



Peace Sunday September 18th

The **UN International Day of Peace** is Wednesday 21st September. The nearest Sunday this year is the 18th and in many churches this is called Peace Sunday.

Put it in your church's calendar and join people around the country in holding a service for peace

We've made a resource especially for the occasion, and it's full of things you can use for the service: sermon notes, activities, prayers, ideas for church actions.

Perhaps you can offer to preach that day?
Maybe you know someone else who might, or perhaps your minister/elder would like to use the resource to write their sermon or read a reflection from it.

We can provide you with someone to deliver the whole service or just the sermon. If you'd like to offer to be one of these people, please let me know, including where you live – it would be great to send local people.

But perhaps your church isn't very receptive to the idea?
Even if you just use one of the prayers and nothing else, it's still helping to get the idea of peacemaking into the church and spreading Jesus' message of love in action.

You can get a PDF version, print out posters and order more paper copies at www.for.org.uk/peacesunday

Further copies are available by filling in the form on the back of Peacelinks, by calling the office on 01865 250781 or emailing emma@for.org.uk. It's all free! Order as many copies as you like.

This year we're inviting donations towards our International Peacemakers' Fund. It's a key part of our work, supporting grassroots groups overseas, and we want to ramp it up. This year we were delighted to support FoR Zambia, as they train young political activists in nonviolence around the presidential election; and AWARE, a women's group working on interreligious dialogue in Faisalabad in Pakistan, but we want to support several groups every year. The more funds we can raise, the more projects we can support.

We'd love to hear how you used the Peace Sunday resource. How did you celebrate? Did you use the sermon notes or did the Youth Group use the activities about deterrence? What about the hymns? Let us know whether you found it helpful and how we could build on it next year. We'd especially like to see any photos you might have taken (if taking photos of under-18s, please get their parents' permission before sending them to us for use in publicity).

What to do next:

- Put the date in your diary.
- Let us know you're holding a Peace Sunday service.
- Have a read of the resource – on paper or from for.org.uk
- Order more copies to send to people you think would like one.
- More importantly, send a copy to someone you think would not like one.
- Request a speaker – or offer your services (groan) as one.
- Invite people to the service.

Emma Anthony
Membership & Outreach Officer

Discover more about plans for the International Day of Peace: see the United Nations website at: www.un.org/en/events/peaceday



Looking back, looking forwards

Annual Council, which took place during our Wydale Hall conference in March, received an encouraging report of the Fellowship's work over the previous 12 months and our exciting plans for the future.

The trustees had adopted a new strategic plan at the start of 2015. It emphasises supporting, engaging and resourcing our members to be active peacemakers in their own communities, locally, nationally and globally.

Specifically, the stated goals are to:

- ❑ increase members' skills and confidence to work for peace
- ❑ increase the number of FoR local groups
- ❑ communicate effectively with members and others
- ❑ increase the impact of FoR campaigns
- ❑ raise the profile of FoR and peace issues in churches
- ❑ increase awareness of Christian peacemaking and nonviolence
- ❑ increase giving to the International Peacemakers' Fund (IPF)
- ❑ resource members to be in solidarity with peacemakers and those affected by violence around the world.

We made good progress towards these goals in 2015, offering events, training and resources for members, and beginning to form local FoR groups so that members can support each other and host local events.

As previously reported in *Peacelinks*, the centenary celebrations concluded with a thanksgiving service, we held our first Annual Conference for many years (and have now held a second one!) and we continued to play a full part in European and International FoR.

One of the main ways in which we can raise awareness of peace issues and the profile of FoR is through Peace Sunday, held on the Sunday nearest to International Peace Day in September each year. The resources for worship and reflection that we produced during 2015 were well-received and this issue of *Peacelinks* accompanies the resource pack for 2016.

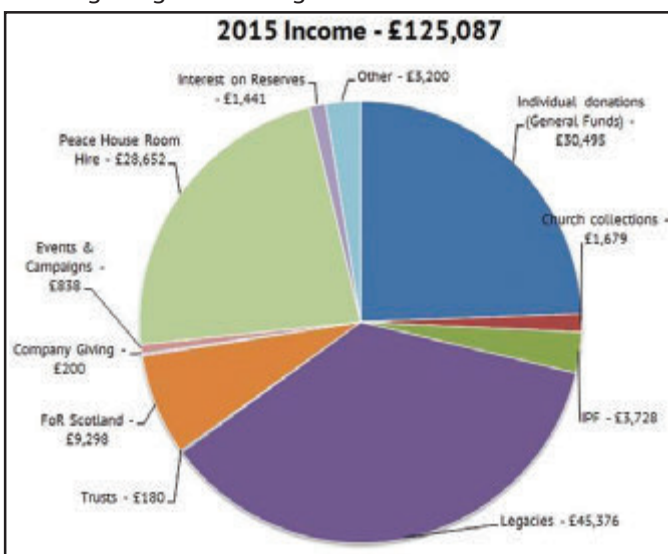
Resources were produced for Easter, on our campaign for the non-renewal of the Trident nuclear weapons system and a monthly e-news with stories, campaign actions, prayer and worship resources was distributed which complements our more traditional printed newsletter, *Peacelinks*.

