

# The Fellowship of Reconciliation



## Annual Report 2005-06

# The Fellowship of Reconciliation

In July 1914, just before the start of the First World War, two delegates at a Christian conference attempting to prevent the outbreak of the war, Henry Hodgkin, a British Quaker, and Friedrich Siegmund-Schultze, a German Lutheran, shook hands as they parted on Cologne station with the words: "we are one in Christ and can never be at war."

Shortly after, inspired by the words, a group of Christians gathered together in conference at Cambridge and founded a fellowship dedicated to reconciliation. The general agreement recorded at that time is the 'Basis of the Fellowship'.

After the War, in 1919, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation was founded. Today there are over 70 branches and affiliates of IFoR throughout the world.

The focus of our work today is to support and affirm all those with a commitment to peace and nonviolence; to undertake education work within the Christian community on peace, war and conflict issues; and to be an advocate for the victims of war and injustice and in favour of nonviolent conflict resolution.

Why not join us?

## The Basis of the Fellowship

That love as revealed and interpreted in the life and death of Jesus Christ, involves more than we have yet seen, that it is the only power by which evil can be overcome and the only sufficient basis of human society.

That, in order to establish a world order based on Love, it is incumbent upon those who believe in this principle to accept it fully, both for themselves and in relation to others and to take the risks involved in doing so in a world which does not yet accept it.

That therefore, as Christians, we are forbidden to wage war, and that our loyalty to our country, to humanity, to the Church Universal, and to Jesus Christ our Lord and Master, calls us instead to a life-service for the enthronement of Love in personal, commercial and national life.

That the Power, Wisdom and Love of God stretch far beyond the limits of our present experience, and that He is ever waiting to break forth into human life in new and larger ways.

That since God manifests Himself in the world through men and women, we offer ourselves to His redemptive purpose to be used by Him in whatever way He may reveal to us.

*Please note that the Basis was an expression of general agreement and was never intended to be a fixed form of words.*

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All photos: Fellowship of Reconciliation  
except p4 & p 6: Tony Compton

# Chair's Report

This has been an active and exciting year for the Fellowship including the settling in at our new base at St. James in Oxford. This and the search for additional staff have involved our Director, Chris Cole, in time and energy but with a satisfactory outcome.

We have been able to welcome two new members of staff with the appointment of Martha Beale as Education and Campaigns Officer and Miri Heatherwick as International Projects Officer. Both have made a good start; Martha has already helped to set up a conference for young people and Miri has begun approaches to various potential sources for fund raising. Some initial grants have been sent to partners overseas.



We thank Roger Payne for his work as our Finance Officer; his tasks have increased with the new staff and the appointment of an Auditor. In order to assist with the extra work load we have recently appointed Margaret Patton as Administrator.

We have also experienced a crisis situation in this year as one of our Trustees, Norman Kember, was taken hostage in Iraq on November 26, together with his companions in a Christian Peacemaker Team. Regular vigils of prayer were held in London and various places across the country. A special vigil was held in Trafalgar Square to mark 100 days since the team were seized. Our prayers were answered after 118 days when Norman was released along with James Loney and Harmeet Sooden. To our great sadness, Tom Fox, the fourth hostage had been found murdered. We were especially encouraged by the breadth of support from all Christian denominations and many Faiths, and especially appreciate the appeals for release made by Muslim leaders. We assure Norman and Pat Kember of our continuing prayers and support as they recover from the ordeal.

We give thanks for all that has been achieved in the Eirene Centre but after consultation we are proceeding with its sale with a view to purchasing a new centre in a more accessible place, providing at least an office, space for library, resources and a meeting room. This process may take a long time and the purchase is dependent on the sale.

We thank Chris Cole, our Director, together with Martha, Miri, and Roger, for all their work during the year and look forward to Margaret's contribution to the team. We express our thanks to members and supporters for all their gifts and voluntary work which help to make possible our peace witness and a special word of thanks for the generous legacies which have enabled us to plan boldly for our developing programme.

