



Carols at Christ Church Launches Centenary

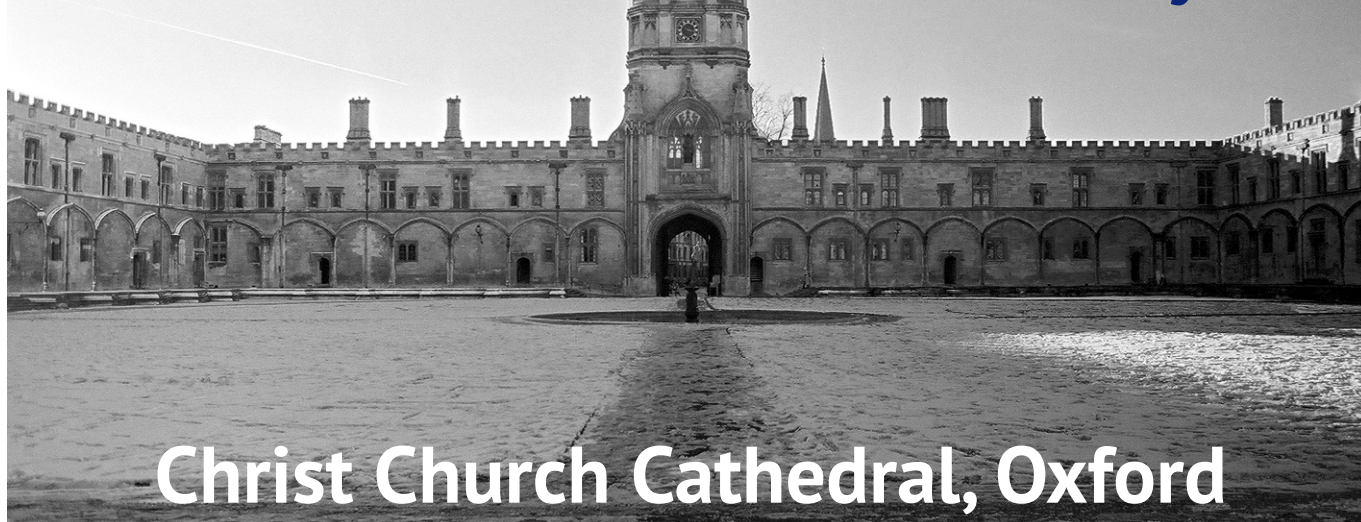


photo by Toby Ord (original in colour), source: wikipedia

Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford

Entrance will be through Tom Quad which is part of the college (pictured above)
on the road called St.Aldate's.

The cathedral is then accessible through the far side of the quad (not shown)

Monday 2nd December, 8 to 9.45pm

Tickets: www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford

or phone 01865 305305

More details on page 3



100 YEARS OF PEACE MAKING



100 YEARS OF PEACE MAKING

Called to be Peacemakers

PEACE, POWER AND PROTEST: PROPHETS FOR A NEW WORLD

14th-16th February 2014

at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire

This is a joint event with the Student Christian Movement

Open to FoR's Young Peacemaker's Network, students, recent graduates
and people aged under 30

More details on page 5.

News from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, England

Director's Reflections

The end of the year is fast approaching. Advent will soon be upon us. In every church and cathedral all over the world, Christians will be reading Isaiah 9 verses 6 and 7:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and Peace there will be no end. He will reign over the throne of David and over his kingdom establishing and upholding it with Justice and Righteousness ..."

Lewis Hensley (1824 – 1905) the hymn writer, wrote:

"Thy kingdom come, O God, thy rule of Christ begin; break with thine iron rod the tyrannies of sin."

"Where is thy reign of Peace and purity and Love? When will hatred cease... When comes the promised time that War shall be NO More, and lust oppression and crime shall flee...?"

But as we look at the world around us, where is the Peace, where is the Justice? Where is the Prince of Peace, when will his kingdom come?

Matthew 24 verses 3 – 14 gives a stark description of today's world as he describes:

"What shall be the signs of thy coming, and of the end of the world (24: 3) "...there will be rumours of war, nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines, and pestilence, and earthquakes, in diverse places"

(24: 6&7).

Just look at the violence, devastation and suffering in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and, Pakistan.

Since the conflict in Syria started, I have been to many a church service: not once have I heard a sermon about the encounter between Jesus and Saul on the road to Damascus!

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me" "Who are you Lord?" "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting..."

Thus Saul's, (who became Paul) conversion took place near Damascus in Syria! This is the same Damascus we see being destroyed day in, day out! Yet it is in these situations, on the way to Damascus, Syria, that Jesus meets us and transforms us and human relationships. The transformed relationship opens up new possibilities in which repentance, compassion, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice and peace can take place.



