

# ploughshare



the journal of Christian CND

January 2004

*Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world*

## **A Happy and Peaceful New Year to all our Members!**



# **Third Treaties Day School Law not War!**

## **at the Oxford Union**

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**Also:**

**Mayors for Peace, Aldermaston, Mutual Defence Agreement  
plus prayer diary, events and news**

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## A Happy and Peaceful New Year to all our readers!

2004 is very important to us, as next year will be 2005 and all the efforts of our Countdown to Disarmament Campaign will come to fruition at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Will the Nuclear Weapon States deliver on their promises on Article VI, 'the elimination of all nuclear arsenals'? Will our efforts make it more likely? Has it been worthwhile? As well as looking forward, we look back.

Certainly we have not achieved nearly what we wanted to, but we are now in a better position to achieve something soon. Without CCND synergy we would not have the new European Initiative on the NPT, this also is still just starting; our Treaties Day Schools and NPT Embassy Walks have been a start in raising consciousness about the importance and meaning for us of the NPT. If only the world would stop while we got on with things! When we started the 'Countdown' campaign in 2000 there was no Afghan War, no 9-11, no Iraq War; what was on everyone's mind was the US Missile Defense development. All that the peace movement predicted would happen with this development has happened. The world is massively more unstable. Two pre-emptive wars have been fought. The resentment of most of the world against the developed world, particularly the United States, is massively increased. The USA is insisting that their people should feel totally secure. to the extent that British airline pilots, hardly a gang of longhaired flower children, are trying to resist US insistence on armed guards on their flights on the grounds of impracticality. Peace and security are not won by arms and ever greater and more sophisticated ones, but by the works of peace, dialogue, mutuality, community, justice, law, treaties.

So we must continue, and do the best we can. We must popularise this alternative world view. And we do. We protest against the evil, see us at the demonstrations against the Iraq War; we join with the NCPO in a service to highlight the evil done to the child soldiers and child victims by the Lord's Liberation Army in Uganda at our Holy Innocents Service, we lobby government, diplomats, the Church, on the law, ethics and treaty obligations to do their part to rid this country and the world of nuclear weapons. We are having considerable success in sending out our Churches Pack, "Nuclear Weapons, what can Christians do?" Join us, (as our banner says on the back; to some confusion, we don't mean join the US) be part of the solution. Happy 2004.

**M**uch media coverage has been given to the great rally on Thursday 20th November which brought out between 125,000 and 200,000 people of all ages onto the streets of central London, ending with the toppling of the statue of President Bush in Trafalgar Square. The march from Malet Street into Trafalgar Square was well organised, colourful and good natured. The message of protest was well made, showing that of all US Presidents in living memory, George W. Bush is the least welcome.

Less well publicised was the silent vigil organised by the Quakers and Pax Christi which took place between 12.30 and 13.30 on the wide pavement opposite St Martin in the Fields. About 450 Christians took part and some of us were there from Christian CND, with

our banner. The vigil was really silent and most impressive.

Later a small group of us joined the main demonstration and on arrival in Trafalgar Square we heard Alex Salmond of the SNP, a couple of Muslim speakers, Bruce Kent and the amazing Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic who we had seen earlier passing in his wheelchair.

Although we saw neither Mr Bush nor Mr Blair, nor they us, I believe this rally helped to show the strength of feeling against the policies which the US Administration has been pursuing on the world stage, supported almost uncritically by the British Government. These policies have undermined the UN, killed and injured many thousands of innocent people and helped to create terrorism rather than defeat it. It has

also become clear that the public was seriously misled about the danger posed by Iraq. Tony Blair's credibility has been badly damaged by all this.

In the midst of such seriousness, I read with amusement that the menu for the grand reception at Buckingham Palace was written in French and that all the wines came from France. Could it possibly be that HM was having a little dig at the honoured guest? Perish the thought!!!

