



PEACELINKS

News from the Fellowship of Reconciliation

nonviolence in action

Spring 2021



Vicky Sharp Photography



The Peacecast is launched!

Ellen, Helen, Peggy, Adam, Anthony and many more sit down to talk peace and justice.



**The
Peacecast**

for.org.uk/thepeacecast

Available on



and all major
podcast platforms

also inside ...

Legacy enables
Grassroots
Peacemaking

April 24th

Annual Council &
Supporters' Day

Story Project

Your Invitation
to share a
Testimony of Peace



@forepeace



@forpeacemaker



@forpeacemaker

Director's Diary

It's begun. Our long, hard walk out of the Covid19 lockdown has been announced by the Prime Minister, and then the First Minister(s) of Scotland and Wales. This undoubtedly good news shows how a significant investment in health and wellbeing can transform a nation.

But what are we walking out into?

It feels, to me, that we walk into a set of nations ill at ease with themselves. Conversations about identity, nationhood, and self-determination have grown as nations diverged over first Brexit then more recently how to respond to Covid19.

These conversations are positive, healthy even, and show that we could be in a healthy place. However, scrape beneath the surface and you soon discover something very different.

Our times of lockdown have not provided the point of common unity that the initial doorstep claps suggested. Instead, we have to face up to living in a deeply divided set of nations. Divided economically, socially, and racially. Each faultline now cannot be either covered up or ignored as so-called normality returns.

Instead, they must be faced. As a Fellowship, brought together under our Basis, we have radical heart that seeks a new world order enthroned in love. Inspired by Jesus, we seek to build just

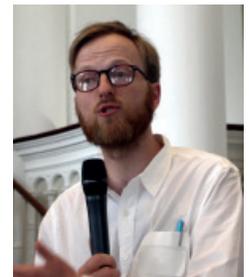
relations. We want to live well on this planet, and build honest relationships in fractured communities.

But don't just take my word for it. Henry Hodgkin wrote a most powerful book almost a hundred years ago. Called 'The Christian Revolution': I may only be halfway through, but I'm transfixed. He isn't worrying about the size of the church, or how others view it. His focus is what the disciples of Jesus today are doing.

Sometimes we hear from people asking to be removed from membership because they don't feel they can donate much or go on a protest. I'll often then ask, 'can you pray for us?' Usually, the answer is yes and the person wishes to stay.

I don't know what the next year will bring for us as a Fellowship or for us as individuals. What I do know, is that we will need to find our place building peace in our community and in the world.

Wherever that is, whether you are giving, acting or praying for peace and justice then I hope you can continue to stay in that most sacred of thing - Fellowship with over 700 people around the country also on the same journey.



John Cooper

Page 3: Help needed to resist an arms fair
Generous Legacy helps our grassroots
Page 4: Things that Make for Peace, Military Spending, Nuclear Ban, a Farewell
Page 5: FoR launches new podcast

Page 6: FoR Key Dates 2021, Membership Conversations
Page 7: A Testimony of Peace
Page 8: FoR & MPF AGMs including Annual Council & Supporters' Day

PEACELINKS

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

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We are always looking for news and events for Peacelinks and our website. Please send your articles and images to office@for.org.uk

Members and supporters have received this edition either through the post or via email. If you would rather receive it the opposite way to which you have done please write to, call or email the office, and we will change it for the next time.

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

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Resist the Arms Fair

FOR members and supporters are needed to resist an arms fair.

Deacon Angie Allport, an FOR and MPF member, has recently joined a group formed to challenge a planned '3 counties defence and security expo' due to happen at the Three Counties Showground, Malvern.

The Expo is scheduled for 7th-8th July 2020 and aims to bring together "senior military leading forces development and procurement, senior police engaged in the fight against cyber-crime, the intelligence and security agencies, and the industry innovators who supply them, to identify future strategies and needs".

As with other planned 'expos' that have previous occurred elsewhere, when news emerges local people soon respond. There is now a 3 Counties CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade), with members from Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, that will be challenging all local activity that supports the arms trade. The event has high profile sponsors like BAE Systems alongside makers of rocket launchers and other products used to maim, kill or oppress. This high profile event risks damaging the Showground's family-friendly image.



Angie explained to Peacelinks why she's got involved in the local campaign:

"As a member of FoR and someone who's previously joined in CAAT's demonstration against the arms fair at the Excel Centre in London, I felt that I had to get involved in something on my doorstep. The Three Counties Showground is primarily an agricultural showground and one of my particular bugbears is that struggling farmers have been forced to diversify to survive, but there's no sign of the arms industry being required to diversify. If anything, its abhorrent trade is supported by a government which fails to call out the likes of the war in Yemen."

