

Ploughshare Plus



News update from Christian CND

September 2021

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

AGM

Christian CND will be gathering in Newcastle for our 2021 Conference and AGM on Saturday 2 October, our first in-person meeting for nearly two years. We're delighted that we'll be joined at Jesmond Methodist Church by Dr Nick Megoran, who is a lecturer in Political Geography at Newcastle University specializing in religion and the war on terror and also a Baptist minister. We'll also have the usual mix of workshops, prayers and plenty of chance for discussion and fellowship.

We'll also be streaming the event live for those who are unable to make it to Newcastle, but it will be so good to be able to come together again.

After the success of remoting voting for the Christian CND Exec last year we'll be doing the same again this year, so if you're interested in putting yourself forward for the Exec the deadline is Monday 6 September – members will be getting ballot papers in the post shortly after.

Christian CND AGM 2021
Saturday 2 October – 11am
Jesmond Methodist Church, St Georges Terrace, NE2 2DL
Short walk from Jesmond West Metro
More info: ChristianCND.org.uk/AGM2021

Some of us will be staying the night before at Newcastle's new YHA hostel so you might want to do the same if hostelling's your thing!

CCND Interns

We're delighted to be welcoming two new members to the Christian CND team at the start of September. Thanks to a generous legacy from one of our members, we're able to employ two paid part-time interns to help us engage more churches and reach more Christians with our campaigns.

Liddy Buswell and Simone Ramacci have both been involved in their local churches and different campaigns previously, and we're excited that they will bring new ideas and skills to the Christian CND team.

They'll both be writing in the next issue of Ploughshare to introduce themselves properly but in the meantime please keep them in your prayers as they begin working alongside us.

Nuclear Convoys update

We need more members to look on their computers for the contacts of Churches near the convoy route. Look in the last Ploughshare to see the roads involved. We are not asking you to look out for convoys or stand on the roads. The Nukewatch campaign has done, and is doing all this valuable work.

What we want is a little research so that we can alert the Churches to the dangers posed to their congregations and neighbours by this traffic and reminding them about the statements made by their church leaders pointing out how immoral and dangerous this is. We can only persuade the government to change its policies by a grass roots movement of concern, and church congregations make up a large proportion of voting power.

We do have some offers of help that we are really grateful for, but need lots more. Maybe you could choose a 5 or 10 mile stretch of this route. You don't have to live there, yourself. You can find out contact details for Church Ministers on the web. It would also be useful to have the names of the local papers. Please help if you can.

Send your choice of section to CCND, or ask us to choose one for you, if you prefer.

If you want to know more about these warhead convoys, see:
<https://www.nukewatch.org.uk/convoys/routes/>



Nuclear Warhead Carrier

Report the UK to the UN for breaking international law

CCND is supporting CND's campaign to report the UK government to the United Nations for breaking international law by announcing a great increase in its nuclear capability.



The UK government has announced it will increase the number of nuclear warheads in its arsenal for the first time since the Cold War. A legal opinion commissioned by CND has confirmed this is a breach of international law.

As a signatory to the UN's nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the UK has committed to working towards disarmament. Instead, it is going the other way and getting more nuclear weapons, and during a pandemic no less!

CND is reporting the UK to the President-Designate of the upcoming NPT Review Conference — a significant international summit to monitor progress, or lack thereof, of the treaty.

You can sign up online or download a paper petition on the website: <https://cnduk.org/report-the-uk-to-the-un/> or ring CND on 020 7700 2393.

Read the Legal Opinion in full here: <https://cnduk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CND-legal-opinion-1.pdf>

TPNW support from Faith Groups

CND Cymru is looking for a volunteer to help co-ordinate building support for the TPNW within faith groups: if you are interested in this, please contact brian.jones@phoncoop.coop

The Faith Leaders' Pledge is at: <https://www.cndcymru.org/wp-content/uploads/ICAN-Ffydd-Faith.pdf>

The pledge is based on the Yorkshire CND one which can be seen at: <https://yorkshirecnd.org.uk/campaigns/faith-leaders-peace-pledge/>

There you will also find a template letter to use when contacting your faith leader(s) as well as a list of the clergy who have signed up so far.

