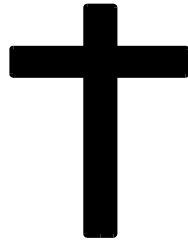

**CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
ARMS
TRADE**



**CHRISTIAN
NETWORK
NEWSLETTER
November 2005**

WELCOME

Welcome to the first of a new generation of CAAT Christian Network (CN) Newsletters. The last Newsletter I found in the CAAT CN file in the office goes back four years to when Chris Cole (now Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation) looked after the Network. I took on the role of CN Co-ordinator on a part-time voluntary basis this September and at present work in the Goodwin Street office on Tuesdays.

In this first CN Newsletter from a new Co-ordinator I thought it might be of interest to provide a more detailed biography than that appearing in the latest edition of *CAATnews*. Cardiff born and presently living in S.E. London, I have been a supporter of CAAT for over 20 years, taking a leading part in the 1991 Local Authority disinvestment campaign that while not successful in getting the London Borough of Bromley to sell their shares in GEC and other arms traders held in the Superannuation Fund, was at least debated at a full Council meeting that August. At a local level in the Peace movement, I was secretary of Beckenham & Penge CND from 1988-1994 after which our decreasing membership led to a merger with the neighbouring Bromley group.

At the national level, I served on the Development and Executive Committees of Conscience – the Peace Tax Campaign from 1993-2001.

My Church ‘history’ takes in a number of non-conformist denominations: a House Church and Methodist Church when living in the Republic of Ireland and the URC, where I was an Elder from 1984-88 and now Avenue Baptist Church in Beckenham where I am a Deacon and the Secretary. I have also been a long standing supporter of the London Mennonite Centre, a contributor to the S.E. London Three Faiths (Christianity-Islam-Judaism) Forum and a founding member of the Anabaptist Network and Convenor of the London South Study Group.

Over the last 30 years, I have been involved in research and/or teaching in four different universities and colleges, most of my time spent looking at the biochemistry and pharmacology of psychiatric disorders. Now with contracts for two scientific books and the work with CAAT, I have cut down my work at the University of East London and am looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. **ALUN**

LITERATURE UPDATE

My first task as CN Co-ordinator is to update our materials. The Christian Resource Pack is currently being revised and will include both specifically Christian and generic CAAT literature. It is also hoped to include the 2006 Day of Prayer materials in the pack. We plan to have the packs ready for January with the CN introductory leaflets available before Christmas. It is not too late for anybody to contribute material for possible inclusion in the pack with cartoons or illustrations (originals or copies of ones we can get permission to reproduce) particularly welcome.

DIARY DATES

Saturday, 12th November 2005

CAAT National Gathering

**** including a CN Workshop ****

10.00 am - 5.00 pm

5, Tavistock Place, London WC1.

Sunday, 11th June 2006

CAAT CN Day of Prayer

**Focus: DESO's 40th Anniversary
(Defence Export Services Organisation)**

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.anabaptistnetwork.com

www.caat.org.uk

www.conscienceonline.org.uk

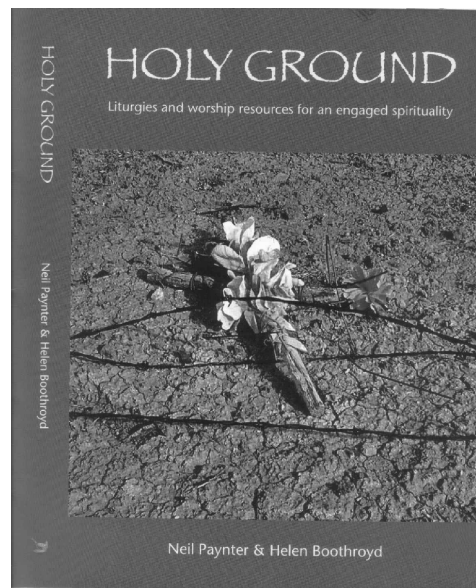
www.for.org.uk

www.paxchristi.org.uk

www.ncpo.org.uk

REVIEW

Published this June, *Holy Ground – Liturgies and worship resources for an engaged spirituality* is the latest volume of meditations, readings and prayers from the Iona Community. Divided into nine major sections and covering the 'big issues' like human rights, justice, peacemaking, prejudice and the environment, there is something here for everyone. Of particular interest to CAAT supporters is 'Blessed are the peacemakers.' In this section there are six liturgies first used between 1999 and 2003. They are a penitence for the arms trade (Iona Abbey), vigils outside the BAE Systems factory in Warton, a vigil for peace and remembrance from the Wellspring worship group, two from actions at Faslane Trident nuclear submarine base and an interfaith service held in Lancaster shortly before the start of the second Gulf war.



