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There are so many sad events taking place in the world that it helps to keep hold of whatever good ones we can! The long and hard negotiations with Iran have produced change for the better. There has been the phenomenon of anti-Trident Jeremy Corbyn and recently a very welcome legacy for us from a loyal supporter. We are so grateful - article inside!

As usual, we have much going on. The big rally against Trident renewal, of course, but also a meeting in Parliament to help MPs consider the ethics of nuclear weapons, work on Synod Members at the Church of England General Synod in Westminster and the organising of approaches for YOU to YOUR OWN constituency Member of Parliament. Again, read inside to see how all this is happening ...

It is a momentous year. We must do all we can against the renewal of Trident. If you are near London, please try to attend the rally on February 27th. Christians and those of other faiths will first gather together at Hinde Street Church near Marble Arch, (details inside).

Write to your MP and to your bishop - even if you’ve never written before. Tell people at your church what is happening - be a publicist! Contact the papers, and local radio. Listen to broadcasts and respond. And, of course, pray as you do all these things.

God works in mysterious ways. We in the Executive can be surprised by that. Remember that though we try our best, it is God’s work.

Lastly, THANK YOU for being a Member of Christian CND!
Our AGM at the end of November was held in Burghfield Parish Hall. Yes, we know it was difficult for many of you to get to, but this venue was chosen so that it could be combined with a vigil at Aldermaston for the start of Advent.

John Prangle, one of our Oxford Members, chose the prayers, and our lanterns represented the Light of Christ.

The names of the elected Executive Council are at the front of this journal and all will serve until the next AGM, when we hope some more of you will put your names forward - and we promise to hold it in a place that is easier to reach!

The full minutes and the financial report is available on request. There’s an annual report with this mailing.

A display of our press work

Discussion and decision-making
AGM

A selection of Church Quotes displayed at the AGM

Post-AGM vigil at Aldermaston
Our successful ‘Nuclear Exits’ meeting was held after the CND lobby of parliament on 4 November 2015.

Our speakers were Andreas Persbo, Director VERTIC (the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre). Andreas told the meeting how Sweden abandoned its nuclear weapons programme. We had Brendan O’Hara, SNP and Ruth Cadbury MP and Co-chairs include Dr Frank Boulton, a member of Medact’s Nuclear Interest Group.

Frank Boulton (Medact) and Andreas Persbo (Vertic)

Exec member Patricia Pulham with a CCND supporter

Left: Alex Salmond couldn’t make it but gave us a thumbs up anyway
We will have a Display Stall again, helpers very welcome. You will need a Pass to get to where the stall is, deadline 29th January. Email passport type photo to synod.passes@churchofengland.org

If you just want to listen in to proceedings from the Visitors Gallery you can get a Visitors Pass just by going to the door to Church House round the corner in in Great Smith Street.

This will be the third General Synod we have been at recently; York last July; last November in Westminster for just one day, sharing the Stall with Sue Claydon of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. Sue got Synod Member Janet Perrett, from her Diocese, Ely, to ask a Question: ‘Noting that the Archbishops’ Council wrote to the Secretary of State for Defence in March 2007, and that the UK Parliament is due to debate the Main Gate decision on Trident renewal at some point in 2016, would the Archbishops’ Council again draw the attention of HMG to the General Synod motion of February 2007 and in particular to the amendment that was passed to “suggest to Her Majesty’s Government that the proposed upgrading of Trident is contrary to the spirit of the United Kingdom’s obligations in international law and to the ethical principles underpinning them”.

‘Questions’ are a bit of the synod agenda where questions are submitted in advance, it’s a way of bringing up matters to Synod’s attention, if you don’t think a Private Members Bill doesn’t have much hope of success. Our Question was accepted, so that was stage one. Most of the earlier questions had two verbal Supplementary Questions asked, all a way of raising the profile of the issue. Ours had one, by our sponsor, the Rt Revd Paul Bayes Bishop of Liverpool. I didn’t manage to note down his question but afterwards I asked his PA who said: ‘Bishop Paul would be happy to sponsor the stall again at the next Synod. He also wanted to let you know that he is due to meet with the relevant national church staff to talk about a briefing paper regarding the Trident renewal and he will be back in touch after that.’