We also raised the profile of our work and gave people the opportunity to take action on our campaigns by handing out Peace Sunday pamphlets and speaking on a panel about Trident at Greenbelt (a Christian music and arts festival), and resourcing FoR members to run stalls at conferences and events around the country

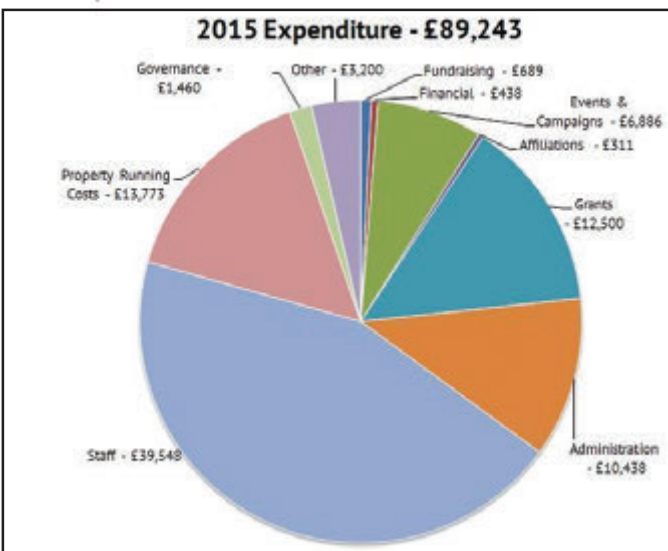
with our new 'stall pack'.

The International Peacemakers' Fund remains a core part of our work, supporting grassroots peacemaking around the world. Autumn 2015 marked 10 years since the launch of the fund and we are proud of the good work that we have been able to support over this time (*see article on page 9*).

At Peace House, 2015 saw significant maintenance activity and improvements to FoR's 'home' including external redecoration and improvement works to two rooms on the first floor of the building - largely funded through regular lettings income.



Financially, it was encouraging to see a return to a surplus in the fellowship's income and expenditure account of £35,844 (which included a significant legacy of £30,000). Decisions taken in 2014 resulted in a reduction in total expenditure from £152,378 the previous year to £89,243 while total income rose from £115,044 to £125,087.



The trustees are confident that the current levels of core expenditure, supporting the delivery of the new strategic plan, provide a sustainable foundation for the future development of our work. (*see next page*)

The Things that make for Peace

The **Methodist Peace Fellowship** weekend conference in April was a great success. We filled Whaley Hall and participants ranged in age from teens to eighties. Our three speakers were not only individually challenging and inspiring, but their experience and approach complemented each other and gave us food for thought and discussion on the many forms of peace making.

Bea Foster spoke from her 30 years as a professional Youth and Community worker and councillor in Burnley. She became involved with inter faith work after the riots of 2001 and now goes into schools with a Muslim friend to encourage discussion and co-operation across cultures and faiths. Her interfaith pilgrimages to the Holy Land spread the reconciliation message beyond the travelling group. Her joy and enthusiasm shone through her whole participation in the weekend.

Harold Good is a former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland. He shared a wealth of experience, and stories of gruelling work to bring opposing parties together through the troubles in Northern Ireland, as well as his involvement with peace issues in other parts of the world. He spoke of the need for honest confession, collective responsibility and genuine apologies – not conditional ones. He suggested we needed to bow to the past but refuse to be bound by it. His message was one of hope. He reckoned building bridges involves four 'Fs':- Food, Friendship, Fun and Faith.

Steve Hucklesby is policy advisor for the Joint Public Issues Team serving the Baptist, URC, Church of Scotland and Methodist Church in Britain. He helped us to reflect on the breadth of the work of peace making dealing with issues of religious persecution, refugees and migration, nuclear disarmament, business and human rights, climate change - all these being part of our commitment to action, confession and repentance. He pointed to the need to build an ethic for peace.

The three brief presentations were followed by workshops. The weekend included worship, singing, prayer, communion and a chance to walk and talk together. We came away aware that Peace Making needs to be recognised as being at the heart of our faith and owned by the grassroots of our churches; MPF and the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship need to work with FoR and other relevant groups to release resources for action and to win hearts and minds. We are committed to the ministry of reconciliation at all levels.

Marie Dove
MPF secretary

To contact Reverend Dove, please email or write to:
17 Fangdale Court, Bridlington, YO16 6RS
marie.dove@gmail.com, tel 01262 679612.
All MPF members receive a copy of Peacelinks.



February 27th : FoR was one of the sponsoring organisations for the Stop Trident march and rally organised by CND in London. The Network of Christian Peace Organisations' banner is pictured.

(continued from page 2) We are now spending time in the current year developing ideas for delivering new externally funded project work in the future.

None of this activity would be possible without the generous support of you, our members and supporters, so thank you, one and all!

