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From the office

It’s been a very busy time in the Christian CND office. In addition to arranging the AGM and Conference in Bristol, Development Manager Russell Whiting has been working on a new briefing setting out the Biblical case against nuclear weapons. Russell also spoke at an event in Friend’s House on engaging nuclear-armed states in the Ban Treaty and has been planning a revamp of the Christian CND website. The website and social media channels are now updated regularly and is a great way of staying in touch with all the latest news from Christian CND.
Congratulations, Nobel Peace Prize winners!

“But why me?” you say. “What did I do?”

Without people like you, it would never have happened. You are a member of Christian CND. CCND is a partner organisation of ICAN. ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. So, congratulations!

Is this where we all lean back on our laurels and take a deep breath? Not yet. There are a few more things we still need to do, persuading our government to join the 122 nations that signed up (at the time of writing) to the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, for instance.

The other day I was talking to one of our longest serving and most loyal members. She explained that at 92 she was no longer able to go to demonstrations or conferences but she could talk to people who came to the house. Recently, a young man who came to do a job for her said he had never heard of CND. Back in the 1980s that would not have occurred. How do we get the message out to the general population, because until there is change at the grass roots we cannot change policy at the top?

As Christians, we are ideally placed to influence fellow church members, and there are about 5 million regular church-goers in our country. Not a bad start. Many church-leaders have spoken out about nuclear weapons (see pg 5) but they need to know that their ordinary congregations agree.

At the moment, most people in the pews know nothing about the Ban Treaty or the Nobel Prize and little about nuclear weapons and we ordinary church members are the best people to tell them. One person spoken to, one letter, one prayer could help build a ground-swell of opinion that could change our country.

So next year we might be able to say, “Congratulations! Britain has now joined the majority of the world’s states, cancelled Trident, and signed up to the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty!”
This year’s Nobel Peace Prize was presented to ICAN at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on 10 December in recognition of their work “to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and the “ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons”.


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**Faith Leaders Statement in support of Nobel Peace Prize 2017**

On Sunday 10 December the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. Christian CND is a partner organisation of ICAN and has been working closely with the group on the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

Faith groups have been a key part in the success of civil society engaging in the process, and Christian CND is delighted that the following statement has been agreed by UK faith leader:

“We congratulate the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on the award of the Nobel Peace Prize. As people of faith, we seek to build relationships founded on the basis of our common humanity, moral principles and international law. Our world must not remain divided into nations with nuclear weapons and those without. As we are seeing, the tension caused by this division can only increase with likely dreadful consequences for all.

There is a need for creative political leadership to ensure that any attempt to justify the threat of mass destruction in any circumstance is wholly rejected. A world free of nuclear weapons achieved by building on established international norms is a global public good of the highest order. No country or government must allow itself to be left behind. Therefore, we call on the UK government to add its support for
News

Nobel Peace Prize Faiths’ Statement

the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

Christian CND will continue to work within the various church denominations in the UK to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament.

Signatories below
The Most Revd Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool, President of Pax Christi
Bishop William Nolan, Bishop of Galloway, President of Justice and Peace Commission, Scotland
Jamie Cresswell, Director of the Centre for Applied Buddhism, President of the European Buddhist Union
Harun Khan, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain
Bharti Tailor, Vice Chair of Religions for Peace UK
Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge
Jill Baker, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference
Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool
Rt Revd Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union
Robert Harrap, General Director of Soka Gakkai International UK
Rabbi Dr Margaret Jacobi
Sanjay Jagatia, Director Secretary General of Hindu Council UK
Revd Loraine Mellor, President of the Methodist Conference
Shaykh Ibrahim Mogra, Christian Muslim Forum
Revd Gyoro Nagase, Nipponzan Myohoji, The London Peace Pagoda
Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of the Quakers
Revd Paul Rochester, General Secretary of the Free Churches Group
Jehangir Sarosh, OBE, Executive Director of Religions for Peace UK
Rabbi Elizabeth Tikvah Sarah, Rabbi of Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue
Revd Kevin Watson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church
Alan Yates, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church
The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons wins the Nobel Peace Prize 2017 for ICAN


Speakers Caroline Gilbert & David Cullen.

This meeting was arranged at very short notice. The opportunity arose from the APF & FOR exhibition’ Faith and Peace.

