



Pax Scotia

Issue 2



Inside:

Working for peace online – P2

Doves & Cranes of Peace – P3

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil: details – P4

Sadako Sasaki developed acute leukaemia 10 years after being exposed to radiation during the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. On August 6 and 9, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of that bombing and the destruction of Nagasaki. Read Sadako's story on P4, and join our online vigil (details P4) on Thursday, August 6, 7pm on Zoom.

Lessons for a new generation?

By Hugh Foy,
Pax Christi Scotland
Executive Committee

The Jesuit Theologian Metz spoke of the “the dangerous memory of Jesus.” As we seek to be peacemakers in an often-violent world, co-mingling Metz with St Teresa of Calcutta’s “We are called to be faithful, not to be successful” has served us well in times of challenge. It has nurtured many of us who have campaigned so long for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

As people who stand in a long lineage of peacemakers, we look at Hiroshima and Nagasaki as the full expression of the evil of these weapons in the world. This evil made manifest the sheer scale of human slaughter that occurs in their use. Our learning from these events is not simply that we will speak truth to power, “Lest we forget”. It has also enabled us to identify powerful understandings that translate into our peace building commitments in our own contexts.

These war crimes tragically speak to our innate capacity to dehumanise and ‘other’ our enemies/opponents, and to turn other human beings into objects rather than subjects in our minds. This is often augmented by propaganda. We are confronted by a culture of lies; a messaging by those whose power interests are served by violence, as they seek to manufacture our consent and legitimise destruction for our ‘national interest’.

After Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we learned what Paul Ricoeur called “a hermeneutic of suspicion”. We learned to read the texts and hear the messages from all the genres from which it bombards us with deep suspicion. In exercising a peace-making discernment, we can now interrogate with great care the ideology of the powers we seek to speak to. The horrific suffering of others sounded a deep call to global solidarity. A call that has shaped our understanding and given us a theology of violation rooted in the cross. In this personal, social and global solidarity we kneel before the memory of our brothers and sisters who died. In this kneeling, we are given a Gospel commission to see the image of God in all people. This realisation comes to us both as a lament and an invitation. Will we be those people who will declare peace upon the violence of the world and finally remove all weapons of mass destruction from the face of God’s Earth?

Hugh Foy

Making our voice heard in lockdown



Zooming in on Peace

It wasn't Japan, and perhaps there wasn't the networking that Executive Committee member Hugh Foy and our chaplain Fr John Convery would have achieved had the Pax Christi International annual gathering been 'live' – but the AGM meetings, held on Zoom on the 18th and 30th of June, were truly international and very productive.

It was noted that the Zoom meetings enabled less wealthy members of the Pax Christi organisation to attend, and of course, while there is a carbon footprint to an online meeting, the cost to the environment was a minute fraction of what the planned meeting in Japan would have engendered. This was the new normal, and it was working.

The screenshot above shows just a few of the delegates (your chair is middle, second row from the top).

The first meeting was more procedural, and for the first time, Pax Christi Scotland was able to vote on issues such as the International Secretariat's budget. As a small, new, and not very well off member, we have one vote; other members have two.

The second meeting looked at what the 'new normal' would be in its entirety for the organisation, and how the members would

contribute to the whole.

Pax Christi International was founded 75 years ago in the wake of the Second World War. We see elsewhere in this newsletter why there was an urgency then to work for peace. Today the message is the same, but the ageing mechanisms of the original organisation are in need of modernisation, and the focus of peace issues has shifted.

In September, we are asked to get back together to discuss membership, finance and governance to create a sustainable future peace network.

It was at the June 30th meeting that Pax Christi Scotland put forward the memorandum you see on P3 of this newsletter. It was very encouraging to have this endorsed by the other member states and shared by Pax Christi International on social media.

Your chair has also been taking part in Zoom meetings of the Pax Christi International Nuclear Weapons Ban Working Group.

It has been interesting to learn the different approaches in the various nations represented. That our Scottish Bishops' Conference has consistently spoken out against the possession of nuclear weapons since the 1980s is not replicated in all member countries. However, as the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki approaches, the Working Group has been pleased to publicise anti-nuclear statements from the US and Japanese bishops on social media (the Japanese bishops also making a plea to end nuclear energy in the wake of so many disastrous accidents).

We have been able to add our own commemoration of that 75th anniversary to the programmes organised around the globe. We hope you will join our webinar on August 6 (see P4, and you will also receive an email with links).

Social media from July 16 (75th anniversary of the first full scale test of an atomic bomb in New Mexico) has been emphasising the urgency of the campaign to urge all states to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The technology is there to help us: let's use it to bring about a nonviolent society; a nuclear-free and peaceful world.

