

ploughshare plus



news update from Christian CND

October 2009

Christians working and praying for a nuclear weapons-free world

Some forthcoming CCND events

Aldermaston Advent Vigils

Once again, Christian Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament will be holding a vigil at Aldermaston during Advent.

Join us in Advent Vigil at the Tadley Gate. Bring candles; all Faiths and none welcome. Aldermaston AWE is off the A4 between Reading and Newbury. Tadley Gate is on the A340, parking opposite. Thursdays in Advent 1 - 2pm 26th November then 3rd, 10th, 17th December. Contact Caroline on 01865 241 290 maasgilbert@hotmail.com

Embassies Walk

on 1 March 2010, CCND will be continuing with the traditional Embassies Walk.

Join CCND as we visit each of the London Embassies of the Nuclear Weapons States, to ask how they are progressing with their 'unequivocal undertaking... to accomplish ... nuclear disarmament...' (Final Document Review Conference of the NPT, May 19, 2000, New

York). We will also visit the embassies of the New Agenda Coalition countries. Join us for some or all of the walk, which will be split into two or three separate walks (embassies being too far apart to do them all in a day!). More details later. 020 7700 4200 christians@cnduk.org <http://www.ccnd.gn.apc.org>

Flame of Hope walk

On 4 April 2010, Christian CND will be participating in this walk along the south coast of Britain. The south coast walk (Dover to Southampton) is part of a feeder march relaying a Flame of Hope which will be carried to New York to join a flame brought from Hiroshima, in time for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. CCND's part of the relay will be from Dungeness to Hastings. You can join us for some or all of the walk, by foot or by bike, or you could run if you want to. Or you could just be there on the day when the Flame is handed over. More details at: <http://www.abolitionflame.org/?p=138> <http://www.peacebourne.serifweb.com/FlameGen/>



Dag Hammarskjold Place in New York, just around the corner from the UN

Our Annual General Meeting was held in London on 26th September. We started with the usual business; review of the year, financial reports, elections to Exec etc.

Barbara Sunderland has had to resign from the Exec, although she has been given the very important job of maintaining our contacts with the London Embassies of the nuclear weapons states and the New Agenda Coalition, by sending them greetings on their national days. We are certain that this little touch is appreciated and helps foster goodwill; something which we'll hopefully benefit from when we have our Embassies Walk on 1 March next year.

All other members of Exec were proposed and accepted as continuing members. These are: Bob Russell, Kelvin Gascoyne, Chris Gidden, Michael Pulham and John Methuen. Patricia continues as co-ordinator, and Neil Berry as treasurer, these two posts are non-elected. Our grateful thanks to all for continuing as members of Exec!

After the business meeting we then had the chance to discuss our future plans - most important! Firstly we went through a list of future events - both those organised by CCND, and those organised by others, which we could conceivably have some input - whether it be a stall, distribution of leaflets or joining a march with a banner.

Then we went into groups to discuss the CCND-organised future events in more detail; what we want to achieve, how the event should look, how we can organise these, given the small number of organisers (who can we 'co-opt' to help!) and staff hours available.

The events we are supporting (rather than organising ourselves) you will find in the diary on the back page. We'd like to flag up the Devonport demo on 31st October; CCND will be represented there.

Climate march

We will also be at the 5 December Climate march. Join us at a service at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster at 11am. Or look out for our blue banner on the march. There will be a rally at 12 noon at Speaker's Corner, Hyde Park (Marble Arch tube) with speakers, and the main march will leave Grosvenor

Square at 1.15pm, for a 'Surround Parliament' for "The Wave" (wear blue if you can). Info: <http://www.the-wave.org.uk/> 0207 324 4622.

For travel from around the country see <http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/the-wave> and <http://www.campaigncc.org/local> Or ring the London office of Campaign Against Climate Change: 0207 833 9311 for a local contact.

