

# ploughshare

the journal of Christian CND



October 2006

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



Sellafield in 1987 Weapons in ??

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## **In this issue:**

**Campaigning against Trident**

**Should we be campaigning against nuclear power?**

**In Good Faith - CCND conference report and photos**

**Greenbelt and Faslane 365 reports**

**Plus events and prayer diary**

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# Editorial

**O**ne of the questions that comes up from time to time is that of nuclear power - and whether we should be campaigning on this issue. We have decided to address this in the current Ploughshare. There are, as you probably all know, strong links between the nuclear power and nuclear weapons programmes. But would extending our efforts to take in nuclear power dilute our focus on disarmament, particularly as the decision on Trident renewal seems to be imminent? Let us know what you think.

CCND has always considered the innocent victims of the nuclear industry, military and civil programmes. This concern predated the Chernobyl disaster which underlined everybody's anxieties.

21 years ago there was a Holy Innocents' Day commemoration at Capenhurst, the British uranium enrichment plant near Chester. (On page 5 you will find a reading from that liturgy.) the similarities we saw then between governments who cling to nuclear weapons and the mindset of Herod who ordered the slaughter of innocent children are still valid today ... little has changed. The slaughter may not be deliberate, but it is accepted and tolerated.

The areas in the Pacific where the testing of nuclear warheads took place then, is still contaminated. This contamination lasts an incredibly long time - think of Chernobyl. Nuclear weapons kill without ever being used.

## Welcome to new Exec Member!

Kelvin Gascoyne, who lives near Oxford, has kindly agreed to join CCND's Executive. Kelvin has been an enthusiastic supporter of CCND events including the Embassies Walk, vigils at Aldermaston and our Theology Day Conference. Kelvin was also present at the 'In Good Faith' Conference and AGM at Douai Abbey (see report on pages 6 & 7), and he didn't take too much persuasion to agree to join us! In fact he offered - so it can't be too daunting a task!

We all look forward to working with Kelvin and hope it will be a fruitful relationship!

Right: a picture of Kelvin taken at the Douai weekend



At an ecumenical seminar in Central London on 4th October, Douglas Roche, former Canadian parliamentarian and adviser to the Holy See on disarmament issues, asked the question "Does the UK government have the courage to face the world without nuclear armour?" This is an excerpt from his talk. For the full text see <http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/press1.htm#roche>

**D**uring the Cold War, the Catholic Church gave the strategy of nuclear deterrence limited acceptance, but, as a result of the actions of the Nuclear Weapons States, this no longer applies. In the eyes of the Catholic Church, nuclear weapons are evil and immoral and must be eliminated as a precondition to obtaining peace. As a consequential consideration, the government of the United Kingdom cannot claim any moral legitimacy in the replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system.

My argument rests on the nature of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are anti-human. Humanitarian law has always recognised that limitation and proportionality must be respected in warfare. But the very point of a nuclear weapon is to kill massively; the killing and the poisonous radiation cannot be contained. The social and economic consequences of nuclear war in a world whose life-support systems are intimately interconnected would be catastrophic. The severe physical damage from blast, fire and radiation would be followed by the collapse of food production and distribution and even water supplies. The prospect of widespread starvation would confront huge masses of people. Rampant disease would follow the breakdown in health-care facilities. These immense brutalities would violate the universal norm of life: to go on living in a manner befitting a human being with the inherent right to life. No civilization, no culture has ever denied the common foundation upon which all people stand. The entire question of human rights would be up-ended. The right to a social and international order, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, would be completely lost. The structures underpinning humanitarian law would be gone. Order would be inverted into disorder.

Definitive Catholic teaching on nuclear deterrence is found in Vatican II and subsequent statements by Pope John Paul II. Though they elaborated their concern that a universal public authority be put in place to outlaw war, the Fathers of Vatican II rather grudgingly accepted the strategy of nuclear deterrence. The accumulation of arms, they said, serves "as a deterrent to possible enemy attack." Thus "peace of a sort" is maintained, though the balance resulting from the arms race threatens to lead to war, not eliminate it.

In current conditions, "deterrence" based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself but as a step on the way towards a progressive disarmament, may still be

judged morally acceptable. Nonetheless, in order to ensure peace, it is indispensable not to be satisfied with the minimum, which is always susceptible to the real danger of explosion.

