gather for meetings and to give an address. During this time, we were joined by His Eminence Pietro Parolin (Cardinal Secretary of State) who represented Pope Francis. I was able to accompany and assist the Secretary of State at meetings such as the Ministerial Conference of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. At the General Debate, I was present for the speeches of the likes of Presidents Donald Trump, Emmanuel Macron and Michael Higgins. In Cardinal Parolin’s address to the General Assembly, he emphasised the need for greater multilateral cooperation to create the conditions necessary for the elimination of nuclear weapons. At the end of the speech, we took the Cardinal on a short tour of the UN building and spent some time outside together overlooking the East River.

Attention then turned to the various committees we were assigned to. Due to my background, I was selected to cover the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) of the UN General Assembly. Sadly, the Committee was suspended not long into its work due to disagreements between the United States and Russia over the US’s refusal to issue of visas for some delegates. Once a resolution to the visa issue had been reached, DISEC went on to discuss a range of topics including nuclear and conventional weapons, outer space, regional security and the international disarmament machinery. In various statements, the Holy See reiterated Pope Francis’ condemnation of the possession and threat of use of nuclear arms. Furthermore, our delegation urged nuclear armed countries to reverse the current downward spiral of arms control and disarmament policies, emphasising the vital and complementary nature of treaties such as the NPT, CTBT and TPNW.

Since I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions on peace and security at the UN, I knew that I wanted to continue being engaged in some way after the internship ended in the December. At the start of 2020, I approached organisations such as CCND and Pax Christi to see how I could get involved. Although the COVID-19 crisis has prevented me from physically meeting with other members, I am very much grateful for how welcome those in the peace community have made me feel. I look forward to getting more involved over the coming months.

Aaron Humphriss
Inside and Outside

Using the lockdown to have a clear out, I came upon an old newsletter from “Chester Women for Peace”, 1987. There was a write up of a report of the CCND AGM from Barbara Eggleston, mentioning our six thousand members and the following poem which I wrote on my return from a short stint in HMP Risley resulting from a protest a BNFL Capenhurst.

Inside the cell, we talk about...
Love.
“A year ago”, said the drug addict, “my friend’s mum died.
“I never told her I loved her” said my friend, “and now it’s too late.”
And I thought about my parents and how much I loved them, and how they’ve stood by me all these years.
“I love you,” I said to my mother. “I love you”, I said to my father. “I love you”, I said to my brother and my sister. At first they thought I was silly, but I kept on saying it and now we all say it. We never go away without saying to the others “I love you” and thanking them for everything they’ve done.”

Our window is guarded three times over –
The small mesh, the heavy metal frame.
And the window panes are made of plastic so you can’t even escape that way.

Inside the cell, we talk about...
Death.
“In one year” said the other woman, “sixteen of my friends died. All in one year.”
“We’re not you afraid,” I said. “No” she said. I wasn’t afraid. You never think it’s going to be you” (and the scars on her arms mocked her, quietly.)
“The doctors say I should be dead by now. My liver, my kidneys should have stopped working. But I’m all right.” (‘Are you?’ whisper the bruises on her legs.)
“I was pregnant once. I was only twenty, I hadn’t been married long.
It was an ectopic pregnancy. I was very ill then. I almost died.
I would have liked a baby. But it’s just as well”...

A soft click as someone checks us through the spy hole.
One clank as the bolt is checked.
One clank as the lock is checked.
In case...
In case having failed to escape through the window,
We break out through the door,
And run down the landing and through the locked gate,
And down the stairs and through the locked gate,
Along the corridor and through the locked gate,
Across the hall and through the locked door,
Across the yard and over the twelve foot fence with barbed wire on top.
Across the bare ground and past the patrolling dogs,
And up the smooth high wall with the number seventeen painted in white on a black circle,
And over the top and away...away...away.
So every hour they check the locks. It’s just as well.

Inside the cell, we talk about...
Life.
“Do you know what I’d really have liked to have done?” said my cell-mate. “I’d really have liked to have gone to college and done community work like your son.”
“It’s not too late”, I said, “If you’ve got the right ‘O’ levels”.
“I’ve got the right ‘O’ levels”, she said, “And ‘A’ levels”.
So we make impossible plans for a life we both know will never happen.
“My husband’s got twenty five years” she said. And she’ll get six? seven?
“Will you keep off drugs” I ask, “when you’re out?”
Perhaps”, she says. “I don’t know. Life’s so dull”.