Millius at the FoR stall at Greenbelt with volunteer Mary Dobbing

Look at what has become of the "Arab Spring"! Look at the continuing Israel/Palestine conflict; at the sectarian attacks in Nigeria, the attack in Nairobi; and on top of these woes, the added suffering of disease, famine, and man caused climate change and damage to the environment.

Look at the unaccountability and secrecy surrounding the use of armed drones in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Palestine, Yemen and Somalia.

The Prophet Amos shouted:

"Let Justice roll like a river; Righteousness like a never failing stream." (Amos 5:24).

The Psalmist lamented that:

"Steadfast Love and faithfulness should meet; Righteousness and Peace kiss each other." (Psalm 85:10).

Where is all this Love, Peace, Justice, Righteousness to be found? Where is the Prince of Peace in all this suffering we see around the world?

Yet like Job (Chapters 38 – 41) the Lord speaks to us when we ask these questions. In 1914, the world went to war and this was supposed to be the war to end all wars! It was to be "Never Again" and that never again has come to be "Again and Again!"

Yet there is hope. Let us pray and hope that the House of Commons vote on 29 August against military action in Syria marked a break with past thinking on the use of military intervention. Let us hope that the Syria vote was in effect a recognition that a limit has been reached on the utility of force in achieving political

objectives. Perhaps it was the experience of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Egypt that scared our policy-makers. The last time Parliament denied a British Prime Minister a mandate to use force abroad was in 1782, when it voted against further fighting in the American colonies. The Prime Minister of the day, Lord North resigned with a month of losing the vote!!

Yet there is hope after all; for we “are ambassadors of Christ since God is making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). Upon these verses the Fellowship of Reconciliation was founded in 1914. “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of Reconciliation” (verse 18).

Therefore our duty as Muriel Lester put it is “To stop war. To purify the world. To get the world saved from poverty and riches. To make people Love each other. To heal the sick and comfort the sad....To create Joy and Beauty wherever we go. To find god in everything and everyone.” In short to bring Love, Peace, Justice and happiness to all.

This we achieve through taking a consistent stance against war and its preparation; by unwaveringly working for healing and reconciliation in the world and promoting a vision of the human community based on the belief that Love, Nonviolence and Reconciliation in action have the power to transform all unjust political, economic and social structures.

Throughout 2014, our centenary year, let us pray and work together for that day when the Prince of Peace's kingdom comes and Justice and Mercy will be seen in all the earth.

This is the reason for the Fellowship of Reconciliation's existence! This movement founded in Cambridge 99 years ago is still, and still – alas – needed.

Millius Palayiwa
Director

PS Spot the difference! Have you seen our new logo?

Centenary Update

I am very pleased to announce the official launch of the first of our centenary events. Tickets for 'Carols at Christ Church' are on sale and bookings for our week on Iona are open!

Carols at Christ Church will launch our centenary celebrations on 2nd December. We have an exciting line up of readers including Tony Benn, Norman Kember, and Charlotte Bannister-Parker. It will be an evening of jovial singing in an advent setting, and we will be joined by the Cathedral Singers of Christ Church who always put on quite the show. Tickets (priced at £15/£10/£5) can be bought from the Oxford Playhouse through their "tickets oxford" service, and all money raised will go towards our work here at FoR.

Tickets, please contact: oxfordplayhouse.com 01865 305305

Directions to the cathedral

Worshippers and visitors to the Cathedral are advised to use Tom Gate (see centre of photo on front page). which is on St. Aldate's, a road in the centre on the A420 route. Wheelchair users can enter the Cathedral through the door from Tom Quad, where there is a ramp to provide access. For more information please contact the Cathedral Office 01865-276155 or look at the web page www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedral.

Some information is on the downloadable file at:

www.chch.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/access-leaflet-web.pdf

Pilgrims for Peace is what we have named our week on Iona. From 17th-23rd May 2014 the community of Iona has very kindly invited us to lead a week with their community to celebrate our 100 years of nonviolent peacemaking, forgiveness, compassion and reconciliation. David Mumford from FoR Scotland and our very own Denis Beaumont will lead the week. We are opening the week to all, members and non-members alike, it will be a great mix of old friends and new faces.

The island itself is beautiful and the week will be the perfect centre piece of our centenary year. All bookings are dealt with by the Iona Community and places have been filling fast. Booking forms are available on their website or can be sent out in the post. Both the Iona office (iona.org.uk 0141 332 6343) and the FoR office will be happy to do this.

Aaron Holliday



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

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Millius Palayiwa and FoR(E) staff.

Life Begins

At the end of August the Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival at Cheltenham Racecourse attracted 17,500 people, most of whom sleep in tents for 3-4 days. This year I joined them, attracted by it being the 40th birthday event, (hence the 'Life Begins' title), having attended several times over the decades since my first in 1983 when it was at Knebworth.

