WE JUST BANNED NUCLEAR WEAPONS!

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Welcome to Russell Whiting

Thanks to the generous legacy left to Christian CND by Estella Newsome we have been able to appoint a Development Manager. The role initially lasts for two years and its purpose is to “Provide positive, professional and enthusiastic focus to Christian CND as it seeks to make nuclear disarmament a mainstream issue in UK churches.”

In practice this means that we want far more Christians to know about nuclear weapons, and to start to see peacemaking as a normal part of their Christian life.

Russell previously worked as Parliamentary Officer at National CND so he is no stranger to the subject matter, but he was looking for a role where his Christian faith could be fully related to his passion for peacemaking. Please make him very welcome and pray for him as he starts this new role. Russell is looking forward to working with CCND members to spread the gospel of peace!
On 7th July 2017 we will have a Nuclear Ban Treaty. Just now they are translating it into all the UN languages.

‘a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination’.

We have all been working towards this for years and years from our foundation, ever since the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and the second on Nagasaki. All those marches, sit downs, meetings, all that endless talk, and here it is.

We send you a copy with this issue of Ploughshare. It’s a present from all of us to all of us, and to the world. We should treasure it, frame it, put it on our parlour wall ...

By good chance this issue of Ploughshare indicates some of the history of how we got here; the letter from New Zealand activist mentions Dell Higgin (Ambassador); she promoted the nuclear weapons Convention, the Ban Treaty’s precursor; also New Zealand’s long opposition to NW; the nuclear tests in the Pacific; the account of this year’s Embassy Walk, our attendance at this first Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee meeting in Vienna, our long involvement with the NPT, even our now forgotten Countdown to Disarmament Campaign for which we got £10, 000 from Polden-Pucken, which had exactly this union between the Non Nuclear Weapon States and Civil Society.

Now we can send you the text of a Treaty, lodged at the United Nations, that Bans Nuclear Weapons. Unfortunately, at this stage, we can only send you a piece of paper; there are still a few little things to be done ...

Exec Member Geraldine Ellis helping distribute literature outside February’s Church of England Synod
Two of us, Kelvin Gascoyne & I, represented Christian CND at the first set of the Ban Treaty negotiations in March 2017. We managed to get to the ‘Campaigners’ meeting’ on the Sunday 26th (Kelvin discovered its location from an Australian at his hostel). It was essential for us to be there (on practical grounds we needed a bit more paperwork to get into the UN; Beth, a Pax Christi Metro person told us. We phoned Claire here in London, Claire emailed Beth, Beth brought the printouts on the Monday.)

Back to the Campaigners’ meeting. Sitting on the sofa were two people, Setsuko Thurlow, a Hibakusha; and Sue Coleman, a victim of the UK and Australian Nuclear Weapon Tests. It is very hard to be a victim; no one wants to be a victim; the Hibakusha speak of the shame; having to overcome the shame to speak, I thought that was the effect of the particular Japanese culture, they do shame, we do guilt but I think it’s more basic than that. A victim is someone to whom it is said, you do not matter, you are not a person, never mind for terrible things, like rape and war, but even for computer fraud; so victims do not want to claim that horrible identity. So we do owe the victims of Nuclear war, Nuclear tests, nuclear manufacture, uranium mining, the degradation of their environment, nuclear accidents, a great debt when they do speak. Nuclear victims are at the heart of the Ban Treaty; quite unlike the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty, where they are not mentioned. Victims are important to Christians because of Christ the Victim; I did say to Sue that Christ was where the victims were; so she was with Christ, or perhaps the other way round. At the Vienna PrepCom we used the video of Sue’s speech in the last session at the UN at our Interfaith Meeting.

Monday was the great day, beginning of the negotiations. 8am at the Interfaith Vigil at the Isaiah Wall, ‘They shall beat their swords into ploughshares’. Christian CND has vigilled there ever since we started on the NPT, so that’s since 2000 at least, possibly before; now it’s an International Interfaith group, (what I’ve always wanted at the NPT)
with actual New Yorkers as well. This has been useful for Interfaith statements, see page 7. We had an input into that, particularly to include all victims as well as Hibakusha, NW kill even without the intention to kill. Then a long queue to get a pass, along the sidewalk, in the rain, practically the whole world wide peace movement. Then we got in, up to the gallery of the General Assembly, none of those things to put over your ear for the translation, so down to the shop to buy one, then I was nabbed to go to the ICAN Press briefing, so as to be audience for Beatrice Fihn so I missed the extraordinary demonstration by the USA, UK and French Ambassadors against the Ban treaty being negotiated in the UN. What a pity, what a change. There were the great majority of the nations of the UN negotiating a multi-lateral treaty to Ban nuclear weapons inside the chamber, which they said they had always wanted; and there they were protesting outside against it. Protest is what I thought we did. They protested because they do not want to get rid of nuclear weapons, they want to keep them.