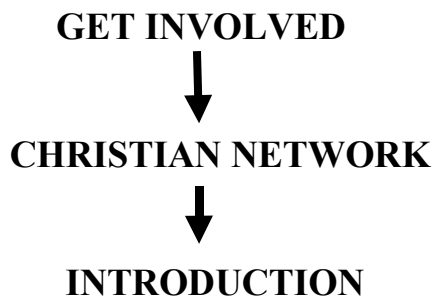
HOLY GROUND

**Helen Boothroyd & Neil Paynter (2005)
Glasgow: Wild Goose, 400 pp., £12.99**

DISINVESTMENT CAMPAIGNS

CATERPILLAR Inc.

We are encouraging CN members to write and protest over the Church of England's (CoE) refusal to sell its shares in Caterpillar Inc. Caterpillar manufactures the D9 bulldozer that has been used by the Israeli Defence Force to destroy Palestinian homes and agricultural land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the construction of the illegal separation wall. A D9 vehicle also killed the American peace activist Rachel Corrie in 2003. Further background details can be found on our website: www.caat.org.uk through following the links:



and the link: **CHRISTIAN NETWORK take action** on the Home Page (right hand column) for the postal address and e-mail of the Manager of the company looking after the CoE's investments. CN has recently been invited to join a Caterpillar working group set up by the Amos Trust (www.amostrust.org) to further the campaign for the CoE's disinvestment.

CLEAN INVESTMENTS

A number of Churches and Christian organisations continue to hold shares in major arms manufacturers such as BAE Systems, GKN plc and the Rolls Royce Group. The list available on the CAAT website is based on information obtained from the 2004 Annual Returns to Companies House and includes CoE cathedrals, dioceses and parishes, URC synods and the interdenominational Boys Brigade. To view this list, follow the links:



If your place of worship is listed, write to them and ask why they continue to hold shares in the armaments industry. Contact Patrick@caat.org.uk to order a Clean Investment Campaign Pack



NCPO

CAAT CN is one of 20 or so members of the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO). The NCPO is a mixture of denominational (including peace fellowships of the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist and United Reformed Churches, the Mennonites and the Quakers) and ecumenical (Christian CND, Christian Peacemaker Teams UK and the Fellowship of Reconciliation) groups.

The NCPO meets three times a year to enable members to exchange ideas and notify one another of campaign actions, conferences and meetings. Last month we met at the Quaker Meeting House in Birmingham city centre and amongst the items of discussion was the successful presence at Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival in Cheltenham in August. Pictures from this event, a diary of dates from members and their contact details can be found on: www.ncpo.org.uk

CTBI LENT COURSE

Easter People in a Good Friday World is the title of the Churches Together in Britain & Ireland's (CTBI) course for 2006. As we are half way through the World Council of Churches 'Decade to Overcome Violence' it is timely that CTBI had chosen this theme for their next biannual course. The five studies explore the different kinds of violence with most of the focus on personal violence rather than war and the preparation for war. As a result of this, a group of five members at the

Birmingham NCPO meeting volunteered to produce some extra questions more in line with our remit for use in the course. You might consider encouraging your Church or ecumenical group to follow it in the Spring. The course booklet (in English/yn Gymraeg) is available from CTBI Publications at 4, John Wesley Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6ZP for £3.99 + p&p or order online at www.ctbi.org.uk

ENDQUOTE

"The worldly are armed with steel and iron but Christians are armed with the armour of God, with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation and with the Word of God."

from Article VI of the Schleithem Confession: 'We have been united as follows concerning the sword.' Michael Sattler 24th February 1527

Read the whole Schleithem Confession, considered to be the first Anabaptist 'manifesto' or 'creed', at www.anabaptistnetwork.com

For further information about CAAT or its Christian Network, comments, questions and suggestions contact:

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