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news update from Christian CND

February 2009

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

“It is better to
light a
candle ...



... than to curse
the darkness”

Easter Vigil at Aldermaston

Once again, Christian CND will be at Aldermaston for Easter Monday, which this year, is on 13th April.

Aldermaston is preparing to build the new UK £25bn Trident nuclear weapon replacement. This would break the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by which the UK is pledged to ‘the elimination of all nuclear arsenals’ (Article VI).

We will meet at Tadley Gate, at midday. Tadley Gate is on the A340, parking opposite.

There will be a Liturgy followed by a walk around the base, with prayers at each gate.

All faiths and none are welcome. Bring clothing suitable for all weather conditions (there was snow at Easter last year!).

You could bring candles, or flowers to leave at each gate. Please do join us!

April 09 sponsored walk round the London embassies
Details available by the end of February

Ash Wednesday

25 February, London.

Christian CND is supporting the Annual Ash Wednesday liturgy of repentance and resistance at the Ministry of Defence. Meet at 3pm in Embankment Gardens (turn right out of Embankment Tube Station - facing the river). Process to the Ministry of Defence, Horseguards Avenue.

Details from Pax Christi: Phone 020 8203 4844.

Email: info@paxchristi.org.uk

<http://www.paxchristi.org.uk/events.HTML>



Last year's Ash Wednesday: Cross bearing images of Martyrs for Peace and 21 Theses of Peace by Philip Berrigan

Meet the members, Meet the Exec!

On Thursday 29th January, there took place the first of the "Meet the Members" evenings at the home of Mr and Mrs Tatton-Brown. Seven people were present which due to the limited capacity of most people's front room was about right.

I went armed with printed and verbal material from CCND, and tried to give an outline of what the Executive actually does, the leaflets and booklets it publishes, the networks it contributes towards, and the campaigning it initiates or shares.

The meeting, however, was at least as interested in issue-based debate, especially Trident Renewal and the economics of the "independent" nuclear deterrent. Initiatives in schools were proposed and planned due to the presence of the Tatton-Brown son. So there is a possible extension of our educational work there. The literature rapidly disappeared as did quantities of coffee, tea and cake. Our gratitude is due to our hosts, and I hope that this worthwhile event will be the first of many.

John A.R. Methuen

New bags in stock!

We have just taken delivery of a new batch of cotton shopping bags. Like the previous bags, they are emblazoned with the CCND logo and the line: "Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world". They have long handles to go over the shoulder, and a gusset making them especially roomy for all your shopping needs! They are also handy for carrying papers, A4 folders etc. They were made in India from organic cotton for a Southampton-based Fair Trade company, Vandanamu.

We also still have the short handle bags available as well. Why not order a couple and keep them in your bag or your car, then you will have no need for the dreaded plastic bags! £3 each plus 10% p&p.

A member ordered a long handled bag, amongst other things a few months ago. I sent the other goods with a note to say that the bag is being re-ordered. However, I cannot find the order form (it may well have been filed away by now). If YOU are that member, please get in touch and I will send you a new bag with grovelling apologies.

Claire Poyner



CCND-Kenya with their latest campaign banners calling for a testy ban treaty CTBT to be in force by 2010.

Doris Weston

Some CCND members may remember Doris Weston, who died recently. From the late 1950s onwards, Doris had become passionately involved in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and in the development of the Oxfam campaign, helping to set up the first Oxfam 'shop' in Harrow. She was also confirmed into the Christian faith at St. Paul's Cathedral during this time. Doris went on the early Aldermaston marches was also involved in the Greenham Common protests - by that time she was living in Marlborough. She later moved to Marlborough Lodge where she would receive full time care and remain for the rest of her days.

Douglas Holdstock

We were saddened to hear of the death of Douglas Holdstock at the end of last year. As well as being a CCND member with his wife Mary, Douglas was a founder member of the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, which joined MAPW to form Medact, one of the founding fathers of the World Court Project UK and a vice-president of World Disarmament Campaign. According to 'Other Lives' in The Guardian, Douglas was 'a worker for peace, all the more so because he was a scientist who understood the implications of nuclear weapons.' We know he will be sadly missed.

Our deepest sympathies to Mary and all the family.