Back then, there were few obvious signs of a peace message but over the years that has become a more significant strand, most notably in recent years looking at the challenges raised by what is happening to the peoples of Israel and Palestine.

The Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO) eventually established a Peace Tent and later a Peace Zone at the festival, but this year that didn't happen. Instead several of the organisations ran separate stalls in the G-Source resources tent. Pax Christi, Christian Ecology Link, SPEAK, Third Order of St. Francis, and the Student Christian Movement all had pitches along with the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

On the Fellowship stall, organised by Emma Anthony, our Membership and Outreach Officer, there were enough volunteers for us each to work 2 hours per day and enjoy the rest of the time taking in the Festival. The others were Richard Bickle, Carole Crompton, Denis and Diana Beaumont, Matt Gardner, Hannah Brock, Mary Dobbing, David Masters, and Clare Wilkins.



Volunteers on the stall: Dave Pybus, Matt Gardner, Carole Crompton

Visitors to the stall were from across a wide age range and it was great to see some of our members. Dozens of people added their names to the FoRE email news list. We gave out copies of *Peace By Peace* magazine, *Peacelinks*, leaflets about our Centenary events and the joint conference with SCM next February for young peacemakers. There was a lot of interest in the drones

campaign, including the quilt which at the time was at the Edinburgh Festival. We also handed out the *Study War No More* resource to people planning on going to university, and copies of Mairead Maguire's article about Syria (see last *Peacelinks*). All of this involved conversations which bring their own rewards, at least for the volunteer. I found the most challenging discussion to be about Trident Replacement because it was being suggested to me that going down to 2 submarines from 4 would be a good thing; perhaps, but let's not stop there!

Greenbelt's enduring values are Arts, Faith, and Justice and these are reflected in its programme. Included are a range of seminars and discussions on different topics. The NCPO published a leaflet containing details of 26 that related to peace issues. I attended talks by Ben Griffin (Veterans for Peace) and Ciaran O'Reilly (Catholic Worker) who described their journeys to active peacemaking, Professor Mary Grey who examined the Balfour Declaration that helped lead to the creation of the State of Israel, and Dieudonne Nahimana who related his journey to reconciliation in Rwanda.

Also, the film programme at Greenbelt is always thought provoking. I was challenged by the Oscar-nominated '5 Broken Cameras', a documentary film about life and resistance in a Palestinian village on the west bank of the Jordan river, and 'Chinatown' a detective film set in Los Angeles that deals with corruption and water supply issues that felt contemporary, even though it was fiction when made in 1974.

There was a display of life-size steel sculptures entitled 'All the World is Richer Now' commemorating the abolition of slavery. The artist is Sokari Douglas Camp CBE who was born in Nigeria. The exhibition is still touring and may end up on permanent outdoor display in London.

The performing arts programme is vast. I especially enjoyed comedian Milton Jones, well-known for his one-line gags, who has published little books of 10-second sermons. He was interviewed as well as performing. I also enjoyed the Hip Hop Shakespeare Company, which is a band, and Christian Aid's Jazz Communion.

Expression of faith and praising God are important at Greenbelt. You can worship in different places several times a day in different styles and traditions. Everyone comes together on the Sunday morning for Holy Communion.

Finally, there are different ways to attend the festival. Go as a punter, in a family or church group (there are specific programmes for children and young people), or as one of the many volunteers who make it possible.

David Pybus

Called to be Peacemakers

We wanted to do something special for our centenary edition of our annual “Called to be Peacemakers Conference” for our young members. As the Student Christian Movement had planned to run their annual conference on the theme of peace in 2014, we have decided to run it as a joint event.

The theme is “Peace, Power and Protest: Prophets for a new world”, which allows for a lot of creative programming and guests. We are delighted that Inderjit Bhogal of the Corrymeela community will be joining us as our keynote speaker, which will be followed by a panel debate from a very diverse group responding to the question, “How can faith speak truth to power?”, adapted from an 18th century Quaker publication.

We want to make the conference as accessible as possible. We know the sorts of people who will be attracted by the idea of protest, but we don’t want

others to be put off by thinking it’s for people who like to clash with the police. We’re hoping to attract and welcome those just perhaps thinking of dipping their toes into the idea that Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, that following Christ is about living non-violently with others and changing the world for the better.

The conference is on 14th-16th February 2014, at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. It is open to any students, recent graduates, people under 30 or any members of FoR’s Young Peacemaker’s Network. Places are £50 before December 31st, £60 thereafter and some bursaries are available.