I express my thanks to the Trustees for their enthusiasm and involvement in many ways. Our commitment is to work for justice and peace inspired by the example of Jesus Christ and as an expression of our faith in God. In these times of conflict, of invasions, wars and threats of war, of terrorist activity and widespread injustice and oppression, our witness is needed as much as any time before. To make our witness effectively we need not only dedicated staff but a supportive membership in word and action. To this end we shall engage in a programme of education and outreach, seeking to increase our membership especially amongst younger people so that the work can be continued in the years ahead. In this endeavour we ask for your continuing encouragement and support.

**Rev. John Johansen-Berg, Chair**

# The Trustees 2005 -2006



(L to R)

**Mark Ramsey (Treasurer)**  
**Gordon Slater**  
**Denis Beaumont (Vice-chair)**  
**Rev John Johansen- Berg (Chair)**  
**Carole Crompton**  
**Roger Morbey**  
**Anita Schweinberger**  
**Jenny Nicholson (Observer)**  
(Not pictured)  
**Clare van den Bos**  
**Norman Kember**  
**Emily Morgan**  
**Revd. Alan Betteridge (co-opted)**

## Treasurer's Report

2005 has been a rather unusual financial year for the Fellowship. Several large legacies arrived during the year totalling nearly £250,000. We are very grateful that our members have left us these large amounts with which to continue and expand the work of the Fellowship. With these legacies, our total income was over £350,000, requiring a full audit of our accounts.

Our accounts include three new restricted funds. Restricted funds contain money given for a particular purpose – in 2005 we received over £66,000 in such grants and donations, a much larger amount than in the past. However, most of our income is still received as unrestricted income which we can use it for any of our work or ongoing costs.

We decided to take the opportunity afforded by the large legacies we received to begin a three year project – called 'Peace by Peace' – which expands our work amongst young people and in raising awareness of peace work overseas. Two of the new restricted funds are associated with this project. The 'Peace by Peace' fund, which pays costs of the project such as salaries and rent, received a grant of £60,000 from The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust; Trustees have also designated around £130,000 from the legacies to fund the project. The 'International Peacemakers' fund receives money raised for international peace projects and makes grants to such projects. It has already made grants of £1000 each to four projects in Zimbabwe, Palestine, East Africa and Colombia. Our other new restricted fund, 'Living by the Sword', was given a grant by the Trust for Research and Education on Arms Trade (TREAT) for a campaign of information and education work on the arms trade.

Our unrestricted expenditure increased again this year. International FOR suggest that, as an affiliated group, we give them a grant of 10% of our core expenditure; therefore we decided that it was time to update our grant to them. We also incurred increased costs associated with having a full audit of the accounts rather than an independent examination, and an increase in staff salaries and Trustee meeting expenses. Whilst the legacies have given our income a very rosy hue, it is sobering to note that subscriptions were down not only on last year (which was expected as last year was our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary), but also on the year before. Part of the task of the Peace-by-Peace project, implicitly if not explicitly, is to increase the profile of the Fellowship and hence its membership and its income.

Many thanks to our members and supporters for their financial support last year, to our finance officer Roger Payne for his invaluable contribution in keeping our increasingly complex finances in order, and to our auditor Bianca Silva who has been very helpful with her comments and questions about the accounts.

**Mark Ramsey, Treasurer**

# 2005 Financial Summary

2005 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REG. CHARITY NO. 207822

## DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Turnover</b>	£	£
Subscriptions from members	26,075	35,274
Investment income	9,619	1,929
Donations	68,684	7,372
Eirene Centre bookings	4,266	5,385
Publications income	1,029	2,213
Events and projects income	273	1,306
Miscellaneous income	1,014	62
Legacies and gifts in memoriam	247,092	70,423
<b>Total income</b>	<b>358,052</b>	<b>123,964</b>
<b>Overheads</b>	£	£
Salaries and employment costs	38,810	20,310
Restricted rent (PbyP)	1,084	-
Office costs	2,973	870
Staff travel	3,761	5,246
Post, telephone and stationery	5,605	5,652
Council and committee expenses	3,488	1,541
Publications costs	10,015	9,426
Grants and affiliations	13,692	7,481
Professional fees	4,898	3,744
Events and project costs	2,379	1,779
Eirene Centre maintenance and running costs	979	8,164
Miscellaneous expenses	221	2,912
Auditors remuneration	3,349	-
Youth work fund expenditure	-	260
Depreciation of furniture	648	323
Depreciation of motor vehicles	725	725
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>92,627</b>	<b>68,433</b>
<b>Net incoming resources</b>	<b>265,425</b>	<b>55,531</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	£	£
The Eirene Centre	264,819	264,819
Furniture, equipment & vehicle	4,320	3,505
Investments	382,497	123,125
Stock of literature etc	150	150
Cash at bank and in hand	6,663	4,513
Debtors	1,890	1,707
Creditors	(4,978)	(7,883)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>655,361</b>	<b>389,936</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>	£	£
General	462,826	382,139
Designated: Peace by Peace	131,099	-
Total unrestricted	<b>593,925</b>	<b>382,139</b>
Restricted		
International Projects fund	1,544	1,734
International Peacemakers	1,376	-
Youth Work fund	2,422	3,724
Living by the Sword	4,556	-
Peace by Peace	51,305	-
Outreach fund	-	2,114
Appeal fund	233	225
Total restricted	<b>61,436</b>	<b>7,797</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>655,361</b>	<b>389,936</b>

Audited accounts are available on request to the Office

# Director's Report

2005 has again been a year of change for the Fellowship. Perhaps most obviously, the office and staff have moved out of the Eirene Centre in Clopton and relocated to an office in Oxford. In addition we have gone from a staff of one to four. In September 2005 the Trustees agreed to sell the Eirene Centre and purchase a new property elsewhere.

These visible changes are the outward signs of an underlying transformation. FoR is now thoroughly committed to a strategic plan focusing on the work of education for peace and nonviolence, challenging the structures that promote and cause war and violence, support and advocacy for peacemakers - particularly in regions of conflict - and developing a spirituality of peace and nonviolence to strengthen and underpin our work.

A special mention must be made of our 'Peace-by Peace' programme. Thanks to a generous grant from The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust as well as some timely legacies we have instituted this three year programme to support key grassroots peacemaking projects overseas as well as educate and involve young people in peacemaking in the UK. So far this programme has supported peace work in Zimbabwe, Uganda, Palestine and Colombia whilst at the same time working with young peace people in universities, colleges and schools around the UK. I must thank Martha Beale and Miri Heatherwick for all their hard work on this programme.



L-R: Chris Cole, Martha Beale, Miri Heatherwick, Roger Payne

In November 2005 our friend and Trustee, Norman Kember, was kidnapped in Iraq whilst he was on a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation. For 118 days we worried and prayed for him, whilst at the same time trying patiently to explain to the national and international media the work and philosophy of Christian peacemaking. The discovery of the body of Tom Fox, one of the hostages, was a very low point and at times we could do little but hope and pray. Norman's release and his fortitude in the face of the, at times, vitriolic press coverage was an inspiration.

The work to build peace and reconciliation in our violent world is sometimes extremely risky and can occasionally hit the news headlines. Far more often however it is about the painstakingly slow, often unsung work of building peace in the long term, working behind the scenes, being resolutely committed to nonviolence and speaking out when one can. This is the work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. I thank all members and supporters of FoR for their work, their commitment and their support. Please pray for us as we pray for you.

**Chris Cole, Director**

# 1 Education and Outreach within the Christian Community and wider on Peace and Conflict Issues



Our education work took a leap forward this year with the appointment of our Education and Campaigns Officer, Martha Beale, as part of the 'Peace by peace' programme. Martha took up her post in September 2005 and has been speaking, undertaking workshops and engaging young people all around the country. Highlights include speaking to Christian Aid's student reps; running workshops at the Student Christian Movement (SCM) and SPEAK annual conference and having a stall and meeting many University chaplains at their Conference in the autumn. Our director, Chris Cole, also continues to speak to groups and conferences around the country.

Working with other members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO) to run the Peacezone at the annual Greenbelt Festival is a major undertaking. This year's Peacezone worked particularly well and made a big impact on the 20,000 people who attend the Greenbelt Festival each year. FoR is also part of the Peace Education Network and continues to support the vital work of educating children about peace and nonviolence.