Marian Pallister, Pax Christi Scotland chair

Doves and cranes of peace

International Day of Peace



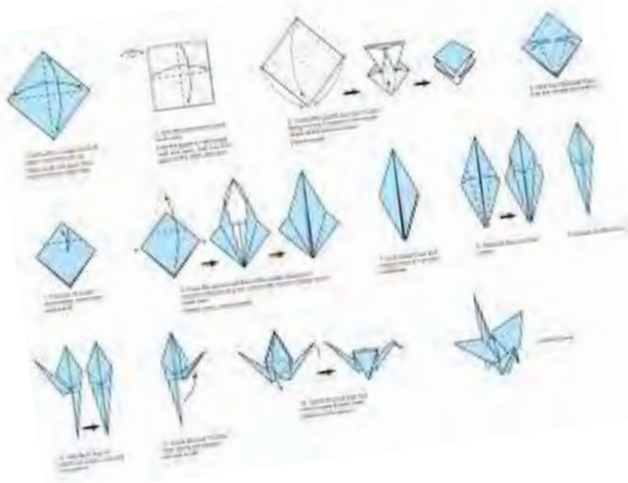
This year, the theme of the International Day of Peace (September 21) is *Shaping Peace Together*. The UN suggests we celebrate the day by “spreading compassion,

kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic”, urging that we “Stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred. Join us so that we can shape peace together.”

This chimes perfectly with the memorandum we presented to the Pax Christi International AGM in June, which was endorsed by the other member organisations:

That member organisations of Pax Christi International will actively campaign, in solidarity with all like-minded people of all faiths and none, for the abolition of racism, bigotry and prejudice in all its forms, with a commitment to be led in this struggle by those most impacted upon by this experience of oppression.

Let us all actively campaign on this here in Scotland, truly shaping peace together.



Making an origami peace crane – a symbol linked with creating peace from the ashes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Sadako Sasaki & The Peace Cranes



Sadako Sasaki (centre) with relay team mates in 1954. Photo courtesy Tomiko Kawano, her best friend & classmate.

On August 6th, 1945, US pilot Paul Tibbets flew a plane he had nicknamed Enola Gay (his mother's name) to the Japanese city of Hiroshima, where his crew dropped a 10,000lbs atomic bomb called Little Boy. The death toll at the time was put at 70,000.

In the years that followed, the fall out from that bomb caused many thousands more to die. Among them was Sadako Sasaki, a pupil at Hiroshima's Noboricho Elementary School, who developed acute leukaemia ten years after being exposed to the radiation.

While she was in hospital, she was inspired by the Japanese tradition that if you make a thousand origami cranes, your wish will come true. Sadako's final days were spent folding paper cranes hoping she would recover.

After her death, her friends swore to build a monument in her honour, and their efforts led to the Children's Peace Monument. Today, children around the world send more than 10 tonnes of paper cranes to the monument – more than the combined weight of Little Boy and Fat Man (the bomb dropped on August 9th 1945 on Nagasaki). The notebooks are recycled by Peace Minds Hiroshima & sent to children around the world with Sadako's story and the need for peace and nuclear abolition. And instructions on how to fold paper cranes.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75th Anniversary Pax Christi Scotland Vigil

Pax Christi Scotland invites you to join our Zoom vigil to mark this important milestone in the peace journey

We will hold a **Zoom vigil at 7pm on Thursday, August 6th**, anniversary of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima. Nagasaki was bombed three days later on August 9th, 1945.

Join us for prayers and reflections.

Host: Marian Pallister, Pax Christi Scotland chair.

Speakers:

Ellen Charlton of SCANA (Scottish Clergy against Nuclear Arms).

Alastair McIntosh, peace activist, author, and a Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology (CHE) of which he was previously director, and honorary senior research fellow (professor) in the College of Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow

The Pax Christi Scotland chaplaincy will lead our prayers and there will be an opportunity to add your own prayers.

Register with Zoom to receive the link at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZclclumtpjMsGta1_gvLQE0YSy5jZV2vRT-J

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. We look forward to seeing you then.

In the name of peace – Adding Pax Christi Scotland's voice

During lockdown we have still been able to make our voice heard.

We added our name to this letter

<https://humanitarianandisarmament.org/.../open-letter-on-covid.../> which argues that humanitarian disarmament can lead the way to an improved post-pandemic world and calls on states, international organisations, and civil society to follow its lead to create a “new normal.”

You can add your own name as an individual either by copying this into your browser or clicking on the link on our Facebook or Twitter pages.

We have also co-signed a letter from Scottish civil society organisations calling for a halt to the annexation of Palestine (see

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyOEI2yVF9yd_MTo4F722PUiQJOEQ1hIEVYAdm71tdTMuafg/viewform); a Pax Christi International

document appealing to Pope Francis, expressing our support for his leadership and our hope for a companion document for *Laudato Si* (individual signatures are also asked for -

<https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/2020/06/23/pope-francis-appeal/> (again, it's on our social media pages); and a joint interfaith statement, drafted by the 'Faith Communities Concerned about Nuclear Weapons' to mark the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Our core work will always be to promote a nonviolent society from grassroots level – and we believe that the memorandum we presented to Pax Christi International (see P3) is relevant in Scotland because it links to modern slavery & human trafficking, domestic violence, legislation regarding refugees and asylum seekers, bullying in the playground and the workplace, and the racism and bigotry we pretend don't exist on Scottish soil.

But let's punch above our weight and add our voice on the international stage, too. Historically, it's something Scotland does!

Where to find Pax Christi Scotland:

<https://www.facebook.com/PaxChristiScotland> (Facebook)

www.paxchristiscotland.org (Website)

[@PaxScotland](https://twitter.com/PaxScotland) (Twitter)

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