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 No 454

Quote for the month comes from the Challenges for Our Time Lectures - *No 1. The Quaker Way: a vision for the 21st Century* by Harvey Gillman, and is offered by Sarah Freeman.

The spiritual life is not about what we believe or how successful we are. It is about how we trust. Did you know that the origin of credo is cor do – I give my heart? How sad that creeds, intellectual formulae, have often taken over from the promptings of the Spirit which offer themselves to the human heart. Faith as knowledge so often takes the place of faith as trust. The real question is: to what do we give our hearts? And the following question is: after the deep and immediate encounter with Spirit, which is at the core of the Quaker movement, do we have trust for ourselves and, therefore, hope to offer the world?

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 12 Feb		Traidcraft stall after Meeting
Friday 17 Feb	7.30pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House
Sunday 19 Feb	12 noon	Creative Listening at Meeting House
Friday 2 March	7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House
Sunday 4 March	9.00am	Prep Meeting at Meeting House
Sat 10 March	10.30am	Area Meeting at Oxted
Sat 10 March	1.30-3.30	Elders & Overseers at Oxted
Sunday 11 March	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 16 March	7.30pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House
Sat 17 March	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Meeting House. Ben Pink Dandelion on <i>Confident Quakerism</i>

Notes from Preparative Meeting

Collections:

January collection for Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre raised £64. **Midweek Meeting** raised £100 for Leatherhead and Mid-Surrey Samaritans and £100 for the Amber Foundation. The February collection is for Britain Yearly Meeting, and March for Quaker Service Memorial Trust (chosen by P & SW Committee).

Advices and Queries read in January: At Dorking numbers 1 and 34; At Leatherhead number 8.

Premises and Finance Committee have been following up the concern from Elders and Overseers that a few Friends are uncomfortable sitting on the benches. It has been decided that **chairs with arms** would suit them better. It was agreed that Premises committee bring to next PM a recommendation about which style of chairs we should buy, having consulted those who will be using them.

It was agreed that we should **repay £3000 of the AM loan** immediately, and a further £3000 later in the year if our cash position remains favourable.

The green team are undertaking, for the Meeting, the **Meeting House Sustainability Check-up and the Climate Impact Calculator**, and will submit the results to Meeting for Sufferings before March 31st as requested. For the Climate Impact calculation we need to do a survey of the means of transport that Friends use to get to Meeting, and we agreed that a short survey should be carried out by the Green Team at a Meeting for Worship on a Sunday, on a Wednesday and at a Leatherhead Meeting.

We supported a proposal by the **Green Team, for a day in 2013** on the subject of how individuals in the Meeting are supported in their efforts to become low-carbon and sustainable, and what opportunities there are for sharing these efforts. We suggested that the general public as well as Friends from other Local Meetings in our area should be invited to such a meeting and asked the Green Team to make the necessary arrangements.

Su Johnston reported on further thoughts by the fundraising group. They propose two main events - a series of six concerts at our Meeting House between October 2012 and March 2013, and a lecture by Jocelyn Bell Burnell, probably at Dorking Halls. Details will be made available so we can discuss this further at our next meeting.

Peace & Social Witness Quaker Service Memorial month – March 2012

Shared lunch & talk

You are invited to a shared lunch on Sunday 25th March 2012, from midday. This will be followed by a presentation and discussion about the Quaker Service Memorial being built at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, and the subsequent Outreach work that it will become the focus for ("exhibitions, family histories, Peace issues and the relationship of Quaker relief in & after WWII to current issues of refugees & asylum seekers"). This quote is in an email from Helen Lockwood, a trustee of the Quaker Service Memorial Trust, who has accepted our invitation to speak on the day. We've invited Friends from across the Area Meeting to come too.

Exhibition of our records from WWI & II

We are also planning to bring together all the information & personal histories that we have of Quaker service in the Friends Ambulance Service and Friends Relief Service across the Area Meeting. Our meeting has captured much of this from its members, and hold records, but we'd like reminders of where this is held and by whom.

More?

It may also be the last time that some elderly Friends have the opportunity of sharing what they have not said before. We'd be happy to record this, either written after interview or as a sound recording. So please let us know if you have something to say.

Post WWII collection

And in addition to this it would be a good opportunity to record the Quaker Peace service of local and Area Friends since WWII. Who are these people? Can they be persuaded to participate? Your help in identifying and encouraging them would be appreciated.

For a leaflet on the Memorial go to www.staffs-quakers.org.uk

For information on the National Memorial arboretum go to www.thenma.org.uk

If you are interested or can help please contact: Lois Lodge on lois.lodge@btinternet.com or 01306 885250 or write to her at Moonraker, Tower Hill, Dorking, RH4 2AN.

Thank you. Lois Lodge

Study group on the Occupy protest

*It appears there's enough for the bankers' greed,
But not enough for everyone's need.*

(Noticed on a banner at the St Paul's Cathedral Occupy site)

On Friday 3rd February, 13 members of Dorking meeting shared a very good supper and then listened to Bob Humphreys talking about the Occupy movement worldwide. For those who are not sure what this is, you have probably followed the developments outside St Paul's Cathedral and elsewhere in London, and you may know that this is part of a movement that started in protest against Wall Street in New York, but you may not know that there are now 1500 Occupy movements across the world.