For the first time in many years FoR held a youth conference. Entitled 'Called to be Peacemakers' it focused on personal responses to peace issues. Unite for Peace greatly assisted with the planning and running of the conference. We had a number of excellent speakers and although numbers were not what we had hoped for, several new young members joined and plans were made for future events. An excellent weekend was had by all.



Ongoing education and outreach work includes our email bulletin 'FoR Email News' which is sent out about once a month and which is well received. FoR Email News contains information about FoR events and reflections on current topics. If you would like to receive copies, simply send an email to [office@for.org.uk](mailto:office@for.org.uk) asking to subscribe. The FoR website is also very well used. Over the past year we have had over 20,000 page loads by some 8,500 individuals. We are planning a revamp of our website again as this is obviously a good way to reach out to new people.



One-off events that we have held over the past twelve include a day on peace for young children jointly organised between the Oundle Deanery Children's Group and FoR at the Eirene Centre called 'Hands Up for Peace'. In February we held a public meeting on the situation in Colombia with speakers from Peace Brigades International (PBI) and the Colombia Solidarity Campaign. The meeting focused on the work of the Peace Communities in Colombia which reject violence on all sides. FoR's International Peacemakers Fund is supporting the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado. At the end of March we held a public meeting in conjunction with Pax Christi and Justice-not-Vengeance on the

growing tension surrounding Iran. The Eirene Centre also hosted the regular Easter visit by Student Cross.

## 2 Encouraging widespread learning and discussion on peacemaking

Peacelinks, our bi-monthly newsletter, continue to go to all members and supporters and many other interested parties. We are very grateful to Dave Pybus, the Peacelinks editor, for all the work he has put into producing Peacelinks again this year. Over the year, amongst other things, it has covered the G8 Summit; human security, the work of the FoR International Peacemakers Fund; the future of the Eirene Centre, the abduction of Norman Kember and a variety of other peace issues.



During the year FoR jointly organised with Pax Christi and the Salford Justice and Peace Commission a training event based on the *Pace e Bene* programme called 'From Violence to Wholeness'. The programme explores in ten parts the spirituality and practise of nonviolence. We held a 'training for trainers' event in January and already a number of further training events are planned across the country including one at the Eirene Centre.



In November, FoR Chair John Johansen-Berg and Director Chris Cole met with Religions for Peace, an Oxford-based, interfaith organisation to discuss and share information on developing multi-faith peace work.

During the summer FoR jointly supported the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship (APF) annual conference focusing on 'Vulnerability and Security'. The conference examined the special nature of the Christian response to danger in the time of war: the pacifist witness and its consequences, and how one responds to the need to protect the weak and vulnerable.

At our Annual Council, we were delighted to welcome Sir Richard Jolly, Chair of the United Nations Association and former CO as our keynote speaker. Sir Richard spoke on 'Peace, Human Security and Development,' focusing on the need to build real, human security rather than security based on militarism.

Our 'Called to be Peacemakers' education and action pack, a basic guide to Christian peacemaking, continues to be in demand and was re-printed during the year.

Finally, during the year the Trustees agreed to support a new initiative called 'Peaceschool'. Peace School is a year long course in peace and justice, designed to give participants the resources to be peace and justice activists within their own spheres of influence.



### 3 A Public Voice for Peace



FoR contributed to the well received General Election Briefing produced under the auspices of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO). This briefing was used by many local groups and individuals to question their prospective parliamentary candidates about peace and conflict issues during the General Election. Several people have commented that it has also been useful since the Election.

During the year we have begun to work on our new campaign 'Living by the Sword' which examines we continue to promote violence. One focus is the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO) which promotes arms sales overseas. In addition we are researching the military involvement in University research programmes.

The kidnapping of one of our Trustees, Norman Kember, along with his

colleagues Tom Fox, Harmeet Sooden and James Loney on a Christian Peacemakers Team delegation to Iraq in late November led to an extraordinary amount of interest and discussion on Christian pacifism. During the time they were held in captivity, the media were in constant contact with the office requesting information about nonviolent intervention and background on related issues. FoR, Pax Christi and Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) initiated a small ad-hoc 'hostage crisis group' to respond to the situation. A low point was the news that Tom Fox had been found murdered. We continue to grieve for Tom and extend our condolences to his family and friends.