Tickets available at:
movement.org.uk/peacepowerprotest.
Twitter: #PeaceProphets14

Emma Anthony

Palestine – Reconciliation

In my dining room, and in some of the hotels in Bethlehem and elsewhere, hangs a poster saying “Visit Palestine”. It echoes the call I responded to in 2003 to do just that. It is actually a 1930s Zionist poster. We have our uses, and value for each other, don’t we?

Since then I have visited numerous times, and I have read, absorbed and listened a lot. Much of it has been very distressing, and much of it provoking anger, (some might say righteous indignation) to the extent of affecting my personal relationships, so sometimes I had to take a break from all this.

I have drawn a lot of spiritual sustenance from the ministry of the Taizé community and its mission of reconciliation, and am inspired by the work of The Forgiveness Project, and other projects working for change, sharing of stories and the building of mutual understanding between people who have been enemies, and would urge support for these projects. I was reminded by the words of Sami Awad of the Holy Land Trust, who spoke at this year’s Greenbelt Festival, just what challenging and painstaking, sacrificial (especially in one’s thinking and feeling) such work is, and how long it takes; how long it can be before one is ready to buy into that kind of process.

Recently I have watched some of Simon Schama’s TV series on The Story of the Jews and I have been responding to the Methodist Church’s consultation on Boycott Divestment and Sanctions*. Both well worth a visit, and very valid statements of where things are at. I have seen those on each side of the Israel/Palestine supporters/defenders rushing to knee jerk reaction to criticise and attack the other, and I wonder where that is leading to, and whether these people are ready, yet,

to buy into a reconciliation process, a process which is prepared to consider how the two peoples can share a future as neighbours and not enemies.

I am not sure if it will be helpful to get into Malcolm Gladwell’s latest offering on David and Goliath, but I hear the cries of those on each side who would criticise my words about reconciliation. More helpful and salutary, and a lesson to us all, is the work of the late Professor Stanley Cohen of LSE in his 2001 book *States of Denial* (Polity Press). The subtitle is knowing about atrocities and suffering. Why are there bystanders when these things are happening? We all, for some reason, often quite personal, have a propensity – a need even – to see what we want to see and to ignore what we believe we cannot deal with.... and the higher up any hierarchy you go, the more there is invested in the status quo, and the more out and out denial, and the abuse of what power leaders have can occur, particularly the manipulation of information through the mass media, and corruption.

That, it seems to me, is why we see reconciliation projects taking place at grass roots level, generally un-newsworthy, and unsupported by those “higher up”, and why people at the grass roots seem to get on with just living side by side as good neighbours, given the freedom to do so.

Meanwhile they have to wait until their leaders are ready to buy into some humility, some real listening to “the other”, and some real peace with justice based on truth, or as near as they can get to it.

Roger Gordon

*<http://www.methodist.org.uk/BDSBriefing>

Resistance at the Arms Fair

Did you know that London hosts one of the largest arms fairs in the world every other year? And that its guests include Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Rosboronexport (Russian supplier of weapons to Syria) and Turkey? This September, over 30 thousand international delegates, including those from authoritarian regimes and countries on human rights black lists were invited to come and do business in London Docklands to, as the organisers put it, “source the latest equipment and systems, develop international relationships, and generate new business opportunities.” Hundreds of people sought to stop them.

Having signed a statement along with five other Christian organisations, supporting nonviolent direct action as a moral response to the arms fair, FoR set out to take part in peaceful resistance.

With around 1,500 exhibitors, it takes quite some time to set up the event, officially called Defence Security Equipment International, or DSEi. Ideally, we wanted to stop it altogether; if they did manage to set up, we hoped to make the event as ungraceful – indeed, disgraceful – as possible and to highlight the horrendous deals being made. Caroline Lucas MP even found that two companies were trying to sell torture weapons (again).

The arms fair took place at the ExCeL centre, which is privately owned by Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company. The closest we were allowed to get was the roundabout at the Eastern gate, on which Occupy set up camp and around which Critical Mass – a weekly cycling group involving hundreds of cyclists taking to the streets en masse – pedalled.

Sunday 8th September, the day before the fair, was spent blockading vehicle entrances and turning warships away. Events included an exorcism involving three Anglican priests as part of Christians Against the Arms Fair (of which FoR is part), which blocked the road after 18 people had been arrested for lying in it, some in arm tubes. We started singing hymns on the roundabout then moved onto the road before kneeling for a special exorcism liturgy, songs and prayers of peace and solidarity. Police were rather baffled and one officer waggled a finger at Rev. Dr Keith Hebden for flicking holy water. Those not involved in the service stood by in confusion, many saying afterwards that it had changed their view of Christians for the better. Hoorah!



Christian groups were out in force, including Christian CND, Quakers, Student Christian Movement and Christianity Uncut, as well as the Christian Network of Campaign Against Arms Trade, the main branch of which had brought the whole week of events together.