In this statement, it is readily seen that deterrence, in order to be acceptable, must lead to disarmament measures. Consequently, nuclear deterrence as a permanent policy is not acceptable. The Church is not changing its teaching. Rather it is the conduct of the nuclear weapons states in making their nuclear weapons permanent who have broken the condition the Church first placed on its Cold War tolerance of nuclear deterrence.

The Church has always held nuclear weapons to be abhorrent. Limited acceptance of nuclear deterrence was a prudential judgment in the grave conditions of the Cold War. The nuclear weapons states cannot justify their ongoing contemptible policies by hiding under any kind of moral cover - which does not exist.

The United Kingdom today stands poised on the brink of a momentous decision. Whether or not to develop and deploy another generation of British nuclear weapons after the existing Trident submarine system is decommissioned after 2020 is a question of world importance. If the government proceeds with this new development, it will be a direct contravention of the pledge it made in 2000 to make "systematic and progressive efforts" to implement Article VI of the NTPT.

Again, the Trident decision will be a signal to the world whether the government is serious about its commitments or just playing with words to strike an agreeable posture in international meetings.

Of course, the U.K. government is worried about the reaction of Washington if it should signal that it is phasing out of the possession of nuclear weapons. Does the U.K. government have the courage to face the world without nuclear armour? Let us turn the coin around. If the U.K. took the decision not to replace Trident, and deliberately phase down dismantling of its nuclear weapons, it would be hailed around the world for its courage and faithfulness to its signature on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. It would give new hope to the world that nuclear weapons, the ultimate evil, can indeed be removed from military doctrines.

Addressing the paramount moral issue of our time - the continuation of life on the planet - is very much the business of all religious leaders.

**I**n this issue of *Ploughshare*, the Executive decided to have a look at the links between nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

You may recall the phrase 'Electricity too cheap to meter!' It was uttered by the government's chief atomic scientist, Dr William Penny, to usher in the first civilian nuclear power plants. These had been preceded by research and purely military reactors at Harwell and Calder Hall. Probably few people realised that civilian electricity-producing reactors can produce plutonium for atomic weapons in their cores. That is how we built up our stockpile. We first used uranium isotope separation methods to obtain highly enriched uranium. Enriched uranium contains more of the fissile isotope.

Separation plants can produce both slightly enriched uranium, for reactors, and, if run for a lot longer, highly enriched uranium, for bombs. (A great deal of depleted uranium, 'DU', comes as a by-product. This has now found a use in armour piercing munitions due to its high density but causes great hazard to the lungs when employed. Incidentally, another 'by-product' of nuclear electricity production, when it was pushed to 20% of the UK total, was its use in helping defeat the miners.)

There is a long list of risks and disadvantages attached to the nuclear industry, but before I embark on it I think we should acknowledge a fundamental point:

To run a nuclear reactor without subterfuge or hidden agenda in order to improve people's lives by giving them electricity and certain medical treatments is a good intention. It is not comparable to any intention to acquire, build, keep, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons. Unlike electricity supply, nuclear weapons



cannot be said to be good. They are directly against life. The moral argument against them is clear. (See our Theology Day booklet!)

The term 'muddying the waters' appears above because, as you will see from the list of drawbacks to civilian nuclear power, we could end up allowing ourselves to stray from the single issue of the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This aim is Nuclear Disarmament! (A small item near the back of our Churches Pack is entitled 'Other Issues' and gives an exposition of how we can relate to them.)

For whatever reason one wants uranium, its ore has to be mined. The dust is radioactive. Poor, indigenous people get it for us. Particles travel downwind, settle on food, are irretrievably inhaled. Even the mildest radiation is specially harmful when its source is intimately in contact with tissue deep inside the body. The radiation keeps on going for years, so cancer can develop.

Mining is just the start. Dust is a potential hazard at all later stages; processing, machining, recycling, maintenance, transport and storage. Nuclear materials in all their forms present dangers which only await the never completely eradicable human error. Umpteen accidents down the years. And Chernobyl.

Apprentices at BNFL Capenhurst, where uranium was being enriched, told me how they were used in the changeover from the old diffusion process to high speed centrifuges. When hack-sawing uranium hexafluoride pipes, they were exposed to dust.

The plant was surrounded by pylons feeding in current from three separate directions. I expect the casual onlooker thought it must be a power station, but the electricity needed to run it was being drawn from the National Grid. Why three directions? A lot of power was required and a power cut might have meant the uranium hexafluoride gas cooling and solidifying in the apparatus. The shiny new plant was from the MOD budget. They said it was for Trident submarine reactor fuel. It was not much publicised, but it cost the taxpayer £100m.