The Revd Edmund Newey, welcomed us and started with prayer, mentioning our patron Saint, St Frideswide, whose name means ‘Strong Peace’. I started us off, saying I was from CCND and said my bit about The Ban Treaty, the input from us, Civil Society, nuclear victims, Non Nuclear weapon states, Nuclear Free Zones, the Red Cross, Humanitarian Pledge. Next the video of Australian NW Test Victim Sue Coleman of her speech to the UN at the first lot of negotiations. This shows the long lasting radioactive devastation wrought by UK Nuclear Weapons tests, for the production of NW, even without the catastrophe of their intentional use, on a people uninvolved in the quarrel. Sue spoke of her people’s involvement with their environment, their ‘sacred lands’ now inaccessible. We are the cancer capital of Australia, she said,

Then I introduced the video of the Press Briefing on the award to ICAN by the Chair of the Nobel Prize Committee of Peace Prize. In this video the questions from the press rehearse all the nuclear weapon issues; and the Chairwoman was beautifully concise and clear. On whether the Ban Treaty(TPNW) would have any actual effect, or was just wishful thinking... the line the UK, France & the USA are promoting, she briskly disagreed, ‘I disagree’ she said and quoted the Chemical, Biological, Landmines treaty, all the nations had to come round in the end. The Ban treaty has turned a moral corner. The video made it clear that we, Civil Society, as part of ICAN, are part of ICAN winning the Nobel Peace Prize, which we have, and we should celebrate, which we did. She quoted the citation, ‘ICAN’s exemplary work with Civil Society’ that’s us.

Then at last we got to David Cullen going into it in more detail. Everyone had a copy of our Treaties (they were also useful at the Harpenden and the Interfaith Meeting) so they could follow him. Nuclear weapons manufacture, storage, use, are banned; but only if you sign, so that what we must work towards, getting our government to sign the Ban Treaty, rather a long job I fear.

This is dialogue, a part of peace making. We closed with prayer & thanks all round, i.e. he thanked us, I thanked him and Christ Church; really they did us proud, event on the Christ Church website, in the service notices for the month beforehand, technical assistance, table with big Citizens’ Charter, CCND material, Treaties.
Christian CND was pleased to be able to co-sponsor a meeting, chaired by Bruce Kent, on bringing the nuclear-armed states into the Ban Treaty earlier this month. ICAN is pressing for the Treaty to come into force within the next 1000 days, so there is no time to waste!

CND General Secretary Kate Hudson set out the current political context at Westminster, where the UK Government continues to oppose the Treaty and says it will not sign up. Janet Fenton from Scottish CND contrasted the situation at Holyrood, where a majority of MSPs are supporting the Ban Treaty and the Scottish Government is supportive. An international rally at Faslane in September.

Rebecca Johnson of ICAN spoke of her pride at the award of the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of all campaigners.

While acknowledging the difficult position in the UK at present, Rebecca recalled that in the past few thought it would be possible to agree a Treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Tim Wallis gave a perspective from the US, where no politician has come out in support of the Treaty. Tim did report that there are the beginnings of grass roots efforts to campaign, including consumer boycotts like the successful ones from the 1980s.

Christian CND Development Manager Russell Whiting spoke about the urgency to engage Christians in this campaign. There should be no bigger issue than weapons threatening the existence of God’s creation. Russell finished by reminding the audience that Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, and the best way to prepare for peace is to get rid of nuclear weapons.

The meeting ended with a call for supporters of the Ban Treaty to mobilise in any way possible. It is important that the strength of feeling in support of the Treaty is made clear to our Government and companies involved in nuclear weapons. Christian CND will be working closely with colleagues to play our part in these efforts throughout the coming year.
The 2017 Christian CND AGM and ‘Bring on the Ban’ Conference took place in the spectacular setting of St Mary Redcliffe Church in the centre of Bristol. Once described by Queen Elizabeth I as “the fairest, goodliest, and most famous parish church in England” it certainly lived up to that billing for our visit last November.

Christian CND members and supporters travelled from Cornwall, Birmingham, Wales and elsewhere to take part in the day, making it one of the best-attended AGMs for some time despite the cold, snowy weather.

