



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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 No. 502

Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 7 August	9.00am	QF&P Reading group – chapters 13, 20 and 26
Sunday 14 August	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 27 August	All Day	YFs activity day at Sayers Croft – details below
(No meditation meeting in August.)		
Friday 2 September	7.30pm	Study Group
Sunday 4 September	9.00am	Preparative Meeting
Monday 5 September	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group – in member's own homes
Sunday 11 September	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

Fellowship – past and future!

Garden Party – Sunday 10 July



This was a very happy event with ideal weather and a warm welcome from Christine Bass in her beautiful house and garden.



Children and some brave adults swam and frolicked in the pool, others enjoyed some tennis and we all enjoyed friendly chats and a delicious tea with contributions from everyone!



Thank you, Christine, for your hospitality and thanks to Sophie and Katy for the photos!

Anne Brewer

Sayers Croft – Saturday 27 August

We would like to invite everyone to join us for a day (or part of a day) at Sayers croft activity centre on Saturday 27 August. There will be all age banner making run by a Friend from Horsham meeting, running alongside more adventurous activities such as caving, abseiling and archery.



All are welcome either to participate or spectate! There is no charge for the day but bring your own food for the barbecue lunch. Tea and cakes will be provided at the end of the day.

For those wishing to take part in the centre activities, please arrive between 09:30 and 10:00 for a 10:30 start. For everyone else, come whenever you like, lunch will be around midday and tea will be at about 4:00pm. If you have any questions please ask Katy. Hope to see you there!

Katy Nunn

Volunteering in Calais

Following the article in the July Grapevine, some Friends may have been in touch with the St Paul's Church team to register to join with their trip to the refugee camp in Calais on 28th August. Closing date to register was 31st July but if you haven't registered and decide you would like to go, it may not be too late – email worldchurch@stpaulsdorking.org.uk to ask.

The following interesting article about the situation in the camp comes (with permission!) from the newsletter of St Paul's Church.



"The following news came to us on 15th July via *Help Refugees*, the charity who runs the warehouse (in Calais):

On Monday the Mayor of Calais announced that the eviction of the Northern part of the camp would be carried out 'very soon'. This comes as the Help Refugees team in Calais presents the findings of our latest census which reveals that there are a total of 608 unaccompanied minors living in the camp, 183 of whom are currently living in the container camp and 425 in the Northern part of the camp. There are a total of 7037 people in the camp, 1500 of whom are living in the containers, 230 in the Jules Ferry Centre and 5537 in the part of the camp which would be cleared if an eviction is carried out.

Please do not cancel any plans to volunteer or bring donations. We are incredibly low on stock in the warehouse at the moment and we need your physical and financial support more than ever. Click <http://mydonate.bt.com/donation/start.html?charity=127188> to donate or email communityfundraising@helprefugees.org.uk to find out how you can help from home.

So the needs are greater than ever in Calais, although volunteers for just one day rarely actually enter either camp, and certainly are never asked to undertake anything with which they are uncomfortable.

Tasks you could be asked to do depend on the most urgent current needs, but could be one of:

Help prepare lunch for 1,800
Sort clothing for distribution in camps

Pack boxes of food
Erect tents to check if weatherproof prior to distribution."

How to volunteer and help support Refugees in Calais

St Paul's Church have also kindly sent us a very useful page of information with this title. Should anyone wish to get more involved and maybe organise a trip by some local Quakers, please ask Anne Brewer for a copy.

Holiday at Home 2016

Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August

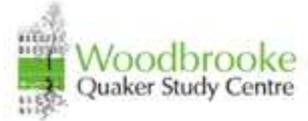
The United Reformed Church in West Street, Dorking in conjunction with the Christian Centre, St Pauls church and Dorking Quakers, are organising another 'Holiday at Home' week for older people in Dorking who are unable to go away on holiday this summer. It will be a week of talks, activities, meals, and 2 outings – on Tuesday to the Royal Pavilion, Brighton and on Thursday a river cruise up the Thames. The theme this year is By Royal Appointment.

All the publicity can be accessed here www.dorkingurc.org.uk/holiday-home-book-now/ or ask Anne Brewer for a copy of the brochure or see the posters on the small hall notice board in the Meeting House.