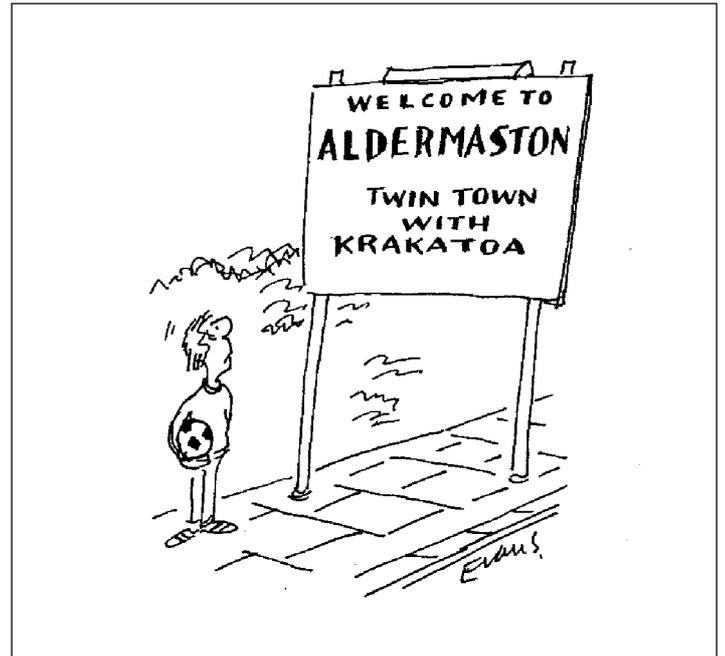
You probably know what's next: What to do with the waste? Expensive decommissioning - the headache of incredibly long term storage! What a legacy we are leaving for future generations! That promise of electricity too cheap to meter; was it naïve, crafty or both?

A new hope for cheap power is being tried in France; electricity from the fusion of hydrogen, rather than the fission of uranium. Perhaps it will get us all excited again? There is no sign yet that it will work, though rich nations (including the UK) are pouring money into it. We are told it will be much cleaner. Should it come about, my fear is that it would be a 'technical fix' in place of the fix the world really needs, ie the curbing of greed.

To sum up, there are lots of undesirable things nuclear, but if in disliking both nuclear bombs and nuclear power we conflate two issues we will give ourselves increased difficulty and disperse our essential focus. The heyday of Capenhurst is over. Sadly, an embarrassment of plutonium now exists in the world.

Another example of unnecessary expansion for us might be wishing, say, to put an end to war. I'm sure nuclear disarmers want that too. Getting rid of nuclear weapons is obviously part of it. One can be against two or many things, and be a member of more than one campaign, without having to treat them as one, even when a relationship is discerned.

*Michael Pulham*



*CND has produced a new briefing on Nuclear Power, available to download from the website or ring their office for a copy: 020 7700 2393.*

## A Holy Innocents Reading (1985)

Today, the feast of the Holy Innocents, we have come to remember all those innocent victims of the nuclear industry and the nuclear arms race.

Herod, in his greed for power, his fear of losing it, his need for national security, ordered the murder of all the male children in Bethlehem and the districts around, who were under two years old.

That same greed for power, that same fear, that same lack of trust and search for national security has led to the deaths of many millions of innocent people and threatens the lives of millions more.

Children are especially vulnerable, but they are our future and are entrusted to us all.

We have come here to this plant at Capenhurst because it is an essential link in a chain that stretches from the Aboriginal lands in Australia and the black townships of Namibia to the nuclear testing areas in the Pacific.

As each link in that chain is forged, children die, and are dying now of birth defects and radiation-induced diseases. Mothers grieve too when their babies are still-born or die in their arms.

Today we mourn those innocent lives. Let us not be comforted by the promise of cheap electricity, or a strong defence.

We have just celebrated the Birth of Christ. We must not tolerate His death in every child who dies because we turn our eyes away from the sufferings of the powerless.

## In Good Faith

15- 18 September 2006

**A**s part of our interfaith work this year, some members of the Exec. have attended multi-faith discussion groups at St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in London. It was at one of these meetings that the suggestion was made to hold an inter-faith conference on nuclear weapons at a monastery or other religious centre, and thus our Douai Abbey weekend was born.

Douai Abbey is a Benedictine Abbey that has inexpensive accommodation available in the Abbey cottages and is conveniently near AWE Aldermaston. In addition, we knew from previous use that the community were sympathetic to our ideas and also to interfaith approaches.