The day started with a welcome by Revd Dan Tyndall, Vicar of St Mary Redcliffe who said how pleased the church was to be hosting our meeting. Revd Tyndall gave us a fascinating potted history of the church and their plans for the future. He also brought us an encouraging and challenging message about the weight of responsibility of working for peace, quoting from Jesus’ teachings in the Gospels. Revd Tyndall also prayed for the future work of Christian CND and for peaceful solutions to the world’s current crises including in North Korea.

The Conference section of the day was started by David Cullen from the Nuclear Information Service. David spoke through the main provisions in the Nuclear Ban Treaty and the implications the Treaty could have for the UK. He highlighted the fact that this is the first Treaty in the humanitarian tradition to tackle a weapon of mass-destruction. He also highlighted the responsibility that has been placed on states that have previously tested nuclear weapons to clean up the environment they have damaged. It was also noted that the UK (or any other nuclear-armed state) would be able to sign up to the Treaty without having to disarm immediately, entering instead into multi-lateral negotiations about how they would take forward disarmament in the future. A lively discussion followed on some aspects of the Treaty that haven’t received as much attention, including the impact of nuclear weapons on women and girls. Attendees were able to follow the discussion with their own print-out of the Treaty.

We then heard from Christian CND Co-Chair Martin Birdseye who briefed the meeting on the recent Nuclear Disarmament Conference held at the Vatican. Martin drew attention to an excellent contribution
from Robert McElroy, the Bishop of San Diego on the role of the church on the journey to a nuclear-free future. The delegates at the Conference, including UK campaigners, were given an audience with the Pope during the Conference, which saw the Catholic position on nuclear weapons altered from a Cold War position of being in favour of limited deterrence in order to keep the wider peace to finding no justification for continuing their upkeep. Pax Christi have pledged to build on the momentum of the Conference and of course Christian CND will work closely with them, especially to encourage engagement from the UK. Those in attendance welcomed the strength of the statement from the Pope and his leadership on this issue. It was noted that it’s helpful when talking with other church leaders that the example of the Pope can be cited.

The final speaker was Hannah Tweddell, Chair of Bristol CND. Hannah spoke about the work Bristol CND is doing in partnership with other groups, focussing on the cost of Trident and raising public awareness of the Ban Treaty. She reported that good relationships had been build with some of the local MPs through members attending surgeries and writing letters and that relationships continued to develop. Bristol CND has also taken part in a number of public awareness actions, including a vigil in the city centre on the day of the vote on Trident Replacement and their were plans to commemorate the awarding of the Nobel Peace Price, shortly after the AGM. It was clear from Hannah’s report that Christian CND can learn a lot from the campaigning efforts of CND local groups, and this will be explored in the coming year.

The afternoon workshop included an interesting discussion about how to get the message of the Ban Treaty into the churches of the UK and how awareness can be raised. Ideas included a new briefing setting out the Biblical basis for campaigning against nuclear weapons and a new petition, modifying the Citizens Treaty, which CCND members
and supporters will be able to use in their own churches. The completed petitions would then be handed in to the Foreign Office. The Executive Committee is currently considering these ideas and others, and more information will be available in the coming weeks. Do keep an eye on the Christian CND website and social media, as well as future copies of *Ploughshare* for the latest updates.

Our day in Bristol finished with the AGM. As well as being presented with an Annual Report highlighting many of the campaigning efforts of the year, the Treasurer’s report was also given to the meeting. Both are enclosed with this copy of Ploughshare. The existing nine members of the Executive Committee were re-elected for a further year, they are: Neil Berry, Martin Birdseye, Geraldine Ellis, Kelvin Gascoigne, Caroline Gilbert, Mike Gilbert, Michael Pulham, Patricia Pulham and Martin Tiller. Neil will continue in his position as Treasurer and Martin Birdseye and Martin Tiller were successfully re-elected for a further year as Co-Chairs.
Christian CND members and supporters were among those taking part in the ‘No Faith in War’ day at the protests against the DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) Arms Fair in London on Tuesday 5 September.

Activists highlighted the immorality of selling weaponry, using placards to share the message of peace found in the Bible.