Richard Bickle
Chair of Trustees

No Faith in Trident

Trident replacement is expected to be voted on later this year in Parliament, but parts are already being made in secret. June has been a month of action at Burghfield AWE (Atomic Weapons Establishment) in Berkshire. So far since the start of the month, there's been a permanent blockade of the base, with a camp set up and people coming from all over the country and abroad to support in different ways.

June 27th: Faith Day of action. People will be there to witness against Trident from first thing in the morning. FoR has the first worship slot at 9 am, so come along and bring a flask of tea and perhaps a deckchair (as well as the compulsory raincoat and sunhat).

July 13th: FoR is supporting the Lobby of MPs. The Network of Christian Peace Organisations has produced a new briefing. An internet version is at www.ncpo.org.uk

The Truth About Trident, Disarming the Nuclear Armament is a new book (Luath Press) by Tim Wallis of Quaker Peace & Social Witness. He shows why 20 arguments in favour of nuclear bombs are wrong. ISBN 978-1-910745-42-7, £12.99.

See also: www.TheTruthAboutTrident.com

European Diary

25 representatives of the European FoR branches met from 1-3 April in Geneva. The main business was sharing information about the activities of each branch. There were then a series of workshops on issues including training in non-violence, peace education and campaigning against child soldiers. Those present were concerned about the lack of a positive vision for Europe, its treatment of refugees and the need for peace-building and reconciliation.

The meeting had been preceded by a visit to the United Nations in Geneva organised by Dereck Brett, International Fellowship of Reconciliation's (IFOR) Geneva representative to the UN. The meeting was pleased to hear that a grant from Joseph Rowntree had secured his post for the next three years.

Lucas Johnson, International Co-ordinator of IFOR, is presently working from Utrecht in the Netherlands. Visa and work permit issues have been resolved and the meeting heard about the range of applications

currently being made to trusts.

We had an evening visit to the old town of Geneva and were shown the wall with the carved figures of the major reformers.

It was a joy to meet up with other people from Europe committed to faith-based nonviolence and the meeting was a real occasion for friendship and solidarity.

David Mumford

EUFOR CALLS FOR A NEW VISION OF EUROPE

Official Communiqué

At the meeting, the European branches of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) called for a 'renewed vision of Europe' based on a Culture of Peace, not military might.

The conference was attended by representatives from Wales, England, Scotland, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Netherlands, Austria and Belgium.

They agreed that a new way of working in Europe is needed, one based on unity, solidarity and humanity to tackle 21st Century challenges.

The following areas are in need of urgent and collective attention:

- Recognise Refugees and Migrants as Citizens
- Disarmament and Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Arms Trade
- Promote Peace Education, Inter-faith Dialogue and Social Empowerment.

EUFOR says,

"The European civil society has experienced on many occasions the power to transform conflicts through a firm stand for human rights, non-violence and human security. We want to build on this heritage of positive values.

"Refugees and migrants are making a statement with their feet on failed policy. Europe's efforts and resources should be spent on tackling the root causes as well as accepting refugees and migrants as citizens.

"Europe is in a larger value crisis and it must act and shift resources away from arms expenditure, nuclear weapons, and military strategy.

"There is a further need to prioritise non-violent intervention in order to foster and create a Europe of solidarity.

"EUFOR calls on the people of Europe to exercise their cooperative responsibility on forming a Europe of hope not fear, and neighbours not strangers. Together we can change our communities and governments."

Peace Present, Peace Future

Thank you. In 2015 the Fellowship received a number of donations, totalling £45,000, from those committing to peace as one of their final acts. May they rest in peace.

What a great idea! ...

In 2015 one of our members nominated FoR to be the recipient of donations received for refreshments provided at their local Church. This amounted to over £1,000 for our peacemaking work. Do you know of a way FoR's peacemaking could be supported by your local meeting/congregation?

The German branch of FoR (Versöhnungsbund) is organising an international workcamp against nuclear bombs in summer (25 July - 10 August) and would like to attract some young people (18 - 26 years) from the UK.

You can find more information at:

<https://www.versoehnungsbund.de/sites/default/files/2016-IWC-Einladung-EN.pdf>

Peace within, Peace without

Since our Annual Conference in 2015 the FoR's membership base has been *within* England and Scotland. This does not, however, limit the sphere of concern of its members' hearts, of their peace interests and activities. This concern is global, *without*, and a reality the FoR have always sought to reflect in core activities.

Such a reflection clearly revealed, in 2005, an **International Peacemakers' Fund**. Its aim was, and remains, to support fellow peacemakers 'on the ground', in areas where conflict is a present or imminent reality, and in areas where conflict has recently ceased. It has led directly to the eschewing of armaments for empathy and dialogue, civic unrest for stability, and destruction for building blocks of peace. The complex and protracted nature of many contemporary conflicts underlies that this is no easy matter, and so the Fund has been able to make significant contributions to these arenas over the last decade. One such beneficiary is **Christophe Hemedi**, a member of the Nguma village community in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He's received training from **FEDA** (Femmes et Education des Adultes) who successfully sought an IPF grant to develop a Peace Embassy Programme in the DRC's easternmost regions, those bordering Rwanda and Burundi. Here's Christophe's story.