For many years one of CND's strategic objectives had been to help bring about the closure of nuclear power stations in Britain. We want future energy generation to be by means of 'universally acceptable sustainable energy technologies' e.g. wind, water and solar power. Admittedly, this issue has received lower priority in our campaigning than, say, opposition to Trident; one of the reasons is that other environmental campaigns such as Friends of the Earth are better placed to take the lead. CND's particular concerns involve the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons, the disposal of radioactive waste materials and the possibility of nuclear accident or sabotage.

Until fairly recently it seemed that enthusiasm for nuclear power expansion was on the wane. In 2000, Germany announced plans to phase out its nuclear generators and even Britain was becoming less keen, partly on account of the high costs of decommissioning borne by the taxpayers, the waste problem and public opposition. However, two developments have dramatically changed the picture. One is the escalating cost of fossil fuels and the unreliability of supplies from abroad. The other is climate change and the vital need to find ways of producing energy involving little or no carbon emissions. In the light of this, nuclear power appears to be an attractive option and powerful vested interests have been hard at work persuading governments around the world to invest in new nuclear power stations. We must remember too that under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty all nations have the right to develop, research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes subject to safeguards and inspection overseen by the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA).

Currently there are about 440 nuclear power reactors which generate sixteen per cent of the world's electricity. This would need to rise to 50 per cent to make any serious impact on carbon emissions. Also to be taken into account is the certain increase in demand for energy arising from population growth and the industrialisation of developing countries. Therefore an eight-fold increase in nuclear power generation could be on the cards by the year 2075.

A recent booklet by the eminent scientist Dr Frank Barnaby, a former Director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), examines some of the consequences of this nuclear expansion. His assessments are rather discouraging.

First, the vastly increased demand will result in world stocks of suitable uranium running low in just a few years. Consequently, future development is likely to be dependent on plutonium, a fuel more easily adapted for use in nuclear weapons. It will also mean more use of fast breeder reactors about which many have serious reservations. Nuclear fusion generators are unlikely to be developed for many years, if at all.

Second, nuclear weapons proliferation becomes a greater risk if nuclear power generation expands and involves more countries. To quote Dr Barnaby, "Any country with a civil nuclear programme automatically has access, on its territory, to much of the technology and materials and expertise needed to fabricate nuclear weapons - civil nuclear technology and military nuclear technology are identical".

Third, there will be an added risk of nuclear materials falling into 'wrong hands'. Perhaps even now, terrorists could assemble primitive nuclear devices especially if generator grade plutonium or waste were to become available. Obviously, surveillance and security services around the world are very alert to this possibility. But even small amounts in the wrong hands pose a public danger, not least the 'dirty bomb' - conventional explosives present with nuclear material that could spread radiation over a wide area and at very least cause public panic.

The grim likelihood is that the achievement of nuclear disarmament will become much more difficult if a large expansion of nuclear power generation actually takes place over the next 25 years. Dr Barnaby himself believes it is vital to develop and implement ways of non power generation that are eco-friendly as a matter of great urgency, and we share that view. Until now, several of us in CND, myself included, whilst totally opposed to nuclear weapons have been somewhat ambivalent on the issue of nuclear power for peaceful purposes. The changes now taking place call for some fresh thinking and, hopefully, we in Christian CND have a useful contribution to make. If you have strong views on this matter please write or email the office so that we can pursue it further as a group.

Bob Russell

Nuclear Power and Nuclear Proliferation by Frank Barnaby. Published by World Disarmament Campaign. £3 to WDC, PO Box 28209, Edinburgh, EH9 1ZR.

Tuesday 17 February: "Saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war". Annual Erskine Childers Lecture 2009. Speaker Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate. Organised by Action for UN Renewal and World Disarmament Campaign. 7.00 - 8.30 pm Free. Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. Contact Vijay Mehta, Action for UN Renewal, 97 Commercial Road, London, E1 1RD, UK or email vijay@vmpeace.org

25 February: Ash Wednesday. Annual liturgy of Repentance and Resistance to Nuclear War Preparations at Ministry of Defence in Central London. See front page for details. Contact Pax Christi for copies of previous liturgies for local use. Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London, NW4 4TY 0208 203 4884 www.paxchristi.org.uk

27 February - 1 March: Soundcheck 09. The Speak Network hosts a warehouse gathering, a weekend of inspiration, prayer & creativity. Speakers, workshops, live music, creative arts, spoken word and DJs. Speak is a network connecting students and young adults to pray and campaign on issues of global injustice. www.speak.org.uk speak@ speak.org.uk 020 7249 4309.