*Bob Russell*



## Bush not welcomed at Molesworth

A short vigil was held at the Joint Analysis Centre Molesworth to protest at Bush's visit. The JAC is a key intelligence centre for the US European Command and probably played a crucial role in the war in Iraq. It seemed a good place to go to let the US know that Bush is not welcome in this country.

We were small in number, 4 adults and 2 children, but were amazed by the impact we had. Inside the fence armed soldiers, MoD police and US military police patrolled up and down. Outside the fence we were joined by a very pleasant MoD policewoman. The gates were closed for the duration of the visit which meant the entire shift change had to travel 2 miles

down the road to go in at an alternative gate. We hadn't intended to blockade the base, but it was very satisfying nonetheless to watch the disruption we caused as the staff had to take a different route. Maximum disruption for minimum effort - we didn't even have to sit in the road!

Later, a smartly dressed woman, who seemed from Public Relations, came to talk to us and agreed to take a note in to the Base Commander, asking him to work for peace, not war.

After the shift change ended, things quietened down and most of the soldiers went back inside. The message that Bush was not welcome at Molesworth had been heard loud and clear.

*Virginia Moffat*

One piece of legislation that wasn't mentioned in the Queen's Speech, although it *will* feature in the 2004 Parliamentary timetable at some stage, is the renewal of the 1958 Agreement For Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes. Often referred to as the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA), it provides the basis for secret collaboration between the United States and Britain on all aspects of nuclear weapons development.

**The MDA enables the US and Britain to “exchange” information and to “transfer materials and equipment” with the objective of improving each other's nuclear weapons “design, development and fabrication capability”.**

The agreement covers development of nuclear doctrines, intelligence sharing, development of “delivery systems” (such as submarines and missiles), information on nuclear research reactors, transfers of nuclear submarine technologies and fuels, and special nuclear materials such as plutonium and highly enriched uranium. Information is exchanged via Joint Working Groups and through a range of visits and exchanges between nuclear weapons laboratory personnel.

In a response on 9 July 2003 to a Parliamentary Question put down by Alan Simpson MP, the Government has informed us that, “discussions are now under way ... on the renewal of the 1958 Agreement For Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes.”

Seemingly, the Government is keen to get the MDA renewed as the recent Defence White Paper indicated that a decision on whether to replace the UK's Trident nuclear weapons system will be required during the next Parliament. Although we are informed that there are no plans to replace the UK's nuclear 'deterrent', the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) Aldermaston has continued to develop its scientific

endeavour and enhance its technical capabilities in readiness for an affirmative decision. It is also understood that the Ministry of Defence and the armaments industry are already lobbying hard for a follow-on to Trident.

British weapons laboratories and shipyards have worked closely with their US counterparts in the research, development and production of Polaris and Trident systems since the 1970s and it is unlikely that a new nuclear weapon system could be produced in the UK without extensive help from the US.

The Bush Administration and the US nuclear weapons laboratories have extensive plans for a new generation of nuclear weapons, including 'bunker busters' and 'mini-nukes'. The proposal is that these weapons could be used in conjunction with US missile defences and high-tech conventional weapons in a strategy of pre-emptive war.

Although the British Government has stated that it has no intention of developing 'mini-nukes', the transatlantic collaboration between the weapons laboratories, provided for under the questionable legitimacy of the MDA, leave that option open for the future.

The Prime Minister says that eliminating the threat of weapons of mass destruction is his top priority. The UK has a legal obligation under the Non-Proliferation Treaty to divest itself of its own WMD - currently 400 thermonuclear warheads.

The **key question** is: Will the Labour Government try to slip the MDA renewal through Parliament in 2004 with as little debate as possible, just as the Conservative Government did in 1994?

Contact your MP now! If you're not sure who your MP is, find out at your local library or contact the CCND office for help.

*Nicola Butler & Nigel Chamberlain (BASIC)*  
*www.basicint.org*

# Important

## *Church of England Synod - 9th - 13th February Westminster*

We will be there with our exhibition, stall and leaflets.

