



Peace Sunday - September 24th

The UN International Day of Peace is Thursday 21st September. The nearest Sunday is 24th and in many churches it is called Peace Sunday.

Have you been trying to get your church to do more about peace, but it's an uphill struggle? Perhaps you'd love to do a peace service but don't know where to start?

We've got a resource to help you. We've filled it with sermon ideas, activities for children & young people, news about international peace work and ways to get involved in peace & justice.

The sermon notes are also ideal for using in a group Bible study, prayer meeting or for reflection.

Please save the date in your church calendar and encourage them to mark the day.

Reclaiming Gospel Nonviolence

14th July - 16th July

5:00 pm - 2:00 pm

St. Mary's Monastery
Kinnoull, Perth
Scotland

This conference will explore the centrality of active nonviolence to Christianity. Recent Roman Catholic thinking at the Vatican conference in April 2016 and in the 2016 Papal message for the International Day of Peace shows signs of a move away from the just war paradigm. The Anglican Communion in its marks of mission vows to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

The World Council of Churches recently commended the study and adoption of the principles and practices of active nonviolence, as the most legitimate and appropriate means of countering discrimination and oppression and of breaking the cycle of violence.

This event is organised by Fellowship of Reconciliation, in partnership with Justice and Peace Scotland, Pax Christi, the Church of Scotland, and the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, and supported by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Do you want to come? Details of contributors and booking information are on page 7.

You can book on our website at for.org.uk/perth

Our longstanding mission of reconciliation and bringing together people who are divided, feels as needed today as ever.

*Oliver Robertson joined FoR in May 2017 as its new Development Manager.
He explains what he'll be doing and what led him to this role.*

What is a 'Development Manager' anyway? Like many jobs in small charities, there's bits of everything, but at its core this role is about giving the Fellowship of Reconciliation the things it needs to succeed. Part of the job is about supporting my colleagues, giving them the space to work on their core responsibilities. Part of it is about finding the money to be able to continue our work for peace and putting nonviolence into action. Part of it is about developing new projects, new expressions of Christian peacemaking. And part of it is about explaining all this, whether to the churches, the media or the public.

I'm a Quaker and come to FoR after many years working internationally. I had two stints at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, working to highlight the often-forgotten situation of children with a parent in prison and to help to build understanding among UN climate change negotiators. I have also worked to end the death penalty and prohibit life imprisonment at Penal Reform International.

I've known about FoR a long time (my grandparents met through FoR during World War Two), so the chance to work here was always attractive. Sadly, FoR's longstanding mission of reconciliation and bringing together people who are divided, feels as needed today as ever. But the empowering role that FoR also plays, enabling its members to act practically and nonviolently, is inspiring: we don't just need to reconcile ourselves to how things are now, but can build a better world where peace is deeper and more enduring. The Christian, faith-based nature of FoR allows us access to a rich heritage of past experience and spiritual support for this work; it is the roots and the soil in which we grow. I look forward to seeing what emerges in the coming years and to helping the organisation to flourish.

Oliver Robertson



Challenge church arms profits

Church House Westminster is a conference centre whose profits go to the CofE. Every year they welcome a military think-tank, RUSI, for at least one event sponsored by arms dealers. Let's make this year the last!

CALL Church House on 020 7390 1590 to challenge them on hosting these events, next on 27-28 June. Call then if you can, or call after and tell them not to host the events again.

Engage them on twitter by joining our twitterstorm of @churchhouseconf using #DisarmChurchHouse.

More details for calling and tweeting at for.org.uk/churchhouse and follow @forpeacemaker

PEACELINKS

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

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Peacelinks is free to members.

FoR's International Peacemakers' Fund Triumphs again!

Padmakumara writes: This Peacelinks I've an update on our 2015 recipients, a fuller account from one of our 2016 award winners, and news of 2017's successful application.

2015

In 2015 the IPF supported an organisation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). They were rooted in an area of the DRC, the Kivu District, that borders Rwanda and Burundi. The area saw almost constant warfare for most of the last 20-30 years. Working with those traumatised by such horrific experiences had little by way of reconciliation and unrecognised grievances were fuelling more conflict. FEDA, the organisation supported, implemented a Peace Embassy Program that rectified this lack. So successful were they from the IPF Award that it led to them receiving two further awards in 2016, extending the reach of scope of the work. Now they wish to combine work on the ground with broadcast radio to further extend their reconciliation and conflict prevention work. If you contributed to that success, whether through prayer or providing funds, FEDA wish to thank you.

2016

Meet Lane Sakuwunda. She's second from the left in this photograph. Lane is a political activist in Zambia and member of the United National Independence Party (UNIP). Thanks to your donations she was able to participate in FoR Zambia's 'Alternatives to Violence Campaign' for young political leaders in the lead-up to 2016's Presidential Election. In her own words she helps us understand the impact it had.



