



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

On the eve of the First World War, a Lutheran pastor, Friedrich Siegmund-Schültze and an English Quaker, Henry Hodgkin parted at Cologne Station with the words, "We are one in Christ and can never be at war". They were returning from an ecumenical conference of Christian peacemakers that had been held at Konstanz in Germany. Henry Hodgkin, followed up this commitment by organising a conference in Cambridge in December 1914. It was here that the Fellowship of Reconciliation began. Since then it has spread to 85 branches in 49 countries.

One hundred years later, members have been celebrating. Centenary conferences were held in Konstanz, 1st - 3rd August, attended by around 300 representatives, and in Cambridge on November 22nd attended by about 100 members.

See reports inside.



Konstanz, August 2014 (photo: Benjamin Pütter)



Cambridge, November 2014

Affirming Peacemaking Saturday 17th January, 2:00 - 3:00 pm St Mary the Virgin church, High St Oxford

To celebrate those who've committed themselves to the pursuit of nonviolence, everyone is warmly welcomed to this service.

Our guest will be David Walker, Bishop of Manchester. The service is ecumenical and will include contributions from members and supporters, as well as stories from around the world and here in the UK.

The event is free and a retiring collection will be taken for FoR.

This is part of our centenary celebrations, so do join us to kick-start the next 100 years of nonviolent action.

Join us afterwards for refreshments.

For more information, email centenary@for.org.uk or call 01865 250781.



Centenary Booklet

is now available: see back page

One Hundred Years and Counting ...



As 2014 draws to end, the Fellowship of Reconciliation looks back at the packed centenary events and celebrations it put on during the year (*see Director's Diary, page 10*). It is a sad fact of humanity, that after 100 years the Fellowship of Reconciliation should still be needed!

One hundred years ago, the war variously known as the "Great War", the "World War", the "War of the Nations", and the "War to End All Wars" started. More than 65 million men from 30 countries fought in that war. There were over 35 million civilian and soldier casualties. Over 15 million died and over 20 million were wounded. At the battle of Somme alone, the greatest single loss of life in the British army occurred! There were 60,000 British casualties in one day at that battle! In total, the British Empire sent 8,904,467 to war resulting in 3,190,235 casualties!

It was during this war that the Turks slaughtered some 1.5 million Armenians! An act of genocide that many believe would later attract the attention of Hitler and was partly responsible for sowing the seeds of the holocaust (*see Causes and Consequences of World War 1 - Stewart Ross, 1998*). And what has humanity learnt from this tragedy? The French Second Lieutenant Alfred Joubaire wrote in his diary about WW1, just before he died that "Humanity is mad. It must be mad to do what it is doing. What a massacre. What scenes of horror and carnage! I cannot find words to translate my impressions. Hell cannot be so terrible! Men are mad!"

The war brought about unbelievable hatred of Germans and all things German. For example, in the USA, during that war, American hamburgers (named after the German city of Hamburg) were renamed "Salisbury steak". Frankfurters, which were named after Frankfurt, were called "liberty sausages"; and dachshunds became "liberty dogs!" Schools stopped teaching German, and German-language books were burned!

Yet among all this, there were glimmers and signs of hope and bravery. For instance on Christmas Eve in 1914, soldiers on both sides of the Western Front sang carols to each other! On Christmas Day, troops along 2/3 of the Front declared a truce.

In some places the truce lasted a week. Edith Cavell (1865 – 12 October 1915) was a British nurse who saved soldiers from all sides. When she helped 200 Allied soldiers to escape from German – occupied Belgium, the Germans arrested her and executed her by firing squad.

Where will all this human madness lead to? Where is the Prince of Peace? Where is His reign? Where the "peaceable kingdom" of Isaiah? When shall humanity turn swords into ploughshare and spears into pruning hooks? When shall justice flow down like rivers? And when shall justice and righteousness kiss?

All we see is "negative peace" in places and not "positive peace." We see "collective responsibility" which should be the remit of the UN, being daily replaced by "collective irresponsibility."

Nothing is lost by Peace, but everything may be lost by war. We can either live in Peace or in Pieces. Let us abolish war before it abolishes us! Peace is Possible. We need a culture of peace and not of militarism. That is the only way we shall have Peace. We need a world governed by the rule of Law, not the rule of War.