28 February: Building Alliance for Joint Action Against War. A one day conference, aiming to unite groups and individuals campaigning for justice and peace into a broad alliance which would be strong enough to challenge the renewed arms race and the perpetual planning for war. Organised by Network of Oxford Women (NOW) for Justice and Peace. 11am - 4.30pm at North Oxford Community Centre, Diamond Place, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7DP. £3 pp, light lunch available at small extra cost. Contact Margaret Stanton, co-ordinator of NOW, 1 Charles Ponsonby House, Osberton Road, Oxford OX2 7PQ. www.nowpeace.org.uk

Saturday 7 March: Working for world free of nuclear weapons - what can civil society do? Winchester - Southern Region CND AGM - 2pm to 5pm. Keynote speaker: Vijay Mehta, Chair Action for UN Renewal. To Join please contact Michael Waugh, Flat 12 Elliot House, Portswood Road, Southampton SO17 2TH, Telephone: 023 8032 8335

3 - 4 April: Join CND in Strasbourg at the international demonstration marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of NATO. More details, including transport information, to follow. Visit CND's No to NATO campaign page. <http://www.cnduk.org/index.php/campaigns/no-to-nato/no-to-nato.html> 020 7700 2393.

18 April: Essex CCND AGM with speaker and bring & share lunch. 10.00 at Brentwood Quaker Meeting House, 49 Hutton Road, Shenfield. Details: 0127 735 3450.

18 April: Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) Concert for Peace. With Tony Lamb (clarinet), Pal Banda (cello) and Julian Jacobson (piano). Rosslyn Hill Chapel, NW3. MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.

24 - 25 April: Movement for the Abolition of War Peace

History Conference. Imperial War Museum in London. More details later. www.abolishwar.org.uk

26 April: Chernobyl Day. <http://www.chernobyl.info/>

Thursday 25 June: Musicians Against Nuclear Arms (MANA) Concert for Peace. With the Fitzwilliam String Quartet. St Cyprian's Church, Clarence Gate Glentworth Street, NW1 6AX. MANA Administration, 71 Greenfield Gardens, London NW2 1HU. 020 8455 1030.

4 - 20 May: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee in New York. For info see: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/nptindex1.html

Monday 15 May: International Conscientious Objector's Day. <http://www.wri-irg.org/co/15may.htm> Ceremony at Tavistock Square, London, 12noon.

4 July: Annual 'Independence FROM America' day at Menwith Hill. Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB), 9 Swarcliffe Road, Harrogate, HG1 4QZ. Tel no: 01423 884076 <http://www.caab.org.uk>

Sunday 6 August: Hiroshima Day. Hiroshima Day Commemoration, Tavistock Square, London, 12noon. Contact London Region CND. david.lrcnd@cnduk.org 0207 607 2302 www.londoncnd.com/

9 August: Nagasaki Day. Peace Walk from Westminster Cathedral (7.30pm) to the London Peace Pagoda followed by the Floating Lantern Ceremony at sunset. Nipponzan Myohoji, the London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11 4NJ 020 7228 9620.

10 - 11 October: CND Annual Conference. Incorporating an international meeting: Working for a successful NPT Review Conference 2010. Venue tba. www.cnduk.org

CCND goods

Pack of 24 A4 sheets of Interfaith quotations on peace as used at the Creation Conference £1.50 a pack

Legacy leaflet Free

T-Shirts £12 each.

Cotton bags £3 each.

Picasso Greetings Cards. £2.50 for six.

Christmas Cards, £2.50 for six.

Badges, 30p, **enamel brooches,** £1.50,

window stickers, 30p, **pens,** £1, and **Waking the Sleeping Giant,** a history of CCND, £2.50.

Send orders to:

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ

Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357 Email:

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

Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Mordechai Vanunu House, 162 Holloway Rd, London N7 8DQ

Tel: 020 7700 4200 Fax: 020 7700 2357

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