But the negotiations began & continued downstairs in Conference Room 4. Diego Garcia Ambassador Elaine White-Gomez chaired. She had a definite plan, which became apparent; at first the proceedings were much the same as for the NPT; a speaker for a delegation declared their position, usually associating themselves with other positions, so as not to repeat unnecessarily. The Nuclear Weapon Free Zones. were important. A very decisive lady from New Zealand spoke, Ambassador Dell Higgie. New Zealand was always a leader against NW, from the New Agenda Coalition onwards.

We met her in Vienna at the PrepCom. Ambassador Elaine White spoke to us at our NGO Briefing. She was keen to avoid conflict with the NPT and to have a more inclusive way of working. This became apparent in the last sessions we attended; NGOs and Civil Society were formally included. There was a panel of speakers from the NGOs, Hibbakuqh Setsuko Thurslow spoke, as did Sue Coleman (videos on
Nuclear Ban Treaty

the ICAN website). There was discussion between diplomats and civil society. This was the difference, there were more voices in the room, more voices were heard. This was the majority of the nations of the world working together for a treaty to Ban nuclear weapons.

We joined with other UK citizens, Janet Fenton, Tim Wallis, CND Chair Dave Webb to lobby the relevant officer at the UK embassy in New York, who said he would pass our comments on to the Foreign Office. This was following on directly after Fabian HamiltonMP had spoken with him alone. Fabian Hamilton did agree to speak at our PrepCom meeting, but unfortunately the election stymied that.

Mike met me off the plane at Heathrow; we went straight to an FOR meeting at Peace House in Oxford where two Hibakusha gave their testimony; the meeting became quieter and quieter as they told their sad story; at the end I was able to give them three photographs taken in the UN showing the Ban Treaty being negotiated there; they saw the picture of the General Assembly, they saw the picture of Conference room 4, in both the title on the wall, ‘to negotiate a binding legal framework for the elimination of all nuclear weapons’. They rose from their chairs, they understood before the translation.

Caroline Gilbert

Reaching Critical Will:
http://tinyurl.com/y93z6pao
ICAN: http://uk.icanw.org/
Common Dreams:
http://tinyurl.com/ycmm40gr

Daily vigil outside the UN
On July 7, 2017, more than 120 states gathered at UN Headquarters in New York adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Having repeatedly voiced our grave concerns about the humanitarian and environmental consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, we wholeheartedly welcome the adoption of this Treaty as a vital step toward the goal of a world free from nuclear weapons.

Our respective faith traditions advocate for the right of people and all living things to live in security and dignity. We believe in the commands of conscience and justice; we seek to honour our duty to protect the vulnerable and to exercise the stewardship that will safeguard the planet for future generations. Nuclear weapons are entirely incompatible with these values and commitments, and manifest a total disregard for the principles of humanity.

We recognize and applaud the courage shown by the states represented in these conferences, the invaluable efforts by the UN and other international organizations, as well as of civil society, which have resulted in the realization of this Treaty. We offer our particular respect to the hibakusha (a-bomb survivors), victims of nuclear tests and others suffering from the effects of radiation from the manufacture of nuclear weapons and environmental degradation of their homelands, whose experiences and advocacy have demonstrated that the fundamental purpose of this Treaty must be to prevent the unacceptable suffering and harm they have endured from being visited on any other individual, family or society.

It is now vital that the principles and norms of this Treaty be widely disseminated among the world’s peoples in order to achieve its universal adoption and implementation. As people of faith we accept as our special responsibility the work of raising awareness of the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons for current and future generations, awakening public conscience to build a global popular constituency in support of the Treaty in order to achieve and sustain a world free from nuclear weapons.