So that’s where we are now; please note that all this happened through co-operating with other others, asking advice if they know more than us, like Peter Burt of NIS, the Joint Public Issues Team, (Methodists, Baptists, Quakers, Church of Scotland, URC) and Sue of Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

So very soon, February 15-19, Church House, Westminster. We will have membership forms, this newsletter and the online Interfaith Petition: endnuclearweapons.org. Our main focus will be the coming 27 February demo with leaflets for our Faiths gathering at Hinde Street Methodist Church at 11am.

Michael Pulham got rid of a lot of leaflets last time outside the great Smith St door, this time we’ll pass out leaflets for the 27th, the week after. Come and help.

Caroline Gilbert
Looking ahead

Some time this year, Parliament will debate the future of Trident. Support as many of the planned campaigning events as you can, both national and local. Here are some that have been planned already, and some still in the pipe-line.

Talk to your MP about Trident! This issue of Ploughshare will go out too late to publicise CND’s ‘constituency lobby of MPs’. But you can still (if you haven’t already) contact your MP to arrange a meeting in the constituency to discuss Trident renewal. You can write to your MP or use the lobby tool at: http://act.cnduk.org/lobby/constituencylobby Please let CND know when you have an meeting confirmed, or inform them of the results of your meeting: 02077002393 or parliamentary@cnduk.org

This month, the 34th annual Ash Wednesday Witness will take place at the MOD in London, on 10th February, from 3.0pm-4.30pm. Meet in Victoria Embankment Gardens. Similar events will be taking place in other parts of the country.

Christian CND will have a stall at the Church of England Synod in Westminster, week starting Monday 15th February. Do get in touch if you would like to help.

A Parliamentary Meeting on Nuclear Morality takes place on 25th February. (see Pg 13) and on 27th a national demonstration and rally “Stop Trident” in London. Faith Groups will march behind the banner “No Faith in Trident”. Immediately before this, at 11am, there will be an Interfaith Service at the Hinde Street Methodist Church, near Marble Arch. We will finish in Trafalgar Square - standing with our banners and Church Statements placards on the steps of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Do come to London for this if you can but if not, there is plenty to do at home too.

At the end of March, CCND will be at the Spring Harvest ecumenical gathering - “Game Changers” in Butlin’s, Minehead. Let us know if you will be there too, particularly if you could help us on our stall. Also look out for us at the “Greenbelt” Christian arts festival at the end of August.

Our annual Embassies Walk will be held on a later date than usual as there is no NPT Conference this year. We will organise it together with ICAN, and focus on the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons.

We have started planning a Media Training Day, when we hope to have workshops run by professionals from the broadcast, print and social media to help us gain confidence and skill in getting our message out there.

Look out too for news of a Conference in Oxford. The decision on Trident will have been taken by then but there will be plenty to learn and campaign about, whatever the result. Happy New Year!
Trident Ploughshares is organising a month of direct action at AWE Burghfield in June.

There’s a concern that if there is a vote in Parliament to renew the Trident system people will get very disheartened and think it is all over. A month of non-violent direct action should show that the public will continue to oppose nuclear weapons and strengthen our resistance and keep the pressure on.

It is time the public demanded the government to comply with our obligation under international law to accomplish the total elimination of our nuclear arsenal. By doing so we would send a message to the world that spending for peace and development and meeting people’s real needs is our priority, not spending on weapons of mass destruction.

So Trident Ploughshares are asking you and your friends to spend at least one day in the month of June at AWE Burghfield to disrupt the illegal and immoral ‘business as usual’ by joining our month of action. We need you to show public opposition to Trident Replacement and to encourage nuclear disarmament.

