



from Garth...

No Faith in War

Our good friends the Revd Mark Meatcher and the Revd Melanie Smith have updated me with a newsletter about the protest outside the DSEI Arms Fair (10th - 13th September 2019)



It's wonderful to see the Christian communities coming alongside many other communities to protest this.

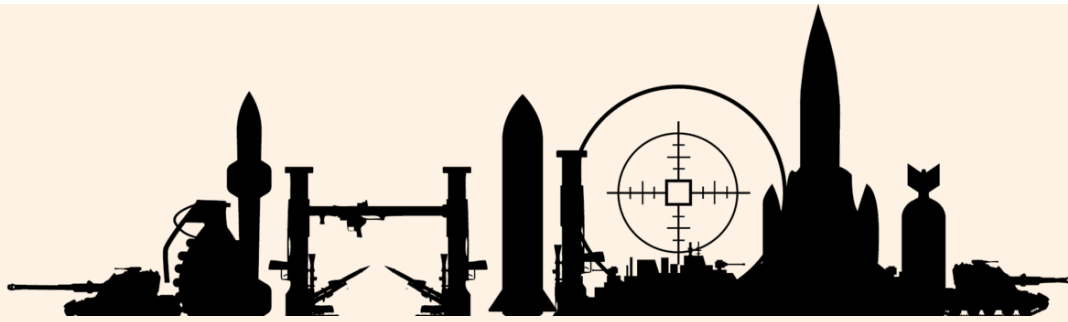
[Click here for a song to get you in the mood for a good demo! Not In My Name](#) (I started writing this one on a demo...)

Here's what Mark sent us:

"In advance of a massive arms fair, diverse faith groups will gather at the ExCel Centre on Tuesday 3rd September to declare with a united voice that they have 'No Faith in War'.

"Between 10-13 September, the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair will take place at the ExCel Centre, East London. This is Europe's largest Arms Fair and people representing a huge range of faith communities will come together to strongly declare their objection to the weapons trade.

"Most world faiths share in common a deep sense of the value of peace in the world: a peace which is achieved not by the use of weapons or threats of violence but by dialogue, respect for universal human dignity and human rights, and just social structures.



"The arms trade represents business interests being given greater status than the lives of human beings. Our government has continued to support the sale of weapons for profit despite the certain knowledge that these weapons will be used for example by the Saudi Arabian government to kill Yemeni civilians. This structure of violence is challenged by people of faith who do not accept that violent means truly resolve conflicts.

"Organising for the "No Faith in War" day began over a year ago and will be bigger than previous years. The creative, active plans build on the experience of previous years. Expect testimony from people whose communities have been destroyed by conflict fuelled by arms deals. Expect processions, rituals and symbols drawn from a variety of traditions. There will be life and energy as participants model what it is to work together to make the world a better place.

"Jake, 19, said: 'When I went to the No Faith in War protest two years ago I didn't know who would be there and what was going to go down. The atmosphere was one of peace and unity that war violates our religious identities. It was great to meet a group of like minded people and speak out against injustice together.'

"The UK government invites official delegations to attend DSEI. The list will not be published until closer to the time. In 2017, 56 official delegations were invited. These included Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt, Bahrain, Turkey, UAE and Colombia. Other countries will have been invited by the event organisers. Despite a recent ban in arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the country has been invited to DSEI 2019.

Public polling taken at the time of DSEI 2017 found that 76% of the UK opposes arms exports to human rights abusing regimes. It also found that 63% oppose government promotion of arms to countries that are not democracies. More polling will be done ahead of DSEI 2019."

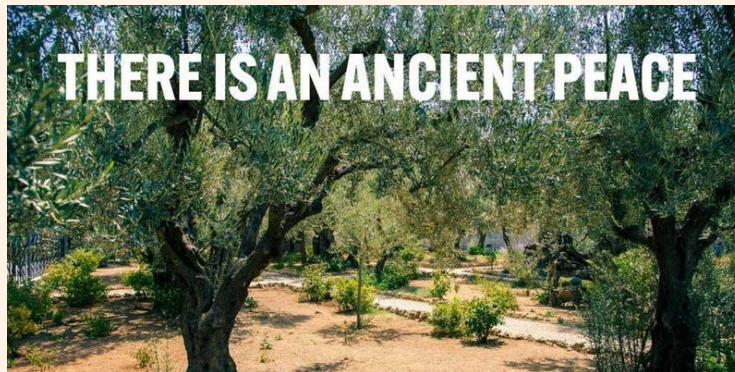
For more information go to the **Stop the Arms Fair website here** or email **faith@stopthearmsfair.org.uk**