Full list of signatories available here: http://tinyurl.com/yacvh4xl

Vigil at the Isaiah Wall opposite the UN
NPT PrepCom in Vienna

Geraldine, Patricia, Michael and Caroline stayed at “The Happy Hostel”; again a good choice. At 8am each morning we conducted a short morning prayer vigil outside the UN. On day one, Matthew Rowland, the UK Disarmament Ambassador, greeted us before he went in. Then an amusing thing happened!

We had explained our purpose to a security officer, who understood. (We were praying for peace and the success of the event, and on the same spot 5 years previously, we had been considered harmless.) However, when we had finished, his superior officer came out and told us demonstrations were not allowed. She did not even let us store our prayer banners in the office, as in 2012. Nor did she let us take our leaflets in. (The other NGOs were bringing in all their literature.) Patricia had to get the NGO organizer to tell her to get ours returned to us. I reckoned all this might have been the result of a jobsworth approach to a new appointment?

Just before the PrepCom, Abolition 2000 NGOs met nearby, and when it began I met a group of Japanese students attending for the first time. This PreCom began a new 5-year cycle towards the 2020 Review Conference. The last failed to finish with agreement on a final statement, a sad fact referred to several times. Attempting a good start, the new Chair had pepper and salt cruets for everyone! (My take was, that as Christians, we should be salt of the earth and pep everyone up.)

I think most present were conscious of 2015 and wished to appear positive. In fact, hearing so many presentations supporting a nuclear weapons ban, made me sense that things are on the cusp of change.

I visited the end of Row 4, the place of the Holy See, to ask for a meeting. We also confirmed meetings with delegates that Patricia had communicated with after our latest Embassy Walk. Geraldine charmed the Irish delegation, and the Croatian Ambassador took a photo for us when we were sitting with the Holy See!

We walked across to Matthew, who fixed a time for us to meet
with him. At this, I asked if there was another Round Table meeting due at the Foreign Office. He said he would check it out.

Although the P5 were resisting a ban treaty, I felt they were aware of the weight of opinion in favour. Many delegates said a ban need not conflict with the NPT but would complement it.

The food was set out on tables in the nearby church hall and the banners displayed. One reads, ‘Now we Pray Together’ (NPT).

Caroline began the event with a short video. The first speaker was a Muslim and the second a Japanese Buddhist. As the third, I mentioned concepts the others had touched on (respect and enlightenment). I described victims we knew about. I explained the relational essence of Christianity, and, of course, Christ Himself, the supreme victim.

Our meeting turned out a great success, with all present lively, smiling and chatting with each other. The Japanese had even prepared small presents.

We attended big CND’s meeting and several others, On the day of our own inter-faith side meeting it rained, but that didn’t deter us. Patricia and Geraldine managed to journey through it with big bags containing the food for refreshments. I retrieved our prayer banners from the places I had put them.

Michael Pulham
Side meetings in Vienna

One of the great advantages of going to these NPT conferences, are the contacts that we make, both with the official delegates and with other NGO members like ourselves. When we visited the London Embassies during our Embassy Walk we asked for contacts in Vienna. These resulted in five meetings, (could have been more if we stayed longer). We had informal get-togethers with Brazil, New Zealand, the Holy See, Ireland and the UK. These private meetings give us an opportunity to find out more about what is going on behind the scenes and explore the formal Statements that are given by official delegates in the main Conference Chamber, in more depth. All these statements are available on the “reachingcriticalwill” website.

Just as a taster — From the Holy See.”

In his letter to Her Excellency Elayne Whyte Gomez, President of the UN conference on a nuclear ban, Pope Francis urged the international community to ‘go beyond nuclear deterrence… and to adopt forward-looking strategies to promote the goal of peace and stability and to avoid short-sighted approaches to the problems surrounding national and international security.’ Growing interdependence requires a collective response based on mutual trust, a trust built through dialogue directed to the common good, not the protection of narrow interests. Such dialogue, as far as possible, should include both nuclear and non-nuclear states “working together in international bodies such as this one, but should also include the private sector, religious communities and civil society.”

Our group meets the Holy See delegate
The meeting we had with the New Zealand Ambassador, Her Excellency Dell Higgie, was both enjoyable and informative. New Zealand was one of the foremost nations to push for the Ban Treaty negotiations.

“New Zealand’s vote at the United Nations General Assembly last year in favour of the launch of multilateral negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons and to provide the framing for their total elimination is another of the ways in which we demonstrate our very strong opposition to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and our expectation that the NPT’s promise of disarmament will indeed be realised... Notwithstanding that most NPT States Parties support this negotiation, we know that not all do so. New Zealand is confident nevertheless that the UNGA treaty will reinforce the NPT and be an important enabler of the full implementation of Article VI”.