On top of the wall, above the number seventeen, The harsh- tongued birds sit in a row, And shriek defiance at us in our cage. Along the landing, raised voices. “Shut up, you f- cking c-nts” screams the officer.

Inside the cell, we talk about... War and the bomb and inner city riots and the impossibility of living on the dole.

Outside the window, sour grass, A weed-choked flower bed, The hung heads of autumn.

Along the corridor, Head-hanging, hair hanging, Wearing the short sleeved canvas dress that barely covers her thighs, Bare footed, bare legged, She reaches THAT door. “No, Miss”, she screams, “Not again. Don’t do it again!”
Six officers. Eight officers. Ten officers Take her by the arms and take her by the legs, And push her and crush her and throw her through THAT door. “No, Miss” she screams. “Please, Miss. Please, Miss.”
And she is quiet. And we are quiet. And the rain drips from the hung autumn heads.

Inside the cell, I scrub the floor. My friend watches me, leaning on her broom. “I’ll write”, I say. “You’ll not forget?” “I’ll not forget”.

I’ll not forget. Patricia Pulham
“God made us simple; our complex problems are of our own devising” (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

In the July 2020 Ploughshare Plus, I wrote about Richard Foster’s 1989 spiritual classic, Celebration of Discipline, and how the chapter on solitude could apply to our calling as peacemakers. Now I would like to consider another chapter in that book: the “Discipline of Simplicity”.

In this chapter, Foster writes about our “psychotic” modern desire to possess more and more things, and the power (or illusion of power) which comes with them. He does not mention nuclear weapons, but the principles he sets out are relevant.

Nuclear weapons are not simple: they are technologically complex, but more importantly they require very complex moral gymnastics to justify them. The ‘deterrence argument’, in fact, is not just complex but positively convoluted. (There is a brilliant one-minute ‘explanation’ of it on YouTube at https://youtu.be/pd7ev8UJmDo by the late, great Jeremy Hardy). We are called to a simpler view: “A king is not saved by his great army... The LORD is our help and shield” (Ps 33:16, 20).

Ever since the UK joined the nuclear “club” in 1952, successive governments have been very clear that they see nuclear weapons as a status symbol. This attitude springs from the same root which makes individuals want to accumulate wealth and to show it off to others. Foster describes that as the consequence of a ‘sick society’.

Ironically, the possession of nuclear weapons actually makes us poorer, both morally and in simple material terms; £205bn poorer in the case of the UK’s Trident renewal programme. But this should not surprise us – in God’s economy, those whose attitude to wealth and power is defensive and grasping have always ended up most at risk of losing it! (Prov 11:28; Lk 9:24).

The book of James (ch 4:1-2) makes a link between this love of wealth and the descent into conflict and killing. This is in contrast to the simple trust in God’s provision and protection, which we see so clearly in the Sermon on the Mount.

Foster suggests the following principles for a simple, Godly life. It is easy to see how they can also be applied to our national life, and to the question of being a “nuclear power”:

- Buy things for their usefulness, rather than their status
- Reject anything that is producing an addiction in you
- Refuse to be propagandised by the custodians of modern gadgetry
- Develop a deeper appreciation for the creation
The Discipline of Simplicity

- Obey Jesus’ instruction about plain, honest speech
- Reject anything that breeds the oppression of others
- Shun anything that distracts you from seeking first the kingdom of God.

As anti-nuclear campaigners we need a mature, detailed understanding of the issues at stake, so that we can persuade others and stand our ground. But we sometimes forget the underlying simplicity of our message, that we trust in a God of love, who does not want us to rely on strength to get our own way. Let us follow the discipline of simplicity in every aspect of our interior lives, and make sure that it also flows into our practical work for God’s kingdom.

Martin Tiller

Volunteering with Christian CND

Christian CND relies on our members and supporters getting involved in all aspects of or work. Can you help with any of these tasks? For more information, please contact the Christian CND office – christians@cnduk.org

Fundraising working group
All of our work needs money, and we have always been incredible blessed by the generosity of those who share our vision. In order to ensure our sustainability we need to continue to increase our income, to ensure that we can continue our work for a nuclear weapons-free world. If you have any expertise in fundraising and would be interested in joining a small working group, we’d love to hear from you.

Auditor
We are currently looking for someone with the necessary skills and experience to support our Treasurer and office team by providing auditing services for our accounts. If that could be you, then please get in touch.