Let me end with a quote from Sulak Sivaraksa:
"Peace is not just the absence of war. Peace is a proactive comprehensive process of finding common ground through open communication and putting into practice a philosophy of non-harm and sharing resources."

Blessed are the Peacemakers.

May the good work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation continue until the peaceable kingdom comes.

Peace be with you all.

Millius Palayiwa

Director
December 2014

The Centennial Celebrations and the Quadrennial

Konstanz, Germany 1st – 8th August 2014

The two events followed one after the other. The Centennial celebrations ran from Friday 1st August to Sunday 3rd; and the Quadrennial from Monday 4th to Friday 8th.



**100 years for nonviolence:
Against war and injustice,
For peace, justice and nonviolence since 1914.**

This was attended by more than 300 participants from every corner of the earth representing nonviolent social movements against war and militarism. The various events marking the centenary of the Fellowship took place at 6 different venues dotted around Konstanz. There was an exhibition **One hundred years of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation – IFOR** consisting of 14 “pull-up” banners (also on show at our own conference in Cambridge).

1. The first day (Friday) consisted of preparations for “nonviolent direct action”; a series of lectures and discussions on “Active Nonviolence for Peace with Justice”; a guided tour of Konstanz and ended with the “Opening Ceremony” in the evening.

As part of the nonviolent direct action, people gathered in front of Commerzbank, a bank which funds militarism in Germany. Leaflets with the statement **Kein Geld für Krieg** (No Money for War) were distributed to passers-by who seemed receptive.

The procession then moved to the Cathedral in the centre of Konstanz where a fast was begun for the two days of the conference and delegates were invited to prayers three times a day.

At the Opening Ceremony, delegates were welcomed by the Mayor who declared that for the few days we were meeting here, “Konstanz was the world capital of peace...”

Diana Francis of FoR(E) gave the key note speech on **IFOR then and now: The Challenges of just peace.**

This was followed by a panel discussion on “The power of nonviolence...” moderated by a well-known German journalist by the name of Andreas Zumach. The panel consisted of Mairead Corregan Maguire (Northern Ireland), Beena Sebastian (India), Suvlak Sivaraksa (Engaged Buddhists, Thailand), Blas Garcia (Colombia), Richard Okwera (Uganda), and Marcela Zoughbi (Palestine). They discussed issues around the power of prayer – “pray, pray, never cease to pray” (Mairead Maguire quoting Mother Teresa); whether there was something more that could be done than prayer; (parties to a conflict all pray to kill the other!!); abuses of prayer; how we needed happy and joyful peace activists and questions of whether wars of today were caused by religion.

There seemed to be a general agreement that the Fellowship of Reconciliation is the alternative. There was a plea that the Fellowship should tell Leaders that people do not want war: “People needed peace, not war.”

Music at the beginning of the opening ceremony and at the end of the evening was provided by a local cross generational orchestra – Ensemble Lebenslaute.

2. The second day (Saturday) was about **IFOR – Active Worldwide** that consisted of 20 workshops from IFOR branches in Africa, North and South America, Asia and Europe. As the workshops took place simultaneously, that meant one could attend only two! Each morning workshop was repeated in the afternoon. There were also language problems in that the workshops were presented either in English or French or German or Spanish and in most cases with no translation. The day ended with a much appreciated concert by an Irish singer, Luka Bloom.

3. On the 3rd day (Sunday) - last day of the centennial celebrations - delegates were encouraged to go and worship in local churches around Konstanz. The closing ceremony was in the Town Hall with the theme of **Spirituality as a Dimension of Reconciliation**. This was an intercultural celebration with representatives of the world religions and the experiencing of the spirituality of those religions. There was input from Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

continued overleaf

(photo: Benjamin Pütter)

photo: peacepeople.com



The Mayor of Konstanz hosted the event and welcomed the participants with the words: "Dear members of IFOR from all over the world, Dear members of the Council, and, Dear citizens of Konstanz...". He talked about the founding of the Council of Konstanz 600 years ago and the founding of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, (in Konstanz!) in 1914. He said that the city was proud to welcome IFOR and congratulated IFOR on its work. He concluded by saying that "we commit ourselves to peace. Peace is not self-evident as we look at Gaza and Ukraine. It is important that we work together for peace. When IFOR meets here for the time being we have the chance to be called the Capital of Peace!", and this is how the Centennial was reported in the local press.