Michael Pulham of CCND, Janet Fenton of Scottish CND PA to NZ Ambassador, NZ Ambassador and Caroline Gilbert of CCND
The focus this year was on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty Negotiations. Most of the Embassies we approached had been at the forefront of setting up the current Treaty Negotiations in New York. Letters had been sent to these 18 Embassies early in February to request an appointment. Although only 4 offered an appointment at this time, we knew from past experience that there would be others who would see us on the day. We also prepared letters for those we could not see, which could be handed in and would contain the points we had hoped to discuss and hopefully would be responded to afterwards. The police were sent a copy of the timetable for information.

Due to the large number of Embassies chosen, there were 3 routes, and walkers divided between them. Each “walk” had a leader who distributed information packs containing a timetable, map, background information and suggested questions and discussion points.

We began, as usual, with a short prayer service in St Martin-in-the-Fields, led by the Rev Richard Carter, who has always been particularly supportive.

The representatives from the Indonesian Embassy had asked us to arrange a meeting room for them to speak to us, as their Embassy was in the process of moving building. This took place in the Desmond Tutu Room in St. Martins. There was room for the whole group to attend where we heard from Counsellor Andalusia Dewi and 1st Secretary of Political Affairs, Gita Murti about Indonesia’s long history of involvement with anti-nuclear treaties and national groupings. They were concerned that the P5 had not ratified the S.E Asia Nuclear-Free Zone but had hopes that the Ban Treaty might mitigate the slow progress of the NPT.

At most embassies, a letter was handed in, or someone was available for a brief meeting. Usually the person meeting us was not particularly well-informed, and some places it seemed we were briefing the embassy staff! A few embassies offered us the chance to meet their staff in Vienna.

There had been several letters and emails before the walk with 1st Secretary (Political Section) Monica Zachs.
She said that after a 20-year stalemate in the NPT there was need for a new initiative — this had resulted in the Humanitarian Consequences Conference and the Open Ended Discussion Group on Disarmament (OEDG) which involves 123 member states. Austria rejects the criticism that that the Ban treaty will counter the NPT. It will complement it. The Ban Treaty is not the last step as it will need verification. Nuclear Weapons are an old-fashioned way of thinking and the whole system is unbalanced. The plan is for the negotiations to be open to everyone. It will be a long process and not easy. It was civil-society participation that made the Humanitarian Consequence so strong.

We did not have as many interviews as we do for the NPT-related walks, but have received some useful contacts for following up in Vienna. Probably the time between the requests and the walk date was too short. We usually allow at least 6 weeks. Everyone has been thanked and we await the replies to our hand-in letters.

Thanks to all who participated and to Martin Tiller for preparing the St. Martin’s liturgy and Richard Carter for leading it. (Richard came to the meeting with the Indonesians and impressed us all with his ability to speak Indonesian!!) – not forgetting the group leaders and note-takers. We had a good write-up and a photo in the Church Times, which also explained about the Ban Treaty. Thank you to Michael for his Press Releases and the long telephone interview with the CT reporter.
Spring Harvest

The seaside holiday atmosphere of Butlins brought together people and families from various denominations to pray, worship and enjoy time together. This was our first time at Spring Harvest and John and I joined the rest of the CCND team to take turns in manning the stall.

As people and families went off each day to their various sessions on worship, prayer and Bible teaching they had to pass our stall.

With a smile and a friendly hello we handed out a selection of leaflets and badges. Children were attracted to our stall by our interactive display; the large tree and world globe for them to place their names and countries they would like to help. One little boy left saying to his mum that he wanted to be a peacemaker. Then a man who had been an active CND member in the eighties and had just become a Christian, loved the fact that he could now combine his two loves, and wanted to join and wear a CCND badge and t-shirt.

This was just one of the many opportunities we had through conversations and discussions to inform people of the wonderful work that Christian CND is doing to bring about a world free of nuclear weapons.

*John and Geraldine Ellis*
More than 80 Christians were present at the Witness on 1 March, and gave a message to the Government: nuclear weapons are immoral and illegal. The witness was supported by the London Catholic Worker and Christian CND.