Can you help for an hour or more?

Contact the office as soon as possible

**E**ach year the United Nations Association, in collaboration with Action for UN Renewal and a broad coalition of NGOs, unions and academic institutions, will host the 8th Annual Lobby of Parliament. The event will take place on 16 March, between the hours of 1:30 and 5:30, in the Boothroyd Room at Portcullis House.

The overarching aim of the Lobby is to put the UN at the heart of UK foreign policy. The Lobby operates on the assumption that the global interest and the national interest are intimately related, and that the UN is a cornerstone of a more tolerant and just world. The UK government - as a permanent member of the Security Council and a powerful player in the world arena - has, therefore, a special responsibility to uphold the principles of the UN Charter.

Within this fundamental framework the Lobby will focus on three topical issues. This year's themes are as follows:

1. Appointment of a Cabinet-level minister and a select committee for the UN
2. Empowerment of the developing world by ensuring that developing countries can participate fully in global decision-making
3. Concrete steps to implement the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The event is a unique and effective opportunity to have a voice in UK foreign policy, to listen to high-level speakers from both the governmental and non-governmental community, and to establish productive networks across civil society. The broad objective of the Lobby is to equip participants with the tools to engage their parliamentary representatives on issues relating to the UN; it is hoped that lobbyists will approach their MPs prior to the Lobby or arrange a meeting on the day of the event itself. A Lobby Pack, which will include guidelines for lobbying and detailed briefings on the issues themselves, is available to all upon request.

For more information or to register and order a Lobby Pack, please contact the Lobby Team:

LOBBY 2004  
United Nations  
Association-UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London SW1A 2EL  
(tel) 020 7930 2931  
(e-mail)  
[interns@una-uk.org](mailto:interns@una-uk.org)



Since 2000 we have been working towards the 2005 Review Conference (RevCon), and now RevCon is just a year away. I remember distinctly doing a time-line for an executive meeting; that if what was wanted to shift the 2005 NPT Review Conference into forcing the Nuclear Weapon States, ours included, into implementing Article VI, 'the elimination of all nuclear arsenals' was massive demonstrations in New York and capital cities world wide, now in 2004 we should be chartering planes to fly thousands to New York. Well, we're not just yet, but we're working on it.

If we haven't quite succeeded, we haven't quite failed either. Last year's Iraq War, like the Afghan War before, demonstrates again that the world must be managed another way, as in the title of our Treaties Day School at the Oxford Union, by Law not War.

The Treaties Day School will be a great success. Welcome from the Mayor, expert, interesting and inspiring speakers, workshops, stalls. We are still waiting for confirmation from some speakers; our aim is education for the general public and preparation for action on the NPT over the critical next two years for activists.

#### **Provisional Timetable:**

- 10am Registration, coffee, stalls
- 10.30 Welcome to Oxford from the Mayor
- 10.40 Bruce Kent Chairman's remarks & welcome to the Treaties Day School.
- 10.50 Panel speakers on the NPT; Foreign and Commonwealth Office (to be confirmed) Rebecca Johnson, Acromym, Sian Jones, Aldermaston Women's Peacecampaign, George Farebrother, World Court Project, someone from the Oxford Research Group on China and the Treaty for the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS). Questions & Discussion.
- 1pm Lunch. Soup and Sandwiches £4.
- 2pm Panel speakers and discussion: Clare Prangley, Pax Christi, Stewart Kemp, Nuclear Free Local Authorities, Carol Naughton, CND.
- 3pm Workshops:
  - 1 What shall we do at the NPT?
  - 2 Developments at Aldermaston
  - 3 New European Initiative on the NPT
  - 4 Mayors for Peace
  - 5 PAROS
- 4pm Final Panel and Report back.
- 5pm Close.