If you wish to join this local group please contact threecountiescaat@gmail.com

Legacy Enables Grassroots Peacemaking

Angela Broome was a lifelong supporter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Having joined in the early 1950s she was always active, taking action on the streets and joined the board in the early 2000s. Her passionate commitment to peace and creative ideas for protest always made a powerful impact.

One area of the FOR she was always a keen supporter of was the International Peacemakers Fund. To this, she left a generous gift in her will. This will enable people in areas of conflict around the world receive life changing training in peace and non-violence.

Rose and Susanna acted as executors for their Aunt, Angela. Asked about the importance to Angela of her will supporting causes she cared about she said:



"Angela was a lifelong campaigner for peace and championed many charities, worldwide, through her unrelenting support, compassion and generosity. Her legacy for the Fellowship of Reconciliation means that their projects and ambitions, which Angela would have been part of, can be pursued for the benefit of those she supported.

Her family are proud and delighted to celebrate her life through her legacies."

News in Brief

The Things that Make for Peace - Rev Harold Good



On Monday March 15th, 7 - 8.30 pm, join us for a meeting on Zoom to meet the man who has helped build peace by declaring weapons beyond use. Harold was a key player in the Northern Ireland peace process. He acted as an independent witness to the decommissioning of the IRA arms. More recently, he was invited to do the same with weapons used by ETA in Spain.

This is your chance to ask him more about his life and experiences. Find out about his ministry of bringing divided communities together in Northern Ireland. Learn more about his experiences overseeing paramilitary groups weapons decommissioning. Find out about his time as Director of the Corrymela Community.

This event is open to people of all ages and is supported by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Student Christian Movement.

Book your place today by visiting the Events page on the FoR website, or call the office.

The United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) entered into force

on January 22nd. Throughout the day organisations and individuals celebrated around the world. These included branches and affiliates of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. There are images of some on the IFOR facebook site (22-23 January).



Earlier this year our **Finance and Administration Officer, Padmakumara**, indicated he had found a new job and was ready for new challenges. He has been a key person running our systems and helping keep the administration side of our movement going. He has assisted the running of the International Peacemakers Fund, distributing grants and writing updates to all those who generously donate. Finally he has run and managed Peace House, our Oxford base. All these vital tasks mean there will be some big boots to fill. *Padmakumara writes:*

“I started at FoR in January 2015. When I walked through the door of the office on my first day Emma Anthony, my colleague, greeted me with “Hello Team,” and gave me a hug. It was a lovely way to begin. This is one of the things I’ve valued about being a part of FoR: the Fellowship. I can barely recall a harsh word or action to have taken place towards me whilst working at Peace House, and for you all. Indeed, I’ve only encountered friendliness. I’ve appreciated that FoR sees peace not simply as the absence of conflict, but the establishment of a kingdom of love, here on earth. I am a Buddhist, and though I don’t have God as my ultimate source of inspiration, nor concentrate on Jesus Christ as the guiding light to bring that about, I know that I am fellows with you, committed to bringing that kingdom of love, here and now, on our living planet. This is because FoR, you, have exemplified it. It’s been a privilege to witness and be part of. Thank you.

I will be leaving to work for the Prison Phoenix Trust, a charity that brings meditation and yoga into prisons, supporting prisoners to use ancient practices to transform their lives. I therefore hope to continue to be fellows with you all, just contributing to that Kingdom of Love from a little further away, as it were. I wish you good health, happiness, and freedom from suffering, as we Buddhists would say, wherever you are, in whatever circumstance. We’ll meet again, in that Kingdom of love. I look forward to it.”

Military Spending webinar: The Chancellor of the Exchequer’s latest budget took place on 3rd March. In preparation, on February 22nd, the Global Day of Action on Military Spending co-ordinated a special webinar exploring existing levels of spending, the impact on climate change of military activity and some humanitarian alternatives to military spending. This proved a tempting offer with over 100 people attending. It was chaired by our Director, John Cooper and featured contributions from Dr Stuart Parkinson (Scientists for Global Responsibility), Dr Kate Hudson (CND) and Deborah Burton (Tipping Point North South). The full video of the webinar is now on FOR YouTube.

FOR launches Podcast

The Peacecast is a new podcast from the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Through interviews with theologians, singers, nuns and more, the stories of lives shaped by action and faith have emerged in a space where justice and peace remain at the heart of it all.

The Peacecast Episode Information:

Episode 1: Christian Activism with the Revd Canon Dr Ellen Loudon

In conversation with Ellen, we explore the importance of starting small but dreaming big, the challenges of being an activist and having to let go, and which of the 12 rules are most important to her.

Ellen is Director of Social Justice for the Diocese of Liverpool. Last year, she released a book called “12 Rules for Christian Activists: A Toolkit for Massive Change” which outlines a way of living out the Christian calling to be an activists.