Highlights included a silent, 200-strong candlelit vigil, blockading the entrance to headquarters of weapons manufacturing giant Lockheed Martin, disrupting a fancy dinner on the Cutty Sark and a blockade of the main entrance to the fair by Christians kneeling in prayer. The latter caused significant disruption including trains no longer stopping at Custom House station, where the activists were glued together, arm-in-arm. They face trial in early February. FoR was there supporting and reporting but managed to avoid arrest, just about.

As part of our continuing campaign against armed drones, on Monday (the fair's drones day) we held a photo stunt with CND, War on Want, Drone Wars UK and others, with a grim reaper operating a papier-mâché drone using a Playstation controller. After this, some of us walked over to the roundabout just in time to sit in front of a tank trying to sneak into the exhibition last-minute. We overheard a police officer saying, "That's the one we really wanted to get straight in..."

Every year, on the penultimate evening of the fair, the organisers put on a huge gala dinner for the guests. At a few thousand pounds a table, it is very chic, very sparkly and very carefully organised.

This year, entertainment was in the form of a boxing match from the army boxing squad, in aid of wounded soldiers, namely the British Legion. We were startled at their apparent inability to notice the irony. Some of us also turned up outside to show our support for injured people. As the arms dealers and military personnel turned up in all their finery (and some of them really did look stunning), they were greeted by grim reapers holding scythes and a banner which read, "Think we're scary? You'll find arms dealers inside". Others sat across the entrance (in front of a police line) holding CAAT's banner, which reads, "Arms dealers here today. This is not ok" while still others offered informative flyers about where the weapons go and how they are put to use. Two more people stood in silent vigil with hands painted red, symbolising the blood on the hands of the arms dealers and someone lay in a body bag.

The police had designated a "protesting zone" on the other side of the massive road, where a few people stayed. While disobeying police orders was not the aim of the action (it is sometimes a challenge to remember that police are not the



enemy when they appear to defend an institution), standing on the other side of the road was going to achieve nothing. We aimed to non-violently remove all the splendour and grandeur from the arms trade, displaying it as the dirty money-making body which it is. In order to do this, we wanted to make the arms dealers perform a "walk of shame" to enter their expensive party.

Weapon makers have a record of hiring the classiest venues in the hope of giving them some credit and making them appear fluffy, noble and ever-so-British. This year the Troxy, a beautiful old converted cinema in Tower Hamlets, was no exception. Anti-arms activists are appealing to places which host events for arms dealers and manufacturers, imploring them to sever any existing ties, in the hope of removing any traces of repute from the arms industry. In so doing, it will push the arms trade out of flashy venues swathed with history, image and moral standing so they cannot feel special while watching people fight. Carion events, who organised DSEi, also arrange "mother and baby" fairs; the difference at DSEi being, as observed by a guest one year, that everything you see here is designed to kill you.

So, what was the feeling at the end of it? Our ultimate goal had been to close down the arms fair, like they did in Australia in 2008. Despite not achieving this, we succeeded in highlighting some of the arms trade's ugliest points and gaining momentum. Of the 18 who were arrested on the first day, 17 pleaded "not guilty" and face trial in late February and one person pleaded guilty, explained her motives and was fined £100. The next arms fair will take place 15-18 September 2015. We hope hundreds more will join us in moving towards a world without armed conflict, oppression and torture.

Emma Anthony



Photographs of the protests at the Arms Fair were taken by various supporters of Christians Against the Arms Fair.

A hint of hope amidst conflict

– Introducing CHIPS –

Up on the remote border of the Teso and Karamoja regions of NE Uganda, a hint of hope is beginning to emerge after a tale of violence.

For many years, cattle raiding between the brother tribes of the Iteso and Karimojong left a strip of fertile borderland barely 50km long. The area was a desolate battleground, containing only a smattering of temporary villages, home to people scarred by many years of war. After light arms flooded into the area in the wake of the fall of Amin, the raids only became more intense, the tribal division more entrenched, the wounds all the more raw.

In 1990, on the invitation of the bishops of both Teso and Karamoja, Christian International Peace Service (CHIPS) recruited a small team of Ugandans from those borderlands to live in the midst of the area. Their task was to find a way to serve the needs of both sides. This meant relating and welcoming both Iteso and Karimojong into their midst, praying for transformation, and trying to live in harmony not conflict. By 2001, across five bases, ethnically mixed teams had, among many other practical projects, dug over 40 wells to provide good drinking water for both people and animals, reducing tensions caused by cattle which previously destroyed farms in search of water.

They had provided seed loans to farmers and people were at last coming to settle in the abandoned borderlands. Progress was being made in healing the divisions that defined the region.

A mini-massacre, however, of 12 settlers by an army patrol near a CHIPS base threatened to destroy all the good that had come before.

