Huge efforts were made by Pax Christi and others to halt the replacement of Trident decision last July: briefings, briefings, local initiatives, letter-writing and statements from Christian leaders. While the vote was in favour, we communicated a clear message that Christians have no faith in Trident.

Moving on, the focus now is on securing a nuclear weapon ban treaty. Our joint briefings has been a popular tool for many of our members who have written to MPs around the country.

Pax Christi International has a permanent role at the UN in New York where negotiations began on 23 March, facilitating meetings, contacting national delegates, raising the voice of civil society and liaising with the Holy See presence at the UN. A recent survey indicated that 75% of people think that the UK should participate in these negotiations.

It is therefore a scandal that our Government has so far refused to take part. Pax Christi has made representations to our Foreign Secretary and to the UK’s Disarmament representative at the UN in Geneva, setting out their moral and legal responsibilities to participate. We continue to engage and urge them to see the global benefits of a Treaty.

Reports of sieges and bombings in Syria and Iraq, and of famines in Yemen and Sudan are extremely distressing. We have supported peace vigils for Syria, publicising the British part in coalition airstrikes in both Syria and Iraq. We have also been in correspondence with the FCO for more than a year on the UK Government’s unacceptable export of arms to Saudi Arabia which leads the military coalition in Yemen.

Conflict, fuelled by the arms trade, is the key factor in the deaths and displacement of millions, and in the destruction of food supplies and agricultural lands. Pax Christi will continue to highlight this link.

### Pax Christi Income and Expenditure 2016

**Income - Comparison 2015 / 2016**

- **2015 Total Income:** £220,401
- **2016 Total Income:** £203,433

2016 Income breakdown:
- Peace Sunday: 49.97%
- Sales & Events: 11.79%
- Donations: 12.45%
- Subscriptions: 18.46%
- Grants: 11.33%

**Expenditure - Comparison 2015 / 2016**

- **2015 Total Expenditure:** £225,492
- **2016 Total Expenditure:** £225,966

2016 Expenditure breakdown:
- Salaries: 59.82%
- Publications: 6.9%
- Office expenses: 15.69%
- Donations: 7.03%
- Promotions: 7.8%
- Fees: 2.76%

If you would like a copy of the full accounts for 2016 please contact the office.

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### Pax Christi Annual Report 2016-2017

When I was elected Chair of Pax Christi at the 2016 AGM, I had no idea what a tumultuous year it would be. By June I attended the Pax Christi International AGM in Brussels with Pat Gaffney, our General Secretary. We were there on 23rd June - the day of the EU Referendum - and I will never forget waking up about 4am and hearing the news that the ‘unthinkable’ had happened: Brexit!

Five months later, the ‘unthinkable’ happened again: Donald Trump was elected President of the United States. The implications for human rights, integrity, peace building, solidarity and presidential dignity would be sorely tested. This was a President who vowed to spend billions on military supremacy and to put ‘America first’ in all things.

As an American citizen, I felt both ashamed and deeply concerned about how this would affect fragile world politics.

In both of these seismic events, the people had spoken. But both the UK and America were deeply divided, and calmer heads quickly began to organise, protest peacefully and form a ‘resistance’ movement. Pax Christi UK, along with other faith organisations, participated in the huge, worldwide Women’s March on 21 January, Trump’s first day in office. The UK Government has now triggered Article 50 to officially leave the EU. We do not know what lies ahead in this new era of ‘post-truth’ and ‘alternative facts.’ But if we join hands with other peace-makers and people putting faith into action, we will be ready for whatever comes.

There are three particular areas of work I want to comment on in this Report.

### Strategic Review

As you will read, the Executive Committee began a strategic review that will underpin our work over the next 3-5 years. Following a survey of members and ‘celebrity Chairs’, we have identified five key aims, and working groups have been set up to take these forward. We are entering a transition period over the next two years and we need the confidence in a firm framework to face the challenges ahead.

### Technology

Pax Christi is moving from strength to strength in our use of technology. Online donations and our new online shop make us more attractive to a 21st century audience. We aim to introduce text giving this year, and continue to update our website and the use of social media.

### Legacy Promotion Leaflet

This year we have produced a new legacy leaflet - the first since 2001. We will promote this area of fundraising at every opportunity, as legacies are vital to our income and to build a more peaceful future. We hope all members will consider leaving a legacy of peace.

I wish to end this by thanking our staff team and volunteers for their hard work. They continually inspire me with their commitment – as do all of you, Pax Christi members and supporters. It has been a privilege to serve as your Chair this year, and I look forward to the year ahead. Holly Ball
Growing our work on Gospel nonviolence

Tectonic plates have shifted this year as Nonviolence moved to a more central position in Catholic social teaching. British Pax Christi has been fully engaged, with Pax Christi International, in bringing about this. We participated last April in the Rome conference on Nonviolence and Just Peace. Co-sponsored with the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, it gathered 80 theologians and activists from 35 countries. In Colombia, Uganda, Sudan, South Africa, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, many of them make a daily choice to live nonviolently in situations of violence. The conference appeal called on the Church ‘to recommit to the centrality of gospel nonviolence’. You can sign it yourself at: https://nonviolencejustpeace.net/

We have publicised this ‘Catholic Nonviolence Initiative’ (CNI) through the religious media, and meetings with international NGOs, J & P groups and religious congregations across the country (Scotland too). For World Peace Day Pope Francis focussed on ‘Nonviolence: a style of politics for peace’ and our materials fed into the message he issued on 1st January 2017 and feature on the CNI website. Pat Gaffney is on the international group steering CNI. We have formed a new nonviolence theology working group. Pope Francis has requested further work on the tough questions (such as the ‘duty to protect’). The prospect of our Church making a ‘preferential option for nonviolence’ draws closer: an exhilarating challenge for us all.