We hope to attract students from Oxford and other universities, but also, of course, just ordinary people who would like to combine this event with a bit of tourism. It's a chance to visit an unusual place. Oxford Tourist Information for B&B 01865 726871. Excellent Youth Hostel 0870 770 5970 [oxford@yha.org.uk](mailto:oxford@yha.org.uk) right at the Railway Station, Backpackers' Hostel 100 yards nearer our venue.

There's a chance we might get the mayor interested in Mayors for Peace. It will certainly be very interesting to see the Foreign Office and the Aldermaston Peace Campaign in conversation. The UK government prides itself on the work Aldermaston does on 'Verification', ie being able to tell in prospective weapons inspection whether a weapon is a nuclear weapon or not, and what sort, without breaching the national security of the country being inspected. The British delegation at last year's NPT Preparatory Committee Meeting hosted a presentation given by Aldermaston AWE on their work. Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign monitors the large new developments at Aldermaston, as well as the exchange of scientists between Aldermaston and the US. (See article opposite)

Bruce Kent is rather likely to say something on his little idea just to abolish war; Clare Prangley will say something on the Churches' positions on these issues. PAROS will be interesting for work on National Missile Defence. This links back into the NPT because this was the Chinese sticking point in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. After years of total deadlock a few months ago there was some movement on this. Rebecca Johnson has for years been monitoring the Disarmament negotiations at the UN, she'll tell us where they are at and where we need to push. George Farebrother will tell us to get onto our MEPs so Europe will become a power for peace and the NPT, and Carol Naughton will tell us how to lobby the delegates when we get to the PrepCom this April and the Review Conference next April.

So please, spread the word. We have a slightly different leaflet for schools, please get in touch if you have educational contacts. Put the leaflet up wherever you can, including churches. We are still looking for sponsorship, can you, your Peace Group or your church sponsor this event? Could your group sponsor someone to go to New York? Contact the office to find out how to register.

AWE Aldermaston has been the headquarters of the Atomic Weapons Establishment for more than 50 years. It continues to play a vital role in national defence.

Here, Jean Kaye from Oxford CND gives an outline of recent developments at Aldermaston.

The September issue of Aldermaston Update, issued by Aldermaston Women's Peace Campaign, prints details of new developments at AWE Aldermaston. A new £15 million super computer and a new tritium handling facility are already in place and developments are likely to cost a huge amount over the next ten years.

The Government says that the new developments will enable them to ensure that Trident is safe and reliable and will avoid a return to the physical testing of weapons. But the 1998 Defence Review stated that Britain needs to retain the capacity to develop the next generation of nuclear weapons - a line which continues to be maintained by the Government.

"There are no current plans for any replacement for Trident and no decisions are yet needed. In line with the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, it is our policy to maintain the capability to design and produce a successor weapon should this prove necessary." *Lewis Moonie (Defence Procurement) in response to Parliamentary questions on 11th and 12th June 2003.*

However Paul Rogers, Professor of Peace Studies at Bradford University, comments: "At the very least, they want to build the infrastructure to create a new generation of weapons".

AWPC don't think it will ever be necessary to produce a successor weapon - do you? AWPC wants the plans to be scrapped before a huge amount of money is spent on developing facilities to build indiscriminate

weapons that are clearly illegal under international law. AWE should use their expertise in decommissioning to disassemble Britain's existing Trident warheads and all weapons production facilities.



Aldermaston Gates  
Photo by Ippy

The proposed developments would be in breach of our obligations under Article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty "... to pursue in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament ..."

To underline these concerns AWPC and other groups, including CND, are organising an Easter march on Aldermaston. This will be from London to Aldermaston during the Easter weekend, arriving at Aldermaston on Easter Monday when a variety of activities is being planned. Other feeder

marches are being planned, including one from Oxford organised by Youth and Student CND.

More information about the march can be obtained from the website: <http://www.aldermaston2004.net> or from [info@aldermaston2004.net](mailto:info@aldermaston2004.net) or telephone 07761 212870.