He wished IFOR well.

There then followed reflections from the world religions represented:

- The Buddhist talked about the need for "compassion, wisdom, deep thinking and deep meditations" as things that have given him peace and happiness.
- The Jewish person reflected on his parents' escape from persecution in Konstanz in the 1850s and he coming back now and seeing two statues in Konstanz, one of a large cross of the crucified Jesus representing the "Church Triumphant" and the other of "the Synagogue broken down" and reflecting on "what it is that he is said never to forget".

□ The Hindu talked about "respecting other religions", and said if we "sacrifice and love each other there will be peace on earth".

□ The Muslim talked about how Islam followed "mercy and compassion".

□ The Christian reflection was a mixture of Christianity and traditional Japanese religion and was given by Kyoko of Japan. She spoke very passionately about the "uselessness of war" and that war brought "hatred, sadness, destruction and everything else". She urged that "we should never start war, never use weapons to kill each other, and never wage war against any nation...". "There was that of God in everyone and that was why we should not kill each other."

"I am very angry with the Prime Minister of Japan for deserting Article 9 of the Constitution", to the extent that she found it difficult to "pray for him, because I am so angry with him over article 9", she repeated. She got 3 minute applause with some people standing at the end of her reflection!

A local Pastor concluded the proceedings with a "Peace Poem" based on the gospel story where Jesus sent his disciple in pairs, where they were to say "peace be with you" on entering a house etc. The whole ceremony ended with a Buffett lunch and drinks, courtesy of the Mayor and people of Konstanz.

Millius Palayiwa

The Quadrennial Council Official Communiqué

In conjunction with its centennial celebration, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) held its quadrennial International Council of delegates from August 3 to 8, 2014 in Konstanz, Germany. Participants came from 30 countries from around the world.

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is an International, spiritually-based movement of people who, from the basis of a belief in the power of love and truth to create justice and restore community, commit themselves to active nonviolence as a way of life and as a means of transformation—personal, social, economic and political.

Among the delegates, were representatives of the peace movements from both Israel and Palestine. Great concern was expressed for the peace activists on both sides whose voices for active nonviolent resistance, healing and reconciliation are drowned out by the sounds of rockets, bullets and missiles resulting in violence and death of many civilians.

Delegates representing a number of different African branches shared their stories of trauma and healing work in Burundi, integrating child soldiers into civil society in Uganda, and reconciliation after civil wars in Congo-Brazzaville.

After a long working relationship, SERPAJ joined IFOR as a regional branch. SERPAJ represents a coalition of 13 national groups committed to work on peace and nonviolence as a way of life and strategy for struggle, and interfaith and ecumenical dialogue. The 13 groups are located in Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Peru.

The IFOR Council commemorated Hiroshima Day, August 6th, in the form of a "Peace Security Agreement" signed by the delegates from Japan and the United States in which they promised to "commit to each other's security and mutual peace through relational interdependence, honest communication and advocacy on each other's behalf" for a nuclear free world.

The gathering affirmed the nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize of the Japanese people upholding the endangered Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution renouncing war.

Future activities were planned. This included working groups on retaining Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, gender equality, and trauma, healing and reconciliation in former conflict areas.

Attention was given to the involvement of young adults throughout the structures of IFOR. During their time together delegates from 23 different branches shared about their work and selected a new seven member international board composed of representatives from four regions: Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Davorka Lovrekovic was elected president. Notable is the fact that the youngest vice president in IFOR history, Tobias Lohse, was also elected.

IFOR, with its consultative status at the United Nations and UNESCO, works on a range of topics in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and Paris.

The hope is that when the IFOR meets again in four years at its next International Council the work decided at this Council will have resulted in more people committed to nonviolence as a way of life and a strategy for justice and reconciliation.

Centenary Conference, Cambridge

The Fellowship's first conference was held in Cambridge in December 1914, so it was the obvious place to hold our Centenary Conference *Faith and Peace*. Around 100 of us met on 22nd November 2014 in Cripps Court (pictured below), part of Magdalene College where our keynote speaker, former archbishop Lord Rowan Williams, is the Master.