Speaker Network
A key way in which we get our message of peace and nuclear disarmament known among Christians is by having conversations in small groups. Christian CND is currently setting up a Speaker Network, which will be made up of people who share our vision and commitment to a nuclear weapons-free world. The Speaker Network will then visit churches, groups and other organisations to give talks and answer questions about nuclear weapons and our work. You can do as much or as little as you are able and full training and resources will be provided to you.

Molesworth Peace Garden
Needed: people to help keep the garden tidy! If you live in the area (Molesworth is near Huntingdon), get in touch!
A world without nuclear weapons will certainly be better, and can be seen as a first step in creating a great future. But first things first, i.e. making the TPNW succeed. Work for that may bring further inspiration.

This is written hoping some readers would like to respond, so that ideas can be shared. (Please don’t think I am versed in theology, it’s only home-spun thought!)

Existence and its purpose. Over several years I have pondered on this ...

“What a risk God took in creating people with free will!” Have you ever heard someone say that? Maybe prompted by the realisation that the Almighty must be self-sufficient, with zero needs.

“So why did he bother to make us anyway, let alone give us free will?” My explanation for having been created is the same as that of others informed by scripture. God is not only infinitely able (“God is Great!”) but is also loving, deeply loving. We have a God of relationship; relationship in the three persons and in the relationship he seeks with us. So very loving, that agony and crucifixion was taken on.

So where does free will come in? I think the answer must be that free will is essential for fully selfless love. It enables crucial choice. One can foolishly choose just to love oneself, or, while respecting oneself as an example of God’s marvellous work, make the correct choice; to love both Him and all the people He has made. (Selfishness is another name for misdirection of free will and cannot produce ultimate happiness.)

But loving all the people? Christians are instructed to love their enemies. There is often a need to work on how to do this, but neglecting it would be a sin of omission.

Since God is the loving father of the human race, prayer and dialogue helps. Busy as one might be, it can be beneficial to make an opportunity each day to make oneself available to Him. It might be in the quiet of the night (a way to exchange this for the annoyance of insomnia?) However this is managed, regular experience of meeting with the very source of love can be transferred into the world, equipping activists to relate well with others, and so assisting change for the better. (Also, fulfilment comes in doing God’s will and creating happiness.)

* May I ask readers two things? As well as comments on the above, it would be very helpful if you could share your ideas on ways to spread knowledge of the TPNW; especially in your locality. Surprisingly (or unsurprisingly) few people so far seem to know about it.

Your contributions can go on the Members’ Page, just like the item there in this issue from Chris Harrison. He gets disarmament news into his church journal.

Michael Pulham
From the Exec

**November 2020**

As the November Exec meeting was the first since our AGM, we welcomed our three new Exec members – Sue Bruno, Bridget Tiller and Alexandria Adamson – into the fold. They bring fresh ideas and a reduction in the average age, which can only be good things!

Sue got stuck straight in by leading our prayers at the beginning of the meeting. We unanimously co-opted Rebecca into the vacant Co-Chair position, to serve alongside David.

We went on to review recent events (both global – the TPNW – and parochial – our AGM) and the good coverage we had in the Christian and general media.

Bridget has brought some new approaches to our use of social media, which is definitely a growth area for us.

We discussed our interactions with the many other parts of the peace movement, and Alexandria introduced us to one which she is particularly passionate about, Peace One Day.

We discussed the importance of engaging, enthusing and equipping our existing membership, together with encouraging further numerical growth – which are really Exec’s key roles.

We are all looking forward to 2021 and praying for more progress towards this most important calling, freeing God’s earth from the threat of nuclear weapons.

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**January 2021**

Exec had our first meetoid* of 2021 on January 8th, while most of us were still working through the leftover mince pies. It was good to see everyone and, as usual, we had plenty to discuss. We reviewed our development strategy, which was first put together in 2017 – it was encouraging to see the areas in which we have progressed, and to discuss the further possibilities which the recent legacy might open up. We did our best to develop our plans for 2021 although some events will depend on how the lockdown rules evolve. We looked forward with excitement to the major events taking place around the TPNW entering into force on January 22nd. As always, we prayed together at the beginning and end of the session. Claire issued the draft minutes within a quarter of an hour of the meeting ending – such efficiency is not to be sniffed at!

