



Pathways to Peace

8-10 March 2019

Hinsley Hall, Leeds LS6 2BX

A joint conference from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and the Baptist, Methodist and URC Peace Fellowships

Join us as we gather again at Hinsley Hall for our 2019 annual conference. We'll hear from local Labour MP and Shadow Minister for Peace, Fabian Hamilton, about his work, while Rev. Dan Woodhouse, who broke into an airbase to disarm warplanes bound for Yemen, will tell us how his faith led him to take direct action to prevent war crimes. We are also planning a range of workshops on topics from civil courage to media engagement.

Following feedback from past conferences, we are building in more gaps in the agenda to give people a chance to meet informally and socialise. This means that we won't be holding the FoR AGM at the conference – that will take place in the summer – and will keep this event focused on fellowship and spiritual nurture.

Interested? Then sign up online at www.for.org.uk/pathwaystopeace or fill in the form enclosed with this magazine. The conference runs from 5pm on Friday 8 March to 1pm on Sunday 10 March.

Tickets cost £185 for the whole weekend (including meals and accommodation), £95 for one night (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) or £35 for day tickets. We hope to see you there!



theBigGive.org.uk

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE 2018

27TH NOVEMBER 12^{PM} — 4TH DECEMBER 12^{PM}

Double your donation!!

It's back! For the second year running, we are raising funds for our International Peacemakers' Fund through the Big Give Christmas Challenge. If you give online between Tuesday 27 November and Tuesday 4 December then the first £2,000 of donations will be doubled, thanks to generous individual and institutional supporters of FoR. Last year, our Big Give campaign raised an extra £4,000 for grassroots peacemaking, meaning we could support two groups rather than one. With your help we can do the same in 2018.

Want to donate?

Go to www.tinyurl.com/forbiggive between midday 27 November and midday 4 December.

Any questions? See the FAQ on our website at www.tinyurl.com/BigGiveFAQ

Office updates and staffing news

There's been a lot happening since the last Peacelinks. We have had probably our most successful Peace Sunday to date, with nearly 1,000 paper copies being distributed and 172 downloads from our website. The 'white poppies for churches' pack launched in October and has received an enthusiastic takeup. We also have a clear plan for 2019 that focuses on a few core pieces of work done better, with more time and attention given to both preparing and sharing them. We'll be in touch for your help on these soon.

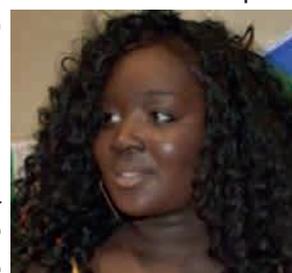
FoR has lots of staffing news too. After Emma Anthony departed in the Spring, Diko Blackings was recruited as our new Campaigns and Engagement Officer. Diko arrived with a wealth of geo-political and peacemaking knowledge, alongside communications experience. Get in touch with her via 01865 250 781 and campaigns@for.org.uk.

Double news also from our Development Manager Oliver Robertson. Between December 2018 and February 2019 he will be on shared parental leave to look after his new(ish) baby, and we have recruited John Cooper to cover during this time. John joins us from Christian Aid, where he has been working on community engagement and fundraising, as well as political campaigning. Readers with a longer memory will also remember that John worked for FoR several years ago as our International Peacemakers' Fund Officer.

Oliver will return briefly at the start of March and will be at the annual conference (see enclosed leaflet) before leaving permanently to start a new job as Head of Worship and Witness for Quakers in Britain. As we go to press, our trustees are planning for the recruitment of a permanent replacement.

New Member of Staff

Greetings, my name is Diko Blackings and I am the newest addition to the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FoR) team; I'll be working as the Campaigns and Engagement Officer.



As an International Development and Peace Studies graduate I have a keen interest and understanding of peace and the importance of promoting non-violent peace work and peace efforts. I also really enjoy putting together your excellent ideas to create great campaigns and materials. Keep your eyes peeled on the FoR website and social media accounts for upcoming resources and events.

Be sure to get in touch – I'd love to hear about the work you are doing and more importantly about the work you think we should be doing. I look forward to hearing more from you all.

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.

Events and opportunities

Hiroshima Day in Dunbar

It is 73 years since the first atom bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. On August 6, the vigil service held at the Peace Pole in the grounds of St. Anne's Episcopal/Methodist Church, Dunbar, commemorated those who died, and witnessed the continuing need for peace, disarmament and reconciliation.