Unlike AWE Aldermaston with multiple entrances and exits, AWE Burghfield only has two gates. The main entrance gate is in The Mearings, off Reading Road, Burghfield. The second gate (known as the Pingewood gate) is on Burnthouse Lane. Construction vehicles mainly use this gate so it is sometimes referred to as Construction Gate.

Trident Ploughshares already have one day in the rota claimed for an academics blockade on Thursday 16th June. Various other groups are considering dates now.

It’s not expected for every group to only blockade but to consider any creative and disruptive nonviolent actions inside and outside AWE Burghfield. Please let Angie Zelter know what day you would like to take on. The aim is not to blockade at weekends but to disrupt work as usual on the weekdays.

You can ring 01547 520929 or 07456 588943 or email reforest@gn.apc.org http://tinyurl.com/h9jjw4y

See the AWE Burghfield briefing here: http://tridentploughshares.org/january-2016-awe-burghfield-briefing/
A new bill is to go before Parliament to allow for conscientious objection to military taxation. It would enable people to redirect the military portion of their taxes to non-military security, conflict resolution and prevention work. It is based on a recognised human right.

In the first world war the Military Service Act (1916) deemed most British males as conscripts. It made some room for conscientious objection. March 2nd is the centenary of that Act and, because conscription to the forces has ended, it seems there is no way people can exercise conscientious objection, which is why military tax should be able to be constructively diverted.

Find out what you can do to support this by contacting Holly Wallis, Parliamentary Officer for Conscience.
020 3515 9132
info@conscienceonline.org.uk
http://www.conscienceonline.org.uk/

Some useful briefings and information on Trident

Various CND briefings here:
http://www.cnduk.org/information/briefings/trident-briefings
(ring CND 020 7700 2393 for paper copies)

Scientists for Global Responsibility: Trident, Deterrence and UK Security:
http://www.sgr.org.uk/resources/trident-deterrence-and-uk-security

Nuclear Information Service: Trident replacement: Costs rise and timetable slips.
http://tinyurl.com/zjqgb38

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Policy Briefing 130: Rethinking Trident - influencing the Trident replacement and nuclear weapons debate,
http://tinyurl.com/zhzsqag

If you cannot access the internet we can print you off a copy - just ask!

TAXES FOR PEACE, NOT WAR!

If you cannot access the internet we can print you off a copy - just ask!
On January 11, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held a special meeting in New York to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the very first UNGA meeting in London.

UN Secretary general Ban Ki-moon said that the body has truly become the “Parliament for all people.... Each delegate who speaks, each vote that is cast, every gavel that opens a new meeting adds a little more hope to the world.”

See more at:
http://tinyurl.com/znx2kfn

US Ambassador Samantha Power reminded delegates that the first issue addressed by the UNGA was on the threat of nuclear weapons. “On January 24, after weeks of debating, the General Assembly adopted its very first resolution... to seek a path toward the elimination from national arsenals of atomic weapons and all other weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”

UNFOLD ZERO has been promoting the commemoration of this first UN resolution as a good time to take action for nuclear abolition. See Time to Implement UN Resolution 1(1):
http://tinyurl.com/hldjjpj

For more on the UNGA 70th anniversary session see UN General Assembly ‘Parliament for all People’ celebrates 70th anniversary (UN News Centre):
http://tinyurl.com/zlj75s3
Nuclear Convoys project 2016

ICAN UK recently received funding to take forward the first year of what is hoped will be a longer campaign to focus attention on the unacceptable risks arising from the transporting of nuclear warheads across Britain.

For many years Nukewatch, Aldermaston Women (AWPC), CND and others have monitored and tracked the nuclear warhead convoys that travel about six times a year between AWE Burghfield in Berkshire and Coulport naval depot near Faslane, just north of Glasgow. The most recent convoy was tracked by AWPC and Nukewatch leaving Burghfield on 9 January 2016, see Nukewatch video on youtube.