Earlier in the morning of Ash Wednesday LCW members Henrietta Cullinan and Fr Martin Newell prayed then marked the building with ash and charcoal with words from scripture, ‘Let your hearts be broken’ and with the message, ‘Support the UN nuclear ban’.

Top: CCND Exec Member Martin Birdseye with his banner, and below, a selection of banners both home-made and shop-bought.
Thank you, Reverend Nagase! I am honoured to have been invited here. This beautiful Peace Pagoda stands as a proud emblem of the desire for harmony in our world. I thank you, Reverend, for your persistent prayer and your work for peace. I also congratulate you on your recent Peace Award from Pax Christi!

I am from the Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament which works in the United Kingdom for the removal of the fearsome threat of nuclear weapons. Christians of all denominations campaign together, knowing that violence cannot be an answer to violence. Peace can only come through non-violent means, whereas nuclear weapons represent ultimate violence. We remember all who have suffered and died due to their testing and their use at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Today’s celebration witnesses the desire for peace. To see a wide variety of people together here for that end is both encouraging and invigorating! Recently, I made a list of positive things that have happened, but I am sure it is nowhere near complete. There must be more examples than the ones I have written down. Please let me know about them, because I would like to extend the list.

My starter list begins with the fact that all the main Christian denominations have made statements against nuclear weapons. It then goes on to refer to other faiths. This is because, although Christian CND’s priority is the churches, it has a history of organising interfaith events where we have experienced much agreement.

The third item refers to the 14th National Peace Symposium of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, to which my wife, Patricia, and I were invited in March. Their prominent banner read, “Love for all. Hate for none”. Dining there with eight hundred people, the first supportive message we heard read out was from the Interreligious Department of the Vatican.

Fourth on my list was meeting the representative of the Holy See at the recent Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Meeting at the United Nations. At every one of these, the General Assembly is addressed by the Pope’s Permanent Observer on the urgency for nuclear weapons to be abandoned.

Number five recalls the interfaith side meeting we had there. Our three speakers comprised a Buddhist, a Muslim and a Christian.

Sixth on the list mentions how Cardinal Vincent Nichols recently took four Imams to Rome to meet with Pope Francis.

My seventh item notes how a mix of different faiths joined together after the London Bridge atrocity to witness against it.
Last so far, but by no means least, is the big news that a majority of the nations of the world are now engaged in getting a Treaty at the United Nations to ban nuclear weapons, just as other weapons of mass destruction are prohibited. All these things are very good news. As I said, do please let me know of other positive things, so that this list can be expanded.

Now, I have mentioned the need for non-violence. The essence of Christianity is relationship. Our Leader instructs us to love our neighbour — even our enemy. At every level, whether personal, national or in international diplomacy, the non-violence of good relations is the constructive way to peace. Anyone who truly wants peace has to realise this and carry out their own responsibility for it, saying “Peace begins with me!”

Thank you all

Michael Pulham, 17 June 2017
The recent tragedies in our country and the amazing response afterwards underline the importance of our inter-faith work. Caroline has written about our NPT fringe meeting, “Remember the Victims” and representatives from CCND have been privileged to take part in large events from both the Muslim and Buddhist traditions where we shared their faiths’ approach to peace and were able to explain our Christian teaching.

A few days earlier, at the London Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, positive peace-producing events had been noted: e.g., the warm message that had been read out this year from the Vatican’s Interreligious Department to the National Peace Symposium of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community; their prominent banner, proclaiming “Love for all. Hatred for None”;

Cardinal Vincent Nicholls taking four Imams to Rome to meet Pope Francis; The side event at the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Meeting in May, for a Buddhist, a Muslim and a speaker from Christian CND. Mentioned also was the news that a majority of the world’s nations are now engaging on a UN Treaty to have nuclear weapons banned, just as other weapons of mass destruction are prohibited.

Finally, advice; That anyone who truly wants peace must carry out personal responsibility for it, always remembering, “Peace begins with me!”

The photograph here was taken outside Finsbury Park Mosque, soon after the atrocity there. A van had deliberately ploughed into a group of Muslims just after prayers. Fr. Gerard King, from the nearby St Joan of Arc church, went with members of other faiths to show solidarity — just as many Muslims had gone in procession to the site of the horror at London Bridge. Next to Fr. Gerard is Rabbi Herschel Gluck and Bob Singh, a Sikh. For peace, relationship is needed. Violence only encourages more violence.
A well-loved member of our church has recently died of cancer, after a very long and brave struggle. When cancer takes someone we love, we naturally feel a strong desire to make life better for other people who might be in a similar situation in the future. So it is not surprising that charities relating to cancer — treating it, finding cures for it, or caring for those affected by it — are extremely popular. The UK Charity Commission website lists nearly 1,600 charities with the word “cancer” in their name.

