

ploughshare plus



news update from Christian CND

June 2009

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

Embassies Walk, April 2009

The Embassies Walk this year attracted 13 people and took in the London Embassies of the Nuclear Weapons States and the New Agenda Coalition. As usual, it started at the Dick Sheppard Chapel in St Martin-in-the-Fields and we were joined by Rev Richard Carter (the assistant priest) who welcomed us and stayed for our opening worship.

We had our usual good reception at the Irish Embassy, where our contact, Mr Ciarán Byrne, promised to send us a statement we could reproduce in Ploughshare. Excellent contacts were also made in the Egyptian Embassy and the Pakistan High Commission.

But the big surprise this year was at the US Embassy. Previous years have seen us being unable to even approach the embassy, let alone have a meeting with anyone. But we were welcomed in by Mr Chris Palmer, the First Secretary (Political) and he has been in regular contact ever since with emails on the latest developments in the US.

Full reports will appear in the next Ploughshare.



An Easter Cross and daffodil at Aldermaston, 2009

Easter Celebration at Aldermaston

It was a well attended event with around 40 people, and some wonderful weather. People came from as far afield as Yorkshire and Cornwall! We also got a couple of new members at the event. Thank you to all who came along, or supported us in other ways (see below).

The Liturgy went well. Easter crosses, flowers planted and candles left at each gate. Two very friendly police officers accompanied us (no batons!).

Two local papers sent reporters/ photographers and a Japanese reporter from a Hiroshima newspaper was there. We will put some more photos in the next *Ploughshare*.

Note that there will be an Interfaith Pilgrimage on 8 August this year from Reading to Aldermaston. There is a flyer with this mailing - please do come if you are able - it is not essential to walk the whole way!

Non active participation - Aldermaston

Although unable to participate physically in the Aldermaston Easter Celebration I have felt connected in a significant way.

I have had passed on to me a copy of the liturgy for the day. By setting aside a few minutes at intervals during the day I have prayed the same prayers and read the same readings as the active group. By becoming a 'distance marcher' I felt able to link spiritually with those of like mind.

I am sure that if others wished to join in in this way a request to the office would be met favourably. Perhaps each active marcher could carry with them the name of a passive one to mention at the final gate, thus doubling the strength of our message.

Janet Bonner

World March for Peace

Starting in New Zealand on October 2nd 2009, the date that commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's birth and declared by the United Nations "International Day of Non-violence", the March will last for 90 days and cross six continents in all kinds of means of transportation, to finish in the high Andes of Argentina on January 2nd 2010.

On the way hundreds of activities such as forums, concerts, walks, interviews with political and religious leaders, sports events and educational activities will contribute to inspire a worldwide social consciousness in favour of a nonviolent culture. It will also create awareness that violence is not just physical, but it can also be economic, racial, religious, psychological, ecological, sexual, etc. Since just a 10% reduction in military expenditure could eliminate world hunger (a form of violence and a source of violence) the March will point out the need to set up priorities on the basis of solidarity and social justice.

www.theworldmarch.org/index.php?lang=eng

CCND members can support this initiative by holding their own local event in support, perhaps linking up by joining other marchers in the area. Already, a group in southern England are organising a feeder march from Dover to Southampton which will relay a Flame of Hope for the global abolition of nuclear weapons in April 2010. See <http://tinyurl.com/qucqv> or contact George Farebrother: geowcpuk@gn.apc.org

A UK organising team meets regularly, mostly in London, contact 079 6636 0651 or openroads@gmail.com

The Forgotten

Hi I'm David, In the April issue you may have seen an advert for a book: "The Forgotten: a collection of peace writings from the Christian tradition."

Thanks to all who bought a copy. Now I have made a shorter version of the collection "The Forgotten Remix". You can buy this booklet by sending an A5 SAE and £1 to: David Holdsworth, 8 Riverside Gardens, Inverness, IV3 5TB

ALL PROCEEDS TO CCND!