After 118 days our hopes and prayers were answered with the news that Norman, James and Harmeet had been released. However a media frenzy quickly developed around whether or



not Norman had expressed enough gratitude to the military involved in his release and whether pacifism and nonviolence were valid options 'in the real world'. FoR struggled alongside other Christian peace groups to respond to the often vitriolic media reports. Norman's dignified attitude and statements on his return did much to counter the media argument that an absolute commitment to nonviolence is naive and irresponsible in our war torn world. Norman, Tom, James and Harmeet's captivity led to an unprecedented amount of discussion in the press and amongst the public as a whole as to the value of nonviolence and the continuing occupation of Iraq.

## 4 Supporting and Enabling Peacemakers

FoR's key aim of supporting and enabling peacemakers took a huge step forward during 2005 with the establishment of the International Peacemakers Fund. FoR's International Peacemakers Fund provides essential support to war-torn communities who dare to realise their own potential to end conflict. FoR England is connected with peacemakers around the world through the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. Our International Projects Officer, Miri Heatherwick, who took up her post in September 2005 oversees the International Peacemakers Fund.

Often local people are already working hard to build peace in their own communities and simply need our help. The International Peace Fund supports projects that are set up and run by local people. The projects use nonviolent methods that address the causes of conflict, that promote dialogue and build reconciliation. Often these peacemakers are putting their lives on the line to build reconciliation and to disseminate peacebuilding skills amongst their communities. Because they work against the odds, amidst political and social upheaval, with extremely limited financial resources, the International Peacemakers Fund is a crucial lifeline.



Akadim from FoR Zimbabwe who visited in summer 2005

Over the past year we have supported five projects. Two are in **Zimbabwe** which has been engulfed in a spiral of politically motivated violence that profoundly threatens its future. When President Robert Mugabe unleashed an assault against the urban poor, he ordered the homes of thousands of 'squatters' to be bulldozed. Operation Clean Up Rubbish left thousands homeless and conditions ripe for further outbreaks of violence. The International Peacemakers Fund supports a local women's group who has been working with those displaced by the assault. The group ran nonviolence training workshops amongst the communities to enable them to regain control of their lives and process their experiences without resorting to violence. In addition we have supported an ongoing nonviolence training project.

In **Columbia** guerrillas and paramilitaries are fighting a right wing regime accused of benefiting the rich and exploiting the poor. Amidst an appalling human rights crisis the International Peacemakers Fund has assisted the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado who have taken an extraordinary stand against the violence. Over 2,000 inhabitants are refusing to cooperate with any armed group. They remain firm in their stance despite the killing of some 170 of its members and government threats of military occupation. Elsewhere, the International Peacemakers Fund has supported peacemakers in Uganda and Palestine.

FoR also works to support peacemakers in the UK. We have always been a Fellowship, committed to supporting each other in our work for peace. Each spring Annual Council is an opportunity for members and supporters to meet together as are the regional gatherings which are organised occasionally throughout the year. Peacelinks keeps members and supporters in touch and enables them to become involved in peace and nonviolence work around the country,



Martin and Martina from Swedish FoR visited us in February 2006

## International Fellowship of Reconciliation

2005 brought with it some signs of hope together with signs that nearly make one despair about the way in which human beings exercise responsibility for their part of the created order. The illegal occupation of Iraq by foreign troops continued and the situation there drifted even further towards sectarian conflict and greater abuse of human rights. The Review Conference for the Non-Proliferation Treaty in May 2005 produced very little evidence that there was a serious commitment to disarmament or the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The United Kingdom will have a key role to play in the next year or so in deciding on any successor to Trident. There was a major increase in European Union expenditure on developing the capacity for military intervention with very little emphasis on expenditure to develop nonviolent methods of conflict resolution.