One of the speakers at the Treaties Day School will give further updates on developments at AWE.

More information available from:

Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp(aign):  
phone: 07904 450 307.  
Email: [info@aldermaston.net](mailto:info@aldermaston.net) Web:  
<http://aldermastonwpc.gn.apc.org/>

Nuclear Information Service:  
<http://www.nukeinfo.org.uk/>

The official AWE Aldermaston website:  
<http://www.awe.co.uk/>

**T**he United Reformed Church (URC), to which I belong, recently held the annual conference of its Peace Fellowship in London, and the attendance was better than usual. This was not surprising as the main event was a keynote address by the well known hymn writer Fred Kaan. His theme was "Peacemaking through Worship" and he maintained that with the dangers facing our unstable world - environmental degradation, weapons of mass destruction, the threat of weaponisation of outer space, small arms proliferation, and so on - silence is out of order.

The Christian must speak out challengingly for peace and reconciliation, and this is not easy to do even in church. The words "peace" and "shalom" are used in worship every week and yet they fail to inspire in a way that could help those prayers come true. Rather it is as if "... we prefer to hope that God will intervene from above". Perhaps He will, but Fred Kaan reminded us that people have to beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. God will not do it unaided. "Shalom" is never confined to inner peace of the human soul; it is something people have to experience together in fellowship, in community. Therefore it is our obligation as followers of Jesus Christ to proclaim the good news of God's peace to all, not hug it to ourselves in our tight circles of workshop.

I am sure that what Fred Kaan said - and there was more than I have briefly outlined above - would ring true for us as peace activists in our various churches. So often peace issues are treated as peripheral and those who try to raise them feel like voices in the wilderness. We write our brief piece for the church magazine, we hand out leaflets, we get events announced in the notices and, given half a chance, we will lead prayers or speak at church meetings. It is rare to encounter actual hostility, polite indifference is more usual. But you soon realise that there may be just one or two people per church,

if that, who care deeply about peace issues, and it becomes a lonely and dispiriting journey.

Occasionally we are surprised, such as when a good number of people from the churches supported the great anti-war rally on 15th



February last year to join the million plus crowd demanding that Britain should not go to war against Iraq. The enthusiasm easily wanes, especially as we went to war anyway, but how right we were in questioning the legitimacy, anticipating the consequences and doubting the reasons we were being given.

I would like to suggest a few things from my own experience which may help to keep up our spirits and prevent despair and cynicism setting in as we plod along the lonely road.

1. **The need for prayer:** our regular personal prayers believing that God's will is for the human family to live in peace and harmony; and when possible shared prayers for peace. There are some good books of peace prayers - eg. *Timeless Prayers for Peace* compiled by Geoffrey Duncan (Canterbury Press: £10.99). Just reading them can be quite uplifting.
2. **Meet other peace campaigners** when the opportunity arises. It is good to be reassured that many others share your hopes, concerns and frustrations. Internet contact is good too, but here I have to advise you to do what I say, not what I do. Enid and I still do not have a computer (or a video recorder!).
3. **Do things for peace.** Write letters, join in local and national actions. We have a contribution to make and people are encouraged to know that someone from the church is supporting them. United services for peace such as Peace Sunday, Holocaust Memorial Day, WDC Peace Weekend events are special and need all the support we can give. If nothing like this happens locally, see if something can be set in motion.
4. **Keep informed about peace issues** so that you can stand your ground if you have to. Read widely and scan the web sites (CCND, CND, Pax Christi, CAAT etc). Jot down in a notebook useful information such as bible references to peace, or national expenditure on defence. The CCND office will always help if you ring or fax us.

Lastly and most importantly, always remember the promise of Jesus to those who try to be his disciples and follow where He would lead us: it is that we shall never walk alone, even if at times it seems that way.