Synod

Other events include Church of England Synod in London, February. We have found that leafleting outside the Synod is as valuable as anything else, but we were wondering whether, given that next year is a NPT Review Conference year, that perhaps a fringe meeting should be organised. Alternatively we could still leaflet outside but also write to all members of Synod. If you have any opinions on this, or can help distribute leaflets, get in touch!

Aldermaston Blockade

The Aldermaston Blockade is on 15 February. We are involved in helping organise a 'Faiths Gate' (which we hope will be Interfaith) and have been in regular contact with other organisations to facilitate maximum publicity and participation. We decided that an overnight vigil would be a useful addition to the blockade, realising that not all CCND supporters would want to attend a blockade with a risk of arrest (although it is perfectly possible to participate as an observer), so the vigil offers a reasonable alternative; the vigil was a popular option at the previous Aldermaston event last October.



The PrepCom of 2009 ... rather more hopeful than previous years!

Embassies Walk

The Embassies Walk will take place on 1 March 2010. Members of Exec will be busy contacting the Embassies, writing letters and making sure that there will be someone to receive us at each embassy (we are trying hard to avoid any national holidays!)

Flame of Hope walk

This is a tie-in to the 'Flame of Hope' walk which will take the *Flame of Hope* to New York for the Review Conference. Some CCND members will be walking part of the South Coast walk and you are welcome to join us! See front page for more details.

NPT Review Conference

Whilst we will be sending a delegation, we will also be considering ways in which those in the UK can play a part. We could link up the event with meetings in the UK to publicise the RevCon, and encourage youth participation (though the conference itself is only open to over-18s) and we believe that Chris Wood will be a particular bonus here (being a younger person himself!). We will be holding the regular early morning vigils opposite the UN building, and aim to be in touch with other organisations well before the event to co-ordinate campaigning.

CCND 50th Anniversary

We have decided to hold an event in Coventry Cathedral. Peace Day is 21st September, so around that

time would be good, depending on availability of the Cathedral. We thought that starting with an evening meeting/social event (with guest speaker) followed by an all-day Saturday conference; a Liturgy followed by round table discussion, workshops etc. We are keen on the idea of getting representatives from the key sites of nuclear disarmament campaigning - peace camps and the like - to come along with an item from that campaign/site. We would like attendees to have something they could take away - a candle perhaps or a ribbon. Finally, for those able to spend another night in Coventry, we could have an action at a nearby site (arms manufacturer for instance) such as a vigil. Ideas welcome!

We have already been in touch with some key people; Bruce Kent, Paul Ostreicher, etc and we'll let you all know how we are progressing with this. We also need a title for the event. At the moment we've come up with 'Jubilee Journeys' but let us know if you think of anything better!

If you would like a copy of the minutes and the annual reports, including the financial report, please let us know. Alternatively they will be available to download from the website shortly.



Making links... CCND Exec Members at the G20 March and Rally in March this year.
We say: spend the money on saving the planet!

Saturday 24 October: Multi Faith Peace Vigil 12noon - 1.00pm. At front of Huddersfield Library, Princess Alexandra Walk, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 2SU. Organised by Huddersfield Inter Faith Council. For more info t: 01484 428253 e: fileslie@btopenworld.com

Saturday 31 October: Demonstration - Stop the dump! A CND national demonstration at the Devonport Naval Base in Plymouth, opposing the dumping of decommissioned nuclear submarines within the city. 12 noon, Plymouth City Centre, Guildhall, Armada Way. 2pm: Devonport Park Rally: 3pm, Devonport nuclear dockyards main entrance Camel's Gate. For more information or to book overnight dormitory accommodation contact 07923 417868 or go to www.nuclearfreecoalition.info Other contacts: Plymouth CND: 01288 341254 South West region CND: cndsouthwestregion@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 31 October: Campaign Against Arms Trade National Gathering 2009. Toynbee Studios, London, E1 6AB (2 mins walk from Aldgate East tube) Arrive 9.45am for 10.15am. Finish 5pm. Venue fully wheelchair accessible; hearing loop available. £5 waged; £2 unwaged. Tea, coffee and a light vegetarian lunch will be provided. Book online at www.caat.org.uk/events/ or contact Julia on julia@caat.org.uk or 020 7281 0297.