The purpose of this project, provisionally titled ‘Nukes of Hazard’, is to raise public awareness in ending British reliance on nuclear weapons, through educational materials, outreach and actions that highlight the dangers of the UK’s possession and transporting of nuclear weapons. By focussing initially on four locations along the convoy route, the project will research local information, such as schools/colleges, hospitals, public amenities and workplaces nearby, and link local meetings and actions about the nuclear risks with broader efforts to prevent the replacement of Trident.

The risks of possessing nuclear weapons even if Trident is never fired at other countries - is generally little understood and under-reported.

The humanitarian consequences approach includes an understanding of nuclear risks, eg. as highlighted by studies published by ICAN, Nuclear Information Service, Scientists for Global Responsibility, Acronym, Article 36, Scottish CND, and recent publications such as Eric Schlosser’s 2014 book Command and Control and Chatham House report ‘Too Close for Comfort’, as well as ongoing work by Nukewatch, Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), and others.

See http://uk.icanw.org/ for more or ring 07906 166 299
Campaigning

“THE RIGHT THING TO DO”? - AN ETHICAL BRIEFING ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

An open meeting
Thursday 25 February 2016
Houses of Parliament

What is Ethics? Ethics is moral philosophy.

What is it for? It is the basis for the rules, written and unwritten, by which we contrive to live together in peace and harmony; without it we are miserable, possibly we die.

Where does it come from? Not a prohibition, but a reaching out in love for humanity. God made us to love one another and all of life.

In a nuclear age we must love one another, or we certainly die, possibly along with all life on Earth.

Simple isn’t it? Unfortunately it is not that simple. We have somehow managed to contrive a different moral law for war to that which applies for peace. And for nuclear weapons we contrive something different again.

This is the position when we come to debate the future of our country’s nuclear weapons. We have one of the nine governments, out of 196 in the world, which persists in holding on to nuclear weapons. The proposal is to renew this capability, so that it lasts for another 30 or 40 years. To do this without any recourse to moral judgement, or without any thought for applying the rules that we normally live by, would be irresponsible in the extreme.

In the run-up to the “Main Gate” debate on renewal of Trident, Christian CND is organising a briefing for MPs on the ethics of nuclear weapons. The basis for this will be the Nuclear Morality Flowchart. This is simply a decision tree, a logical network of moral and practical questions to encourage and enable an informed personal decision on this topic. (see http://nuclearmorality.com/). It also has the potential, where our MPs are concerned, to make their decision-path transparent to their constituents.

All the MPs will be invited to this meeting. You can ask your MP if he/she is going. Ask them anyway about their ethical position on Trident. Ask them, at the very least, to complete the Flowchart and let you, their constituents, know their decision path, the basis for their decision on this critical, moral, issue.

NB The date and time will be confirmed shortly — please ring the office to check.
Her Majesty the Queen:
“Congratulations on your election, Prime Minister, and welcome! One always looks forward to this part of the week. Over the years, you know, One has had the benefit of discourse with several Prime Ministers; a much valued experience.”

The new PM: “Thank you, Your Majesty. It is a great privilege to be able to speak with you.”

Queen: “Do be seated, Prime Minister. In spite of your success you must be tired after all the recent activity?”

PM: “Thank you, Ma’am. It has been both exhilarating and testing, but I intend to go on working hard for the greater success of leading your kingdom forward.”

Queen: “Indeed. Now tell me, how did you feel when you faced your first duty as Prime Minister?”

PM: “My first duty, Ma’am?”

Queen: “When you were required to write instructions regarding the use of Trident - may God forbid that eventuality!”

PM: “Although I expected the challenge, Ma’am, it was a sombre moment and a grave responsibility. We all hope that Trident works purely as a deterrent. However, should it fail in that role and Great Britain suffer devastating attack, whether or not actually to use it was the principal thing I had to decide.”

Queen: “And what did you decide, Prime Minister?”

PM: “It was impressed on me, Your Majesty, that what I wrote was a top-most secret, meaning that no-one should have it except the submarine commanders on receiving a special signal. Only in that way are my instructions to be accessed. I am sorry (and, I must say, rather embarrassed) not to be able to enlighten you, Ma’am, about my decision.”

