

# Christian CND Annual Report 2022

The past year has seen unique challenges for those working for peace and nuclear disarmament. Everything we have done has been in the shadow of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing threats from Moscow to use nuclear weapons.

As is always the case, the increase in the threat of nuclear weapons being used has increased interest in Christian CND. We have seen more people coming to our website, more people reading our Biblical Case Against Nuclear Weapons briefing and lots of interest in our free workshops, now being delivered by our Outreach Manager Liddy Buswell.

Throughout the year we have been boosted by the unity of the Christian Church in calling for peace in Ukraine. Not only in the UK but around the world, the church has spoken with one voice. Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury have both spoken powerfully about the need for a settlement and end to the suffering.

There have also been sad moments during the year. Our former Co-Chair David Maxwell died in August following an illness. David joined the Christian CND Exec later in his life but during his time with us brought energy and

enthusiasm to the role, including for two years as Co-Chair. David was instrumental in organising our 60th anniversary event, Nuclear Weapons? No Thanks!

We also lost Bruce Kent, a giant of the peace movement. We will all miss Bruce greatly but continue to work for peace in his memory.

Our membership has continued to grow this year, not only numerically but also in taking action for peace. Christian CND members have been active on a range of issues including the war in Ukraine and justice for victims of the UK nuclear tests in the Pacific.

We have continued to work closely with many other organisations throughout the year. Christian CND is proud to continue to work with the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We also continue to value being part of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations and our work with members of the network on a range of projects, including a quilt with text of Article 6 of the NPT. We have also continued to be an active part of the UK Nuclear Weapons Financing Research Group.



Left: The quilt made by NCPO supporters, which shows Article 6 of the NPT. Right: Patricia and Michael Pulham are presented with the Wilson-Hinkes award in Newcastle

After two years of being consigned to online activities due to Covid-19, we have hugely enjoyed being able to get out and about again this year. Our year started in October when Patricia and Michael Pulham were awarding the Wilson-Hinkes Peace Award by the Week of Prayer for World Peace.

In November we held our annual Barbara Eggleston Memorial Lecture in Oxford, where we heard from speakers representing four faith traditions about what peace means to them. In the aftermath of the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan the focus on peace and dialogue between faiths was uplifting.

Also in November Liddy Buswell attending the Methodist Church's 3Gen event for young people, where she delivered a workshop and had a stall talking to young people about peacemaking.

The usual Ash Wednesday witness took place online again this year, giving the chance for people from around the country to connect and take part. We were joined as usual by Pax Christi to go through the stations of the cross and pray for peace, while Christian CND members also joined local witnesses.

Like everyone we were deeply concerned by the reports that American nuclear weapons could be returning to the UK. So in May we travelled to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk to join the demonstration against the move. Before the main demo, which saw hundred of people coming from across the country, we held a short service of prayer and worship alongside the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

In July we had our stall at the National Justice and Peace Network Conference in Swanwick. Michael and Patricia Pulham were joined by Christian CND member Martin Birdseye at the event.

In August we remembered Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days and commemorate the bombings in 1945. As well as the Christian CND service in Essex we joined with our friends at the Anglican Pacifist fellowship for an online remembrance. Exec member Martin Tiller spoke at the even at Coventry Cathedral.

We were also delighted in to welcome our friends from the Bargn Nuri Community back to the UK in August. They last visited just before Covid lockdown in 2020 and their drumming performances in the ruins of Coventry Cathedral and St James's Park in London were awe-inspiring. We look forward to them coming back to the UK again soon!

Throughout the year prayer has underpinned everything we do. Our monthly prayer meetings have continued and have been a great way to enjoy fellowship. During Thy Kingdom Come in May we produced prayer resources and alongside our regular prayer meetings we hosted a 12-hour prayer room which saw many people coming from a range of denominations to join us to pray for peace.

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## Festivals

After two years of postponements it was great to finally be able to get out to Christian festivals again this year. In May the team were at Big Church Day Out in Sussex alongside 40,000 others! We had some great conversations, and even those who didn't share our views were willing to pray for our work.

August Bank Holiday weekend saw the return of the

Greenbelt festival, where we shared a stall with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We had a great reception from those in attendance, with many signing our petition calling for justice for victims of the UK's nuclear tests in the pacific. We also had counters for people to redistribute the £205bn the UK is set to spend on nuclear weapons to more socially productive projects — tackling the climate crisis was the favourite.



Festival pics: Left: The CCND team at BCDO  
Right: the CCND team at Greenbelt,



Left: Talking to visitors at BCDO, messages on the peace board from BCDO; Visitor to the stand at Greenbelt

## CCND Outreach

We have continued to take our message to Christians through the media this year. Our own social media channels continue to reach tens of thousands of people every month and our website sees more than 1000 'hits' per month.

Throughout the year Christian CND has been asked to comment on issues around nuclear weapons by the Christian media. From the invasion of Ukraine and Hiroshima Day to the TPNW meeting in Vienna and the NPT Review Conference. We have also appeared on BBC Radio.

Our own media has continued to be of a high standard and impactful. Our journal Ploughshare and newsheet Ploughshare Plus have been published throughout the year. We have continued to publish our monthly Prayer Diaries and update emails with the latest campaigning, news and prayer points.

Michael and Patricia Pulham have continued to write their regular column for ICN, having the opportunity to raise issues on our agenda. Other Christian CND members have had letters printed in various publications.

Christian CND has always played a keen role in international developments around nuclear weapons. This year once again we attended the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the United Nations in New York.

Executive Committee member Aaron Humphriss did a fantastic job for ten days of engaging with civil society and holding diplomats to account.

A highlight of the year was the First Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which took place in Vienna. Our Co-Chair Bridget Tiller was in attendance and our Outreach Manager Liddy Buswell delivered a workshop to the Youth4TPNW side event. We pray that the TPNW would continue to stigmatise nuclear weapons and contribute to their elimination.



Aaron Humphriss with Elaine Gomez-Whyte of Costa Rica, who chaired the TPNW negotiations, at the NPT Review Conference in New York

Thank you to the following members of the Christian CND Exec who served this year:

Bridget Tiller (Co-Chair), Rebecca Dillon (Co-Chair), Geraldine Ellis, Mike Gilbert (Treasurer), Roger Horne , Aaron Humphriss, Michael Pulham, Patricia Pulham, William Rhind, Bridget Tiller, Martin Tiller

**Staff members:**

Liddy Buswell – Outreach Manager (since Aug 2022),  
Claire Poyner – Office Administrator,  
Simon Ramacci – Intern (until July 2022),  
Russell Whiting – Development Manager

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