The title 'In Good Faith' refers to the International Court of Justice's underscoring of the universal character of the commitment made in the 1970 Nuclear Non-



L-R: David Platt, CCND, Monawar Hussain, Brother Christopher OSB, Shaunaka Rishi Das and Ngawang Sangyé in discussion.



Douai Abbey

Proliferation Treaty. Ten years ago the court found that 'There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.'

We were fortunate to be joined by speakers from the Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist traditions, Monawar Hussain, Shaunaka Rishi Das and Ngawang Sangyé, as well as Brother Christopher Greener OSB from the Abbey itself to share their theological insights with us regarding nuclear

weapons. We were able to question them further during the afternoon panel discussion.

**Councillor Bet Tiddner, Mayor of Reading** *Earlier this year I was very honoured to welcome to Reading the Mayor of Hiroshima who was on a short UK visit before attending events in Brussels and The Hague to mark the 10th Anniversary of the advisory opinion by the UN International Court of Justice that, generally, nuclear weapons are illegal in international law.*

*The theme of the Mayor of Hiroshima's visit was the need for all nuclear weapon states, including Britain, to show 'good faith' towards the commitment they have made under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to achieve nuclear weapons abolition. I am very pleased to note that your AGM shares this same 'good faith' theme.*

On Sunday we turned our attention to what living in community could teach about peace. Brother Christopher told us what drew him to spend his life in one of the oldest religious communities of the church, and Sr Susan Clarkson explained how she lived her vocation in radical groups both in Dorothy Day House in Washington DC and the Catholic Worker House in Oxford.

**Monawar (Muslim):** *The greater Jibad is the fight against one's ego ... The Q'ran says nothing about nuclear weapons but you cannot kill innocent people. You cannot use weapons that burn. There is no role for nuclear weapons.*

*Pakistan has nuclear weapons. India has nuclear weapons. In the world that we live in do we continue this conflict - killing people - or do we solve our problems through dialogue?*

Caroline Gilbert and Jean Kay filled us in on what the focus of our anti-nuclear weapons campaign should be, and on current developments at Aldermaston. The

**Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Reading** *Not as the world gives peace, this is the peace I give you,' says Jesus on the night before he died.*

*The world thinks peace can be secured by pointing ever more sophisticated weapons at each other. It won't work. Christ asks us to love our enemies and do good to those that hate us. Let us pray that our nation may draw back from developing yet more weapons of mass destruction. Instead, let us ask our leaders to use this money to build understanding, stability and freedom from poverty. Only these things can bring lasting peace.*

*May God's peace be with you.*

Mayor of Reading wrote a special message of welcome to be read at the start of the conference (she is a 'Mayor for Peace') and the Bishop of Reading telephoned with his support while we were holding our early-morning vigil outside Aldermaston on Monday, when we had prayers and readings from different faith traditions.

During the weekend we were able, if we wished, to join in the monastic workshop of

the Abbey and thanks to David Platt, we took part in a very moving Anglican Eucharist in the chapel that is part of the cottages complex.



Mealtime in the cottages



**Shaunika (Hindu):** *After the war there was a proliferation of arms and the beginning of an atmosphere of fear ... We are told to love our neighbour. Do we know our neighbour? How can we love our neighbour? If there is no understanding of our neighbour, there cannot be effective dialogue. The issues of Trident, the issues of fear, and lack of love will proliferate if the executive decision-makers have no real understanding and there is no spiritual leadership.*

Somehow we managed to fit our AGM in on Saturday afternoon. Notably, (see page 2) Kelvin Gascoyne agreed to join our Executive Council. Thanks, too, to those members who have agreed to continue in this role, to those of you who wrote offering specific help, and particularly to our treasurer, Neil Berry, and indefatigable worker, Claire Poyner.



**Ngawang (Buddhist):** *Trident is obscene.*

It was good to meet old friends and new. We are sorry more of you were unable to join us living in community for a little while; next time perhaps. It was rewarding, inspiring and even prayerful! Maybe you know a suitable venue near you where we could hold a similar event in the future.

Patricia Pulham

**Read this!****Trident: UK nuclear weapons at a crossroads**

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) 3rd Floor, Bastille Court, 2 Paris Garden, London, SE1 8ND. Tel.: 020 7654 7254 info@ctbi.org.uk www.ctbi.org.uk

**Don't replace Trident!**

Peace & Disarmament Programme, Quaker Peace & Social Witness, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ Email disarm@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1067.