*When the pandemic got going, and everyone’s meetings were moving online, I felt we needed a new word to describe meetings where nobody actually met but we saw each other on computer screens. So I coined the term “meetoid” to mean a virtual meeting (from the Greek suffix -oid which means ‘having the form of’). Despite my best efforts it has failed to catch on at all, but perhaps putting it in *Ploughshare* will finally mean it ‘goes viral’.

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:
- Mrs Rosemary Hunt
- Coral Hallums
- Rev Keith Innes
- Alan Wilkie
- Mike Passway

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**Alan Wilkie – 1932-2020**

Alan Wilkie, who has died aged 88, grew up in New Zealand, moving to the UK in 1948. After attending Bristol University, he joined the Nigerian Survey Organisation, mapping the country before independence and it was here he met his first wife, Mary, as he recovered from a bout of malaria. A move to Sudan followed, after he was head hunted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

His final overseas posting was to Mauritius, for surveying and mapping. It was here that Mary became ill and so they returned to Scotland, where Alan joined the Ordnance Survey, particularly enjoying survey work from a helicopter. He refused a promotion that would have moved him to Southampton, as Mary was sick and by that time they had five young children. Instead, he took a job as Personnel Manager in a cash and carry company. Mary died in 1976.

In 1986 Alan was made redundant when the firm was taken over. This left him free to become a key figure in CCND, serving on Council for around 8 years, and it was during this time that he and Maire-Colette met, marrying in 1992.

Alan was a leading and passionate worker, with George Farebrother and Christine Soane, on the World Court Project, helping many people to an understanding of the importance of International Law. This was an early step on the road to the UN Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons, coming into force on 22nd January.

In 1995 he and MC joined the Iona Community, and remained committed to its Rule to work for peace and justice based on the commands of the Gospel. A fellow member recalls “memories of his astonishing commitment to the anti-nuclear cause and the lucidity and passion with which he spoke about it.”

Indeed, Alan lost no opportunity to speak to anyone he encountered about peace and nuclear disarmament: to the police who arrested him; cogently and powerfully in courts of law; and in later years to anyone who came into their house. He must certainly have had the most well-informed carers in Scotland!

He was an enthusiastic member in the early days of Trident Ploughshares and
Alan Wilkie – 1932-2020

a founder member of the Adomnan of Iona affinity group, whose meetings he conducted with characteristic efficiency and organisation. Not afraid to face inconvenience and discomfort, he took part in many actions at Faslane and Coulport and was several times arrested and taken to court, successfully winning his case. On one notable occasion, dressed as Dumbledore (photo below), he joined the affinity group in a “Harry Potter” action, with ‘spells’ to cast out nuclear weapons. (A most effective diversionary tactic!)

For many years he continued to be an activist and campaigner despite suffering increasing ill-health. Eventually housebound, he would, whilst still able, continue to campaign online.

Alan was a warm and generous man with a deep faith that informed everything he did. TP member David Mackenzie writes: “My first memory of Alan is from 1996 or 1997. I arrived late for a Scottish CND AGM...but was in time to join a break-out group on the 1996 ICJ ruling on nuclear weapons, led by him. It was utterly inspirational... He brought a distinctive gravitas to those early TP days, coupled with a graciousness that was genuine to the core, and, from time to time, not a little mischievousness ...the sense of commonality exuded by folk with a religious faith within TP quite won me over. Alan absolutely typified that inclusiveness. He leaves a huge gap.”

Just a few weeks before Alan died, he was so happy to hear the news of the 50th ratification of the TPNW. He and Maire-Collette told each other that now, “we can go out with joy”.

Maire-Collette Wilkie
Mike Passway was born in Montrose on 13 January 1961 and died at his home in Edinburgh on 9 January 2019.

He studied Chemistry at Aberdeen University, and attained three further degrees: a PhD in Organic Chemistry in 1987; an MBA in 1994; and an MSc in Carbon Management in 2010.

His career included positions in the chemical industry in Edinburgh and Upminster, Essex.

Mike participated in many sports; sailing and windsurfing whilst at University, and hillwalking in the Scottish mountains. In Edinburgh, he joined a “non-competitive running and social club” called the “Hash House Harriers”. He loved going on expeditions for running and social events both nationally and internationally with many friends from this club. Mike was also a keen attendee of international rugby matches, and had a great affection for Montrose FC.

Mike had a deep love of music, included classical music and jazz, and attended concerts in London, New Orleans, Dundee, Islay and the annual Edinburgh Jazz festival.