It is known, of course, that radiation is one cause of cancer, and that nuclear explosions produce great quantities of radiation. Timmon Wallis, in “The Truth About Trident”, quotes a controversial study which estimates that up to 2.4 million people worldwide could eventually die from cancers and leukaemias as a result of the testing of nuclear weapons in the 50s and 60s. Of course, the health impact of any use of nuclear weapons in anger could be incomparably greater even than this shocking figure.

One way or another, all suffering — through war or illness — is a result of the “fallen”, sinful, nature of our world. As Christians we are quite good at “mopping up” after things have gone wrong in a situation we come across. I am sure that many Christians had held the hands of dying slaves, before Wilberforce and others stood up and said that it was slavery itself which was the problem. The abolitionists campaigned against the root cause of the suffering of the slaves, and eventually succeeded — slavery was abolished.

The prophets in the Old Testament wept and suffered alongside those who suffered. That was not what made them great men and women of God. They also challenged the rulers of their day, whose actions were often the root cause of the people’s pain. As Christians we are of course called to comfort those who are suffering today. But this is not enough. We must also campaign against the causes, and potential causes, of that suffering. Every time we hear of someone suffering because of cancer, let us redouble our efforts against nuclear weapons.

Martin Tiller
The Estella Newsome Memorial Prize

Members will recall the generous legacy provided by this devoted and thoughtful woman. We are now able to report establishment of a yearly student prize in her memory.

Professor Bill Brewer, the Susan Stebbing Professor of Philosophy and Head of the Department of Philosophy at King’s College London, says he is extremely grateful for this initiative.

Each year for five years a prize of £100 will be awarded for what his department judges to be the best essay. Our only request is that it contains reference to ethical views.

This represents a way of spreading awareness of our organisation and an opportunity to thank every Member for the support you give and especially for your prayers. Please say a prayer for Stella.

Campaigning ideas for Members

The Prayer Campaign and Pentecost Prayer Diary introduced the Ban Treaty to a number of different churches, not just to our members.

As we continue working to abolish nuclear weapons we need to explore different and non-threatening ways to get our disarmament message to grassroots Christians.

Recently, CCND was asked to run afternoon workshops for the Southwark Diocesan Justice and Peace Day at Aylesford Priory. Our aim was to help people work on ideas to get disarmament onto the parish agenda. There were six groups who worked on the following topics, 1) preparing a Peace Service, 2) Spreading the message – at home, in Church – at work. 3) Writing a letter to parliamentary candidate, religious press or local or national paper. 4) writing an article for your Parish Magazine or setting up a J&P notice board. 5) Planning a Peace Walk or Mini Pilgrimage, 6) Organising a Parish peace event, e.g. film evening or speaker, peace garden or peace stall.

If any of you would find these kind of workshops helpful, we can provide material and/or workshop leaders.
We are grateful for the final statement of the Nuclear Ban Treaty and ask for guidance to help it come into force.

JULY: What joy there will be in Heaven and on Earth, when nuclear weapons are finally banned and eliminated. May the anticipation of that joy motivate us and keep us positive, and inspire those we meet to seek it also. And may each step along the way also bring joy, as we press towards the vision God has given us.

AUGUST: “The enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives.” (Emperor Hirohito, addressing the Japanese people, 14th August, 1945)

Great kindness or great cruelty. Light or darkness. Love or hatred. We cannot espouse both sides. We must make a choice. May we choose kindness at every level of our lives, and may our leaders do the same.

SEPTEMBER: “Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order...” (Albert Einstein)

Yes, Lord. We believe peace is possible, through your power, Peace and wholeness – shalom.

Shalom, shalom, shalom. Amen.