They also have a **Facebook page here**: No Faith in War 2019 and **Twitter here**

Here's another song we've put up on youtube - it's very relevant to our

response to the arms fair - it's called **We Don't Do Body Counts**, quoting General Tommy Franks at the time of the Iraqi war. Actually it's a "demo" (musical term this time!) that I did for the album *Stealing Jesus Back* but for some reason we didn't use it there, but it seems to work in this simple form - it's a reminder of the awful attitude and treatment of people on that occasion in the Iraq war, but it could be Yemen, or any conflict situation.

Quiet Day

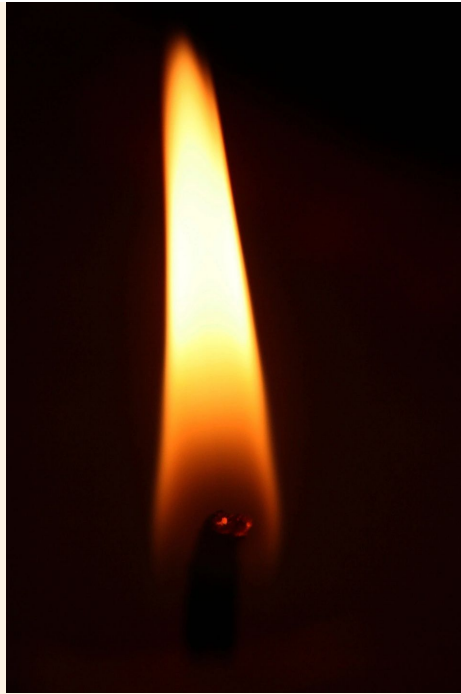


I'm looking forward to our second Quiet Day, which is at Langstone Court in Ross on Wye on Saturday October 12th; because of the venue, we are limiting it to 26 - there are still a few spaces - [book here](#) or email isobel@amostrust.org or phone 07976 360844 for more information or to book.

Also if you would be interested in hosting a Quiet Day contact Isobel.

**There is an ancient peace, you carry in your heart
You carry in your heart and have not lost...
Our hearts must be so quiet
If we are to hear,
If we are to hear we must be still.**

Prayer



God, for your love for us, warm and brooding
Which has brought us to birth
And opened our eyes to the wonder of creation
We give you thanks

For your love for us, wild and liberating
Which awakens us to the energy of creation
To the sap that flows, the blood that pulses
The heart that sings
We give you thanks

For your love for us, compassionate and patient
Which has carried us in our pain
Wept beside us when we fall
And waited with us in our confusion
We give you thanks

For your love for us, strong and daring
Which has called us to risk for you
Asked for the best in us
Shown us your face in the lost and forgotten
We give you thanks

O God, we celebrate the presence of your spirit
Deep within us
And at the heart of all life
Forgive us when we forget your love
Made known to us in Jesus Christ

Keep us mindful of your love

And in these times may we do loving acts of justice and compassion -
Of kindness and creativity - that bring healing and hope.
Acts that call our community, our country and our world
To ways of hope - ways of loving our neighbour,
And ways of loving the refugees and the forgotten.
Acts that reject the ways of violence and war
But reflect the love of God our guide and our companion

Amen



[click here for your copy](#)

The songs *Not In My Name* and *We Don't Do Body Counts* are both included on Garth's iconic double album *Against the Grain* - you can **buy your copy here** - in fact if you've never heard Garth's "CND" song *Hungry Wind*, which has not been released on any other album, you should certainly **order the *Against the Grain* CD**.

In 1983, when he was General Secretary of CND, Monsignor Bruce Kent said of *Hungry Wind* on its release as a single, "*The Hungry Wind* is a powerful moving song with a compelling message: we don't want to be anyone's nuclear battlefield – take your missiles home."



buy Garth's latest CD [here](#)

Garth's new album *My Name Is Palestine* is now available! Order [here](#) or if you would like to take advantage of our special offer of the CD and the vinyl single together for £25 inc p+p email isobel@garthhewitt.org

The Garth Hewitt Foundation invested in this project as a prophetic action of hope – buying this album helps us to recoup, and will start Garth towards his next project of truth and justice.

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