The programme

- ❖ Welcome - Richard Bickle (chairperson) and Rowan Williams.
- ❖ Opening Worship - led by Rev. Chris Collins (trustee) and including hymns - *Heaven Shall Not Wait* (by & John Bell) and *A Hand* (by Sue Gilmurray who led the singing).
Readings: Micah 6:8 and James 3:13-18
- ❖ *The Beginnings of FoR* - talk by Denis Beaumont (trustee).
- ❖ Our current work - talk by Emma Anthony (Membership & Outreach Officer).
- ❖ *Stone Story* - a play about Muriel Lester, who was an International FoR travelling secretary. Devised by Alexandra Carey (first performed 2010).
- ❖ Regional discussion groups.
- ❖ Lunch followed by music from Sue Gilmurray and Tony Kempster.
- ❖ Keynote address: Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury.
- ❖ Inter-faith Panel:
Rabbi Prof Marc Saperstein,
Dr Marcus Braybrooke,
Dr Zaza Johnson Elsheikh,
Lelung Tulku.
Chaired by: Donald Reece (trustee)
- ❖ Closing Worship, led by Hilary Topp (vice-chair) and Rev Donald Reece.

Dr Williams spoke in the afternoon and based his talk on some of the 2nd World War writings of Rev. Charles Raven, who had been Master of Christ's College Cambridge and was chairperson of British FoR at the time. He also spoke about the arms trade. It is hoped to have a recording of the speech available as a podcast to download from the FoR England website.

Cripps Court, houses a small theatre where we met, and also good dining facilities. It was in the dining room before an excellent lunch that we divided into regional groups to share our personal experiences of local peacemaking and campaigning.



regional sharing (above), and Chris Collins leads morning worship (left).

During the morning, after opening worship, trustee Denis Beaumont had set the scene with a talk about our history, whilst staff member Emma Anthony talked about what FoR England is doing today.

continued overleaf



The play about Muriel Lester had been devised by as part of a quartet by Alexandra Carey for the Women Peacemakers' conference jointly organised by the Fellowship and Pax Christi in Leeds in 2010. Later it was recorded for download off our website and also performed at the Imperial War Museum. The play features two actors, one playing a modern woman challenged on peace issues by the other who is Muriel herself. The conversation between the pair is warm and insightful.

In the afternoon, after Rowan's talk (he also took questions from the audience) we were treated to a multi-faith panel.

Each of the panel spoke about their tradition's views of pacifism and then responded to what each of the others had said, before the discussion was thrown open to questions and comments from the audience.

There was a distinct atmosphere of celebration that the Fellowship had been active for a century, but tinged with regret that our work had been necessary because of all the wars. Several speakers hoped that we would not be necessary in another century.

David Pybus



If you took photos at the conference, please email copies to the office.

Dr Marcus Braybrooke is a retired Anglican parish priest. He has been involved in interfaith work for over forty years, especially through the World Congress of Faiths, which he joined in 1964 and of which he is now President.

Amongst Dr Zaza Johnson Elsheikh's areas of work, she is founder of two charities: Converge, a family Conflict Resolution service, and BIMA (Belief in Mediation and Arbitration), and international multi-faith association or mediators and arbitrators providing dispute resolution in conflicts where religious identity plays a role. Her own faith background is both Moslem and Baptist.

H.E. Lelung Tulku is founder of the Lelung Dharma Trust, a charity in the Buddhist tradition.

Rabbi Marc Saperstein is Principal of the Leo Baeck College in London.

Some useful websites

www.for.org.uk - our main website

www.facebook.com/forepeace - our Facebook page

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.

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

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

- FoR's photographs web pages

www.mpf.org.uk - Methodist Peace Fellowship.

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

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

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

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

www.anglicanpeacemaker.org.uk - the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship.

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

Travelling Light

Greenbelt moves home

Around 15,000 people attended the annual Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival over the bank-holiday weekend. It was held in the grounds of Boughton House, Kettering, after several years at Cheltenham racecourse. The Fellowship of Reconciliation had a stall in G-Source along with many other organisations and we were blessed with a good number of visitors. We also had two spots on the main festival programme.

Highlights on the programme included the singer Sinead O'Connor, John Bell from Iona Community, and Rev. Mpho Tutu who has written a book with her father Desmond, about forgiveness.

On the Sunday all the festival participants came together for communion in front of the Glade Stage.