IFOR members continued to witness for nonviolence and for reconciliation in the Middle East. They contested the Israeli policy of house demolitions and the building of a security fence/barrier/wall on a line which effectively annexes significant parts of Palestine, including east Jerusalem, for the Israeli state. This will make the establishment of a just peace much more difficult.

In 2005 many Fellowships found that the need to defend human rights was paramount. Sometimes, as in Zimbabwe, this risked imprisonment. In Nepal and Sri Lanka the situation in which members witnessed was at times exceedingly dangerous. In parts of the Middle East the risk of being abducted was present. IFOR members throughout the world have prayed for the safe release of Norman Kember and the other three people being held with him in Iraq.

Fuller details of the what IFOR members are doing are given in the IFOR quarterly newssheet, IFOR in Action. If anyone wishes to subscribe to it, please contact IFOR at [office@ifor.org](mailto:office@ifor.org)

Another new group was admitted to IFOR membership, the Mouvement pour la Réconciliation des Peuples from Congo (Brazzaville). This brings the present membership to 70 organisations in 45 countries, the majority now being in the global south.

The funding for the Women Peacemakers

Programme was secured until the end of 2008. The new programme envisages the establishment of two regional desks, one in Asia and one in Africa. IFOR hopes by 2009 that a decentralised structure will be effectively established.

And we are looking forward to 2006. The quadrennial IFOR Council will take place in Japan in October. It will be an opportunity for FOR members from all over the world to meet it other and to renew their fellowship.

**David Mumford**  
IFoR General Secretary

## *Cymdeithas y Cymod* (FOR Wales) Report

One of the concerns of the branch members has been the need for us to reach out as Christians to people of other faiths in Wales. We started on this process by inviting Dawoud ElAlmani from the Religious Studies Department of the University of Wales, Lampeter to talk to our Annual General Meeting on "Islam and Peace". The discussion which followed was enlightening and inspired our members to follow up the theme of reaching out in their cells.

The Porthmadog cell invited Lydia Aisenberg from Givat Haviva Kibbutz in Israel to give a talk on "Bringing Jews and Palestinians together. Lydia is a Welsh Jew who now works in Israel with young Jews and Palestinians who learn to live together in the kibbutz.

Cardiff cell members were able to start on a project in cooperation with the largest youth movement in Wales *Urdd Gobaith Cymru* to hold a European Youth Camp at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff in the summer of 2007. The theme of the Camp will be the celebration of the diverse cultures of the continent. It will explore ways in which young people can cooperate with each other in a spirit of mutual respect for diversity.

During the National Eisteddfod we marked Hiroshima day with a service in the inter-faith tent, and also collected signatures at our stall calling for the return of British troops from Iraq.

The year was overshadowed by the deaths of both Gwynfor and Rhiannon Evans who had dedicated their lives to the peace movement.

They had worked tirelessly over the years to build and sustain the witness for peace in Wales, even when during the war years it was unpopular, and required deep conviction and courage.

Dr. Gwynfor Evans as the President of Plaid Cymru the Party of Wales ensured the movement followed a non violent path towards Welsh self government. The branch celebrated his life by holding a service at the ruin of Capel y Babell chapel on the army training area of Epynt mountain. Gwynfor Evans had led the opposition in 1940 to the clearing of the farms and community from the mountain by the army to establish the firing range. The event was broadcast on Welsh television news and reminded people that the passing of time does not diminish the injustice.

**Arfon Rhys**

### **Anglican Pacifist Fellowship**

This year APF has worked to raise the profile within the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

We held stalls at both meetings of the General Synod with a meeting to discuss the Transatlantic dialogue on peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Our annual conference at Ely was held jointly with FoRE. This proved a good way to exchange ideas on peacemaking and to hear from a number of people about their work. At a personal level it gave time enough to reflect on individual commitment to peace work.

We continue to value the work of the NCPO and participated in the Peace Zone at Greenbelt and the Holy Innocents Day service.

We wrote to Jack Straw during the UK Presidency of the EU to encourage him to initiate a review of the EU Guidelines on Children and Conflict. We have recently met with the Archbishop of Canterbury's International Adviser to discuss the issue of child soldiers, including recruitment of under 18s in the UK.