The vigil was supported by members of other churches in Dunbar. The Rev. David Mumford, a retired priest at St. Anne's, welcomed those who came.

The words of Pope Francis were read, calling on humanity to reject war for ever and to ban nuclear weapons.

Thanks were given for the recent United Nations Treaty, approved by 122 countries, that outlawed nuclear weapons. We prayed that the UK too would sign up to the Treaty.

The vigil ended with prayers for peace between countries, for peace between people and for inner peace.

Are you an FoR member who helped to organise an event? Send your report to peacelinks@for.org.uk



The Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival was held in the grounds of Boughton House, Kettering, at the end of August. The theme was Acts of the Imagination.

FoR had a stall, alongside those of many other organisations, in the Greenbelt Takeaway. Our seven volunteers gave out Peace Sunday and general FoR leaflets, and informed people (in advance) about the Remembrance Day 'white poppies in churches' packs.

Volunteers also asked people to read out part of the Martin Luther King "I have a dream" speech into a video camera. We are planning to use the footage in a video.

Perth conference

'Reclaiming Gospel Nonviolence' was the title of a conference organised in Perth at the end of June 2018 by the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The main speakers at the event were the Rev. Dr. Clive Barrett and the Rev David Mumford, one of FoR's Trustees.

Clive spoke on the basis for Christian nonviolence. He looked at how people's understanding of God changed during Old Testament times. He asked those attending about their bad memories of God in the Old Testament (drowning almost everyone except Noah and his family) and good memories (Ruth and Jonah testifying to God's universal love).

Both Clive and David spoke of Jesus's personal witness to the way of nonviolence – refusing to be made a secular king by force and refusing to summon the legions of angels when faced with crucifixion.

David then went on to speak of those places where faith-based nonviolence was being carried through – the peace villages in Colombia and support for those refusing to fight in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and elsewhere. The afternoon session looked at what next steps could be taken in Scotland to work for the growth of faith-based nonviolence. It was hoped to put on an event with people from the Muslim community looking at what made for nonviolence in Christianity and Islam.

The establishment of a Scottish Pax Christi branch was much welcomed and it was hoped that the Pope would issue an encyclical on nonviolence in 2019.

The work of the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre was also celebrated. APF and FoR both agreed to continue to support the campaign against militarism in schools promoted by the Quakers in Scotland.

On the FoR website www.for.org.uk/news/ over a series of 14 blogs, both long and short, David outlines the different themes and topics covered in his presentation.

No More War

Oliver Robertson reports on a Remembrance Day event in London

A reinvigorated peace movement came together on 11 November to remember the Armistice and to renew its commitment to nonviolence.

Under the slogan 'No More War – Let's Make Peace Happen', over 170 people – twice the number of the previous year – attended the alternative Remembrance service in Tavistock Square in London to mark the centenary of the First World War Armistice. The ceremony was followed by a 'peace festival' at nearby Friends House, the Quaker headquarters, to engage people in the work that can happen now to build a more peaceful world.

Organised by the First World War Peace Forum (of which FoR is a member), the events were the centrepiece of peace-focused Remembrance events across the country. These included a short ceremony at Westminster Abbey the week before to remember the innocent victims of war (see photo below) and the hanging of 100 paper doves by Hitchin Churches Together.



Remembering Innocents Victims of War, 3 November

The Tavistock Square event heard from award-winning poet and actor Michael Mears, who delivered an address given by No-Conscription Fellowship chairman Clifford Allen. At that organisation's closing conference, Allen spoke of the bravery and courage of those who refused to fight. Sue Gilmurray of the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship recited a poem of her own, 'Lest we forget', which is reprinted on page 7. Marigold Bentley from Quakers in Britain talked about the work for peace that took place and is ongoing.

Following a deep two minute silence to remember all who have died in war, different groups laid wreaths of white poppies at the foot of the Conscientious Objectors' Memorial.

Finally, all those present were invited to participate in a commitment for peace (see box right), sending the message "No more war – let's make peace happen".



Following on from the commemoration, the afternoon was taken up with films, crafts and stalls at the peace festival. Again, attendance exceeded expectations, with hundreds of people coming through the doors to speak to nearly 20 peace groups that had set up stalls or watch the documentaries about war and peace that were showing. "Lots of people were saying 'I didn't know the peace movement was this big, this diverse'", reported one organiser afterwards, while another commented that the events had made the peace movement "feel like a movement again", rather than a disparate group of unconnected organisations.