DSEI Arms Fair 2021

Every two years, arms companies come to London's Excel Centre in Docklands for a week to display their weapons to buyers from across the world; including repressive regimes.

DSEI (Defence & Security Equipment International) is one of the world's largest arms fairs. It is run by Clarion Events, who are headquartered in London, but who also host 24 other arms fairs around the world (alongside other less bloodthirsty events such as the Baby Show).

DSEI is an important event for the UK state, which heavily subsidises and promotes the arms industry, and helps organise the arms fair. In 2019, the UK invited delegations to DSEI from 67 countries, including countries involved in military conflicts and at war, and on its own list of human rights abusers.

Pax Christi, Quaker Peace & Social Witness and Quaker Roots have been working together to hold a silent, multi faith candle-lit vigil on 13 September. There will also be a training session at Friends House, London, just before the vigil at 2-4pm. See diary on the back page.

There will be a Day of Action on 14 September. Pax Christi members are provisionally planning on meeting at 11am on 14th September at St Anne's Catholic Church, 1 Berwick Road, Custom House, London, E16 3DR (location tbc).

On the same day there will be an online rally at 6.30pm organised by CND, entitled 'Selling Death: why we must stop the arms trade'. With speakers including Rokhsana Fiaz, Mayor of Newham; Cllr Lawrence Brown from Liverpool; and Andrew Feinstein, Director of Shadow World Investigations. <https://cnduk.org/events/>

On 16 September there will be Stop Arming Israel – Stop the Arms Fair! Rally at Royal Victoria Square, London E16. info@palestinecampaign.org or phone 020 7700 6192

Some events, briefings, trainings etc listed here: <https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/events/>



Stop the Arms Fair in 2017

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki

At the start of August Christians around the country joined others in remembering the devastating bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The bombings left hundreds of thousands of people dead and countless more injured and dealing with the consequences. Those who survived the bombing, known as Hibakusha, have been at the forefront of the campaign to eliminate nuclear weapons from the world to ensure that no other city has to suffer such a terrible ordeal.

Despite the continuing Covid-19 situation, commemorations were able to take place around the UK on Friday 6 August and Monday 9 August. Christian CND held its annual Remembrance Service in **Maldon** Quaker Meeting House, which included the lighting of a candle sent from Hiroshima as part of a long-standing relationship initiated by the late Beryl Lankester, who was always keen to mark the dates.

Christian CND Exec Member Martin Tiller joined others in addressing the annual Remembrance Service in **Coventry** Cathedral (<https://tinyurl.com/49z54rv2>) while Patricia and Michael Pulham joined our friends from the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship for their **Zoom Vigil**, which included moving contributions from the Marshall Islands and a reflection from Bishop of Liverpool, Paul Bayes. <https://tinyurl.com/z4shfpys>

Elsewhere a vigil took place in **Dunbar** on August 8, led by the Rev. David Mumford and supported by members of other churches in Dunbar.

The words of Pope Francis were read, calling on humanity to reject war for ever and to ban nuclear weapons and a Friend from East Lothian Quakers read the Quaker peace testimony. Thanks were given for the recent United

Nations Treaty outlawing nuclear weapons and prayers were said that our nation would sign up to the Treaty.

The vigil ended with prayers for peace between countries.

<https://christiancnd.org.uk/2021/08/12/remembering-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-3/>

Remembering Hiroshima in Wimbledon

The group met, as usual, at Rushmere Pond on Wimbledon Common.

Group member William Rhind led the proceedings. The Rev. Alison Judge, a local vicar, read from the Beatitudes - 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' was particularly relevant, and ended with the poem 'Let us be Midwives', by Sadako Kurihara. Kevin O'Brien from Merton & Sutton Trades Council, and himself a former nurse, spoke about the obscene waste of money on Trident, and the increase in nuclear warheads, especially when NHS workers are being offered so little.