I lived in conflict with my neighbours, always condemning them, so I sought non-violent communication training from FEDA. I found the training commendable and unique. I began to see that conflict

resulted from differences and misunderstandings and have been inspired to change how I communicate. I will hold a meeting with my community members to ask forgiveness and start to live peaceably with them. I have now become a peace artisan, working within my community to share information on non-violence and peaceful resolutions to conflict. I hope to be a model volunteer as there are many disputes to resolve.

Such transformations, directly the result of your donations, are nothing short of miraculous.

FoR would like to thank you for supporting the work of peacemaking 'without', for saving lives, building communities, and establishing peace. We don't just want to stop there though, for just as the effects of

FEDA's work continue to be felt among the peoples of the DRC so we have extended again IPF's helping hand toward others who sorely need it. Indeed, despite receipts being somewhat below our commitment of £5,000 per year we've already allocated grants totalling £5,250 to two organisations. The first, in Faisalabad, Pakistan, is seeking to counter inter-religious violence, and the second in Zambia, given to our FoR partner in the country, is dedicated to supporting a peaceful election campaign. Both projects involve delivering training to local community leaders and key influencers, and both projects have legacy goals that envision peaceful futures.

We are very pleased to be able to support their work. If you'd like to help us make more of this peacemaking work, please contact me at the FoR office in Oxford. I'll look forward to helping you contribute. Please hold a collection for IPF on Peace Sunday, 18th September.

In peace,
Padmakumara



Arms Dealers Out of the Church!

Yet again, Church House Westminster (formerly Church House Conference Centre) will host military think tank Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), and yet again FoR be there to tell them to drop the deal. They've been coming back every year for their arms-funded conferences on Land Warfare and the Chief of the Air Staff's Air Power Conference, but this year it's just the Land Warfare one. We have been told that this is because the venue was all booked up, but wonder whether it's a coincidence that RUSI haven't listed their usual massive arms sponsors on the website for the event at Church House Westminster, but are public about BAE Systems sponsoring the Air Power conference happening elsewhere.

Help us to eject the arms dealers once and for all. Come to our act of worship and witness on Tuesday 28th June at 8am (yes, that early) to welcome the delegates as they arrive for two days of preparing for war. Their being secretive about the sponsors this year, which means we're getting to them. Come and send a message about ethical investment and collaboration in warfare.

Emma Anthony

Nearby tube stops: Westminster & St James's Park.

Petition to Archbishop Justin Welby: www.caat.org.uk/get-involved/act-now/petition/church-house

Annual Conference

18-20th March, 2016
Wydale Hall, near Scarborough

This year, our main conference took place at Wydale Hall, which belongs to the Anglican diocese of York. There were 30 attendees who took part in seminars on various topics and enjoyed the hospitality of the venue and each other's company. You can read Emma Gibbons' reflection on the opposite page.

Most of the seminars were recorded. They were:

Friday

1. Peace, economy and debt - led by Tim Jones
www.jubileedebt.org.uk

Saturday

2. Militarism in society and education led by Emma Sangster from Forces Watch. www.forceswatch.net
3. Theology of Nonviolence - led by Rev Chris Howson
www.ajustchurch.blogspot.co.uk

In the afternoon there were choices:

4. Conscientious Objectors Today, led by Hannah Brock of War Resisters International
www.conscienceonline.org.uk
5. Christian Peacemaker Teams, led by John Lynes.
www.cpt.org
6. Having Difficult Conversations about Trident, led by Tim Wallis of QPSW - see page 2 for resource.
7. What Jesus really said about money, sex, violence - led by Symon Hill. (His subject was the sub-title of his new book: *The Upside-down Bible*, published by Darton, Longman & Todd, £9.99, ISBN 978-0-232-53207-4)

Sunday

8. Creative Nonviolence and effects of conflict led by Maya Evans. www.vcnv.org.uk
 9. Taking part in campaigns led by Emma Anthony
- At the end of the last session, people were invited to fly kites in the grounds.

On both mornings, before breakfast, there were optional stretch exercises led by Debbie Cates.

After breakfast, there was morning worship: on the first full day it was led by Rev. Chris Howson and took the reflective Taizé form. The Sunday morning worship was of the inspiring tradition kind during which we sang *Guide me, oh, Thou great Redeemer*.

Accommodation and Food: everyone had rooms in the main hall, in shared or single rooms, and very comfortable they were too. Food was served in a buffet style, and the Wydale House staff surpassed expectations in both the quality and quantity.

There was also a bar, where we sang some traditional peace songs on the Saturday evening.



Annual Council & AGM

Annual Council took place on the Saturday and was co-chaired by trustees David Mumford and Denis Beaumont in the absence of officers due to illness. 13 members, and some of the other conference participants attended.

Trustee elections: Geraldine Bridges and Chris Cole were elected to serve 3 years. There were no nominations for the Treasurer post but the Board has the authority to co-opt people for a year (trustee Chris Collins has since agreed to fill the post).