Bob filled us in on many interesting facts about the movement that is a global statement to the 1% super rich, that their incomes have become too great in proportion to the remaining 99% of the population. Activists have become busy in every continent over the months since September 2011. Their protests – like ours – may have begun along the lines of protests against local cuts, extreme poverty and/or mass unemployment. Strikingly, last week an igloo Occupy movement sprang up to protest at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Quakers from Dorking have attended the St Paul's site to hold Meetings for Worship with other Quakers on the steps of the cathedral, and Bob invited us to talk about what role Quakers could play. Lots of really good insights came up and everyone was engaged. Ultimately we agreed that the message we would like to send to Friends House is that it is important that the Quakers continue to put forward their message about equality, persistently and consistently.

Sarah Freeman was able to carry the same message to Friends House on Saturday 4th February, and bring it up in what were prolonged items about Advocacy at Meeting for Sufferings.



Dorking Quakers chatting after Meeting for Worship on their second group visit to the Occupy camp at St Paul's. If you look carefully you will see Bob, Trish, Anne, Gil, Su and Romy. Colin Brewer took the photo.

Sarah Freeman

✠ 'Let Justice Prevail' ✠

Friday
2nd March
Women's
World Day
of Prayer



Praying for Malaysia

www.wwdp-natcomm.org
Registered Charity Number 233242

The service will be held at

St Martin's Church Dorking

11 am

Friday 2 March 2012

followed at 12.15 by Lenten Lunch
in the Christian Centre

All are welcome - men, women and young people

2012 Women's World Day of Prayer

You will see from the poster that this year the theme is *Let Justice Prevail* and the women of Malaysia have done an excellent job, in my view, in putting the service together. As Dorking Meeting's reps on the planning committee, Phyllis Russell and I will be taking part as readers in the service. Val Ogden is to lead the service and give the talk at the heart of it. There will be music and some drama and all are welcome to attend – men and women!

Anne Brewer

Reminder about stamp collection

Phyllis Russell collects the stamps Friends leave in the info centre, sorts and trims them, and organises their delivery to Friends House, where they are processed and sold in aid of Quaker work. She would like to remind Friends that Christmas stamps, special issues and foreign stamps are fine, but ordinary 1st and 2nd class have no value, so please don't go to the trouble of collecting those.

Lent discussion groups 2012

Churches Together in Dorking are organising ecumenical discussion groups following the 2012 York Course, *Handing on the Torch: Sacred words for a secular world*, by John Young. There are five sessions, and the following summary description is given by the publishers:

Christianity is the largest movement our world has ever seen. It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America. At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow and – perhaps – even to survive. In this course we consider some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer.

These groups provide an excellent opportunity to get to know members of other churches, to be stimulated by our differences, and to grow in understanding of how much we share.

Groups intending to meet are listed below. If you want to join a group contact the organiser. Copies of the course book (cost £3.75) will be available in February from the Christian Centre bookstall (10 am to 1.45 pm Monday to Friday) and, for those who sign up in good time, via the group leaders.

Monday morning, 10 am, first meeting 27 February
Venue: The Christian Centre, Church Street,
RH4 1DW
Leader: The Revd Val Ogden
Contact: 01306 882967, 07790 467640

Thursday evening, 7.30 pm, first meeting 1 March
Venue: Harvest Community Church, Stubs Hill,
RH4 2QD
Leader: The Revd Nelson Porter
Contact: 01306 500116

Tuesday morning, 10 am, first meeting 28 February
Venue: The Christian Centre, RH4 1DW
Leader: Martin Ellis
Contact: 01306 876449

Thursday evening, 8 pm, first meeting 23 February
Venue: 12 Ashurst Place, RH4 1QY
Leader: Wendy Crozier
Contact: 01306 883820

Tuesday evening, 7.30 pm, first meeting 21 February
(no meeting 6 March)
Venue: 1 Rothes Road, RH4 1LG
Leader: The Revd Peter Flint
Contact: 01306 889644

Thursday evening, 8 pm, first meeting 1 March
Venue: 124 Chart Downs, RH5 4DG
Leader: John Sahl
Contact: 01306 884185

Thursday evening, 7.30 pm, first meeting 1 March
Venue: 39 Goodwyns Road, RH4 2LS
Leader: Geoff Brotherhood
Contact: 01306 885899

Details of other groups set up will be posted on the Churches Together in Dorking page at www.dorkingchristiancentre.org.uk. Elizabeth Dobson (01306 881479)

Reflections ... Be still and know that I am God Psalm 46

What is meeting for worship? How do you centre down?

Advice number 8 tells us "Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness on our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us."

Meeting for worship starts when the first person enters the room. It helps if you sit in a comfortable position, which enables you to be both relaxed and alert. We cannot avoid noise or disturbance outside the building but can contribute to the avoidance of noise and distraction inside. Friends have evolved different ways of centring down. Some find a visual image useful, many are helped by deep breathing, a concentration on listening, a focusing on one sentence or even just one word, such as peace, from Advices and Queries. But recently I read this on centring down, from a Friend in Geoffrey Durham's new book *Being a Quaker* – "It's the verse from Psalm 46, "Be still and know that I am God", which then develops into "be still", with "be" in my mind as I breathe in, and "still" as I exhale".

Rachel Hope, on behalf of Elders