**Replacing Trident - A Scottish Catholic Response**

Available from: Justice & Peace Scotland, 65 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 2BX Phone/fax 0141 333 0238 Email office@justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk www.justiceandpeacescotland.org.uk

**CND's Q&A sheet**

Get copies from the office - same address as CCND!

**And don't forget our 'Nuclear Weapons - What Can Christians Do?' Churches Pack and the Theology Day Booklet!****Decision Time for Trident Replacement**

**I**n the past year the Government promised two things of interest to us: (a) a debate on Trident Replacement and (b) perhaps a decision before the end of this year.

Thankfully a number of church leaders have spoken publicly against replacement. I was reminded of the challenge we face when I went to the Time to Go demonstration in Manchester, on 23rd September, the eve of the Labour Party Conference there.

We can't have confidence in the debate when already so much new building work has been done at AWE Aldermaston, and, furthermore, at the Labour Conference all the resolutions on the subject were ruled out of order so there was no proper debate. Yet we must force the Government's promised debate. Some church leaders have been showing the way but we need more of them and the church-going public on our side. We really do have to show the government that there is huge opposition to Trident Replacement.

I was encouraged to see a number of Christians on the Time To Go demonstration, particularly as No Trident Replacement was one of its central themes. We marched round the conference venue though not with the intention of making the walls collapse (as with Joshua and Jericho).

Any reader who didn't make it, and those who did, still have time to tell the Government and their MPs of their opposition. But also we can ask our fellow churchgoers to send letters too.

When it comes to justification of war and weapons, I don't see the compassion in the God that Mr Blair and Mr Bush seem to worship. Let's give God some better publicity by joining the debate.

*Dave Pybus*

**Campaigning news**

There's a new website [www.bigtridentdebate.org.uk](http://www.bigtridentdebate.org.uk) set up by a coalition of organisations and individuals. You can sign up to the statement therein, join in the debates online and read up on the latest news.

Such as:

**New Trident system may cost £76bn, figures show**

Richard Norton-Taylor, Thursday September 21, 2006  
*The Guardian*

"The true cost of replacing and operating the Trident nuclear missile system would be at least £76bn, according to estimates revealed today. Based on official figures, they take into account the initial cost of acquiring new Trident missiles and replacing Britain's existing nuclear submarines, and the annual running costs of maintaining the system and nuclear warheads over its 30-year life. The figure is based on calculations made by the Liberal Democrats from parliamentary answers and is backed up by independent Commons researchers."

**No Trident Replacement petition handed in to Prime Minister**

The petition was handed in to 10 Downing Street on 4th August, just before the 61st anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Over 53,000 signatures were handed in by CND Chair Kate Hudson, Vice-Presidents Bruce Kent, Air-Commodore Alistair Mackie, Canon Paul Oestreicher and Walter Wolfgang and Labour CND Secretary Carol Turner.

**New poll shows big jump in opposition to Trident Replacement**

The petition hand-in coincided with the release of a new ICM poll which shows that opposition to Trident Replacement has increased from 54% last autumn to 59%. The results were based on CND asking an identical question to that asked by Greenpeace last year.

### Aldermaston Advent Vigil

Join us the Thursdays of Advent, starting before Advent on St Andrew's Day 30th November, 2.30-3.30 at Aldermaston AWE, Tadley Gate (on the A340, you can park opposite in the road by the housing estate.). We want this to be the sort of thing that people feel they can do, even perhaps people from nearby who are not particularly connected with the peace movement; so please advertise it in any church listings, parish magazines.

Advent is a time of waiting, prayer and reflection in the Christian church. We will apply this traditional discipline to the choice before our country; the choice whether new, more powerful, more destructive nuclear weapons, with the increased environmental risk, at a cost of about £25bn, will be built at Aldermaston, or whether the skills of its workforce will continue to be used in decommissioning the ones we already have. Whether our country follows the rule of law, as in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or endless nuclear weapon proliferation, 'pre-emptive' strikes, and war. We will watch and pray. Bring candles; all Faiths and none welcome.

### Write to your MP!

#### Government concedes vote on Trident replacement – now demand a full debate

On 20th July the Leader of the House of Commons Jack Straw announced "we should involve the House fully in a decision as important as the renewal of our nuclear deterrent and in practical terms it is inevitable that there will therefore be a chance for the House to express its view on that important matter in a vote."