Our 14-strong team, led by Emma Anthony (M&OO), ran the stall on a rota basis and, in their spare time, took in the many arts events, seminars, debates, and opportunities for worship.

The Fellowship's two programme spots (both recorded on CDs) were:

(a) a panel discussion on **Jesus and Nonviolence**, talking about how we follow the Prince of Peace and what this calls us to do. It was well-attended despite being fairly early on the Saturday morning. People asked interesting questions and saved the predictable ones for personal chats afterwards with the panellists (Debbie Cates and Angela Rayner, FoR members and heavily involved respectively; both also helped on the stall). Emma chaired the panel and contributed to some of the questions where it felt relevant. We gave out postcards at the exit.

(b) a worship session called **Prayerful Proactive Pacifism** in a fairly open venue, under a wide low tent/teepee/wigwam shelter. Unfortunately it wasn't very accessible as it was up a large hill called The Mount which caused motorised wheelchairs to burn out. Nevertheless we had a healthy attendance.



The aim was for people to hear inspiring stories about faith and nonviolence, conviction and equip people a bit with ideas and spirit. The format was quiet reflection on 5 readings: St Francis's blessing, Corder Catchpool's speech from the dock as a CO, FoR basis, Fierce Feathers – a story from a Quaker resource about white feathers and nonviolence, and an excerpt from a book by John Davies about Peter's reaction to Jesus' arrest and what that means about lashing out at strangers. We had a period of silence between each reading, then went out in song having collected a white feather made of card. The session lasted around half an hour.

There was a fairly full Peace Programme, with 18 sessions on peace-related themes and a total of 23 provided by members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (of which FoR is part). These covered WWI, Israel-Palestine, nonviolence and other topics.



On the stall The main drive this year was getting people to commit to a 5-point pledge:

1. Write to your MP calling for absolutely no replacement of Trident nuclear weapons in 2016.
2. Consider whether your financial interactions line up with your morals. Do you inadvertently support fossil fuel extraction or the arms trade?
3. Challenge scape-goating and use of fear to shift blame.
4. Speak to your minister/elder about holding a service or collection for peace. We can supply resources.
5. When you see militarism, challenge it – Dear Mayor, why are the armed forces at my village fête?

continued overleaf



139 People signed up to pledge and there were 27 other enquirers about the Fellowship, Four people joined.

Interestingly, the last pledge point raised the most questions: people said they didn't think soldiers etc should feel like they have to hide what they do or pretend not to exist. We agreed – how much worse to have a military but pretend not to! – but the point we're making is to counteract the normalising effect this has. If children see soldiers prancing around next to candyfloss, they learn that it's a standard part of society and not an exceptional, violent institution to be abolished.

We gave out loads of keyrings (including a handful to a nun who wanted them for the convent) and resources to help people with the pledge. These in particular were related to #1: points to mention to your MP when talking with them about Trident, and a prayer, #4: resources for Peace Sunday and #5: cards about the Global Day of Action on Military Spending.

The new venue and layout put G-Source between the camping area and main festival site, so people had to pass it to get to everything except the main stage. It felt like this meant there was more passing traffic. We were also right by the door, so able to give people flyers more or less on entrance.

We had an advert in the Church Times Guide to Greenbelt; the publishers say, "With a print run of 7,000, by the first 2 days of the festival we are sure that almost every festival goer has seen of [sic] copy ..."

The postcards that we gave out at our seminar and on the stall had the following questions:

1. How many conscientious objectors were there in WWI?
2. How much is spent in the UK on militarising school education?

3. How many nuclear weapons are there in the world?

4. Who said, "The world is over-armed and peace is under-funded"?

5. Which area is endorsed more by the UK government: health or "defence"?

We didn't have the answers with us, but directed people to the FoR website to find them after the festival.

These cards were great discussion starters as well as being useful to hand to people in a hurry.

Boughton House is also the intended venue for 2015, and is accessible by road, and by trains as far as Kettering. From the town, the organisers had arranged a shuttle bus service and on site there was a golf buggy service that also made moving supplies and equipment easy. Most people camp in tents, but some pitch caravans and other travel in from nearby hotels and B&B. For those bringing a family, there is a big programme for children and young people.

Emma Anthony & David Pybus

Organise a Collection?

Could your church do a collection in aid of FoR?