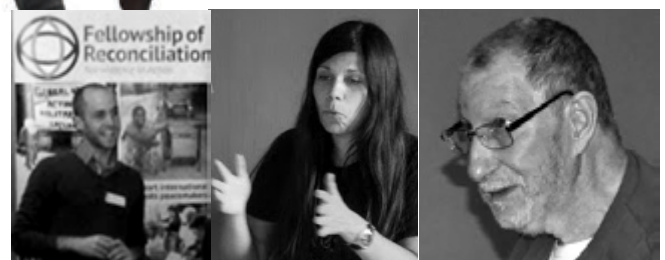
Trustees retire or are re-elected in rotation. Thanks were expressed to the retiring trustees Naomi Beaumont, Dan Jakopovich and Angela Broome for their service over many years. A card was sent to Angela Broome who was ill.

Finance report: our staff member Padmakumara guided members through the accounts and took questions. Copies of the report can be obtained from the FoR office.

Outreach report: Emma Anthony, our Membership & Outreach Officer, sang her report, accompanied on guitar by Tim Wallis.

The board of trustees is now as follows:

Richard Bickle (Chair)
Hilary Topp (Vice Chair)
Chris Collins (Treasurer)
Denis Beaumont
John Johansen-Berg
David Mumford
Geraldine Bridges
Chris Cole



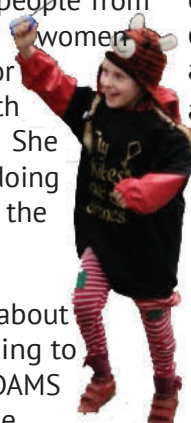
The conference this year was a great chance to catch up with old friends and to meet like-minded folk. I joined the FoR in 2013 with the intention of getting more involved with the centenary celebrations and had heard of FoR a couple of years before through a Pax Christi event. In 2014 I listened to a great sermon at Christchurch in Ilkley about the pieces of a jigsaw and how we can relate that to our Christian journey. Something about needing the box to keep all of the pieces together, and relying on the corner pieces, etc. I suppose I am a piece of the peace jigsaw that we were all part of that conference weekend. Hopefully like me everyone came away able to play their part in the peace jigsaw journey.



Then, just this week, I have found on the web a local refugee support network that has started up recently and I am planning on helping to invite refugees to a church musical evening in the near future.

I found that Forces Watch talk about militarism in society very interesting and I had no idea that many local authorities had actively signed up to a community armed forces pledge in 2012, making militarism in society more widely acceptable and encouraging cadet forces in schools. I had already known about the problems of young teenagers of fifteen and sixteen making life-changing decisions to go into the armed forces. Also of great interest was the talk by Maya Evans about the creative non-violent strategies that can be used to help those affected by conflict such as the young people from the Afghan Peace Volunteers, and women in Afghanistan that Maya, from Voices for Creative Non-Violence, had worked with making peace scarves and flying kites. She told us about the work she has been doing with refugees who have been living in the Calais camp.

We also talked and planned how to protest about the Trident renewal main gateway decision that is happening in Parliament at the moment. Many of us are trying in our own way to campaign against this and the beautiful surroundings of the conference were overshadowed by the proximity to the Fylingdales US missile defence station that I sometimes go to a peace vigil at but would prefer not to have to.



Lastly, this year is the centenary of the introduction of conscription in 1916 and the subsequent conscience clause. We were asked to think how we might be conscientious objectors today, and the issue of small arms, toy weapons and demonstrating or writing to MPs about the arms trade were all discussed. We learnt about and were quite shocked that there were still so many conscientious objectors even today in Europe where people in Greece and Finland have been prosecuted for refusing to be conscripted into the armed forces.

I came away from the conference with about three different things that I was planning to get involved in. One of those was the GDAMS poll asking people to decide how the £45,000,000,000 annual military expenditure budget could be better spent if we were the chancellor of the exchequer. I was supported at short notice by the local Anglican church and I sat in the town centre next to the now closed public toilets and managed to get quite a few people to engage with the activity.

Emma Gibbons

Emma is a Yorkshire member of FoR



Echo Chamber

This exhibition celebrates 100 years of legal recognition to individual conscience.

Do you know someone who is a relative of a conscientious objector during WW1? Would you like to share their story and how it relates to you today? To mark 100 years of legal recognition to individual conscience, Quakers are organising an exhibition at Friends House in August 2016. We would like to capture the spirit of a moving ceremony held to honour conscientious objectors of World War 1. In 2014, over sixty relatives gathered in Tavistock Square. One by one, they held up photographs and narrated details of lives marked, and sometimes shattered, by claiming the right to refuse to kill.

Artists Ruth Davey and Fiona Meadley invite you to take a photograph of a relative of a WW1 CO, and share that experience. The process of taking the photograph offers both photographer and subject the opportunity to engage in a deeper discernment. What can a photograph say? What remains unsaid? What would it mean to be a conscientious objector today?

Between now and July 2016, photographs and memories that you send to us will be posted on the web, and later displayed as part of the exhibition.