Queen: “Please don’t be discomforted. You do have your duty to perform. However, One does find One’s own position somewhat troubling. I expect you considered a range of options; from using it, to withdrawal. My difficulty in respect of this awful weapon of mass destruction lies in my being a Christian and Head of the Church of England. As such, One subscribes to the Commandment, ‘Thou shall not kill’. This means that to go on slaughtering many more innocent people should be out of the question. Two wrongs cannot make a right. One reasons that our failed deterrent might best be dispatched to a region of the Commonwealth not actively at war?”

PM: “That was an option I considered, Ma’am, but I’m afraid I cannot let you
know whether it was the one I decided on."

Queen: “I do hope it was. You know, the Cabinet Papers often provide One with clues about how minded my Government is, so you must expect some probing questions on your visits!”

PM: “Is there anything else I can help you with, Ma’am?”

Queen: “There is indeed. You now know One’s concern about the nuclear deterrent being actually used as retaliation but, in addition, One must tell you how troubling the policy of deterrence itself is.”

PM: “Really, Ma’am?”

Queen: “Picture One in church, having just recited the Lord’s Prayer, and then happening to reflect on One’s nation’s declared intention to kill masses of harmless people in order to make deterrence credible! Nothing short of blasphemy leaps to mind!”

PM: “Our hope has to lie in deterrence, Ma’am.”

Queen: “That sort of hope is dreadful. To rely on fear is certainly not the best way for anyone to live. The more we allow nuclear weapons to govern our lives, the more we accept them, the more degraded we shall become. They certainly do not protect us from that!

One must also say how unsettling it is not to have a policy of ‘no first use’. We are a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and committed to the elimination of nuclear weapons. Surely our proclaiming we would not use them first would be a step forward?”

PM: “I will discuss this with the appropriate Minister, Ma’am, but I rather think we have to follow strategy obligations in respect of our major ally.”

Queen: “Oh! Before we talk about other matters of State, one last observation: One is so very disappointed at the slow progress toward nuclear disarmament. Please assure that it is a priority of yours to do your best to really speed things up; to make sure diplomacy is as positive, adventurous and innovative as possible. Even leaving aside the event of conflict, these weapons threaten everybody. Accidents and miscalculations are absolutely inevitable and the risk is far too high for any delay. The history of their existence has already provided us with several terrifyingly narrow escapes. Can One have your assurance, Prime Minister?”

Michael Pulham

Ancient joke:
Missing - one apple. God questions Adam. Adam says, ‘It was the woman.’
God interrogates Eve. Eve says, ‘It was the serpent.’ God confronts serpent.
Serpent hasn’t a leg to stand on.
Many of us were affected by reading John Hersey’s “Hiroshima”. I found Susan Southard’s “Nagasaki - Life after Nuclear War” even more emotive. As the publisher’s press release has it, “How to survive a nuclear bomb every day of your life”. This city, the centre of Christianity in Japan at the time, has been overshadowed by Hiroshima but its sufferings were equally appalling.

Susan Southard spent a decade interviewing and researching the lives of the hibakusha. This book follows the lives of five teenage victims, from 1945 to the present day. Having survived the initial blast, they describe the effect on their health, relationships and employment—the way they were so often ostracised by society who somehow thought it could be contaminated by their sufferings.

Read it if you dare; the city and its people will stay in your mind. Don’t let supporters of Trident persuade you that there can be a moral justification for nuclear war, EVER.

Obituary

Estella (known as Stella) Newsome’s maiden name was Cope, she came from a wealthy midlands Jewish family but had little contact with them when she married and became a Christian.

Stella was a keen historian and taught at Woking Girls Grammar School for some years - she had started as a medical student at 18 yrs but dropped out when she met the love of her life Vernon Scannell in her home town of Leeds. This was recounted at her funeral as she thought she had married him but he was already married and they were arrested and tried for bigamy. They escaped prison but Stella was very traumatised and so not surprisingly dropped out of medicine.

Later she married Tony Newsome who had a prestigious job in the City.