The Anglican Peacemaker, our quarterly journal, continues to deliver high quality articles and a wide range of issues are covered.

APF members supported the various vigils and other activities for Norman Kember and the other CPT hostages whilst they were held in Iraq.

During 2006 we will be reviewing our communication strategy as we continue to be the voice of Pacifism within the Anglican Communion.

**Sue Claydon**  
**Vice Chair, APF**

### **Baptist Peace Fellowship Annual Report**

Our year started with a meeting in Oxford in April, incorporating our AGM, at which Revd John Rackley (former President of the Baptist Union) spoke about his visit to Israel/Palestine with Christian Aid under the title 'A Promised Land', discussing some of the broader issues of peace and justice that arose from the situation there. David Rowland, who had just returned as an Ecumenical Accompanier with EAPPI, also shared some of his experiences.

Our main activity of the year was attending the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Birmingham (the first time this had been held in the UK for 50 years), running a 'Baptist Peacemakers' stall in the exhibition area. We were joined in this venture by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America (BPFNA). It was interesting to note that our stall appeared to be the only one in the vast exhibition where Baptist organisations from different countries had come together. A big thank-you is due to our Publicity Officer Norman Kember for pursuing this project with such vigour.

Writing this report almost at the end of March, it was with great joy we very recently welcomed Norman back to the UK after 118 days being held hostage in Iraq along with three other Christian Peacemaker Teams members. At the beginning of March we encouraged Baptists to hold vigils for the hostages to mark their 100 days in captivity and were glad that more than 50 churches responded. This has also given us a number of new contacts and new members. We give thanks for the safe return of Norman, James and Harmeet but continue to pray for the family and friends of Tom Fox who sadly was killed. We thank the FoR too for their support through this period, particularly for hosting a temporary web site for us ([www.for.org.uk/bpf](http://www.for.org.uk/bpf)).

**Gillian M A Collins**  
**Secretary, Baptist Peace Fellowship**

## Congregational Peace Fellowship

More widespread contacts within the peace movement have been made this year by our members. In the past year attendance at various meetings has included FOR, the Network of Peace Organisations, World Disarmament Campaign and most recently a joint meeting of the CPF with the Congregational History Circle when we had two guest speakers. The CPF guest was a Civil Rights lawyer who spoke on Civil Rights Law in UK and Europe. Rev. Angela Robinson, one of our members, is Principal of a school in Bangladesh; she reports of a worrying development whereby a local developer has organised harassment of her school with two security guards requiring stitches after an attack. The purpose is to try and close the school and gain the site for development. Please remember her and all such people in dangerous situations. Apart from the world situation, recruitment still presents a great challenge.

**Roger Stuart,**  
Chairman

## Methodist Peace Fellowship

The AGM and public meeting was at Newton Abbot near the venue of the Methodist Conference. Entitled "War - Just Impossible" the public meeting attracted some 40 people

Denis Beaumont was in the chair with three speakers. David Morrish ex-leader of Devon Council, a Quaker, David Harding, ex-Peacecare, and Kenneth Greet, MPF President, They spoke of a need for change both in the way the world relies on war and weapons and the church goes along with it. Kenneth said there were signs that the church is less and less willing to support wars, which is a sign of hope.

We made a submission to the Methodist/URC working group on the Ethics of War and await the final version to be presented to Conference and Assembly this year. It is a substantial document and will be available from Methodist Publishing House in the late summer.

Unfortunately it seems unlikely Alan Litherland will be able to produce any more copies of Peace



L - R, David Morrish, Kenneth Greet, Denis Beaumont and David Harding.

in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and we are considering how it may continue. Will those who have dutifully sent contributions please bear with us.

**Maurice Wright,**  
Secretary

## United Reformed Church Peace Fellowship

We participated in Make Poverty History. We took part in the Hiroshima Day 60<sup>th</sup> Commemoration in Coventry Cathedral. We are trying to improve the Revised Ethical Investment Policy by reducing the "significant" share of a company's total turnover in weapons from 10% to 5%.