This was following CND's demands for a deciding vote for MPs and significant support (123 signatures) for EDM 1197. CND is now demanding a full consultative Green Paper, followed by a White Paper and then a full debate and vote. Ask your MP to sign EDM 2575 proposed by Jeremy Corbyn MP. The text reads:

"That this House calls upon Her Majesty's Government to publish a range of options concerning the future of the UK's nuclear weapons, including adherence to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by the non-replacement of Trident and full information of the costs of a new generation of nuclear weapons; and requests that these options should be in the form of a Green Paper to encourage a public debate before a deciding vote in Parliament."

### Trident Replacement discussed at Lib Dem Conference

**B**y coincidence, at 10am on Sunday 17 September, during the CCND Conference 'In Good Faith' at Douai Abbey, the Liberal Democrats were debating 'The Future of the Trident System' at a meeting during their Conference in Brighton. A Consultation Paper with this title had been circulated to delegates during August, which put all the relevant facts and issues involved very clearly and fairly, and although it came to no definite conclusions and tried to maintain a balanced view, it put a very strong case for the UK to phase out its nuclear deterrent altogether, either now or during the lifetime of the present Trident system.

Although I could not be go to either Conference myself, several delegates from the local Liberal Democrat party in Canterbury (of which I am a member) went to Brighton. On my behalf, one of them put my long-held view that the use, or even the possession, of nuclear weapons was morally unjustifiable and that the Liberal Democrat Party should adopt a policy now for phasing out the UK's nuclear deterrent.

After a lively debate an Emergency Motion was drafted to be put before the full Conference, asking the Party to press for a vote in Parliament to be postponed until after all the main Parties have had a chance to debate the Government's promised White Paper, at their Spring 2007 Conferences, and in the event that a vote is forced by the Government before then Liberal Democrat MPs should be allowed a free vote. This motion was duly debated on the following Thursday morning at 9am, but unfortunately it was not carried.

However, I believe that the fact that there was a debate on Trident renewal has given hope that at least one of the major parties may adopt a non-nuclear defence policy if enough pressure is brought to bear on them. This is an opportunity to lobby sympathetic MPs to press for a free vote in Parliament this Autumn, and if we are members of the Liberal Democrat Party to urge it to adopt such a policy at its Spring Conference.

*Colin Graham*

# Prayer Diary

Enjoy the earth gently  
Enjoy the earth gently  
For if the earth is spoiled it cannot be repaired  
Enjoy the earth gently.  
(Yoruba poem)

## What is in our hearts at this time?

Pray daily/weekly/regularly for those demonstrating to resist the evil of nuclear weapons at all our nuclear weapon sites; particularly for those at Aldermaston and Faslane.

## October

**22nd - 29th:** Week of Prayer for World Peace

**24th:** United Nations Day. Pray for the United Nations; that the ways of discussion, consensus, justice, law and treaty obligation may flourish between nations. Pray for the UK United Nations Association Lobby of Parliament on this day. Pray for wisdom for those in power.

## November

**1st & 2nd:** All Souls and All Saints, including our Peace witness saints and souls who have gone before and also are still with us and at it. We are part of a great company.

**13th:** Pray for those taking part in the Aldermaston Block the Builders campaign.

**30th:** St Andrew's Day, patron saint of Scotland. Pray for those blockading the Faslane nuclear submarine base.

First Aldermaston Advent Vigil. Support CCND and friends from other faiths with your prayers at home and in your church or prayer groups.

## December

### Advent

We wait in hope for the Lord:  
he is our help and our shield.  
In him our hearts rejoice,  
for we trust in his holy name.  
May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,  
even as we put our hope in you. (Psalms)



**7th, 14th, 21st:** CCND's Aldermaston Advent Vigil.

Pray for those in prison and those awaiting trial.

Hold the companies and people who work at Aldermaston in your prayers.

**25th:** Happy Christmas. Joy and Peace.

Poem and Psalm from Inspiration for a New Beginning compiled by Sarah Medina Lion giftlines. 'Whenever hope rises, life rises.'



Peace Zone at Greenbelt see story on next page

Thank you to new member Diana Mills who kindly allowed us to reprint her poem below. Budding poets or writers are welcome to send in their contributions for the consideration of the editorial group!

## Not on some Faraway Atoll

Years ago experts assured us  
nuclear testing was safe  
told us we were "participating  
in a moment of history"

not on some  
faraway Pacific atoll  
but here in Utah USA.