OCTOBER: “The very first step in non-violence is that we cultivate in our daily life, as between ourselves, truthfulness, humility, tolerance, loving kindness.” (Gandhi)

(This material has been taken from our own Pentecost Prayer Diary – “Thy Kingdom Come”. The Network of Christian Peace Organisations, NCPO, has produced a resource of prayers and readings for Hiroshima Day which we can use in our own churches or events. It is available from http://ncpo.org.uk/hiroshima-day.)
Until 28 August: People Power: Fighting for Peace. An exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, London. Exploring how peace movements have influenced perceptions of war and conflict. From conscientious objectors to peace camps and modern day marches, Fighting for Peace tells the stories of passionate people over the past 100 years. £10 Conc £7. 020 7416 5000 http://tinyurl.com/z7hckl8

6 August: Hiroshima Day.
Birkenhead: Hiroshima – Never Again. Support the Global Ban!’ 11am St Werburg Square. janmike@care4free.net
Chester: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Flower Memorial. Meet at the bandstand on The Groves at 8.00pm for readings and the dropping of white flowers on the river. chesternd@gmail.com
Edinburgh: Annual remembrance. We will have speakers, a choir, crane making, posters/banners and silent reflection. Mound Place (Princes Street) 6pm.
Kingston: Hiroshima Day ceremony involving casting white flowers from the river bank, Canbury Gardens, into the Thames in memory of the victims. 8.30pm. Kingston Peace Council/CND – 020 8898 4850 or eevans298@btinternet.com
London: 12noon in Tavistock Square, annual London Region CND event. david.lrcnd@cnduk.org 0207 607 2302
Maldon: A Commemoration For Light And Peace. A candle has been sent from the peace movement in Hiroshima which we will light and the Candle from Essex will be lit in the floating candle ceremony in Hiroshima. Council Car Parking available in Edward Bright Close and Butt Lane. Refreshments after. 6pm Church of St Mary Church Street CM9 5HN Maldon. Beryl Lankester 01621 869850.
Wimbledon: Hiroshima Day Stall and making paper cranes at 11am outside Wimbledon Library. In the evening (8:30pm) there will be a candle floating ceremony with speakers and music at Rushmire, Wimbledon Common (near War Memorial, Wimbledon Village). Joanna Bazley – 020 8543 0362


7 August: Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration 12noon at the cherry tree in Hereford Crematorium.

9 August: Nagasaki Day.
9 August Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance. Choir Chapel – Aylesford Priory for an hour from 8.20pm For information call John Caruana 01634 864179 Refreshments available after the Service All are Welcome Organised by Kent Diocesan Area Justice and Peace Group.
Bromley: Nagasaki Day Peace picnic. 1-3pm Archbishop Tutu Peace Garden at Grove Park Chinbrook Meadows, Amblecote Road, SE12. Ann Garrett anncgarrett@yahoo.com
Liverpool: Remember Nagasaki. 11am in St. John’s Garden. mcdn@care4free.net
London: Peace Walk from Westminster Cathedral to the London
Peace Pagoda followed by a Lantern-floating ceremony at sunset. Times tbc. 020 7228 9620.

Send us your Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day photos for publication afterwards!


4 - 8 September: Trident Ploughshares will be taking part in the week of action against DSEI, the world's largest arms fair. Contact Chris Bluemel chrisbluemel@yahoo.co.uk

4 - 11 September: Stop the Arms Fair week of action. For four days in September 2017, the international weapons industry plans to set up shop in London at a huge arms fair: DSEI. ExCeL Exhibition Centre, Royal Victoria Dock, 1 Western Gateway, London E16 1XL 020 7281 0297 https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/

5 September: No Faith in War at DSEi at the Excel Centre, London. Faith groups of all kinds will come together for a day of worship and nonviolent action against the arms trade and war profiteering. If you’re part of a faith group and want to take action then please get in touch. outreach@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297.

6 September: Anti-nuclear Day of Action at DSEi at the Excel Centre in London. Check the website later for more news of events on other days during the week of action. https://www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk/

9 September: Musical Protest – No More Arms Fairs. Outside ExCeL London where the “DSEi” Arms Fairs takes place. More musicians and singers (all styles) are welcome to join us. You can also join in if you are not musical. We need people to collect a petition, hold up posters, give out leaflets etc. From Prince Regent DLR Station just follow the signs to ExCeL. We will be at the end of the walkway near the East entrance to the ExCeL centre. elaaf.org elaaf@hotmail.co.uk

12 - 15 September: DSEI, the world’s largest arms fair, at Excel Centre, London.

7 - 14 October: Keep Space for Peace Week. Join the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space as they commemorate Keep Space for Peace Week. Events happening across the UK, as well as the rest of the world – more information to follow. http://www.space4peace.org/

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.