The arms sales from DSEI will inevitably cause death and suffering to civilians in conflicts around the world. Christian CND believes that these sales are immoral, against the teaching of the Bible and calls for diplomatic solutions to be sought across the world.
WE MUST DO NO LESS

Highlights of Bishop Robert W. McElroy’s contribution to the Vatican Conference on Perspectives for a World Free From Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament

The Church proclaims that the promotion of peace is an integral element of Christ’s ministry of redemption in the life of the world. Thus any engagement of the Church in the central issues of nuclear arms which confront us in the current age must ultimately proceed from a commitment to conversion and grace which is equally rooted in the reality of the human condition, the substantive notion of peace which Christ holds out to us, and the dignity and solidarity which all of us share as children on the one God.

Such a search for redemptive action in the world must recognize fully the complex and daunting realities of international conflict, the power and prevalence of nuclear weapons, and the fundamental layers of inequality and historical oppression which underlie the seething animosities that infect the hearts of men and women.

But the work of the Church can never be rooted principally in these realities, any more than the redemptive ministry of Christ himself was rooted in the sinfulness and failing of the human family. The ministry of the Church in the promotion of peace must at its core be one of conversion to new ways of thinking in the hearts of individuals and the international system.

In approaching the issues posed by nuclear weapons in the present moment, the Church must foster three dimensions of conversion in the world: a conversion from the prison of isolated national interests to the perspective of an integrated international common good; a conversion from the illusion of safety in nuclear strength to the reality of nuclear instability and proliferation; and a conversion from the reliance on weapons of war to the construction of weapons of peace. Each of these three conversions must be for the Church both an internal challenge and an external witness.

A Conversion to the International Common Good

The problem of nuclear weapons today is to a great degree a result of limited perspectives of national interests which over the past fifty years have destroyed the original trajectory of the arms control regime that sought to make universal nuclear disarmament feasible. In short, the current nuclear crisis reflects the failure of nations to embrace an ethic of the universal common good in the very issue area where such an ethic was most cogent and most necessary.

Our conversion to the universal common good requires the recognition that the future of our world depends upon the willingness of all nations – especially the most powerful – to view their own
national common good as interwoven in a mutually reinforcing pattern oriented toward the good of humanity as a whole.

Pope Francis spoke to this reality in his Message to the 2014 Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons: “Nuclear weapons are a global problem affecting all nations and impacting future generations and the planet that is our home. A global ethic is needed if we are to reduce the nuclear threat and work towards nuclear disarmament. Now, more than ever, technological, social and political interdependence urgently calls for an ethic of solidarity in the spirit of Pope John Paul II, which encourages people to work together for a more secure world, and a future that is increasingly rooted in moral values and responsibility on a global scale.”

The Chilling Reality of Nuclear Arsenal

If the conversion to an ethic of the universal common good is the first foundation for progress in addressing the spectre of nuclear arms, revealing clearly the chilling reality of the nuclear threat in the present moment is the second foundation. The Church must promote a conversion from the illusion that safety lies in the possession of nuclear weapons to the recognition that nuclear weapons constitute an increasingly destabilizing threat to humanity. The Church’s fundamental goal in this transformation is to dispel the complacency that currently subverts and paralyzes international efforts at nuclear arms reductions, a complacency based upon denial and the false assumption that the logic of nuclear deterrence and proliferation has not fundamentally changed in the past fifty years.

The Holy See’s Intervention at the 2014 United Nations Disarmament Conference powerfully unmasked the illusory nature of the current nuclear regime: “Rather than providing security, as the defenders of nuclear deterrence contend, reliance on the strategy of nuclear deterrence has created a less secure world. In a multi-polar world, the concept of nuclear deterrence works less as a stabilizing force and more as an incentive for countries to break out of the non-proliferation regime and develop nuclear arsenals of their own.”

Taken together, the changes in the nuclear world order which have followed the end of the Cold War have systematically destroyed the foundations for an enduring ethic of deterrence.
The resistance of the dominant nuclear powers to further substantial reductions in their nuclear arsenals has signalled to the community of nations that the commitment to end nuclear weapons in the world has been effectively abandoned. The toleration of newly emerging nuclear powers, sometimes for geo-political reasons, betrays the commitment to stop proliferation and constitutes a double standard which undermines unity and progress. Major nuclear threats lie in the action of regional powers, and even more chillingly in the actions of terrorists and insurgents with aspirations for global violence.