They told us  
"not to worry"  
even though the snow  
we saw falling was  
radioactive fallout

our hair fell out in handfuls  
our children died of leukaemia  
and sand fused into glass

not on some  
faraway Pacific atoll  
but here in Utah USA.

In those days we ate food  
grown in contaminated earth  
drank contaminated milk  
drank contaminated water  
no-one told us it wasn't safe

our deaths from radioactive  
contamination made no  
impression on the experts

which is why  
sixty years later  
nuclear waste  
is due to be dumped

not on some  
faraway Pacific atoll  
but here in Utah USA.

*Diana Mills 2005*

**Christian CND in the Peace Zone,  
Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival 2006**

**N**o one could be in any doubt about the main cause for concern in the Peace Zone - all Christians have a grave and urgent responsibility to inform themselves and to wrestle with the Trident issue. The Peace Zone is run by the Network of Christian Peace Organisations, of which CCND is a member, and I attended as the CCND representative.

As well as a selection of resources from the various NCPO bodies, there was a quiz for visitors, an audio-visual display on non-violence campaigns and the chance to make your own paper peace crane. A new idea for this year which worked really well was the 'Build Peace' message board. We invited visitors to finish the sentence "Build peace by..." then hold up their message and have their photo taken, to be added to a large display by the entrance. By the end of Greenbelt this was covered in over 100 faces and messages!

On Friday and Saturday evenings, we staged a Redemption Songs 'Desert Island Discs'. The two special guests were Ciaran O'Reilly - one of the Shannon Ploughshares activists - and Norman Kember, who was held hostage in Iraq. These drew large audiences, and were followed by discussion.

Compared to last year I felt there was a more urgent desire to know more about what makes wars more - or less- likely, and greater curiosity about the UK's nuclear weapons. Sadly, there remained overall a prevailing belief that - however regrettably- the UK's nuclear weapons keep us 'safe' .... let's pray that study of CCND materials taken may prompt a different view.

*Christine Titmus*

**Knitting a Protest**

**F**aslane 365 began in glorious sunshine on 1st. October with a gathering of Greenham women, Aldermaston women and Women in Black. There was no blockade on that day but a general getting to know each other, workshops, singing and dancing.

We four women who had travelled from Southampton and Oxford made our own little affinity group to decide what we would do the following day. When we arrived at 7.30am on Monday we were told that five women had already been arrested. Heavily outnumbered by police in yellow jackets it was not possible to mount an effective blockade so small groups did several small actions such as a conga line into the road in front of North Gate.

We four chose our moment and walked into the middle of the road with our stools on which we sat down and took out our knitting. We were instantly surrounded by yellow jackets and issued with dire warnings about the possibility of arrest. One young policeman told me gently in a lovely Scottish accent that if I didn't move I would be "locked up". They then took our arms and escorted us back to the pavement still clutching our knitting.

Our action didn't last long but was duly reported in as "a hold-up at North Gate" and since we did not wish to be arrested we did not repeat it. By the time we left there had ben 12 arrests and we heard that they would be held overnight. I have since heard that they were released the following morning without charge.

*Jean Kaye*

**How to join CCND** Annual membership subscriptions are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Waged, individual: £12 (£15 household)	Denomination/church position:
<input type="checkbox"/> Unwaged individual £6, (£8 household)	.....
<input type="checkbox"/> Group affiliation: from £10	(Optional)
<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	CCND will <b>never</b> pass members' details to anyone who is not a CCND member.
<input type="checkbox"/> I enclose a cheque/PO (payable to CCND) to include the following:	
membership: £.....	
donation: £.....	
TOTAL: £.....	
Name.....	
Address.....	Postcode.....
Telephone.....	Email:.....

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

## Diary

**22 - 29 October:** One World Week: Mind the Gap! Change Minds - Shrink Gaps. One World Week, PO Box 2555, Reading, RG1 4XW 0118 939 4933 enquiries@oneworld-week.org www.oneworldweek.org

**22 - 29 October:** Week of Prayer for World Peace. Leaflets from: Mrs Lesley Daisley, WPWP Administrator, c/o London Inter Faith Centre, 125 Sulusbury Road, London NW6 6RG. www.weekofprayer.org.uk

**24 October:** United Nations Day. UNA-UK Lobby of Parliament. UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EL 020 7766 3444 info@una.org.uk

Book Launch, and Q&A. Co-hosted by CND, Bookmarks, and The New Press. Helen Caldicott introduces her new book 'Nuclear Power is not the Answer'. Tickets £3/£2 concessions. Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue, London. Tickets: 020 7637 1848

**27 - 29 October:** Called to be Peacemakers: Religious Rights and Wrongs in Contemporary Conflicts. FoR's Youth conference is open to anyone aged 18 to 30 (ish). Venue: Community for Reconciliation in Bromsgrove, near Birmingham. Contact martha@for.org.uk Fellowship of Reconciliation, St James Church Centre, Beauchamp Lane Oxford OX4 3LF. 01865 748 796.