He was a real whisky connoisseur and spent many a happy hour with good friends in the Scotch Malt Whisky Society in Leith.

He supported charities such as “Christians Against Poverty” and the “Bethany Christian Trust” in Edinburgh.
February
Give thanks for the 50 states which signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to bring it into legal force. Pray that more states would join soon, and that the nuclear-armed states would engage.

Pray for the incoming administration in the United States as it begins work on the Iran Nuclear Deal among many other issues.

5 February: Pray for the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (known as New START) which is due to expire today, but diplomats are currently negotiating an extension.

17 February: On Ash Wednesday join us as we pray repentance for the UKs nuclear arsenal and give thanks for the hope of the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

March
Pray for those financial institutions that are reviewing their investment policies on nuclear weapons in light of the Ban Treaty.

Give thanks for all members of the clergy who have supported calls for peace and disarmament.

8 March: On International Women’s Day give thanks for all the great women leaders within the peace and disarmament movement.
**Christian CND Zoom Prayer meetings.**

These take place twice a month, one meeting at noon, another at 8pm on different days. Check the website for dates. https://christiancnd.org.uk/events/

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**Thursday 11 February:** As more campaign organising takes place online, facilitating meetings to help participants meet their objectives in a positive, inclusive way is a vital skill. **Online.** events@caat.org.uk https://caat.org.uk/events/online-facilitation-101/

**17 February:** Ash Wednesday. Check website nearer the time for planned event organised by Pax Christi with CCND.

**Thursday 18 February:** Making decisions online is now an important part of campaigning. But how to ensure everyone contributes, that a real consensus is achieved, and that everyone understands the decision being made? **Online.** events@caat.org.uk https://caat.org.uk/events/

**25 February:** Zero Carbon – Why NOT Nuclear? **Online.** Speakers: Dr Andy Stirling and Dr Phil Johnstone. An opportunity to hear two key researchers from Sussex University speak about their evidence that nuclear power is obsolete in achieving zero-carbon, but exists now purely to underpin military use. The webinar will be chaired by Nikki Clark, from Stop Hinkley campaign. There will be plenty of opportunity for questions. Please send your question in advance, with your name to Caroline Lanyon on email: c.lanyon@btinternet.com – subject ‘Zero Carbon – Why Not Nuclear’ Org by: Salisbury CND. https://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/events/245-nuclear

**Friday 19 March:** In March, CAAT will gather to share skills, deepen our knowledge, make connections and create plans. The arms trade starts here, and so does our resistance. **Online.** events@caat.org.uk https://caat.org.uk/events/it-starts-here/

**17 March:** Attitudes of non-nuclear states to nuclear weapons modernisation programmes. **Online** event to coincide with a report produced by Nuclear Information Service. 11am. Registration and more info www.nuclearinfo.org 0118 327 4935 or 07974 916 954

**23 April:** Candle-lit vigil to mark TPNW entry into force. A socially distanced candle lit walk around the lake in Lister Park Bradford. Join the walk anytime between 8:30 and 9:00pm at the Norman Arch at the bottom of Emm Lane, please stagger your arrival time so you can keep distant from others. Bring a torch or a lantern if you have one. For more information, please contact bradford@cnd.rocks
In Troubled Times

From Chris Harrison of Bristol, who sent us this article he wrote for the Dec/Jan issue of his church journal. Feel free to send in your own contributions.

‘The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness could not overcome it’ (John 1:5)

Our precious nation is facing its worst financial crisis since the Bank of England was first founded in 1694. The only way Chancellor Sunak can balance the books is to cancel the Trident renewal or replacement programme, which will cost £205 billion and set to rise.

The only answer is a national Renewal of prayer and faith. We must put our trust in God, and not in weapons of mass destruction.

It was King George IV who said in his 1939 Christmas Broadcast (quoting Minnie Louise Haskins); “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.”

“It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness”.

It is my prayer that we will all light a candle of Faith, Hope and Love, this Christmas 2020.

To commemorate the TPNW

Ring out, wild bells
Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty night:
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, 1850
# 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: ...

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

Name:  
Address:  
Postcode:  
Telephone/email:  

To help with local campaigning, I agree that my contact details can be passed on to other CCND members. **CCND will never pass members’ details to anyone who is not a CCND member.**

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

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The ‘Isaiah Wall’ opposite the UN in New York

![Isaiah Wall](image-url)