To ensure visual coherence, we suggest some guidelines for the taking of portraits. See www.look-again.org/portfolio/echo-chamber.

A sound and sculpture installation created by Fiona Meadley and Dominic Thomas will be exhibited alongside the photographs at The Light at Friends House, London from 18 August to 2 September 2016.



Tavistock Square, London - 15th May this year [photo Ruth Davey/www.look-again.org]

International Conscientious Objectors Day this year saw commemorative events in various places including London, Oxford, Liverpool and Carlisle.

Justice for Jisha



There has been a campaign across India calling for justice in the case of **Jisha**, a poor young law student who was brutally raped and murdered on April 28th in her home in Perumbavoor, Kerala.

The poem was sent to us by the Kerala-based **Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP)** which is an affiliate of the International FoR. CAP supports the campaign for justice for Jisha that grew in response to perceived low response by some authorities and owing to other rapes in the country. On May 7th they conducted a state level protest march.

More information:
www.twitter.com/#justiceforjisha
www.culturalacademy.org/
www.amnesty.org.in

Sorry Jisha
for this culture of silence,
did not hear you crying,
nor your mother's wailing,
our society is deaf.

Sorry Jisha
for the label 'dalit' given,
pushed you to the fringes,
hushed your aspirations,
now, our guilty conscience hurts.

Sorry Jisha
for shattering your dreams,
brutally stabbing,
cruelly agonizing,
now we ask, "who? why?"

Dear Jisha,
we the living
will fight for justice,
literate Kerala women,
though ashamed,
still have the guts to stand together,
and clamour for
the safety, security,
and dignity of womanhood.

The stale traditions,
the patriarchal waves
will not push us back.
we pledge to stand up
together we move forward.

Rosie Martin

Echo Hall

In 2003, many of you will remember that my husband Chris Cole was appointed to the role of Director of FoR England and we moved with our three children to the Eirene Centre in Clopton.

The job brought many benefits with it, Chris was doing work we were both passionate about, we lived above his office which was great for family life, and it enabled me to take a break from paid work. Our children were aged one to five at the time, and so this was enormously helpful.

However, I had been in employment for fifteen years, holding responsible and demanding jobs that I loved. Much as I enjoyed being a full time Mum, it was hard adjusting to being at the beck and call of three delightful but demanding children.

For a city girl, living in a remote hamlet proved isolating, particularly because being leftie pacifists in a conservative military area, we were always outsiders.

But moving to Clopton brought a couple of advantages, I began running again after a long time of indolence, and, with my head free from work baggage, I had more time to think and let my imagination run free. It worked overtime. I found the Eirene Centre terrifying at night time, the black fields behind the house, the floorboards creaking in the wind, the neighbouring graveyard, and often used to think I could hear voices. Chris, naturally, used to laugh at me about this, though not on the night when there were actually voices outside, because the neighbours' flock of sheep had escaped and were gathered in our car park.

He was right to mock my foolishness and I did get braver the longer we lived there, so that I can stay alone in a country house without fear anymore. Yet it got me thinking - if those voices *were* real, whose voices would they be? What would they be saying? And so my novel 'Echo Hall' was born. It started out as a ghost story but quickly changed into something else.

Although, the ghosts are still there because I love gothic mysteries, it became a novel about unresolved conflict, both personal and political. At the time, we were living in the aftermath of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and it felt too immediate to set the story in the present. So I located the novel in the past, beginning with the 1991 Gulf War, and going back to World War Two and then World War One.

It took me ten years to write Echo Hall, and another two years to find a publisher. I'm delighted to say that I have recently been signed by Unbound, which is a crowdfunding publisher, and so I need to raise the money for the book to see the light of day. Although this is a novel of the past, I think the questions it is raising are still relevant today. We are witnessing wars in the Middle East that we can trace back to 2003, 1991 and the World Wars, and my novel asks: are such conflicts inevitable or can we find another way?

I hope this novel will be of interest to FoR members as it features those who resist war, and those who fight it. Echo Hall was very much influenced by my experiences of being involved in FoR(E). But, I also hope it will appeal to a mainstream audience and bring issues of war and peace to their attention. Most importantly, I hope I have written a novel that readers will enjoy and will stay with them long after the last page is read.

Virginia Moffatt

If you would like to support Echo Hall, you can pledge here: <https://unbound.co.uk/books/echo-hall>.

You can follow Virginia on Twitter at ([aroomofmyown1](#)) and on Facebook ([Virginia Moffatt](#))

Virginia Moffatt is a writer and Chief Operating Officer of the think tank Ekklesia. She is married to FoR trustee Chris Cole, Director of Drone Wars UK. They have three children and live in Oxford.

Hire
**Peace
House**
a national
resource



Peace House is a light-filled, accessible conference and events venue in the centre of Oxford, and is the home of the Fellowship.

If you are interested in hiring the downstairs space (seats up to 30) or the upstairs library (seats eight people), please contact the office at:

office@for.org.uk or (01865) 250781.