Pax Christi Icon of Reconciliation

Our Icon continues to be hosted by parishes, cathedrals and schools. (Pictured right in Wakefield Cathedral.) This Lent the Icon became the focal point among 8 parishes in Leeds Diocese. The project was coordinated by the Leeds Justice & Peace Commission who were delighted with the ecumenical nature of events. At the end of April the Icon featured at the national Taizé gathering in Birmingham, creating another great opportunity for prayer and reflection with the Icon, and it is now booked through until the summer.

Peace Education

There have been several developments of note over the past twelve months alongside the busy diary of school visits for talks and workshops. Highlights include: Responding to the changes in the curriculum for Religious Studies at both GCSE and A-level, we have published a series of high quality resources for both courses, with more to come. Our work in training teachers has become firmly established, with our collaborative Catholic Spirituality INSET (with the Salesians and the Columbans) proving particularly popular. New staff and classroom prayer resources were produced for Peace Sunday as well as assembly scripts to celebrate both Dorothy Day and the recent beatification of Bl Josef Mayer-Nusser. We were thrilled that a pupil group from Trinity School Leamington Spa joined our annual Ash Wednesday witness in London.

Highlights of our work this year

The year in Pax Christi

460 new followers on Twitter
42 items sold via online shop in 1st month
48% of recipients open our monthly e-bulletin
88 orders for Lent processed
3135 pupils took part in 80 school workshops
120 teachers so far at our professional development workshops
3,010 visits to our Peace Sunday webpage

Looking ahead to 2019... We have begun taking stock of our priorities, our resources and ways of working

146 members responded to our Survey and 15 individuals and organisations contributed to our ‘Critical Friends’ conversations. Among other things, these affirmed the value of Justpeace, our e-bulletins, our Peace Sunday model and our cooperation with other peace organisations. ‘They challenge us to better support isolated peacemakers, to strengthen our presence around the country and deepen a life-long vocation to peacemaking’. The Executive Committee and Staff team had two strategy meetings to start mapping out a 3-5 year plan. We have identified 5 key areas. In addition to our on-going work:

Financial stability: we want to resource a period of transition and secure the on-going work and growth of Pax Christi. Nonviolence theology: we want to create and stimulate theological reflection on nonviolent peacemaking for our times (see CNI report) so that we can do a better job of communicating the Gospel of Nonviolence. Creating and supporting a community of peacemakers: so that we can grow as a movement and multiply opportunities for others to be more deeply involved in ‘building a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence’. Strengthen our peace education work and so support young people in critical engagement with issues of peace and nonviolence. Plan for a change in leadership and staff so that Pax Christi continues to provide leadership and support to the Catholic community in the years ahead.

News from members

Theresa Alessandro and the J&P group from Blessed Sacrament parish in Leicester created a peace display beneath the altar of white-flowered plants and a simple dove image. They provided bidding prayers and their parish priest, Father John Jo Maloney, spoken on the theme Nonviolence: a style of politics of peace. There was also an article in the parish bulletin and collection envelopes for Pax Christi were made available.

Emma Atherton (left in picture) from Manchester was one of the winners at the ‘Celebrating Young People Awards’, 2016. Emma received the Jimmy Mizen Award for Peace for her longstanding work for peace, and for a new project she has created in Liverpool for women refugees. Emma is also on our Executive Committee.

Nan Saeki of York, with the Diocesan J&P Commission, worked to restore a peace garden built in 1995 outside the Cathedral in Middlesbrough. It was created to commemo-rate 50 years of Pax Christi, with a stone carved by Fr Aidan Gilman OSB at its centre.

Arianna Andreangeli from Edinburgh represented Pax Christi at the city’s International Conscientious Objectors’ day event. More than 50 gathered to sing, read names and honour those who have borne imprisonment and even death as a result of their Conscientious Objection. Arianna used the opportunity to speak of the witness of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter.

Sue Scott is part of a group based at St Dunstan’s in Birmingham who run stalls at Kings Heath farmers’ market. They offer information leaflets and peace goods. To attract children they had kite-making sessions. Handing round a tray of olive oil, za’atar and pieces of flat bread, they invite people to ‘a taste of Palestine’ - a creative and useful way of engaging people in discussion.

Carol Burns from Leeds spoke as Masses at St Benedict’s Parish in Garforth and actually ran out of Pax Christi leaflets to share with parishioners. A collection for Pax Christi raised £460 and a teacher from the local Catholic school asked about our schools’ work and booking a speaker. Five other parishes in Leeds held Peace Sunday events.

We have run 20 diocesan & parish stalls
48% of recipients open our monthly e-bulletin
88 orders for Lent processed
3135 pupils took part in 80 school workshops
120 teachers so far at our professional development workshops
3,010 visits to our Peace Sunday webpage

6,000 Nuclear Ban Treaty briefings distributed