Shaken but not broken, the CHIPS team re-settled, re-grouped and sought once again to quietly serve. Firmly rooted in the Peace of Christ that springs up in the midst of tension, the team began training community animal health workers to treat the cattle of both sides, which increased productivity of the herds and reduced the need for raids. A renewed focus on the border area formed a vision to re-settle mixed communities of Karimojong and Iteso farmers in the midst of the raiding paths to break the pattern of violence.

After some years of steady progress, a group of 40 elders from both sides asked a mixed CHIPS team to join them in moving to the village of Apeitolim, formerly a hub of raids throughout the region.

Leaving their cows behind, the elders declared that they would “get our cows from the land”. CHIPS supported the team with simple tools, seed loans, agricultural training, and most significantly with their presence, living alongside the camp of pioneering elders.

When it came time for CHIPS to hand over the work at Apeitolim to the Church of Uganda in 2011, 20,000 settlers had come to settle from both tribes, creating a flourishing network of connected communities, living together, trading and farming and finding a new way to live in the midst of the tension. Life is not easy in this remote area, but it is lived together. Perhaps the best testament to this is that there have been no raids since 2007. In addition a school and clinic have now been built and the hint of hope is surely in the air.

Since the work in Apeitolim, CHIPS has initiated an exciting new project in Ghana, where another team is living in the heart of an area affected by numerous inter-ethnic conflicts. The team, drawn from both sides of the conflict, live, eat and pray together, and run practical projects which serve both sides. Programmes such as animal rearing with women’s groups, public health, and natural medicine production address issues highlighted by the communities and create pathways for new relationships to grow and develop.

CHIPS has worked for peace in 9 countries beginning in Cyprus in 1966. Currently, plans are developing for a new project in south London, serving communities affected by gang violence. As we learn and develop good relationships with others already working there, CHIPS new Director, Paul Rose, plans to plant a community house in the heart of one of these areas in early 2014. CHIPS are actively seeking others passionate about practical peacemaking to join this incarnational team as it forms over the coming year.

CHIPS is passionate about finding creative ways to contribute to peace in areas of conflict and tension. If you want to find out more, please visit our website at www.chipspeace.org or get in touch at office@chipspeace.org.

A training & study weekend in collaboration with Hilfield Friary will take place from 21st - 23rd February 2014 on the topic of “Christian Peacemaking as Presence”. Hosted at the Friary in Dorset, the weekend will explore the incarnational aspects of Christian Peacemaking with particular reference to the New Testament and the work of CHIPS. The weekend will be led by Rev Jonathan Herbert (Hilfield Friary, formerly EAPPI & Pilsdon Community), Paul Rose (CHIPS Director) and Elfrida Calvocoressi (CHIPS Trustee). Please contact Hilfield Friary on hilfieldssf@franciscans.org.uk or 01300 341345, or the CHIPS office on office@chipspeace.org, for more information or to book places.

Paul Rose

Director's Diary

Emphasis must always be given to the fact of how much the work of the charity, and its success very much depends on six resources: its members, supporters, Trustees, staff, volunteers and of course finance.

Personnel and staffing issues have continued to take much of the Director's time during this period. We have a new Membership and Outreach Officer, Emma Anthony who joined us in July. Lara Bosley the Centre Manager and Aaron Holliday, the Centenary Events Intern have settled in very well.



Lara



Clive

Clive Gillam, the Finance Officer, continues to do an excellent job albeit on reduced hours. David Pybus, the editor of our magazines gives the charity invaluable service on a voluntary basis.

I am however very pleased to report that the team is once more back to normal with weekly staff meetings and "one-to-one" session held regularly. The staff team also has lunch together from time to time. We continue to be quite happy and feel fulfilled in our respective roles.

The following are a few examples of some of the meeting, seminars and conferences attended:

- Humanitarian Impact of Robotic Weapons being a seminar organised by the Martin School of Oxford with the Department of Ethics, Law and armed Conflict.
- Film screening of "Drone", being a short film about the lives of Drone operators. This was followed by a panel discussion that included the film makers. This was organised by the Martin School, Oxford as above.
- Trevor Huddleston's memorial service, marking the centenary of his birth. Trevor fought against apartheid and was author of Naught For Your Comfort.

The content of Peacelinks does not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team nor the Trustees of the Fellowship.

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Peacelinks is free to members.

- Conflict Transformation Seminar organised by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies, attended by high powered people working in areas afflicted by violent conflicts.

- The Ivory Coast Reconciliation workshop. This was the first of what is hoped to be a series of reconciliation workshops for the Ivorian Diaspora. This was held at Peace House with Diana Francis as the facilitator.