The Church’s role in witnessing to the peril that lies in the current course of nuclear proliferation can be a critical antidote to nationalist and militarist assertions that security and peace in any meaningful sense can be obtained through the possession of nuclear weapons. But for that witness to be effective, it must reach deeply into the Catholic community at its roots, and speak with particular prophetic power and certitude to the great nuclear powers which are on the cusp of modernization programs that will dramatically intensify the trajectory toward proliferation, and ultimately confrontation.

**A Conversion from the Logic of War to the Logic of Peace**

The final avenue through which the Church can contribute to the solution of the nuclear dilemma in the present moment is by propelling the conversion from the logic of war to the logic of peace. As followers of Jesus Christ we are caught in powerful cross-currents whenever we approach questions of war and peace. We recognize that on the most fundamental level, any recourse to war is incompatible with the Gospel of the Lord who taught us to see in every man and women our sister or brother in Christ. Yet we also know that evil exists in the world, both in the hearts of men and in the structures that human sin has created, and that at times evil cannot be opposed effectively without the recourse to violence.

The Church is in the midst of a fundamental reappraisal of how to balance the Christian obligation to non-violence with the need to resist evil in the world. The traditional norms of just war, particularly in the jus ad bellum, increasingly appear to be incapable of effectively constraining violence in the modern world. The power of non-violence, once relegated to the category of romantic idealism, has emerged as a potent force for social transformation and the building of lasting peace.

The Church must be a voice in the world constantly pointing humanity toward the path of non-violence and the logic of peace. Too often, we acquiesce in the tolerance of weapons, threats and war, concluding that the logic of war can at least hold evil at bay. But ultimately, it is the logic of war which, once unleashed, invites evil into the core of our world, our nation, our hearts.
As Pope Francis underscored in his 2017 World Day of Peace Message, to be true disciples of Jesus Christ in the present moment includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence. “Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart, for ‘it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come….Christ’s message in this regard offers a radically positive approach.”

This radically positive approach demands that we change the default position in our reasoning about war from acquiescence in the patterns and structures of violence to an active and persistent engagement with strategies of peace. Part of that engagement must be a radical dedication by the Church to bring the poor and the marginalized into the very heart of the international debate on war and peace. For it is the poor and the marginalized who suffer most greatly from the theft which the arms trade constitutes, it is they who endure the greatest cruelty in the midst of war, and it is they, because of their radical dependence, who may have a unique capacity to convey to us who live in comfort that on the issue of nuclear weapons, we all stand in radical dependence and vulnerability.

In 2008 Pope Benedict, surveying the nuclear landscape in the world, lamented that an ethic of complacency and even a toleration of limited nuclear expansion had become inextricably intertwined with the ethic of deterrence, and that as a result the possession of nuclear weapons was increasingly becoming a sign of great power status, a temptation for newly emerging powers to defend their interests and their peoples, and a spur to modernization.

“In difficult times such as these”, Pope Benedict wrote, “it is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of nuclear arms. At a time when the process of nuclear non-proliferation is at a standstill, I feel bound to entreat those in authority to resume with greater determination negotiations for a progressive and mutually agreed dismantling of existing nuclear weapons. In renewing this appeal, I know that I am echoing the desire of all those concerned for the future of humanity.”

For the Church to contribute meaningfully to the attainment of such a dismantling, it must help both the Catholic community and the nations of the world to engage in new forms of thinking: a conversion to an ethic of the universal common good, a conversion to the chilling reality that nuclear arsenals undermine rather than secure peace, and a conversion to building strategies of peace in recognition that the strategies of war are bankrupt and destructive. Pacem In Terris was monumentally important because it called the world to new ways of thinking. The Church at this pivotal moment must do no less.
Looking ahead

Church of England Synod London

5 – 10 February. We are organising a fringe meeting for Synod members on 10 February, hosted by Bishop Stephen Cotrell. We will also be leafleting outside, if you can help with this please do get in touch.

Ash Wednesday

An opportunity to witness in public our shame at the UK’s nuclear arsenal.
14 February, 3pm at Victoria Embankment Gardens London. Any queries: Pax Christi, 020 8203 4884 info@paxchristi.org.uk

Embassy Walk 2018

Date not fixed yet but it will be mid-March and details will be on the website and in the next Ploughshare Plus.