"This training has made me realise that as young people we need to play an important role in the affairs of the country and not to be perpetrators of violence. I have learned very important skills such as the steps of organising a nonviolent action and the various forms of nonviolence at my disposal as a youth politician...

"...despite our young ages, we are not leaders of tomorrow, but leaders of today. The knowledge I have acquired from this workshop, will propel me to sensitise other young people to nonviolently engage the people in authority and refrain from using violence. I heard from the presentations that nonviolence is so powerful more than violence...

"'I will use nonviolence' means not just during election campaigns but will make it my daily life. As part and parcel of my daily work. Since general elections are held every five years, I know that preaching and encouraging nonviolent engagement among politicians should not wait for four years but be an ongoing activity. The organisers (FOR-Zambia) should also plan to have annual meetings or workshops to assist us make active nonviolence become part of our activities and work...

"...one other key thing from the workshop that I am taking away as a young politician is that we must live according to the truth, according to the wishes of the people and when the truth is not provided, we have tools that we can use to confront the situation and that is nonviolence."

I find it so inspiring hearing of young political activists such as Lane gaining confidence in nonviolence as a means of ensuring peace, democratic representation and truth. May she go a long way in supporting it throughout Zambia's political future.

2017 – and how to get involved

I can also bring you exciting news of IPF in 2017. This year we've chosen to support FoR Peace Presence, our fellow peacemaker in Colombia. As some of you will know, Colombia has seen the historic signing and ratification of a peace agreement between FARC (the largest paramilitary group in the country) and the Government. Despite that agreement, and potentially because of it, the country continues to face many threats from violent groups. FoR Peace Presence was established to help work against such threats and will continue to do so. Through IPF we're supporting their accompaniment programme, in which human rights activists are 'accompanied' by volunteers on their visits to threatened groups, documenting violence and human rights abuses.

As well as thanking FoR Members/Supporters for contributing financially to this project, FoR Peace Presence is interested to know if you'd be willing to become an accompanier! See <https://peacepresence.org/2017/05/03/call-for-applications-for-our-2017-2018-team/> if you'd like to find out more.

EUFOR Statement April 2017

Statement of the European Fellowships of Reconciliation (EUFOR) meeting in Vienna, April 28-30, 2017

50 years ago, on April 4th, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave a remarkable speech at Riverside Church in New York City: "Beyond Vietnam. A Time to Break Silence". Addressing his own nation and people, the United States of America, he talks about the need to "break the betrayal of my own silences" about the Vietnam war, but then moves on to call for a "significant and profound change in American life and policy, a shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered." And he argues that only a "true revolution of values" will be able to overcome the issues of inequality, poverty and warfare.

Meeting as European branches of IFOR, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, this weekend in Vienna, just before the start of the new review cycle of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and few weeks after the beginning of negotiations in the U.N. in New York for an instrument to prohibit and ban all nuclear weapons, now is the time for us to speak up about this issue. Our message is directed at our own, European countries, our own governments as well as our people.

We believe that all weapons, particularly weapons of mass destruction, cannot be held or defended legitimately. From our belief in active nonviolence as the only power to be able to overcome the circle of violence and to enable peaceful solutions to existing conflicts, we reject any reliance on nuclear weapons, because:

- nuclear weapons are morally and ethically wrong, as they threaten the lives of millions of people, if not of humanity as a whole
- the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons would be catastrophic, as many studies and appeals at the three "humanitarian conferences" (in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, 2013-14) have reminded us again
- adding to this, the ecological consequences of any use of nuclear weapons would be devastating in their immediate and long-term effects
- the (threat of) use of nuclear weapons is illegal

according to International Law and International Humanitarian Law

- nuclear weapons are denying the absolute value of each life and are not person-oriented ("human security")

We welcome the decision of about 130 states to break the silence – after decades of standstill in nuclear disarmament – and start negotiations on a treaty making nuclear weapons illegal. We encourage all states who have not yet joined the negotiations to do so for the second session in June and July 2017. We also encourage all states to simultaneously engage in all measures to reduce and eliminate the risks connected to nuclear armament and deterrence in the framework of existing treaties. In regard to our European context, we recognize the different roles of actors involved and ask them to act accordingly:

- We are grateful for the active role some European countries (e.g. Austria, Ireland, Sweden, Switzerland) have taken in the process of negotiating the elimination of all nuclear weapons and encourage them to stay determined in their efforts
- We welcome the participation of additional countries in the negotiations in New York, especially the Netherlands, as the only NATO member country to participate
- We call on all European countries being part of a military alliance (NATO) and/or the European Union, not to rely on a military doctrine which includes the option of nuclear weapons for deterrence or use
- We call on all European countries which have nuclear weapons stored on their soil (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey) to take adequate measures to remove these weapons from their countries
- We call on the two official nuclear powers in Europe, France and the United Kingdom, to fulfil their obligations to nuclear disarmament under existing treaties (mainly Art. VI of the NPT) and to enter into negotiations on a ban treaty