- "In our Time: An Exploration of the Dynamic Relationship between Christian Ecumenism and Inter Religious Dialogue, its Opportunities and Challenges in the 21st Century." This was a high profile seminar at Heythrop Theological College and was organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI).

- FOR Scotland Annual Conference. The theme this year was "Pacifism or Passivism," with talks on "Nonviolence in Northern Ireland, Nonviolent resistance in Palestine and the New Testament basis of nonviolence.

- URC Peace Fellowship's AGM where we shared our programme for 2014.

- Charity Finance conference on governance and chief officers

- Action Planning seminar on "Fundable yet Faithful", being a seminar for Christian charities and churches on whether "being Christian" was a barrier to fund raising. The overwhelming answer was "NO"!

- Corrymeela. A two day conference with the Methodist Peace Fellowship and the Corrymeela Community to share ideas about 2014.

- The All Party Parliamentary Group on Drones with drone victims talking.

- The All Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Transformation to talk about Syria.

- Book launch. "Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer, by Father Michael Lapsley. Father Lapsley joined the ANC and had his hands "blown" by a bomb during the apartheid period of South Africa.

- The Network of Christian Peace Organisation AGM (NCPO) which this year was held at Peace House. I am the current Chair of the NCPO.

In addition there were talks and meetings give at:

- The Malvern Churches Justice and Peace Group, Iona Associates in Oxford, World War One Working Group.

- Many internal staff meetings, FoR Working Groups, and Board of Trustees Meetings,

Millius Palayiwa

To Relatives of WW1 Conscientious Objectors

"Are you a descendant of a First World War conscientious objector or related to someone who was active in the women's peace movement of those days, such as Women's International League for Peace and Freedom?"

Peace organisations planning the International Conscientious Objectors' Day ceremony in London on 15 May 2014 would like to invite relatives to take part. If you are one, please get in touch."

Please send your details to Millius Palayiwa, Director, at The Fellowship of Reconciliation, Peace House, 19 Paradise Street, Oxford OX1 1LD. E-mail: Director@for.org.uk. Tel: (01865) 250 781.

Peace House diary

Collecting up cups after another Thursday coffee morning, the autumn sun is streaming through the front bay windows as people gather their things together to leave, smiles on their faces. Every month Oxfordshire Unlimited hosts a coffee morning here at Peace House for their members. These gatherings are an opportunity for people who use Oxfordshire's disability services to get together and share experiences (and biscuits).

Peace House is perfect for this: easy to get to, friendly and cosy, and with tea and coffee in constant supply in our little kitchen. Over the past few months, we've hosted staff meetings for Oxfam GB, a workshop on reconciliation and peacebuilding in the Ivory Coast, and a book launch for the Darvell Community. We are busy, but we want to do more. We are lucky to have this lovely space, a Georgian building full of character, situated behind Oxford's castle on a quiet side street, as we are able to hire out our two meeting rooms to groups with a similar intention to FoR, groups working towards a better, more fair world.

We are working on our sustainability credentials: recently an EPC (energy performance certificate) assessment was conducted, kindly arranged through the Low Carbon Hub at no charge. We hope, once the

report is completed, to be considered for any funding they receive for building refurbishments. Let's cross fingers!



We are working on ensuring our suppliers make sustainable choices too. Our new website will remain wind-powered, and our new printers, Seacourt, have incredible sustainability credentials. They use a waterless printing process, which reduces production waste to zero. This is wonderful; we are glad to be using them.

Finally, we are looking at how we fill Peace House, as an important aspect of sustainable building usage. The building isn't quite large enough to close off a wing for the colder months, but we are possibly considering a lodger ... if you would like to share our office space, let me know.

Once we are through winter and spring has arrived, we want to start creating a small urban garden outside our fire escape. It will require some imagination to transform that space, but it can be done: if anyone is interested in offering some time or ideas towards this, we would love to hear from you.

Lara Bosley

Peace Consultation at Corrymeela

The Corrymeela Community is located near Ballycastle on the beautiful Antrim coastline in Northern Ireland. From October 30th – November 1st fifteen representatives of various Christian Peace organisations met to discuss ways of marking in 2014 one hundred years of bearing witness to peace. The UK Government plans to spend £55 million to commemorate the outbreak of WW1, so it will not be easy to tip the balance.

One suggestion is a vigil to be held on August 4th in every Village Square or Town Hall. This should not necessarily be silent. It was suggested that war is noisy and peace is silent, so perhaps we need to make a different kind of noise.

A simple slogan of “Stop and Think” was proposed, with people encouraged to share their dreams for a world at peace. A reminder that “The war to end all wars” ended with people saying “never again” which has become “again and again”. The challenge is to catch people’s imagination to allow them to share their stories of those who have taken a stand for peace. Perhaps some simple commitment to sign might enable people to make their own mark for peace. We are exploring publicising our campaign with

leaflets in churches, notices in libraries and offers of items for local newsletters and magazines, enabling people to recognise that there is an alternative to violence.