Easter Sunday

Events planned at Aldermaston to commemorate CND’s 60th Anniversary. CCND will host a vigil at noon. More details later.

PrepCom in Vienna

Starts 1 May, CCND hope to have a presence there, ‘resulting from the Embassy Walk.

Church of England Synod York

6 – 10 July. We hope to have a presence here, too. Look out for details, and do come along if you are in the area!

Greenbelt Festival

24 – 27 August. Not decided yet, but we do hope to have some input. Get in touch if you are planning on going and want to help out.

Look out for us at other church events! If you know of any event which might welcome a Christian CND presence (or need a CCND presence!), let us know.

New petition on the Ban Treaty

You will find enclosed with this issue of Ploughshare an A4 petition on the Treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Please use this in your church or other Christian gathering to share the good news that the UN has banned nuclear weapons.

One side is left blank for people to add a message in support of the Ban Treaty, with the petition on the reverse. Please complete and return to the Christian CND office. Why not also get a group to pose for a picture!
Shortly before the millennium, Nancy Zook, from the United States Brethren Volunteer Service, was working for us. She now lives in Bristol with her husband and two daughters. Desmond Tutu sent her the letter below in support of Christian CND.

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Office of the Chairperson
P O Box 3162
Cape Town 8000
Phone: +27 21 24 5161
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19 May 1998

FAX: 0944 171 700 2357

Ms Nancy Zook:
Christian CND
161 Holloway Road
London
ENGLAND N7 8DO

Dear Ms Zook:

Thank you for your letter of 21 April.

I am most willing to endorse the ABOLITION 2000 STATEMENT and to support the campaign calling on governments to commit the world to the permanent elimination of nuclear weapons.

As you so rightly suggest, in South Africa we overcame apartheid relatively peacefully, this gives us confidence that all that is required to establish a nuclear free world is the will to make it happen. We can do it, I believe we are on the winning side.

God bless you.
Yours sincerely

The Most Rev'd D M Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus

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The Most Rev'd D M Tutu
Archbishop Emeritus
Albert Schweitzer, a famous musician and philosopher, qualified as a medical doctor so that he could give his life to providing practical medical help to people in Africa. He founded a hospital and leper colony in Central Africa and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952. In his time he was an inspiration to people all over the world; this book is a timely reminder of him.

The somewhat enigmatic title is actually a precise evocation of the book. Patricia Morris is a psychoanalytic psychotherapist, and it shows, in this brief analysis of the good doctor and his eventful life. The characters are very human and portrayed sometimes in what seems like a hard light, so you may feel disappointed if you are hoping for a hagiography or even just a feel-good story.

But the story is about how hard it is to do good and not just to be good. The obvious natural goodness, of a man wanting to do good, is understated; while the struggles he had, the compromises that were necessary and the cynical obstruction he encountered when eventually his name itself might have been enough to enhance his speaking truth to power, are documented from a wide base.

Christian CND campaigners will find these aspects of Schweitzer’s life to be surprisingly relevant to their work. A man with a profound and ultimately prophetic view of the world could not in the end maintain an apolitical stance. From his overwhelming “reverence for life” he felt compelled to condemn nuclear weapons and to engage with this and some other issues on a world stage.

We can also recognise the motivation of those who sought to involve him; it is identical our own when we beg the “teachers” to teach. Here was a voice of globally-recognised truth and goodness that confronted the most powerful political, military and economic forces on the planet.

What did they do? In the USA they prevented the broadcast of his Oslo speeches — speeches that were published and re-broadcast in 50 other countries. And they tried not so much to argue with what he said but to undermine his credibility. Morris cites this as the reason for his much diminished profile, then and now.

Though this all seems like bad news we can see the whole process, in the light of history, as an enduring step forward in building the logical and moral case against nuclear weapons. And if our job also is prophesy, then this book is not just an encouragement but also an elemental and tangible part of the story towards nuclear weapons abolition.

Martin Birdseye
We went to hear this choral work by Karl Jenkins in Birmingham recently. I knew a little of Jenkins’ music but had not heard “The Armed Man” before; being involved with the peace movement I thought it sounded interesting.