Photo by Conscience.

Elsewhere, the peace message came through more strongly than in recent years. The controversy over white peace poppies, which involved morning TV debates and front-page articles on the BBC website, helped push sales to their highest-ever level. The new white poppies in churches pack, produced by FoR and the Peace Pledge Union, sold at least 34 copies at £60 each, beyond what was expected in its first year.

continued on next page

Let's Make it Happen

We lament the lives lost in all wars of every time and place... the bodies and minds permanently damaged... the potential cut short... the creativity and human progress that never came about....

And our message is:

NO MORE WAR – LET'S MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

We think of war's victims today... the refugees and homes destroyed... the families broken and traumatised... the children denied education.... the crops destroyed, food made scarce, water polluted... This must change. And our message is:

NO MORE WAR – LET'S MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

We want leaders who put people first. Nations that tackle global problems with true cooperation. Economies that work for the poor. An end to arms sales. Money spent on homes and health and education. To politicians and decision-makers our message is:

NO MORE WAR – LET'S MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

We commit ourselves to peace and justice... to use our power to work for a different kind of world starting with ourselves... our families, our neighbourhoods, communities, country. We invite everyone out there to join us in this urgent task. For humanity's sake our message is:

NO MORE WAR – LET'S MAKE PEACE HAPPEN



Oliver speaking in Tavistock Square

The Tavistock Square commemorations received prominent coverage in The Observer, with one and a half paragraphs on page 3 of the paper.

Much work is still needed, of course, but Remembrance for peace helped create a small

space for living peace and an opportunity to collectively commit to end war for good, on this most hopeful and solemn of anniversaries.

Become an FoR trustee!

We are looking for new trustees, with a commitment to the organisation and ideas for how to help it thrive. In 2019 we will be developing a new strategic plan to guide our work for the next five years and we need four new people, including a treasurer, to join our Board.

If you are interested, email office@for.org.uk or phone the office on 01865 250781 to arrange a chat with our chair of trustees Richard Bickle.

Peacebuilding in the Time of Agreements

Padmakumara writes about the work of organisations in Colombia that have been helped by your donations to our International Peacemakers' Fund.

The 2016 peace deal in Colombia offered great hope but it also promised unknown threats. From its 15 years working with marginalised communities FOR Peace Presence was under no illusions that the task ahead would be a difficult one. With that in mind they launched a project: 'Peacebuilding in the Time of Agreements', and secured an award from our International Peacemakers' Fund. This Fund is supported by you, our members and friends, and helps grassroots peacemakers in conflict situations fashion peace as the true alternative.

In 2017 FOR Peace Presence supported two volunteers to literally 'accompany' the human rights lawyers' organisation Tierra Digna, and CONPAZ, Communities building Peace in the Territories, a body composed of over 140 groups who have found themselves victims to guerrilla and government forces, mining companies, and political under-representation. Both organisations approached FOR Peace Presence because of their record of providing successful accompaniment to other threatened communities.



Pendle in the Cauca region

Pendle Marshall-Hallmark was one such volunteer. Hailing from Rochester, New York, Pendle had spent time studying and working with non-documented refugees and asylum seekers in the USA. She now wished to assist in the environments of conflict that lead to them leaving their homelands.

Pendle accompanied CONPAZ during a general strike in the city of Buenaventura. The strike had been organised to demand the provision of basic services after years of dire privation, violence and neglect. Stationed riot police responded with repression, using teargas and physical force. Many were injured. Public outcry at the violence reached the USA, with Congress-people condemning the use of the police's violent tactics. This pressure prevailed, and by early June, the General Strike Committee and the national government agreed to create an autonomous fund to be administered by the committee itself: people on the ground got to decide on their social infrastructure priorities.

One new threat has been the development of armed groups who've sought to take advantage of the peace accord. Pendle accompanied CONPAZ in protecting a community threatened by one such group. So fearful had they become that the whole group, over 150 people, chose to move to a state facility in Buenaventura, until their home could be declared safe again.

