

Ploughshare Plus



News update from Christian CND

April/May 2021

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

UK nuclear warhead stockpile to increase

The government had announced that the UK's stockpile of nuclear warheads is set to increase by more than 40% by the middle of the decade, taking the total number of warheads either deployed on submarines or stored at Coulport to 260. Previous security reviews has set the cap at 180 in the same time-frame.

The announcement was made in the Integrated Review and reverses more than 30 years of gradual reduction in the number of warheads, which had been supported by successive governments. There were also announcements around increased secrecy regarding the number of deployed warheads and other aspects of the nuclear weapons programme including it providing jobs in each of the four UK countries. The circumstances when the UK would consider using nuclear weapons has also been broadened, no longer limited to only a response to a nuclear attack by a state which wasn't a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but potentially now in response to a cyber-attack or similar non-nuclear attack.

An increase in the warhead stockpile is a clear breach of the UK's commitments to disarm under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and has been challenged in Parliament and also by the United Nations Secretary General. Leaders and representatives from seven UK based Christian denominations signed a statement calling on the government to reconsider and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, gave an impassioned speech against the move at a CND online rally.

Christian CND has already held an emergency prayer meeting to oppose the plans and will continue to join others in calling for the government to rethink. There will be more information in the next Ploughshare or you can visit the website – www.christiancnd.org.uk/warheads

Bruce and Valerie award

Congratulations to Bruce Kent and Dr Valerie Flessati who have been awarded the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Cross for Ecumenism, "for exceptional, tireless and lifelong dedication to the Christian ecumenical search for peace, both individually and together."

See more at:

<https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/41953>

Thy Kingdom Come

Every year Christians from around the world come together to pray from Ascension Day to Pentecost as part of the global movement known as Thy Kingdom Come. Christian CND is joining in this year and encouraging all our supporters to pray with us throughout the period of 13th – 23rd May

There is so much to be praying for at the minute, from the proposed increase in the cap of warheads in the UK stockpile to the Iran nuclear deal and the security situation on the Korean Peninsula and around the world. This year has already seen breakthrough with the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, supported by 130 states at the United Nations.

We've put together a Prayer Diary for Thy Kingdom Come which we hope will help fuel your prayers. Christian CND will also be holding some online prayer events including a 24 Prayer Room which will finish at 9am on Pentecost.

You can find more information about Thy Kingdom Come by visiting www.thykingdomcome.global and there is more information on Christian CND's involvement on our website.

Ideas for Warhead Convoy Action

Many of you will remember Barbara Sunderland who was a dedicated nukewatcher, looking out for warhead convoys travelling up the A1 near her.

The proposed increase in warhead numbers will mean more convoys, carrying more weapons, more often, on public roads between Burghfield and Coulport. Have a look at the route map on the Nukewatch website.

We are hoping to contact Churches near the route to remind them of the danger posed by these convoys. All the main denominations have condemned the possession of these immoral weapons. We have ideas for leaflets and even notices or banners where they are requested. Perhaps you can think of more.

We would value your help for addresses and contact details of Churches in the area.

Please get in touch with us if you can help in any way.

See:

<https://www.nukewatch.org.uk/convoys/routes/>

Christian CND Zoom Prayer Meetings:

We'll be gathering together every month to pray for our nation and our world. The next one is on Tuesday 27 April @ noon.

During May we are joining in with the Thy Kingdom Come prayer initiative and will be hosting prayer meetings during that time on Monday 17 May @ noon. & Thursday 20 May @ 8pm.

At the end of the Thy Kingdom Come period we will be hosting a 24 hour prayer room. With larger gatherings at the start and end, someone will be online for the whole 24 hour period to pray, reflect or just have a friendly chat. We'll start at 9am on Saturday 22 May and finish at 9am on Sunday 23 May.

To join, follow the links on the events page:
<https://christiancnd.org.uk/events/>

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. bradford@cnd.rocks

26 April: Chernobyl Day. Bromley Peace Council/CND are holding a socially distanced vigil with posters - **Bromley Market Square** by the Darwin Mural. 12 - 3. Info 020 84601295 anncgarrrett@yahoo.com

15 May: International Conscientious Objectors' Day. Events worldwide. The annual event in Tavistock Square, London, will be online again in 2021, at 4.30pm. See <https://www.ppu.org.uk/international-conscientious-objectors-day>

19 June: 36th Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda. 2pm.

Rev David Platt

We are sad to let you know that Rev. David Platt died on February 4th.

Many of you will know of his unstinting work for peace both in CCND and Oxford CND. He was a past co-Chair of CCND and frequently led liturgies at Aldermaston and Faslane.

The next *Ploughshare* will contain a full obituary reflecting his special place in our work and as a much loved pastor.

Mike Passway — correction

Christian CND member, Mike Passway (obituary, February *Ploughshare*) died in 2020, not 2019.

Pamela Annie Naylor RIP

Pamela was, from her student days, a committed supporter of CND and CCND. She took part in women's activities and demonstrations at Greenham Common and Molesworth. Together we took part in a demonstration at Barrow Dockyard as well as at other venues. Pam was a great encourager of other people, attracting them to the cause of CND and CCND. I am sure that members in our age group will remember Pam.
Canon Frank Naylor

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. I aim to get into the office twice a month.

If you phone, you'll probably get the voicemail, feel free to leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can (but email is better, if you can). If you have placed an order for goods there may be a slight delay in getting them to you. We hope all members are staying safe.

Claire Poyner

CCND goods

Picasso Greetings Cards: £2.50 for six.

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

Legacy leaflet: Free

Churches' pack: Free

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 Christmas cards (£2.50).

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

Also check out our TeeMill store:

<https://christiancndtees.teemill.com/>

Orders by post, send a 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). Contact the office if you have any queries (Monday and Tuesday mornings) 020 7700 4200 ;leave a voicemail message), 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

christians@cnduk.org <https://christiancnd.org.uk/>