We are grateful for, and rely heavily on, financial contributions from our members and supporters to carry out our work in this country and overseas.

We can provide an alternative liturgy – keep an eye on the website or, if you don't use the internet, let us know at the FoR office that you'd like a hard copy sent to you.

You can also borrow to exhibit our Drones Quilt and we can provide speakers.

Our International Peacemakers' Fund focuses on raising capital for small scale projects in many countries affected by conflict or war.

We are a registered charity and so donations are eligible for Gift Aid and payment via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Book Reviews

THE GREATEST ESCAPE

How one French Community saved thousands of lives from the Nazis

by Peter Grose.

2014, published by Nicholas Brealey
ISBN: 978-1-85788-629-9. 324pp.

VILLAGE OF SECRETS

Defying the Nazis in Vichy France

by Caroline Moorehead.

2014, published by Chatto & Windus
ISBN: 978-0-70118-641-8. 374pp.

Both these books are set in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and the surrounding mountain plateau of the Haute-Loire. This had been a place of refuge for persecuted Protestants, and also where health and holiday accommodation had later sprung up. So it was an ideal place for Christian villagers to shelter Jews, and to resist the 1940-44 French Vichy Government under the Nazis. From the 1930s Pastors André Trocmé and Edouard Theis prepared their neighbours to resist without violence in the way of Christ. Soon this necessitated setting up escape routes to Switzerland helped by Quakers, Jewish and various agencies. The many Jewish children who arrived alone were absorbed into the families of hill farmers, or amongst other children in the hostels and the newly founded École Cévenol. One of the hostels, Les Grillons (the Crickets) was run by FoR/MIR. The leadership of André Trocmé and his wife Magda was later recognised by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.

After comparative silence, a book by Philip Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood be Shed* (Harper Perennial 1994, USA), and a documentary film by Pierre Sauvage, *Weapons of the Spirit*, made known the goodness of Les Chambonnais.

Their work had continued throughout the war, but from 1943/1944 new resisters arrived. National Church leaders now encouraged young men who were being conscripted into forced labour by Germany not to comply, and many of them sought shelter in the woods of this plateau. Many of these resisters joined the maquisards or military resistances. Both Grose and Moorehead present a wider and better resourced narrative than the 1994 book, including the later military resistance.

Textual critics might find comparison with St Matthew's and St Luke's Gospels useful, except for Moorehead's aim to diminish the American reputation of André Trocmé, also her negative comments about Mennonites and about Pastor Arnoux at the 1990

Colloquium in Le Chambon. However, this slight bias should not detract from an excellent account of the bigger picture of life under the Vichy regime in the 1940s. Moorehead rightly emphasizes the trauma of the Jews who survived. The 1990 Colloquium drew together other leading figures, Maquisards, and other pastors and small farmers from neighbouring Tence, Mazet and Fay. Their differing memories were aired. Grose used this positively in reckoning that stories told in the presence of those who could contradict were likely to be reliable.

In 2013, local history was recorded in the opening of a "Place of Memory" in Le Chambon. During my second visit to this exhibition, I met André and Magda's daughter Nellie Trocmé-Hewett (b.1928) who is one of the primary sources for these books. Nellie Trocmé-Hewett prefers Grose's book. It is also important to acknowledge that, although much opposition to Vichy rule developed into armed resistance from the end of 1943, André and Magda Trocmé openly opposed the Vichy anti-semitism from the outset. This set the tone for the courageous support for Jews by rural families.

Underlying anti-semitism and wartime privation in France is also illustrated in a witty novel based on the actual experience of Nathalie and Ladislas Gara in 1942 in the nearby Ardèche, translated into English in 2013 from the 1946 French title, *St Boniface et Ses Juifs*, as *Welcome to the Free Zone* (355pp, Hesperus Press; ISBN 978-1-84391-466-2). The authors were secreted in a supposedly deserted farmhouse, and survived by never appearing in daylight, while their tiny daughter Claire had to hide in an outbuilding a few kilometres away. Claire Gara-Meljac, now a psychologist in Paris, has a second home in sight of the village which is the model for St Boniface.

Donald Reece
FoR Trustee

Advertisement

Peace Education Program

at Peace House, Paradise Street, Oxford OX1 1LD

Free of charge
with complimentary refreshments

The purpose of the programme is to help participants explore the possibility of personal peace and to discover inner resources and tools for living.