Many events are already scheduled to take place during the year and the aim of the Methodist Peace Fellowship in convening this consultation, was to bring together those plans, to find our own role within them and to find ways of collaborating to challenge the perception of the inevitability and necessity of war. We believe that an imaginative and focussed campaign could prove as effective in changing the public mindset concerning responses to conflict, as the Fair Trade campaign has begun to do in its area. It could be another small step in working for justice and peace in all creation.

Marie Dove
Secretary
Methodist Peace Fellowship
www.mpf.org.uk/

For more information about the Corrymeela Community, write to them at the Corrymeela Centre, 5 Drumaroan Road, Ballycastle, BT54 6QU or visit their website at www.corrymeela.org

Songs for choirs for 2014 – a resource with the accent on peace -

As the centenary of World War One approaches, there will be hundreds of events to commemorate it, many of them involving choirs and singing groups, which will need suitable musical material.

I am a writer and singer of peace songs and on the committee of Movement for the Abolition of War. The centenary has inspired me to offer choirs a free resource of choral songs to sing in 2014 and thereafter.

I began by arranging seven of my own songs, and then approached seven other writers and obtained permission to arrange and offer songs they had written.

The 14 songs are now on MAW’s website. To see

them, go to www.abolishwar.org.uk and scroll down the page, where the 14 links are in the bottom right corner. To hear them, go to www.soundcloud.com/songsfor2014 where there are some audio extracts, so far only for the first seven, but the others should be added by early December.

Some of the songs are strongly anti-war; others simply reflect on past events and encourage hopes of peace. There should be something to suit every occasion that does not actively seek to glorify war.

I, and MAW, would love to hear via their website of any ways in which the songs are used, and any comments or questions. Please spread the word .

Sue Gilmurray

Some useful websites

www.for.org.uk - our main website for news, or see Facebook at **www.facebook.com/forepeace**
http://twitter.com/forpeacemaker and **twitter.com/FoRpeacebypeace**
 - follow FoR England on Twitter
 + **https://twitter.com/StoriesOfPeace**
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2244254396
 - Young Peacemaker's Network
dronesquilt.wordpress.com
 - Drones Quilt website
www.mpf.org.uk
 - Methodist Peace Fellowship.
http://www.ifor.org - International Fellowship of Reconciliation and links.
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.
http://ncpo.org.uk - Network of Christian Peace Organisations.

November 28: Advent Vigil at AWE Aldermaston, 1 - 2pm Tadley Gate. Contact Christian CND, 162 Holloway Rd, London, N7 8DQ, christians@cnduk.org or 020 7700 4200.
December 1: Prisoners for Peace Day, contact War Resisters International
December 2: FoR Carols at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8pm. Running time 1 hour & 45 minutes with no interval. Contact: 01865 305305 (Oxford Playhouse ticketing service).
December 5, 12, 19: Advent Vigil at AWE Aldermaston. Contact Christian CND (see Nov 28).
December 6: Dirty Wars film show, Phoenix Picturehouse Oxford. www.dronewars.net
December 7 – Meeting for Worship at Menwith Hill, US spy base, main entrance 2 – 3 pm, contact Northern Friends' Peace Board, 01204 382330 nfpb@gn.apc.org
December 10: International Human Rights Day
December 28: Holy Innocents Day
January 19: Peace Sunday. Contact Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY, info@paxchristi.org.uk
January 25: The Burning Question debate about carbon emissions with Mike Berners-Lee, 11 am at the St Mary's Centre, Hexham. Organised by Northumbrians for Peace and Hexham Quakers.
January 27: Holocaust Memorial Day
February 13: Ash Wednesday
February 14 -16: Peace, Power & Protest. SCM/FoR joint Conference for 18-30s at Hayes Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire www.facebook.com/events/436140209828167 - see page 5
February 21-23: CHIPS training & study event with Franciscans, Hilfield Priory - see page 8
April 5: Security by Remote Control - can it work? with Prof Paul Rogers, 11 am at the St Mary's Centre, Hexham. (Organisers - see Jan 25).
April: FoRE Annual Council
May 17-23: Pilgrims for Peace: FoR peace week, Iona - see page 3
August 1 - 3: FoR Centennial international event at Konstanz, Germany. Details from the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. <http://www.ifor.org>
November 22: FoR Centenary Conference, Cambridge, with Rowan Williams



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- [] to receive information about FoRE's Young Peacemaker Network
- [] to receive information about becoming a member of Fellowship of Reconciliation, England
- [] information about the International Peacemakers Fund
- [] to receive a standing order form so I can give regularly to support FoR England

Name: _____

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