Ash Wednesday 2009 in London (Michael Pulham on the right!)

NPT PrepCom

Patricia and Michael Pulham attended the first week of PrepCom, en route to visit family. A full report will appear in Ploughshare. In the meantime, here is a short report from Patricia:

Daily vigils in the rain were held opposite the UN building, at the 'Isaiah Wall', attracting a small international crowd.

We arranged a meeting with the Irish delegation; they are delighted that the agenda has been fixed, and said that they have a high regard for CCND and how well we are organised!

The party to celebrate the 10th birthday of Reaching Critical Will, a much respected daughter project of WILPF - also celebrating its 94th birthday - was a great opportunity to continue building links made with other NGOs. We had particularly warm contacts with reps from Japan, France, Canada, Italy and Norway which we hope to continue.

On the last day in New York, the sun finally came out! We met up with Nancy Zook who used to be a volunteer in our London office, and her five year old daughter, Zoe. At the afternoon session I sat behind the UK desk and was able to have a useful conversation with John Noble (MOD) afterwards and also met the leader of the Norwegian delegation.

Meanwhile, Michael went to a session on Disarmament and non-proliferation education. He found few people had hands-on experience of schools work, something peace organisations in UK do rather well.

No to US Missile Defence - demonstrate at Fylingdales on the 13th June

Just days before President Obama addressed crowds in Prague, the Czech campaign against US Missile Defence won a major victory when Prime Minister Topolánek was forced to withdraw treaties agreed with the US to station a missile defence radar in the country. Around 70% of Czechs are opposed to US Missile Defence, whilst a recent poll showed 53% of Poles were opposed to an interceptor missile base being built in their country.

Now it is our turn to demonstrate our opposition to Britain's involvement in US Missile Defence. Make sure you order your special European election leaflets from CND to campaign throughout May, and then come to the national demonstration at the Fylingdales radar base, near Pickering in North Yorkshire on Saturday 13th June, assembling at 12 noon.

To order postcards to promote the demonstration contact campaigns@cnduk.org

For transport details contact campaigns@cnduk.org or 020 7700 2393.



Lighting a candle at Aldermaston, Easter 2009

No Trident Replacement campaign

With the UK facing its biggest economic crisis in decades, there is no case for wasting £76 billion on replacing the Trident nuclear weapons system. Nuclear weapons do not meet our security needs and have been described by retired generals as 'useless'. The MoD's first report on the replacement process (the Initial Gate) is due in September 2009. This must not be subject to behind-the-scenes decision making and must be reviewed by Parliament.

Over the next few months, CND will be stepping up the campaign against Trident replacement. There are a number of new resources to assist your campaigning (some with this mailing). More copies available from CND.

You can also ask your MP to sign EDM 660: Parliamentary Scrutiny of Trident Replacement tabled by Jeremy Corbyn. Check website: <http://tinyurl.com/ryxtqt> to see details including MPs who have already signed. Information on EDMs here: www.parliament.uk/about/how/business/edms.cfm

Info: 020 7700 2393 notrident@cnduk.org
www.cnduk.org

CND letter-writing campaign

This month we can put our case for Trident abolition rather than replacement in the context of the dire financial situation and two current events: 1) The third Preparatory Committee session for the 2010 Review Conference for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is being held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2009. 2) On April 24, the European Parliament passed an amendment introducing the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol as concrete steps towards a nuclear weapons free world by 2020.

Write to your MP – perhaps copied to the Prime Minister – asking her/him to urge the Foreign Secretary to ensure that the UK supports the will of the majority of members in the European Union. As a nuclear weapon state the UK should be actively dismantling the whole Trident nuclear-armed project, not planning its replacement. [It could be useful to also send your MEP a copy.]