Episode 2: Biblical Violence with the Revd Dr Helen Paynter

As peacemakers, it can be very hard reading the stories of violence in the Bible, especially when the violence is seen as acceptable to God. Helen helps us face some of these stories head-on, and explore why these stories are in the Bible and what we can learn from them.

Helen is an ordained Baptist minister, she has a masters in missional church leadership, a PHD focussed on the Old Testament – with a focus on humour in the book of Kings. She is also Director of the Centre for Bible and Violence, and host of the Guns and God podcast, found here:

www.csbvbristol.org.uk/our-work/guns-and-god/

For this episode, there are the following content warnings: Violence, Sexual Abuse.

Episode 3: Folk music and the Call to Action with Peggy Seeger

Release Date: 1st March 2021, 12pm

In conversation with Peggy, she talks about working with Extinction Rebellion and the energy surrounding the movement of people who take action for the climate. We also hear about her experience of the Aldermaston Marches, and how singing of folk songs can bring people together.

Peggy is an American folksinger who is well-known both in American and in the UK. Alongside this, she is also a feminist, and an advocate.

Episode 4: Striving for Change: Inside and Outside the Establishment with the Revd Adam Taylor

Release Date: 4th April 2021, 12pm

With Adam we talk about challenging injustice, from both inside and outside the political establishment, mainly drawing on his time in the Whitehouse during the Obama Administration. We also explore the central calling to change the world around us and the beloved community, which he explores in his new book that will come out later this year.

Adam is the new President of Sojourners and author of Mobilizing Hope: Faith-Inspired Activism for a Post Civil Rights Generation. He has worked as Faith Advisor to the World Bank and been political advisor to the Sojourners. He is formed in the powerful American Baptist Tradition and is an ordained Baptist pastor.

Episode 5 – Black Liberation Theology with Professor Anthony G. Reddie

Release Date: 19th April 2021, 12pm

Following the demonstrations last year, the Black Lives Matter movement has once again come to the attention of wider society. Anthony talks to us about the importance of this movement and why things need to start changing. We also hear about Anthony’s own story of being brought up in Yorkshire and being part of the Methodist Church.

Anthony is the leading scholar in the practice of Black theology in grassroots communities of faithful practice. He is also one of the leading theorists and practitioners in the development of racism awareness (or diversity) training in Britain. This work is approached from a perspective that is informed by Black liberation theology and Post-Colonial Studies.

Every 2 weeks, a new podcast episode will be released. which you can listen to on Spotify, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts and other major podcast websites. To find the episodes go to one of the aforementioned websites and search “The Peacecast”. Alternatively, go to our Twitter @ThePeacecast, Facebook @FORPeacecast or website, www.for.org.uk/thepeacecast where you can find links to the available episodes.

If you would like to get in touch with The Peacecast, we can be contacted on thepeacecast@for.org.uk or through out social media channels: Twitter @ThePeacecast, and Facebook @FORPeacecast.

FoR Key Dates for 2021

Online conference 13 March 2021

BUILDING PEACE FROM THE GROUND UP

A day conference of talks, workshops and worship exploring how to respond to hate, and how to build the church up as a place active for peace.

Register now at: <https://t1p.de/a8q8>



church and peace



Fellowship of Reconciliation
Nonviolence in Action

Programme:

10:15 Opening

10:30 Keynote on Tackling Hate
with Lisa Cummings.

11:30 Break

11:50 Workshops including tackling hate speech
online and responding to hate crimes in
the community.

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Welcome Back

14:10 Being a Church of Peace with Rev Dr
Sharon Prentis.

15:10 Break

15:30 Workshops including peace in daily acts
of worship and tackling racism.

16:30 Closing Plenary

March

15th: Things that Make for Peace - *see page 4*

April

24th: Annual Council & Supporters' Day - *page 8*

May

8th: Methodist Peace Fellowship AGM including
induction of Rev Barbara Glasson as new
President. - *page 8*

15th: International CO day – for more details of
nationwide commemoration: www.co-day.org

August

27 – 30th: Come and find us at Greenbelt Festival:
Wild At Heart: Boughton House, Kettering.

September

14 - 17th: DSEI arms fair, London.

19th: Peace Sunday

November

1 – 12th: COP26 in Glasgow

14th – Remembrance Sunday

Membership Conversations

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is looking to the future and what it's impact could be. To help with this members last year filled out a survey and now we want to invite you to come to an online workshop or two to talk through the results and explore what you'd like to see happen.