The Main Programme will run for free for 10 weeks on Sundays at 6.30 pm from January 18th 2015, covering the following 10 topics:

Peace • Appreciation • Inner Strength • Clarity • Hope • Contentment • Self Awareness • Understanding • Dignity • Choice

For information and to register interests:
pep.oxford@gmail.com

<http://tprf.org/programs/peace-education-program>

Director's Diary

As the year of the Fellowship of Reconciliation's centenary draws to an end, let us look back and take stock of what it had in store for us all. This diary will therefore be a form of "review of the year."

I would like to start by thanking the members, supporters, Trustees and staff for making 2014 such a successful and productive year. It was hard work and a number of sleepless nights were had by some of us! But in the end all was alright "on the night!"

What did we hope to achieve during the centenary. We set out with four broad aims:

1. To celebrate 100 years of nonviolent peacemaking, compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation,
2. To raise the profile of the charity,
3. To use the centenary as an opportunity to fund raise, to increase membership numbers and to encourage, enthuse and re-invigorate the existing membership, and
4. To work collaboratively with FOR Scotland and Wales, Ireland, the European branches of IFOR (EUFOR) and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation.

It was an ambitious programme. To implement that programme, a Centenary Working Group was set up consisting of Denis Beaumont (Chair), Anita Schweinberg and representatives from FOR Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

Aaron Holliday was hired as Centenary Intern. Regular meeting of the Working Group were held throughout 2013 and some in 2014. FOR Wales, Scotland and Ireland were invited to all the meetings, though not all could attend the meetings.

So how did we fare on the four aims?

1. Celebrating 100 years of nonviolent peacemaking etc.

A detailed programme of events was drawn up in mid-2013. That included a Carol Service at Christ Church Cathedral (Oxford) in December 2013, to kick-start the celebrations; a joint FoR(E)/SCM conference (with Inderjit Bhogal – Leader of the Corrymeela Community - as main speaker); a Peace Pilgrimage on Iona, Greenbelt, IFOR Centenary and Quadrennial in Konstanz; a high profile conference in Cambridge with Rowan Williams as the key note speaker, and everything to culminate with a wrapping up Thanksgiving Service at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin at Oxford on 17th January 2015. All the planned events went very well.

The orders of service for the Christ Church Carol service can still be obtained from the office. The Peace Pilgrimage on Iona was attended by 81 people from all over the UK, 8 from the Netherlands, 21 students from the USA who were on a degree course that included a module on "Peace & Reconciliation) and 2 people from Norway. By all accounts, it was a great success.

The Centenary celebrations in Konstanz were attended by over 300 people and were immediately followed by the

Quadrennial. A full report of that can be found on our website. Again, it was a big success.

The Cambridge conference was said by many, to have been the best FoR(E) event they had attended in years. Those present left enthused, challenged and with a deeper commitment to the work of FoR.

Together with Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW), Peace Pledge Union, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Conscience etc., we organised this year's International Conscientious Objectors' Day that was attended by some 70 relatives and descendants of WW1 COs.

2. Raising the profile of the charity. At all the events mentioned in one above great efforts were made to publicise the work of FoR(E) and by so doing raising its profile. The Director and the Membership & Outreach Officer continued to give talks around the country on the work of FoR(E). While Emma, the M&O Officer concentrated on local groups and churches, the Director concentrated on policy shapers and decision makers. To that end, there were meetings with government departments to discuss the inclusion of voices that opposed the war, in the government commemorations of WW1. Similar meetings were held with the BBC.

Talks were given at universities and peace groups. The Director attended a World Peace Summit in South Korea where there were a number of Heads of State and religious leaders from all faiths.

A booklet "FoR: 100 Years of Nonviolence" was produced and has been very popular. Copies are still available from the office (*see order form on back page*).

3. An opportunity to raise funds; increase membership numbers; encourage and enthuse existing members.

Over 50 new members joined during the year from the various events and meetings e.g. Greenbelt, Cambridge conference, vigils and especially our Young Peacemakers' Network weekend held jointly with SCM. Members were encouraged and enthused and found new commitment to the charity through the centenary events and celebrations. We were not that successful in raising funds. In total we raised about £28,000 including £1,000 from the Carnegie Foundation for the publication of the centenary booklet!