Bob Russell

Membership survey

Dear Member,

One of the questions we asked ourselves at a meeting in November was, "Are we giving our current members what they want?" It is possible, you see, for us to forge ahead with various ideas, yet run the risk of forgetting the very people who make the work possible

Let me explain further. We certainly realise how much we need your support, both your prayers and your subscriptions. We thank you for these and for your faithfulness and perseverance down the years. But we must ask you what you would like to see happen and what ideas you may have.

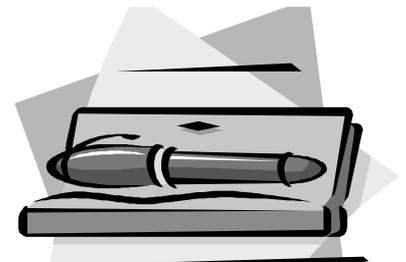
Accordingly, on the right of the page is a request for you to let us know about these things. If there is anything you feel should be taken into account, please answer as



many of the questions as you like and send your replies to us. We look forward to hearing from you.

1. Is the executive giving the current membership what it wants?
2. Are there things we could do which we are not doing? Please give examples.
3. Has the current request for members around the country to help with the distribution of flyers advertising the free Churches Pack called *Nuclear Weapons - What can Christians do?* turned out to be enabling in any way, or otherwise?
4. Would you like to be supplied with some sort of "pack" for general campaigning (containing leaflets etc) or for other purposes?
5. Are there any experiences of success or of the "lonely ploughing of a furrow" you would like to tell us about?
6. Would you like to join a youth section if one was formed?
7. Is there any particular way you would like to help us?

**Please send your replies to: Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ. Thank you!**



**Why not join CCND?** Annual membership subscriptions are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Waged, individual: £12 (£15 household)	Denomination/church position: ..... (Optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged individual £6, (£8 household)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Group affiliation: from £10	
<input type="checkbox"/> I/we wish to be a member of CCND	<input type="checkbox"/> To help with local campaigning, I agree that my contact details can be passed on to other CCND members.
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send a standing order form	
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to CCND) to include the following:	CCND will <b>never</b> pass members' details to anyone who is not a CCND member.
membership: £.....	
donation: £.....	
TOTAL: £.....	
Name.....	
Address.....	Postcode.....
Telephone.....	Email:.....

Please Return form to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ

## New life for Devizes Peace Group

Founded as “Devizes Peace Action Group” to help counter President Reagan’s “limited nuclear war” ideas, the group ran out of steam as the Cold War came to an end. It has been suggested that perhaps the approach was too negative, trying to oppose evil rather than trying to build peace.

Inspired by the great gathering on 15th February 2003, two local Quakers, Robin and Gill Brookes, invited interested people to meet in their home to see what could be done for peace in central Wiltshire.

Fourteen came and there was a general feeling that this time the group should try to have a more positive approach. Information was shared about Sufi speakers at Bath and a well-known Sikh at Swindon called Gindarjit Singh; we were not alone.

By June we felt clear that we should begin peace work with ourselves. It was agreed to explore the possibilities of an Alternative to Violence Project (APV) course. Some wondered if we might be able to help resolve conflicts in our community.

We also realised that we needed to be better informed and started sharing magazines like *Resurgence* and Christian Aid’s Palestine report *Losing Ground*. Those on the internet gave details of a number of sites. An information box was soon filled

with useful material available at our monthly meetings.

Devizes is a small town and we are a small group. About a dozen people from all sorts of backgrounds take part in person and around thirty have asked to receive the newsletter.

The AVP course took place over the weekend of 17-19 October and nine participants learned how to respond to anger - our own and that of others.

We have also seen the video “*Bombies*”, which describes at length how cluster bombs are still being found and dealt with in Laos, 30 years after the Vietnam war. We hope to buy a copy and take it into local schools.

Wearing Devizes Peace Group sashes in the town, we recently collected 550 signatures for the Clear Up Petition; a substantial number supported one member’s attempt to be allowed to have part of his income tax used for peaceful purposes. The rally outside the Magistrates’ Court and the proceedings were widely reported by press, TV and radio. The renewed Devizes Peace Group has made a good start in its first seven months.