8 June: CAAT Christian Network Day of Prayer 2009. CAAT's Day of Prayer will focus on our government's continuing support for the arms industry and the role of UKTI DSO and Clarion Events in providing a platform for arms companies. Contact christian@caat.org.uk to order a Day of Prayer pack. Campaign Against Arms Trade, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ tel: 0207 281 0297 <http://www.caat.org.uk/>

12 June: Nuclear Free Local Authorities Conference in conjunction with Mayors for Peace. 9.30 - 4pm. Venue: Manchester Town Hall. Full registration: £120, Discounted registration (Charities/NGOs): £40. Nuclear Free Local Authorities Secretariat, Room 6005, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 3NY. office@nuclearpolicy.info 0161 234 3244 .

13 June: CND demonstration at Fylingdales in Yorkshire as part of a week's protest against USA's 'missile defense' policy. 12 noon at Ellerbeck Bridge (see map here <http://tinyurl.com/cyyayz>). Info: Ben Folley 020 7700 2393 campaigns@cnduk.org www.yorkshirecnd.org.uk/events/

17 - 20 June: Cost of War conference. The Desmond Tutu Centre for War and Peace, Liverpool Hope University, are holding an international conference with excellent speakers. Register with Mr. Colin Brown: 0151 291-3516 or brownc@hope.ac.uk <http://www.hope.ac.uk/costofwar>

Saturday 20 June: 24th Annual Celebration of the London Peace Pagoda, 2pm. Nipponzan Myohoji, the London Peace Pagoda, Battersea Park, Albert Bridge Road, London SW11 4NJ 020 7228 9620.

21 June: Celebration of the 29th Anniversary of Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda. 10.30am to 3.30pm at the Peace Pagoda, Willen Lake, Milton Keynes, MK15 0BA. Includes a Buddhist ceremony, multi-faith prayers, speakers focussing on 60 years of NATO, anti nuclear activities and non-violent actions, and an afternoon multi-cultural celebration. 01908 663652.

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 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>

23 - 27 July: Peace News Summer Camp in a field in Oxfordshire. Includes top speakers on Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and Israel-Palestine, workshops, faith-based protest, poetry, art, and much more. £15 - £50 depending on income. Send cheque (made out to Peace News) to Peace News Camp, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DY. 020 7278 3344. www.peacenewscamp.info

Saturday 25 July: Merseyside CND Peace and Ecology

Festival - 11am - 9pm at St. Luke's Church, Leece St., Liverpool. Contact: Janet Laycock 0151 702 6974 .

31 July - 2 August: Retreat: Contemplation and Social Action - finding balance in our lives. Venue: Worth Abbey, Sussex. Facilitated by Fr Paul Fleetwood and Jane Ozant. Info: Bookings Secretary, Worth Abbey Open Cloister, Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, Crawley, RH10 4SB. 01342 710318. toc@worhtabbey.net <http://www.worhtabbey.net>

3 - 8 August: 'The A-bomb and Humanity'. An exhibition of posters loaned by Bradford Peace Museum. Testimonies and writings from Hiroshima survivors illustrated by photographs/drawings/paintings. All Saints Church, High Street, Hereford. 10am - 4pm. There is wheelchair access.

6 August: Hiroshima Day.

Coventry: Hiroshima Day 2009: 6-7pm at the Chapel of Unity, Coventry Cathedral. Please join us for a quiet service of reflection in the chapel of unity. There will be music, poetry, readings and silence. For further information please contact Penny Walker on 02476 664616. Organised by Lord Mayor of Coventry's Committee for Peace and Reconciliation.

London: Hiroshima Day Commemoration, Tavistock Square, 12noon. Contact London Region CND.

8 August: South East Hants Peace Council Hiroshima/Nagasaki observance on Chichester Cathedral lawn. Contact Vida 023 9234 6696 for details.

Inter-Faith Pilgrimage for Peace. To mourn the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to pray for UK nuclear disarmament. Meet at 9am outside Reading Civic Centre. Arrive at Aldermaston for Inter-Faith service at 4pm. Regular trains depart back to Reading from Aldermaston station. Contact: Pete: 0118 958 8281 or Angie: 078 3535 4652.

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/>

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