**Tuesday 31 October:** Interfaith meditation for peace. Faith leaders and meditation practitioners from the City join together in commitment to peace. Open to all. 6.30-8pm. Contact enquiries@stethelburgas.org. St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AG. 020 7496 1610 www.stethelburgas.org Also on 28 November.

**1 - 2 November:** Clergy and Iona Community at Faslane 365. Contact Iona Community 0141 332 6343 ionacomm@gl.iona.org.uk

**5-6 November:** CND at Faslane 365. The national office is arranging transport from London with pick-up points on the way. 020 7700 2393 campaigns@cnduk.org Faslane 365's website is www.faslane365.org

**Sunday 12 November:** Remembrance Sunday.

**Monday 13 November** Block the Builders at AWE Aldermaston. Meet up on Sunday evening, at 6pm at the Friends Meeting House in Newbury. Please bring a sleeping bag and a mat. Alternatively head straight to Aldermaston on Monday morning. Meet near Tadley Gate. To avoid getting stuck in traffic, please arrive by 7am on the Monday morning. 07969 739812 www.blockthebuilders.org.uk

**Saturday 18 November:** Warfare Or Welfare: Disarmament for Development and Global Security in the 21st Century. World Disarmament Campaign Annual Conference. 10.30 - 4.30 at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London. Speakers: Shirley Williams, George Gelber, DAFOD and Colin Archer, International Peace Bureau. Cost: £6/£4 concessions. Send conference fee (Cheques payable to WDC) to Celia Bower,

WDC Treasurer, 78 Muswell Road, London N10 2BE.

**30 November:** Advent Vigil, 2.30-3.30 at Aldermaston AWE, Tadley Gate (on the A340, you can park opposite in the road by the housing estate.)

**Saturday 2 December:** National Demo RAF Brize Norton used to ferry British troops to Iraq and Afghanistan and US bombs to Israel (during its recent attack on Lebanon). Assemble 12:00 noon in Carterton. Called by Oxford, Bristol and Swindon Stop the War Coalitions. Ring 07764563855 or Email: swindon\_stopwar@yahoo.co.uk for more details.

**Monday 4 December:** Is peace possible? An interfaith seminar exploring the fourth principle of the Earth Charter: democracy, nonviolence and peace. To book a place contact tent@stethelburgas.org St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AG. 020 7496 1610 http://www.stethelburgas.org/

**Wednesday 6 December:** Violently-held belief? The Ekklesia think tank team Jonathan Bartley & Simon Barrow look at aspects of violence in the Christian story and its implications for Christians in a multi-faith environment today. 7.00pm, To book a place contact enquiries@stethelburgas.org. St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AG. 020 7496 1610 http://www.stethelburgas.org/

**7 December:** Advent Vigil, 2.30-3.30 at Aldermaston AWE, Tadley Gate (on the A340, you can park opposite in the road by the housing estate.)

**11 December:** Block the Builders at AWE Aldermaston. Meet up on Sunday evening, at 6pm at the Friends Meeting House in Newbury. Please bring a sleeping bag and a mat. Alternatively head straight to Aldermaston on Monday morning. Meet near Tadley Gate. To avoid getting stuck in traffic, please arrive by 7am on the Monday morning. 07969 739812 www.blockthebuilders.org.uk

**14 & 21 December:** Advent Vigil, 2.30-3.30 at Aldermaston AWE, Tadley Gate

## CCND goods

**T-Shirts**

With CCND logo. £12 each.

**Cotton bags**

With logo. £3 each.

**Picasso Greetings Cards.** £2.50 for six.

**Other CCND items available:** badges, window stickers, pens and a history of CCND.

See your membership insert for details and an order form.

**Send orders to:**

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

162 Holloway Road, London N7 8D

Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357

Email: christians@cnduk.org Web: http://ccnd.gn.apc.org/