*Tony Hale*

Just before publication we had sad news from Devizes. Tony Hale, who wrote the above report, has died. His son, Matthew, has given permission for the article to be used.

When I contacted Tony to ask if he would write about the Devizes Peace Group I was struck by his enthusiasm for it. Our thoughts go out to his family and we ask everyone to remember him and all deceased members in their prayers.



*Michael Pulham*

*If you would like to contact Devizes Peace Group, please phone or write to the Christian CND office and we will pass the contact information along.*

### Condolences

We are very sorry to hear that Christian CND member Rev Islwyn Davies died in September 2003. Rev Davies was a life-long dedicated worker for peace. We send our condolences to his family including his widow Brenda who remains a CCND member.

## Prayer Diary

Each month of the year there is at least one action for peace that deserves our support and prayer.

### January

18th - Peace Sunday. Pray for all who will be publicising the Pope's message "International Law, a Path to Peace".

### February

25th - Ash Wednesday. There will be an Act of Resistance and Prayer at the MOD in Whitehall. Pray at home or come and support with your presence and prayers those who will be taking part in direct action against Trident war preparations.

28th - This Saturday is our Treaties Day School in Oxford. If you cannot come, pray for those who can.

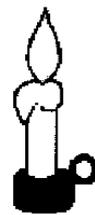
### March

6th - Our Open Council Meeting to which all members are invited. If you cannot come, pray for its success and if you can come, join us in prayer!

### April

9th - 11th - London to Aldermaston Easter March. Pray for the walkers and the organisers! Or come and pray and walk!!

26th - 18th Anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear power station accident. Pray for those still suffering after all these years.



## Holy Innocents : The Forgotten Children of War

This year for the first time, our Holy Innocents Day Service became the responsibility of three members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations - Pax Christi, Christian CND and the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. The service at St Martin in the Fields was planned by a small group of people from all three organisations.

The theme this year was "The Forgotten Children of War in Africa" focussing particularly on the appalling situation in Northern Uganda. Frances Roberts of the International Refugee Trust and Jenny Taylor from the Church Missionary Society were the speakers. Appropriate music was chosen and played by Sue Gilmurray and Tony Kempster (Anglican Pacifist Fellowship) and the singing was lead by Sue, Tony and a trio from CCND!

A collection was taken for the International

Refugee Trust and many of us adjourned for lunch to the wonderful café in the crypt.

At 1pm all assembled outside and processed with banners flying, down Whitehall, to Downing Street to hand in a letter to Tony Blair asking that the British government will play its full parting encouraging other countries to comply with the UN Programme of Action to combat the spread of small arms and press for the international



register of arms brokers proposed by the EU.

At the Innocents Memorial at Westminster Abbey a short service (courtesy of the Pulhams!) was held and at least 48 pieces of rosemary were laid on the Memorial Stone for all innocent children killed in war.

Special thanks are due to Pat Gaffney of Pax Christi who took on the coordination of the Service this year. Christian CND Executive members were seen that day with smiling faces instead of anxious frowns!

## Diary

**30 January - 1 February:** Weekend of Services & Vigils for World Peace. Organised by World Disarmament Campaign. PO Box 28209 Edinburgh EH9 1ZR. Tel/fax 0131 447 4004.

**9 - 13 February:** Church of England Synod, Westminster. Help needed for CCND stall. Contact the office if you can help.

**Wednesday 25 February:** Ash Wednesday, annual liturgy and witness of Repentance and Resistance to nuclear war preparations at the Ministry of Defence, London.

**Saturday 28 February:** Treaties Day School organised by Christian CND and Oxford CND. Chair Bruce Kent, speakers include Rebecca Johnson and Sian Jones. Venue: Oxford Union.