Stella had quite disabling mental health problems and was a bad sleeper who had the habit of phoning me at 3am for a long chat!!

Her beloved son developed a brain tumour when he was around 10 years old. He was operated on successfully but left with epilepsy. Sadly her son pre-deceased her and her husband died some years before she did.

Stella was a long-term member of Woking CND and a generous supporter.

She attended the Coign church in Woking, and they were very supportive of her in her last years but not of Woking CND (seek ye first the kingdom of heaven - was their message to us).

I went to her funeral at Woking Crematorium but only a cousin was there and I didn’t have any contact after that.

She led a sad life and I was fond of her but she slept all day and only wanted visitors after midnight!

Mary Holdstock
Woking Action for Peace

Legacy

A bequest from Estella Newsome has enabled us to expand our programme this year.

We have lots of ideas already but we also want to be able to discuss them with you and listen to your suggestions too.

In June, there will be an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) so this can take place and then, in the autumn, we reach our AGM when we can evaluate what we have achieved!
6 February: #StopTrident Thunderclap. Sign up as an individual or an organisation to our Thunderclap so we can send our message far and wide throughout social media. CND can provide speakers for your local events. information@cnduk.org or telephone 020 7700 2393

10 February: Ash Wednesday. Witness to Nuclear War Preparations. 3 - 4.30pm at Ministry of Defence, Horse Guards Ave London SW1A 2EX. Organised by: Pax Christi with Christian CND and London Catholic Worker. Info: Pax Christi UK, 020 8203 4884 info@paxchristi.org.uk


27 February: No Faith in Trident at the Stop Trident National Demo. There will be a gathering for inter-faith prayer at 11.00 am at Hinde Street Methodist Church, 19 Thayer Street, London, W1U 2QJ. We will then join the march under the banner ‘No Faith in Trident!’... but do bring your own peace/Church/community banner!


18 April: Global Day of Action on Military Spending. A great opportunity to take simple actions that show how military spending could be redirected to other needs – social and environmental. Put the date in your Diary now, more to follow. http://demilitarize.org.uk/


6 & 8 August: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days. Please do send details of your events in to us early! And photos after the event if you like.
Prayer diary

There is much to pray about. We ask to be guided to find the right way ahead.

Feb 10th  We ask for forgiveness for nuclear war preparations, for our government and for ourselves when we too fall short of the way of non-violence.

Feb 15th-20th That the Synod of the Church of England renews its commitment to a non-nuclear defence policy.

Feb 25th For our Parliamentary Meeting and for all MPs. May their consciences be touched as they make decisions that affect the lives of the people of this country and the world.

Feb 27th For the success of the “Stop Trident” demonstration so that the message of the non-nuclear weapons movement spreads far and wide.

March 27th Easter Sunday. Alleluia! Alleluia!

March 28th- April 2nd Spring Harvest. Help us to encourage all to be true “Game Changers” in a violent world.

April May we renew our commitment to peace this Easter season, in new hope and confidence.

May 8th Ascension: Lift up our hearts!

May 15th Pentecost; The Spirit of Wisdom, of Love, of Joy, be with us as we continue on the road to Peace.

CCND goods

Pack of 24 A4 sheets of Interfaith quotations £1 a pack. CCND stickers 10 stickers for 50p, 50 stickers for £2. Legacy Guide (Free). Churches’ Guide (Free). T-Shirts (£12), cotton bags (£3). Picasso greetings cards. £2.50 for six. Christmas cards, £2.50 for six. Church porch A4 poster of church quotes on Trident (free), badges (30p), enamel brooches (£1.50), window stickers (50p), pens (£1) and a history of CCND (£2.50).

See your membership insert for details and an order form.

New membership flyers, available free. And free Nuclear Weapons And... Link leaflets. Contact the office.

Send orders to Christian CND, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ.
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

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.

Name...........................................................................
Address..............................................................................Postcode..............
Telephone/email.........................................................................

Please return (or photocopy) to: Christian CND 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