Alison Williams read 'Chernobyl' by Fay Roberts, and William Rhind read 'I come and Stand at every Door' by Nazim Hikmet Ran, on behalf of the Chair, Maisie Carter.

The event in **Kingston** started with a vigil with posters from 12 to 1pm at the Bentalls Centre, with Sarah and Tony from MPD (Musicians for Peace and Disarmament). At 8.15 pm an assembly gathered by the river in Canbury Gardens Kingston for a short candlelit commemoration in the presence of the Mayor, Cllr Sushila Abraham, and her husband.

See photos from Wimbledon and Kingston at: <https://www.londoncnd.org/latest>



Commemoration in Hiroshima

Watch the London CND Hiroshima event

The usual Tavistock Square event took place and was streamed live, which you can still see at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LRCND> (you won't need a Facebook account).

The event had speakers Sabrina Francis, Mayor of Camden, Benali Hamdache, Green Party, Carol Turner, London CND co-chair and Jeremy Corbyn MP.

There was also a cultural programme including Rev Nagase, chant and drumming, Hugh Goodacre, songs and Raised Voices, choir.

Christian CND Zoom Prayer Meetings:

We'll be gathering together every month to pray for our nation and our world. Check the website for the next one.

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

2 – 5 September: "Images of God and Nonviolence" Church and Peace Annual General Conference and International Conference. **Online.**
<https://www.church-and-peace.org>

11 September: Oxford CND Benefit with Nick Gill & the Oxford Classic Jazz Band and Caroline, The Musical Saw Lady for this benefit concert. 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, 43 St Giles, **Oxford** OX1 3LW. Tickets £12/£10 concessions. Food and refreshments available. To get a ticket, or for any enquiries, please contact 01865 248357 or email oxfordcnd@phonecoop.coop

Monday 13 September: Arms Fair Vigil 6.30-8pm at the ExCel Centre, **London**, E16 1BY. Organised by Pax Christi and other groups. Info: 020 8203 4884.
<https://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/>

London: An in-person briefing aimed mainly at Quakers but also relevant to others, helping you to prepare for taking action against the DSEI arms fair in London in September (online briefings are also available; please see above). 2-6pm at Friends House 175 Euston Road London, NW1 2BJ. <https://tinyurl.com/4kxs6ye4>

14 September: [https://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/DSEI Day of Action](https://paxchristi.org.uk/news-and-events/events-calendar/DSEI%20Day%20of%20Action). Pax Christi members are provisionally planning on meeting at 11am at

St Anne's Catholic Church, 1 Berwick Road, Custom House, **London**, E16 3DR (location tbc).

Online rally at 6.30pm organised by CND. Info: enquiries@cnduk.org. <https://cnduk.org/events/>

14 – 17 September: DSEI the world's worst arms fair plans to return to the London Docklands in September. Help Stop the Arms Fair organise resistance! Email: resistDSEI@protonmail.com
See more about DSEI here: <https://caat.org.uk/challenges/arms-fairs/dsei/>

26 September: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. CND is marking the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales. For details see <https://cnduk.org/events>
There will be other events around the UK. See <https://cnduk.org/events/>

2 October: CCND Conference and Annual General Meeting. Jesmond Methodist Church, Newcastle upon Tyne - also streamed online. Details on page one, please put the date in your diary!

10 – 17 October: Week of Prayer for World Peace. National UK Gathering on Sunday 10 October.
<https://weekofprayerforworldpeace.co.uk/>

No later than February 2022: Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which has been postponed from Spring 2020. At the moment, we don't know if civil society groups will be able to attend.

CCND goods

Christmas Cards! Robin design £2.50 for six. **Or 'HMS Preposterous'** £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
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 (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 may be a wait of a couple of weeks, Covid permitting. Goods will usually be sent by Royal Mail second class post.