We are aware that appeals alone will not be sufficient to bring about nuclear disarmament and the elimination of all nuclear weapons. We also admit that we have not done enough to raise awareness of this ongoing threat to humanity among our populations. We therefore commit ourselves to cooperate among ourselves and with other actors in our society to work

with nonviolent means and strategies for our vision, a world free of nuclear weapons, through:

- Continuing to monitor ongoing political developments of our governments, be they in favour or against progress in nuclear disarmament
- Advocacy towards our governments in the run-up to the Ban Treaty negotiations in June/July in New York
- educating the public on the ongoing risks and dangers of nuclear weapons
- continuing nonviolent actions such as blockades and banner actions where Nuclear weapons are stored in Germany and Italy, actions during the NATO summit in Brussels in May, actions on Hiroshima Day in various countries
- enacting solidarity and mutual support among IFOR's membership in these kind of activities
- holding actions on September 26, the "International Day for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons"

Martin Luther King closed his speech in 1967 with the following words: "We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent co-annihilation. We must move past indecision to action.

(...) If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight." These words still are resounding 50 years later if we look at the matter of nuclear weapons.

The Things that Make for Peace

10th-12th March – Manchester

Photos from the well-attended conference.



Speakers included the Bishop of Manchester David Walker, Alan Starkey, Elfrida Calvocoressi and Ray Gaston.



There was a choice of workshops, such as for members of the Methodist Peace Fellowship (MPF, above), and art and craft (below). There was a skype webinar with FoR Colombia (left), and food and conversation in Luther King House (bottom left). The conference was organised by FoR with the MPF and the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.



Exploring peace with children and young people

“Do people carry on doing evil and violence because they think they won’t be forgiven? Is peace really forgiveness?”

A quote not from a published theologian, but from one of the 12 year olds in my youth group. Earlier this term our Encounter group (age 10-13) explored the theme of Peace Sunday, using resources from the Fellowship of Reconciliation and elsewhere.

My decision to explore this theme with this age group came from several influences. I wanted to find a way of responding to the creeping militarisation in schools which many of my young people will be exposed to. I wanted to present an alternative viewpoint, and help them think for themselves. I also wanted to introduce more overtly the concept of peace as we consider our interpersonal relationships – always a hot topic with that age group.

We tried a variety of activities and had a wide-ranging discussion about peace: peace in the world, peace in relationships between people, and peace in ourselves. There were many insightful comments:

“You need kindness, sharing, listening, truthfulness, generosity.”

“Don’t be afraid. Be constantly mindful and empathetic.”

“Peace in ourselves is quiet, like music playing quietly. Like warm fire burning warmly like love.”

The evening culminated in the young people writing their own Peace Pledges – things they can do in their own lives to be peacemakers. Many of these were very thoughtful and specific to situations the young people find themselves in. For example, from one young person who does a lot of sport: “I can try and create peace in sport. When people get angry I can stay calm and hear both sides.” And from another young person, regarding a situation they had recently encountered at school: “If someone gets bullied, you should be by their side, even if you don’t particularly like them.”

I tried a similar activity with my 4-11 year old group on Peace Sunday, and was amazed by some of their responses:

“Share things so nobody’s left out and then they won’t get angry or upset.” (S, aged 7)

“Instead of fighting you could give someone some food.” (E, aged 4)

“You need to put back right the things you’ve taken away.” (F, aged 7)

It might be easy to dismiss some of the children’s responses as simplistic or naïve, but perhaps we need to consider whether these are in fact prophetic words for the church (and the world). Jesus thanks God that what is hidden from the wise and foolish is revealed to children. When those children share with us adults the wisdom they have, it’s time to sit up and listen.

What have I learned from my experience of Peace Sunday with children and young people? I have more questions than answers:

How do we nurture children’s interest in justice and peace?

How do we take seriously children’s potential as peacemakers – now and in the future?

What can adults committed to peace do to share that commitment with children and young people in a way which encourages mutual learning?

And finally, a word of encouragement to all who campaign for peace, from A (aged 8): “If people are having a war we can say: ‘stop fighting and be kind to each other.’” She’s right. We can and we must. Sometimes we are so blinded by the complexities of adult conflicts, it takes the simple faith of a child to break through with words of peace.

Ruth Harley

Ruth Harley is Children’s and Families’ Minister at All Saints Church, High Wycombe, an Anglican parish church in the Oxford Diocese. She blogs at: <https://becausegodislove.wordpress.com/>

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 FoR.

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 profits go to FoR’s work.