It was more than “interesting”, it was a powerfully moving evening out and an amazing musical experience. The work combines the text of the traditional Latin Mass with settings of poems about war and peace dating from the 6th century BC to modern times. Starting with a traditional medieval sense of the glories of the “armed man”, the mood rapidly darkens, like violence spiralling out of control. At the centre-piece of the work is a depiction of the bombing of Hiroshima, with music which rips the air apart, and words written by Japanese poet Togi Sankichi, who was present when the bomb was dropped and survived a few years after it before dying of leukaemia.

After this trauma the music gradually takes a more optimistic tone. The words of the Agnus Dei remind us that Christ came to take away all of our sins, even the most destructive ones. A poem by Tennyson is quoted, with tubular bells aplenty:

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.

And the work ends with the promise of Revelation 21, that God shall wipe away all tears, and there shall be no more death. The final words are simply, “Praise the Lord”.

What an emotional roller-coaster of an evening! If you have not come across this piece of music I suggest that you seek it out. For me it sums up what Christian CND is all about. Everybody should be horrified by the “thousand wars of old”, and nuclear weapons in particular are a cause for fear and pessimism about the depths mankind can sink to. But as Christians we don’t stop there. Because of Jesus, the Lamb of God, we have something else to say, which goes beyond these negative reactions. We believe that, however dark mankind’s warlike nature may be, God’s love is stronger, and it will prevail — and so we have reason for hope, even for joy. Our Christian faith is very relevant to the discussions about disarmament, because it powerfully combines a rejection of evil with an uplifting hymn of hope. I believe that this combination can, quite literally, change the course of history. Praise the Lord.

Martin Tiller, 22 Oct 2017
Ray Stagles, who died on December 28th 2016 at the age of 95 years, was a long-standing supporter of Christian CND.

A life-long Baptist, his Christian principles led him to campaign against the use of military weapons to solve social and political differences.

In the 1940s he studied in English at University College, London (evacuated to Aberystwyth) where he met his first wife Joan. There he became a conscientious objector.

On graduating, he worked in Student Movement House in the city of London but later he joined the Royal Navy, having become persuaded that sometimes Christians had to fight against demonic regimes.

Later he trained and served as an English teacher, becoming Head of Coalbrookdale grammar school. In 1965 he was appointed Head of Bulmershe School in Woodley, Reading.

He had a wide range of interests including literature, music and travel. He and Joan, fell in love with the Blasket Islands off the west coast of Kerry, Ireland. They visited annually and Joan researched the history of the islands.

After her death in 1978 Ray edited her work and published ‘The Blasket Islands, Next Parish America’.

Ray married Barbara in 1980. He also leaves two sons, Tom and Martin, and four grandchildren.

We have received the following suggestion from one of our members.

“Many church-going Christians may not (initially) be interested in getting involved with the political issue of nuclear disarmament, but many church-going Christians might be interested in praying to save the world from nuclear war. I am suggesting an urgent Campaign of Prayer for this purpose as a first step in awakening awareness among our churches about the intrinsic evil of nuclear weapons, both their use and possession.”

The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil, (first Letter of John ch3, v8). What are the works of the devil? The ultimate work of the devil is the manufacture and use (threatened or actual) of nuclear weapons.
February: Pray for the success of the Ban Treaty and mention it to the people you meet.

Pray for those appearing in court because of their resistance to nuclear weapons.

Pray for our success at the Church of England Synod in Westminster.

March: Pray for the preparatory NPT Christian CND Embassy Walk. Come if you can.

April 1st: Pray for our Easter event at Aldermaston (the 60th Anniversary of CND and when Canon Collins was on the first Aldermaston walk) and send in a cut-out paper dove with your own message on it to be put on the fence – or bring it with you in person to fix it to the fence yourself!

April 8 to 12: Pray for our attendance at the big Christian ‘Spring Harvest’ festival in Minehead and the making of fresh contacts and publicity.

May: Pray for the NPT session in Geneva and Christian CND’s work there.

May 26 to June 2: Pray for Christian CND’s visit to the ‘Big Church Day Out’ ecumenical music festival at Whiston in West Sussex and the making of more contacts.

In addition to repentance and faith, our Lord Jesus also recommended that “Men ought always to pray and not to faint or lose heart”. A good peace prayer (for the purpose of contemplative mediation) is the prayer from the Mass or Holy Communion Service: “Lamb of God, Grant us Peace”.