8 November: Movement for the Abolition of War Annual Remembrance Lecture and AGM. This year's Remembrance lecture will be given by Dr Mark Levene, Reader in Comparative History at Southampton and an expert on the history of modern genocide. Venue: Imperial War Museum, London. Movement for the Abolition of War, 11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ. 01908 511 948. <http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/>

2 - 16 November: Pax Christi ICON of Peace on display in the Chapel of Unity in Coventry Cathedral. Between 9 and 13 November it will be used as part of the 12 noon Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation and at 12.05 on each day there will be a meditation and reflection on the Icon in the Chapel of Unity. Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, London, NW4 4TY 0208 203 4884 www.pax-christi.org.uk

6 November: Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU) International Day of Action - in memory of Richard Crump. People around the UK will be photographed in interesting or unusual places holding hand painted signs in Richard's style. The photos will be published on CADU's website as a testament to Richard's indefatigable campaigning. Contact Dave Cullen, CADU, 0161 273 8293. info@cadu.org.uk www.cadu.org.uk

Thursdays in Advent 1 - 2pm 26th November then 3rd, 10th, 17th December: Advent Vigil AWE Aldermaston organised CCND and other groups. See front page.

5 December: Climate March in London. CCND will be at the service in St Martin-in-the-Fields at 11am and you are welcome to join us, or look out for our banner. For more details of the rest of the march: 0207 324 4622. <http://www.the-wave.org.uk/> and 0207 833 9311 <http://www.campaigncc.org>

11 - 13 December: Bethlehem Weekend. Special weekend exploring contemporary life in Bethlehem with seminar, workshops, film, music and food. Full programme coming soon. St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, 78 Bishopsgate, London, EC2N 4AG. 020 7496 1610 enquiries@stethelburgas.org <http://tinyurl.com/ylmb7hp>

15 - 17 January 2010: Peace News Winter Gathering in Nottingham. Workshops, building for the February action at Aldermaston, feedback from Copenhagen and more. Ending with an action! 020 0845 458 2564 www.peacenews.info

17 January: Peace Sunday (Catholic, England and Wales). Day to mark the Pope's World Peace Day message 2010 "If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation". Materials and resources from Pax Christi. 0208 203 4884 or www.pax-christi.org.uk

11 February - 1 May: Footprints for Peace International Peace Walk, USA. From Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Facility, Tennessee to the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN in New York. Info www.footprints-forpeace.net nptwalk@footprintsforpeace.net

15 February: Big blockade at Aldermaston. There will be a 'Faiths Gate' and Christian CND will be supporting the event with a Witness and an overnight vigil. More details later. <http://www.tridentploughshares.org> 0845 45 88 366.

20 February: Musicians Against Nuclear Arms Concert for Peace. A return of the popular duo: Ruth Underwood flute and Margaret Lion piano. Hinde Street Methodist Church. MANA, 71 Greenfield Gdns, London NW2 1HU. 020 845 1030. admin@mana.org.uk

1 March: CCND Embassies Walk in London. See front page for more info.

Easter Sunday, 4 April: *Flame of Hope* Christian CND walk from Dungeness to Hastings. See front page.

3 - 28 May 2010: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference (RevCon) in New York. Lots of useful info from Reaching Critical Will: <http://tinyurl.com/8t92nb>

Order your Christmas cards early (post may be delayed due to industrial action)! 'Peace Robin' design, (10cm x 13.8cm approx) in three colours. Pack of six for £2.50 plus 42p for p&p). Send cheque (made out to CCND) and your name & address to CCND at the address below.