I wish I could report that the situation in Colombia is problem free; it's not. Some FARC combatants have reformed, and new guerrilla forces have emerged that lead to new threats. Local communities have been forced off their land, so it can be sold to foreign mining companies who take advantage of lax environmental protections. Accompaniment directly protects communities and human rights lawyers working for them as groups fear the punitive consequences of threatening an accompanied community. Where accompaniment doesn't take place, peaceful protestors face political marginalisation, displacement, violence, even death. You supported this work and we'd love you to continue to support this and other such projects through our International Peacemakers' Fund (www.for.org.uk/ipf/). See our Big Give appeal (front page) or get in touch to find out more and make a real difference to peacemaking heroes and heroines, communities under threat, and human rights activists wishing to help them.



Pendle with CONPAZ (Photos by FOR Peace Presence)

Lest We Forget

Remember the war, nineteen fourteen to eighteen?
A hundred years later we think of it yet,
and posters remind us, with soldiers in silhouette,
jogging our memory “Lest we forget”.

So

let’s not forget it was not unavoidable,
no freak of nature, no act of God’s will:
the Kaiser, the King and the Tsar and their generals
called up the soldiers and told them to kill,
and

let’s not forget there were some who were optimists:
“War would be madness with weapons this strong.
Death would be wholesale – they’ll never go through with it.”
So said the peace movement – shame they were wrong!

And

let’s not forget it was not all one-sided,
with poor Tommy Atkins being ambushed by Fritz:
both sides used rifles and bombs, and artillery
set up to blow many thousands to bits,
and

let’s not forget it was not noble sacrifice,
dignified heroes who laid down their lives:
young men were herded in droves to destruction –
too bad for their mothers and sisters and wives.

And

let’s not forget that the later atrocities –
fascism, Holocaust, truly obscene –
all had their roots in the cruelty and vengefulness
shown by the victors in nineteen eighteen.

Yet

still there are those who would maintain the bigotry,
pride for their nation, contempt for the rest:
although we’re aware of the rights of humanity,
still we must boast that “our boys” are the best.

But

now let us learn from the waste and the suffering;
let us build peace and there’s hope for us yet,
for war sends good people to kill one another,
but peace values all of us – lest we forget!

Sue Gilmurray 2018

.7.



Some useful websites

for.org.uk - our main website

facebook.com/forepeace - our Facebook page.

twitter.com/forpeacemaker - FoR on Twitter.

for.org.uk/peacesunday - Peace Sunday resources

for.org.uk/events/pathwaystopace - come to our conference 8-10 March 2019

[flickr.com/photos/forengland/with/13875423525/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/forengland/with/13875423525/)

- FoR's photographs web pages.

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

cymdeithascymod.org.uk - Cymdeithas y Cymod

mpf.org.uk - Methodist Peace Fellowship.

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

urc.org.uk/our-work/peace-fellowship - 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.

Until December 21: The Collateral Damage Project: large installation of white poppies to commemorate victims of wars in the century since the end of WW1, on display in the downstairs corridors of Friends House, Euston Road, London. quaker.org.uk/events/collateral-damage-installation

Every Tuesday: Witness and protest at NSA Menwith Hill, by the A59 near Harrogate, 6 - 8pm. <https://www.caab.org.uk/>

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

December 10: Human Rights Day - 70th birthday.

December 11: An evening with Jim Forest, St George's Tron, Glasgow.

December 13: An evening with Jim Forest, St Pancras Church, London.

Further information about both evening talks: paxchristi.org.uk/

February 23: Peace is not a fairy tale - we need to work to make it happen. Church and Peace conference, Birmingham. Keynote speaker:

Rev Al Barrett, a local vicar involved in community building. Also FoR is providing a workshop. www.church-and-peace.org

March 8 -10: Pathways to Peace at Hinsley Hall, Leeds - see front page.

April 27-28: Commemoration, Conflict & Conscience Festival, is the culmination of a year-long national project. It looks at 'hidden' or lesser known stories of WW1, legacy, peace-building and alienation from commemoration. It is free, open access and timed to coincide with the centenary of the release of many absolutist conscientious objectors from prison. Bristol University everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/cc/

May 15: International Conscientious Objectors' Day.

May 24: International Women's Day for Peace & Disarmament.

June 4: International Day for Children as victims of war - more details

at www.unicef.org/gmfc/

June 21-23: The Great Get Together www.greatgettogether.org



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

[] (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:

- [] to update my contact details
- [] to receive our short regular email newsletter
- [] 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

Fellowship of Reconciliation:

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