Interested in early Quaker history?



In case anyone else is interested in this subject, Nigel Bond has sent details of a free online course called 'Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers' created by Lancaster University in association with Woodbrooke.



Here is a link to the course for those with internet access. **If you don't have a computer** and would like to do the course let Anne Brewer know and, similarly, if you decide to enrol for the course and would be happy to host a non-computer owning Friend please let Anne Brewer know and maybe she can put 2 and 2 together! :

www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers

And below are some details from the webpage to encourage anyone who might be interested to look further into it:

About the course

When you think of the Quakers, it might bring to mind porridge oats, or pacifism, or perhaps prison reform. But there is much much more to the Quakers than any of these things.

Through this course, we will be finding out about what lies at the heart of Quaker beginnings, who its main characters were, and how in a few weeks during the summer of 1652 the Quaker movement was formed in the north of England.

Explore exactly where the Quakers started

Almost from nothing, the Quakers were to become the most successful sect of the 1650s and 1% of the population of England were to become Quakers. It was a radical spirituality which appealed to thousands of people, hungry for new ways of thinking.

In this three week course, we will see how the events of 1652 unfolded and visit the key sites of Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell, and Swarthmoor Hall in the northwest of England. Each of these places marks a critical piece of the dramatic story of May and June 1652.

Finger Prints of Fire ...Footprints of Peace



This is the title of a book donated to the Meeting House library. The author is Noel Moules and the subtitle is *A Spiritual Manifesto from a Jesus Perspective*.

I found this a fascinating book – full of radical ideas about peace and justice and open-minded towards other faiths and denominations (he quotes some Quaker sources but I gather he is an Ana-baptist) but deeply rooted in the Christian tradition. It is quite easy to read and you can dip in and out of it. I did find some of the writing prompted a reaction in me of 'how does he know Jesus meant that?' but on balance I found the book helpful and stimulating.

There is a quote on the back cover by Stuart Masters of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre – *I predict this book will become an essential handbook for spiritual renewal and transformative action...Noel gives us hope just when we need it most.*

Anne Brewer

Reflection from our Elders

The following guidance about vocal ministry comes from the book *Through us not from us* published by the Kindlers and available in our library.

Courtesies and contemporary traditions of Vocal Ministry

- Accept that everyone shares the responsibility for Meeting for Worship. Experienced and newcomers, young and old - all are priests and ministers.
- Come to Meeting with heart and mind prepared but not with spoken ministry already determined. Let that be spontaneous as the Spirit moves.
- Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Respond when the call comes. Words will be given to you.
- Discern that your message is for the spiritual nurture and nourishment of the whole Meeting. If the message is plainly an insight for our selves, then we keep it for our self.
- Trust that a message meant for the Meeting will come through someone else if not from you.
- Minister only once during a Meeting for Worship, and not at the same time, or on the same theme in subsequent worship.
- Are you apt to speak too predictably, or too often?
- Do not interrupt someone who is speaking and do not respond to another's ministry, as if in a debate.
- Allow for there to be a good pause between ministries, for the silence to absorb and weave the ministries into a whole.
- Be careful in what you say, not to put anyone down, contradict them, or correct them during Meeting.
- Try to speak audibly and distinctly for even the hard of hearing to share your ministry. Be reassured that if your words are important the Meeting will find them anyway.
- You may decide that it is right for you to speak but always consider that it may not be.
- Be concerned to create, with everyone else, an atmosphere where compassion grows. Hear the vocal ministry of others in a tender and creative spirit.
- Accept that spoken ministry which appears to say nothing to you may be what is needed by another. Listen for the words behind the words. Reach for the meaning deep with them.
- Beware of making additions towards the end of a Meeting when it was well left before.
- Find sensitive ways after Meeting to affirm what a Friend has said.
- If you feel a Friend's ministry is continually inappropriate then sensitively share your concern with an elder or spiritual mentor of the Meeting.
- Remember, in difficult situations, when the worship is being diminished by unacceptable words and behaviour, that tough love may be called for by the Meeting, along with firm and kindly action, for the sake of the whole worshipping community.

Rachel Hope (Elder)