If humankind wishes to “make up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ” (cf Colossians ch1, v24), we must do so by repentance, faith and prayer, and urging others to do likewise.

Chris Harrison
**Exhibition at Ely Cathedral.**

During the month of February 2018, the APF Exhibition ‘Faith and Peace’ will be in the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral. This exhibition looks at peacemaking and peacemakers across the three Abrahamic Faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The exhibit also includes original works of art from a project at the Peace Museum, Bradford. These have been produced by women from various faith communities. Recently shown at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, Canon Edmund Newey, the Sub Dean expressed his enthusiasm for the exhibition: “We have been delighted to host this fascinating and thought-provoking exhibition. Faith is often seen as a cause of violence, but here we learn to drink from the deep well of peace at the heart of Christianity, Judaism and Islam alike.” The exhibition is open during Cathedral hours. Info: sueclaydon112@gmail.com

**5 — 10 February:** Church of England Synod in London. Christian CND will be there at a meeting and leafleting outside. See page 16.

**7 February:** Merseyside CND AGM. 4pm at Merseyside CND Office, 151 Dale St, Liverpool. As well as the usual reports, elections and campaign plans, there are plans to show the film ‘The Man who Saved The World’. 0151 229 5282.

**14 February:** Ash Wednesday, 3pm at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, then process to the Ministry of Defence. http://paxchristi.org.uk/

**17 February:** CND’s 60th anniversary celebration event, from 11am. Music, food, singing, storytelling and Bring Your Own Museum curated by The Peace Museum, 12 Piece Hall Road, Bradford BD1 1PJ. Exhibition starts on 12 January and continues to the end of February. More details from http://peacemuseum.org.uk/ 01274 780241 info@peacemuseum.org.uk

**22 February:** Concert for Peace. MPD (Musicians for Peace & Disarmament) Patron Dame Emma Kirkby and her ensemble Dowland Works will perform at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, 3 Pilgrim’s Pl, Hampstead, London NW3 1NG. Info: info.mpdconcerts@gmail.com

**3 March:** Reclaiming Gospel Nonviolence. As a follow up to the 2017 Perth conference, an Anglican-led day conference to consider further the theology of nonviolence. Threshold Centre, St John the Baptist, Princes Street, Perth PH2 8LJ. 07494 272595 tilly@apf.org.uk

**8 March:** International Women’s Day. www.internationalwomensday.com/

**10 March:** Student/Young Pugwash Annual Conference. Warwick University. http://britishpugwash.org/student-young-pugwash/

**1 April:** Easter Sunday. Vigil at Aldermaston 12 noon. Details later.
20 — 22 April: Fellowship of Reconciliation annual conference is another joint event with the Anglican and Methodist Peace Fellowships, at Hinsley Hall 62 Headingley Ln, Leeds LS6 2BX. 01865 250781 http://www.for.org.uk/ Wheelchair accessible.


12 noon event in Tavistock Square London and other locations around the country. http://www.ppu.org.uk/coday


16 June: 33rd Annual Celebration at the London Peace Pagoda. Battersea Park, London SW11 4NJ. 2pm londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com 020 7228 9620.

11 — 12 July: Protest at NATO summit in Brussels. CND will be protesting against the nuclear-armed, military alliance NATO at its 2018 summit. More information to follow soon. Contact enquiries@cnduk.org 020 7700 2393.


6 August: Hiroshima Day. Anniversary of the execution of Franz Jägerstätter

9 August: Nagasaki Day. London Peace walk from Westminster Cathedral (TBC) to the London Peace Pagoda, followed by a Lantern-Floating Ceremony at sunset. Timing and more details later. 020 7228 9620. londonpeacepagoda@gmail.com


Please let us know about your plans for Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days in plenty of time for the next Ploughshare and Ploughshare Plus. And why not send a photo of your event afterwards for publication in Ploughshare and/or our website? High definition emailed copies preferred or you can send a print and we’ll scan and return.
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
☐ Please send me a standing order form

Name.................................................................
Address........................................................................................................Postcode..............
Telephone/email...............................................................Please return (or photocopy) to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ

Denomination/church position: ........................................(Optional)

☐ 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.

Speakers at the meeting at Christ Church Oxford (see page 6)