Our rates are very competitive, and all proceeds go to FoR's work.

Book Review

The Hammer Blow

How 10 Women Disarmed a Warplane bound for genocide in East Timor
by Andrea Needham

I have to confess immediately that I have a strong personal connection with 'The Hammer Blow', as the author, Andrea Needham, is a close friend. But even if she wasn't I would be highly recommending this lively and entertaining account of one of the most important peace actions of the last 30 years.

The book, which gives Andrea's perspective on the 1996 'Seeds of Hope Ploughshares' action (when four women disarmed a Hawk jet bound for Indonesia), begins with an account of the author's path from an ordinary middle class childhood, to full time activist, by way of nursing and a life-changing year in the USA living in a Catholic Worker community. Andrea then details how on her return to England she was drawn into the London based peace group Arrow, and through them into the campaign against arms sales to Indonesia which was brutally occupying East Timor.

Whilst the stories of that campaign are important, it is when we reach the main event that this book really comes to life. From the time the group of women come together with an intent to disarm a plane if the deal went through, every part of the action is planned carefully; every potential outcome thought through. This leads to hilarious descriptions of Andrea and her fellow activist Jo Blackman, sitting in fields staking

out BAE Wharton, trying to identify the Hawk. When they finally do, the account of the group making its way in the dark to the base, cut through the fence and disarm it is both exciting and extremely moving.

This is a gripping story and extremely well told, moving effortlessly between humour and deep emotion as Andrea tells of their subsequent arrest, imprisonment and trial and their hopes and fears. She paints an unsparing picture of the difficulties of being in prison, but also demonstrates how Andrea, Jo, and their fellow activists Angie Zelter and Lotte Kronlid prepared for trial ably assisted by their support group on the outside.

The book reaches its denouement with tension rising in the courtroom as the women wait for the jury to reach their historic verdict, followed by an eruption of joy when the women were found not guilty.

Seeds of Hope was a rare moment in campaign history when activists not only succeeded in their goal, but were found not guilty a result that certainly contributed to international efforts to resolve the situation in East Timor.

The Hammer Blow is a brilliant telling of a wonderful action which should be a handbook for activists everywhere. It comes highly recommended.

Virginia Moffatt

Andrea's book is published by Peace News Press, ISBN 978-0946409-20-4, 310 pages, price £10.

Order via a good bookseller or visit the webshop at www.peacenews.info

Oxford Local Peace Events

During May a group of people from Oxford Quakers, FoR and Movement for the Abolition of War put on a series of events to mark the centenary of the introduction of conscription and the right to conscientious objection. For the fortnight there was a lunchtime exhibition of posters by the artist Emily Johns, accompanied by poems by various writers, entitled *The World is My Country* (available from Peace News Press), at New Road Baptist Church. Around 170 people came to see it, many commenting that it was a welcome contrast to other WW1 commemorations around the city.

The old courtroom in Oxford Town Hall provided a fitting setting on 19th May for a play, reconstructing the trial of conscientious objector John "Bert" Brocklesby, a young Methodist Minister who was tried for his convictions and eventually sentenced to death – a sentence which was, at the 11th hour, "commuted to 10 years' penal servitude". A review from Symon Hill (who sat on a post-show panel) is at for.org.uk/we-will-not-fight and paper copies can be sent out from the FoR office.

On 26th May there was a panel on *Conscientious Objection Then and Now*. Virginia Moffatt told us about the peace movement during WW1 and the hard work which went into getting the conscience clause included in the Military Service Act, and a novel she has written (see page 9). Annette Bygott spoke about the peace movement in Germany during WW1 and WW2 and how the experiences of German COs, or "deserters" as they were called during WW2, differed from their British counterparts. The starkest difference is that their death sentences were carried out – some figures suggest up to 30,000 people. Hannah Brock told us about conscientious objectors today. In Turkey, they suffer something called "civil death", where many of their rights are taken away for refusing to be conscripted, including being able to register a child or get married. We were privileged to hear from two conscientious objectors from WW2, Wendy and Lesley Pope. Wendy was almost disappointed that she wasn't pressed at all after registering as a CO, and Lesley was grateful for also having been treated extremely well. They suspected it was because of the bad press the government had received for their treatment of COs during WW1.

Emma Anthony

June 27: Faith Day of Action at Atomic Weapons Establishment Burghfield, Berkshire, including worship led by FoR at 9 am.
 June 28 - 29: Eucharist outside Church House Conference Centre Church House, Deans Yard, London SW1, 8 am (see page 10)
July 13: Stop Trident parliament lobby, promoted by Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. Find out how at: www.cnduk.org
August 6: Hiroshima Day **August 9: Nagasaki Day**
August 26 - 29: Greenbelt - Christian festival of arts, faith, and justice. This year it is again in the grounds at Boughton House, near Kettering, Northants. Tickets from www.greenbelt.org.uk tel. 0207-329-0038. **FoR is looking for volunteers to help staff our space on a rota basis. Please contact Emma at the Peace House office (see box at foot of page).**
September 18: Peace Sunday, for.org.uk/peacesunday (see front page)
September 21: UN International Day of Peace.
September 30 - October 3: World Congress 2016 on Military and Social Spending, Berlin, www.ipb2016.berlin.
October 1 - 8: Drones Week of Action <http://dronecampaignnetwork.wordpress.com>
October 16 - 20: Week of Prayer for World Peace www.weekofprayerforworldpeace.com
October 23 - 30: One World Week Including You, acting together for one world in peace, www.oneworldweek.org
November 13: Movement for the Abolition of War meeting starts 3 pm, with Ben Griffin at Imperial War Museum, London, www.abolishwar.org.uk (Remembrance Day event).
December 1: Prisoners for Peace Day www.wri-irg.org
December 10: Human Rights Day **December 28: Holy Innocents Day**