Each conversation will be held twice - once in daytime and once in the evening each week – and we invite you to choose which conversations you want to come to:

Tuesday 23rd March – 10.30am *Come and share what you value about the Fellowship.*

Thursday 25th March – 7.30pm *Come and share what you value about the Fellowship.*

Tuesday 30th March – 3.00pm *A chance to talk about Campaigns and Education Work.*

Thursday 1st April – 7.30pm *A chance to talk about Campaigns and Education Work.*

Tuesday 20th April - 10.30am

A chance to talk about how we can build Fellowship and our Theological Work.

Thursday 22nd April - 7.30pm

A chance to talk about how we can build Fellowship and our Theological Work.

Tuesday 27th April - 10.30am

What's missing? Talk about what you would like us to do that hasn't been covered.

Thursday 29th April - 7.30pm

What's missing? Talk about what you would like us to do but hasn't been covered.

Tuesday 11th May - 10.30am

A review of all we have covered.

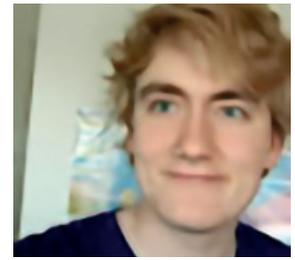
Thursday 13th May - 7.30pm

A review of all we have covered.

Book today by ringing the FOR office or via the FOR website www.for.org.uk/events

A Testimony of Peace

Hello, my name is Jack Woodruff and in September I joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation as a Digital Story Teller and Network Support. Over the summer I graduated from the University of York, where I studied my undergrad and masters in Mathematics, specializing in mathematical biology. Among other things, this involved the maths behind the R number that we keep hearing about on the news! Previously, I have worked as a Community Project Worker for a parish church in York and as an Outdoor Activity Instructor in Ormskirk.



During my degree I got involved with the Student Christian Movement (SCM). I currently volunteer as their Campaigns Rep on the SCM General Council. Alongside this, I volunteer as a Scout Leader and on the Student Cross Recruitment team, which is an all-age ecumenical pilgrimage during Holy Week. In my remaining spare time, I enjoy playing guitar or walking the dog.

It was in September 2019 when I first felt a real calling to fully engage with the peace movement. With SCM and FaithJustice UK (a network of Christian young adults passionate about justice), I attended the No Faith in War day of the DSEI arms Fair Protest. Leading up to the No Faith In War day I didn't really know what to expect. I just knew that I believed in peace and that war is never the answer, but what I didn't expect was the strong sense of community among strangers and the abundant generosity we all shared. We were all united in our belief in peace.

This belief in peace is what makes me so excited for this role. The stories of peacemakers are a powerful tool in raising awareness about the

peace movement and inspiring others to get involved. The project, called 'A Testimony of Peace', will capture these stories through video interviews. At this stage, we are looking to form a wider picture of how Christians fit into the story of peace activism over recent decades. We would love to hear from you if you, or someone you know, has been involved with peace activism – both recently and historically.

A key focus will be on capturing stories of conscientious objectors, from the second world war or the time of national service, who were inspired by their faith not to fight. This is vital as many are now passing away, yet their passion and belief made a real difference to how they lived. We would also like to hear from relatives of conscientious objectors to learn how their status as a conscientious objector influenced them.

If you would like to find out more about the project or have stories, objects or family information to share please fill out the form, replies to the survey can be posted to the FoR office or emailed to jack@for.org.uk.

Questions

Is it your own story, or a relative's?

My story Relative

Other: (please specify)

Do you have...?

Objects Photos Video Footage

How did your faith influence your decision to become a peacemaker?

What, or who, inspired you to get involved with peacemaking?

Please give a brief overview of the story. e.g. Where & when did it happen? What happened?

Fellowship of Reconciliation Annual Council & Supporters' Day

Saturday 24th April
10 am to 3 pm
internet meeting

Opening worship will be led by the Student Christian Movement. Our Keynote speaker is Shermara Fletcher, Churches Together in England's Principal Officer for Pentecostal, Charismatic and Mutli-cultural Relations. She will speak about 'Pentecostal Perspectives on Peace'. The workshops will include one on 'Faith, Finance and Peace' from Rosie Venner of the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility.

[Register today: www.for.org.uk/events](http://www.for.org.uk/events)



Methodist Peace Fellowship Annual General Meeting

Saturday 8th May
10 am to 12 noon
internet meeting

A chance for worship, conversation and a workshop with the Methodist Peace Fellowship. and to welcome Rev Dr Barbara Glasson as she is inducted as the New President, and hear a talk from Mollie Pugmire, COP26 Campaign Worker with the Methodist Church.



Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

[Register today: www.for.org.uk/events](http://www.for.org.uk/events)



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

[] (please write) £.....

I enclose a donation in support of the International Peacemakers' Fund

[] (please write) £.....

Total Gift 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 direct debit 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:
FREEPOST PEACEMAKER FPN 3264
19 Paradise Street, Oxford, OX1 1LD