**Saturday 6 March:** Cross-Currents seminar at the London Mennonite Centre: "The Nonviolent Atonement" with prominent American theologian J. Denny Weaver. All are welcome. Contact 020 8340 8775 or [crosscurrents@menno.org.uk](mailto:crosscurrents@menno.org.uk). Booking essential. Cost £20 (£10 unwaged), lunch provided.

**16 March:** 7th Annual UNA Lobby of Parliament. This year's lobby will actively work to ensure that the UN is a key priority for the UK government, and will also be working to get the government to take concrete steps to implement the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Contact UNA on 020 7930 2931.

**Saturday 20 March:** Global Day of Action against war and occupation of Iraq. This is the one-year anniversary of the start of the war on Iraq.

**Sunday 28 March:** MANA Concert for Peace with The Galliard Trio. Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, London N6. Info: 020 8455 1030.

**9 - 12 April:** Aldermaston Marches are back! The march begins with a rally at Trafalgar Square on 9 April, marching through London to Reading, ending up surrounding the Aldermaston base on April 12. Called by Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp, CND, London Region CND, and other local peace groups. Info from any of the organisations involved.

**Thursday 22 April 2004:** This is the date set for Mordechai Vanunu's release from prison. The Campaign to free Vanunu is hoping that many people from around the world will be able to travel to Israel in order to give Mordechai a warm welcome as he walks out of Ashkelon prison as a free man. Phone the campaign on 020 7378 9324 for more information. Other activities planned in the UK.

**Saturday 24 April:** Cross-Currents seminar at the London Mennonite Centre "Challenging our Response to International Conflict" with Cannon Paul Oestreicher, and Deanna Douglas. All are welcome. Contact [crosscurrents@menno.org.uk](mailto:crosscurrents@menno.org.uk) or 020 8340 8775. Booking essential. Cost £20 (£10 unwaged), lunch provided.

**26 April - 9 May :** Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee. Christian CND will be joining the many other NGOs lobbying for the Nuclear Weapons States to abide by their agreements to abandon their nuclear weapons. Contact the office for information on the "Countdown to Disarmament" Campaign and the NPT.

**26 April:** Chernobyl Day. A chance to remember the world's worst nuclear disaster.

**Saturday 8 May:** MANA Concert for Peace with Wissam Boustany, flute and Vanessa Latarche, piano. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn. Info: 020 8455 1030

**Monday 24 May:** Christian CND's Embassies Walk. Join us on an annual walk around the embassies of the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) and the three NWS which haven't signed up to the NPT (Israel, Pakistan and India). The embassies of the New Agenda Coalition are visited as well.

**27 May - 1 June:** Trident Ploughshares Camp at Devonport.

## Regular events

Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, Scotland G84 8NT. Contact: 01436 820 901.

Fylingdales mixed peace camp at Ellerbeck nr main entrance and WoMenwith Hill women's peace camp at Kettlesring lay-by. Info about both camps: 01943 468 593 or 01943 466 825.

**Every Monday:** 5.30-7pm. Vigil outside Foreign Office calling for "Justice not Vengeance". Contact David 020 7607 2302.

**Every Saturday:** 12-2pm. Vigil on Kensington High St. calling for the release of Vanunu. Contact Campaign to Free Vanunu 020 7378 9324.

**2nd full weekend of each month:** Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp. Details: 023 8055 434.

## CCND goods:

**Badges, pens, and window stickers** The large (over 4" in diameter) blue sticker is 50p and the sky-blue badge is 30p. The metal pins are out of stock. The pens are 75p each, or 10 for £6. Please add 20p for p&p.

**Waking the Sleeping Giant: The Story of Christian CND** by Valerie Flessati, Vice-President of Pax Christi.

A5 format, 52 pages, 21 photos, £2.50 plus 40p for first book & 20p for extra books. Order on your coloured membership insert.

**Send orders to:**

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Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357  
Email: [ccnd@gn.apc.org](mailto:ccnd@gn.apc.org)  
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