At our AGM one of our Matrons, Roberta Rominger, gave a keynote address on how in Algeria President Adelaziz Bouteflika won a referendum to endorse the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation. This can be seen on the United Reformed Church website at [www.urc.org.uk](http://www.urc.org.uk)

A new Convenor was elected, Andrew Jack. He had a workshop at the Fellowship of United Reformed Youth Forum in January 2006. We are supporting the No Trident Replacement campaign. Tony Compton agreed to produce our Newsletter quarterly.

**Rev Hazel Barkham,**  
Convenor

## Eirene Centre Working Group (ECWG)

Our remit is to ensure the smooth running of the Centre, in its present state solely as a retreat/ conference centre for both the peace movement and the wider community. We complement the work of Sue and Libby, our excellent professional cleaners, and are in the process of appointing a part-time Property Supervisor, to organize day-to-day and emergency repairs and to admit and clear up after visitors.

The Group has met nine times since Annual Council 2005 and we have at present six active members, including two Trustees. We have nearly completed the more urgent repairs and maintenance tasks pointed up by the 2003 quinquennial inspection. The emergency notices and safety lighting, door catches and some of the electrical installations have also been upgraded and a number of appliances replaced or repaired. We are arranging a valuation, so Trustees can estimate what funds FoR will have for any future property plans.

As two members of ECWG will be moving out of the area soon, more are urgently needed, also more volunteers, so please consider joining us if you live within an hour or so's travelling from Clopton; lifts could be arranged if needed and Volunteers are only expected to come when they can.

Regular visitors to the Centre have included the Trustees, Unite FoR Peace and Taizé Worship (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. – all welcome). A number of church-based groups have also found the atmosphere of the Centre very conducive to reflection and concentration. We are most grateful to the small but active group of volunteers who come and work at the Centre, and to the dedicated members of ECWG.

**Tony Compton,  
ECWG Convenor**



# Peace and Security

- ▶ World military expenditure currently exceeds \$1 trillion. The USA accounted for 47 per cent of this spending.
- ▶ As a percentage of GDP, UK military spending is 55% higher than the Western European average and 22% higher than the NATO average.
- ▶ Latest figures available show that the combined arms sales of the top 100 arms-producing companies were 25 per cent higher than the previous year.
- ▶ There are currently 32 serious armed conflicts taking place in the world.
- ▶ In the last fifty years, there has not been a single day of peace for the whole of the Horn of Africa region.
- ▶ It is estimated that the UK currently has 180 operational nuclear warheads, all based on Trident submarines. Another 15 inoperative warheads are in storage.

Sources: SIPRI Yearbook 2005, Armed Conflict Annual Report 2005, Center for Defence Information, UN Development Report, 2003

Around 2000 years ago the Roman military commander Flavius Vegetius Renatus wrote 'If you want peace, prepare for war'. In stark contrast, at around the same time, Jesus and the early Christians were urging people to love their enemies (Matt 5:44-45) and extolling the virtues of nonviolent peacemaking (Matt 5: 4-12). One philosophy hailed armed conflict as a means of security, whilst the other suggested that real peace and security lives in the practice of love and justice.

## Join the Fellowship of Reconciliation

There are two ways for an individual to join the Fellowship of Reconciliation - as a Member or as a Supporter. Members, having read the Basis, fully identify with the Fellowship and its aims. Supporters are in general agreement with what FoR stands for and wish to support its work. There is no fixed subscription. Instead, members and supporters are asked to contribute regularly according to their means. Members who indicate that they are Methodists or Baptists will be enrolled in the Methodist Peace Fellowship or the Baptist Peace Fellowship.

- Please find enclosed a donation towards the work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Gift Aid: I am a UK taxpayer and would like FoR to reclaim tax on the enclosed gift.
- Please enrol me as a member / supporter (delete) of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

Name:

Address:

Phone:  Email:

# The Fellowship of Reconciliation

In 1914, Henry Hodgkin and Friedrich Siegmund Schultze parted company on Cologne Station in the run-up to the First World War with the words, 'We are one in Christ and can never be at war'. These words inspired the creation of the Fellowship of Reconciliation a few months later in Cambridge.

Ninety years later the Fellowship continues its work for peace, international reconciliation and nonviolence. It has branches, affiliates and groups in more than forty countries.



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