Reclaiming Gospel Nonviolence

Conference Information

continued from front page

This conference will look at ways in which Christians and other faith communities are acting nonviolently, and also provide space for discussion and planning as to how we can act in Scotland so that Gospel nonviolence can become more of a reality for individuals, the church and our wider society.

The conference will start at 5pm on Friday (dinner included) and end after lunch on Sunday. We hope you can join us for the whole weekend. However, the theme and programme will still be coherent and complete if you're only able to attend for the Saturday.

Children aged five or under come free; if you would like crèche or childcare provision for children aged five or under during the conference please contact David Mumford (dmumford@phoncoop.coop) as soon as possible as we would be very glad to seek to make arrangements to accommodate you.

Contributors

John Dear



www.fatherjohndear.org

John is a former Jesuit priest, and director of FOR USA. He was an active participant at the Vatican conference and drafted Pope Francis' 2017 Peace Day message. He is an inspiring speaker, drawing on his life of activism and witness for peace, and his theological writings on peace, nonviolence and social justice.

Lucas Johnson



FORUSA

Lucas is general secretary of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, a Baptist, and has witnessed the work done by FOR and other groups around the world engaged in active nonviolence in countries riven by civil strife, including South Sudan and Colombia.

This event is organised by Fellowship of Reconciliation, in partnership with Justice and Peace Scotland, Pax Christi, the Church of Scotland, and the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, and supported by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

FoR Kinnoull conference 2017 booking information

There is an online and printable booking form at: for.org.uk/perth

The cost to you depends on how long you are coming for:

Whole weekend £150, Friday- Saturday £75, Saturday-Sunday £75,

Saturday only £30 (includes lunch & dinner), Saturday only (bring own food) £10.

Bursaries may be available to help cover costs: please ask before making any payment.

If you can contribute towards the bursary fund, please state how much when paying.

If you have Access or Dietary requirements, and/or wish to share & book a double, twin, or family room, please advise us.

Payments can be made by bank transfer or cheque.

Bank transfer:

Account Name: Fellowship of Reconciliation

Account number: 50492192

Sort code: 08-90-34

Ref: Your Surname, conf2017 (e.g. : Smith, conf2017)

Cheques should be made out to "Fellowship of Reconciliation" and sent to: David Mumford, 10 Temple Mains Steading, Innerwick, Dunbar EH42 1EF

Some useful websites

for.org.uk - our main website

facebook.com/forepeace - our Facebook page.

twitter.com/forpeacemaker - FoR on Twitter.

facebook.com/groups/calledtobepeacemakers

- Young Peacemakers' Network.

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

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

- FoR's photographs web pages.

mpf.org.uk Methodist Peace Fellowship.

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

cymdeithascymod.org.uk Cymdeithas y Cymod (FoR Wales)

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

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

quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace Quaker Peace & Social Witness.

anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

ncpo.org.uk Network of Christian Peace Organisations.

June 27-28: RUSI conferences at Church House Westminster. Every year the administrative HQ of the CofE hosts two conferences sponsored by some of the world's biggest arms dealers. Please contact. See page 2.

July 14-16: Reclaiming Gospel Nonviolence conference: see pages 1 & 7.

August 6 & 9: Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days: Ideas and template at for.org.uk/act

August 25-28: Greenbelt Festival, Kettering: Help out on the FoR stall, or write to the festival asking them to get more peace talks on the programme. Programme & tickets: www.greenbelt.org.uk.

September 5: No Faith in War outside ExCel Centre, London. See below.

September 10: Public Education Day on Arms Trade, London wri-irg.org

September 12-15: DSEI: Join FoR and others in London to witness against the arms trade, ExCel Centre. See 5th & 10th. Details from office.

September 24: Peace Sunday: Help to get your church taking action for peace. Please get it in the church calendar, including the collections rota if possible. Resource available from the office or for.org.uk/peacesunday.

October 7-14: Drones Week of Action: Could you display the Drones Quilt or host a talk? Maybe you could have a craft day making new squares for the smaller quilt? Check for.org.uk/drones

October 8-15: Week of Prayer for World Peace, includes national service Hinde St Methodist Church 2.30 pm on the 8th.

October 22 - 29: One World Week www.oneworldweek.org/

November 12: Remembrance Sunday: Worship resources, suggestions for contemplative activities. Could you suggest a collection towards the work of FoR? Or order some white poppies? www.for.org.uk/resources

December 1: Prisoners for Peace Day, worldwide www.wri-irg.org/



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

[] (please write) £.....

I enclose a donation in support of the International Peacemaker's Fund

[] (please write) £.....

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

Make Your Gift Go Further: 25p more to FoR for every £1 at no extra cost to you.

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.

giftaid it

I would like:

___ copies of the new Drones Briefing £3.00 each
(£2.50 each for 5 or more)

- [] 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 _____

Telephone _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to

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