While money is important for our work, it is not what should determine what sort of charity we are to be. Money should not be the "tail- that wags- the- charity-dog!" FoR(E) has a "reason for its existence" and that reason is not to raise funds first and foremost!

4. To work collaboratively with IFOR, EUFOR, FOR Wales and Scotland.

The centenary celebrations brought all the above groups closer together. There was a good representation at IFOR, with the FoR(E) delegation playing a positive and constructive role. (*see report on Konstanz*). The Director has

worked very closely with both Wales and Scotland attending functions organised by those branches and sharing the Konstanz report with them. With the late Arfon Rhys, the Director coordinated and produced the programme for the EUFOR conference that was held in Brussels. He went on to chair all the proceedings at the same conference. Sadly FOR Wales lost Arfon, and FoR(E) was represented at his memorial service, by the Director, Denis Beaumont, Carole and Jack Crompton. May his soul rest in peace. He will be greatly missed in the IFOR family.

Let us make the service on 17th January a great wrapping up and thanksgiving ceremony that will remain with us for another century (if we are still required!). We can pat ourselves on the back and be proud of what we have achieved with the little resources we have. Well done good and faithful servants! Although the wages have been low and efforts hard, the fringe benefits are out of this world!

All that remains is once again to that you all, members, supporters, Trustees and staff for what you did to make the centenary celebrations such a success. Special thanks go to Aaron Holliday who did so much on an Intern's salary!

A Prayer

Oh Thou who art Love and who seest all suffering, injustice and misery which reign in this world, have pity, we implore Thee, on the work of Thy hands. Look mercifully upon the poor, the oppressed and all who are heavy laden with error. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer, and hasten the coming of Thy Kingdom of Justice and Truth. Amen

Diary

In addition to the various internal and working groups, the Director has attended external and representational

meetings including:

- Canon Slade School: A talk to 6th Formers on "WW1: A Pacifist Perspective.
- Attendance at a very large World Peace summit in Seoul with worldwide heads of State, Religious leaders of all faiths; Women and Youth Groups.
- Centenary Celebrations and Quadrennial in Konstanz, Germany.
- Spoke on "Is Peace Just the absence of war" at the Nottingham Peace Week.
- Winchester University: on the Just War Theory, attended by soldiers and trainee soldiers from the nearby military training base.
- URC Peace Fellowship.
- Alternative voices to war: Imperial War Museum.
- Update on employment law.
- Church & Peace.
- NCVO Conference.
- Faithful yet Fundable seminar.
- Speaker on "Faith Involvement in Peacemaking" at Hounslow Interfaith Group.
- The Cambridge Centenary Conference, and
- "Movements for Peace in 1914", being a conference about the beginnings of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Friedrich Siegmund-Schultze etc.

Wishing you all a prosperous and happy 2015.

In Peace & Fellowship,
Millius Palayiwa

GREAT NEWS!!!!

The "Hand Shake" design has won the symbol to commemorate the Christmas Truce. The symbol was designed by Spencer Turner, aged 10, from Newcastle-upon-Tyne. *Photo:* <https://www.facebook.com/NationalMemorialArboretum/photos/pcb.765677263485842/765675406819361/?type=1&theater>

December 28: Holy Innocents Day

January 17: Affirming Peace service, St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford OX1 4BJ - *see front page*

January 24: Wrap Up Trident, national demonstration, London - www.cnduk.org

March 2: Lockdown at AWE Burghfield - www.actionawe.org

March 5: Ash Wednesday

April dates TBC: Combined Called to Be Peacemakers conference for 18-30s and Annual Council Weekend.

Network for Peace lists many other events and is frequently updated: www.networkforpeace.org.uk

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and can never be at war."***

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Centenary booklet is available to order

The Fellowship of Reconciliation England is delighted to announce the release of our centenary booklet. At an impressive one hundred pages “FoR: 100 years of nonviolence” is a collection of essays, pamphlets, poems, and prayers that have been published throughout FoR’s history. Please place your order by filling in the form below and returning it to the office.

Please note that any typos found in the book are either bad puns by the editor or nice historical oddities kept for your enjoyment.

A donation of £7 will cover the cost of production and postage.



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- information about the International Peacemakers Fund
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