Some useful websites

www.for.org.uk - our main website.

www.facebook.com/forepeace - our Facebook page.

twitter.com/forpeacemaker - FoR on Twitter.

- <https://twitter.com/StoriesOfPeace>

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2244254396>

- Young Peacemaker's Network.

for.org.uk/drones Drones Campaign and the Drones Quilt

www.flickr.com/photos/forengland/with/13875423525/

- FoR's photographs web pages.

www.mpf.org.uk Methodist Peace Fellowship.

www.ifor.org - International Fellowship of Reconciliation and links to other branches around the world.

www.baptist-peace.org.uk - Baptist Peace Fellowship.

www.urc.org.uk/mission/peace-fellowship.html - United Reformed Church Peace Fellowship.

www.quaker.org.uk/working-peace Quaker Peace & Social Witness.

www.anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

<http://ncpo.org.uk> Network of Christian Peace Organisations.

2016 Wilson/Hinkes Peace Award

This Award was established by the Week of Prayer for World Peace (WPWP) to recognise significant contributions by individuals, organisations or projects in furthering peace, justice and reconciliation.

Named in honour of Revd. Gordon Wilson and Revd. Sidney Hinkes, both former Chairs of the WPWP, the Award is made annually. This year it is sponsored by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

The Award focuses on grassroots initiatives. It enables otherwise often untold stories to be told and honoured and seeks to inspire others.

We are now seeking nominations for the 2016 Award, to be presented during the Week of Prayer for World Peace on 23 October 2016 at the national service which this year will be at the Westminster Quaker Meeting House. The value of the Award is £500. Nominations in the form of a letter describing the nominee's contribution to peace and justice issues should be sent to: The WPWP Committee members: Sue Gale billandsuegale@blueyonder.co.uk and Sue Claydon vicechair@anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk by **31 August 2016**.

PEACELINKS

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**“We are one in Christ
and can never be at war.”**

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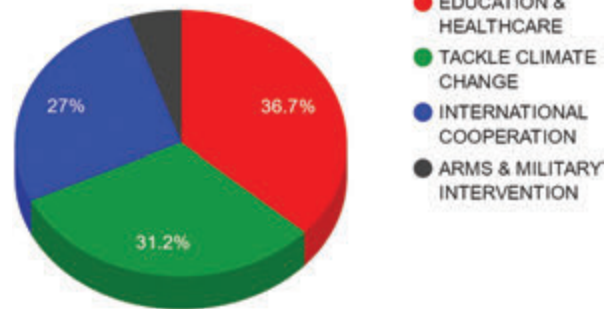
Global Campaign on Military Spending

Cut Military Spending - Fund Human Needs

The United Kingdom is now the fifth highest military spender in the world with an increased annual budget of £46 billion announced in 2016. In the weeks leading up to the Global Day of Action on Military Spending 2016, we asked people around the country how they would use that money to make the world safer. 1,024 people voted, online and in person, dividing four tokens between the different spending options. Adding up everyone's spending preferences, most people felt arms and military intervention receive too much money. People voted for military spending to receive only 5% of its current budget, meaning that overall the public thinks that the government spends 20 times more on war and its preparation than it should.

The number of tokens cast for each option:

EDUCATION & HEALTH CARE	1,406
TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE	1,194
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	1,033
ARMS & MILITARY INTERVENTION	199



More information on the website at:
<https://demilitarize.org.uk/day-of-action/vote2016/>



I enclose a donation for the Centenary Booklet

£7 Other (please write) £..... (additional copies £5 each)

I enclose a donation in support of the Fellowship's work (optional)

(please write) £.....

Total value of cheque enclosed: £.....

Make Your Gift Go Further

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. FoR is charity number 207822.

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I would like:

- ___ copies of the Peace Sunday resource
- ___ copies of the Centenary Booklet
- ___ copies of the Drones Briefing
- [] to update my contact details
- [] to receive our short regular email newsletter
- [] to receive information about FoR's Young Peacemaker Network
- [] to receive information about becoming a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation
- [] information about the International Peacemakers Fund
- [] to receive a standing order form so I can give regularly to support the Fellowship

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to
 Fellowship of Reconciliation:
FREEPOST PEACEMAKER FPN 3264
 19 Paradise Street, Oxford, OX1 1LD