



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

(available on the web at: www.dorkingquakers.org/index.php/newsletter)

Editor: Anne Brewer
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Your editor will do her best to keep the Grapevine going during this rather unusual time. It would be very helpful if Friends could email or post me articles or poems that they have found helpful or entertaining and which they would like to share. Sadly, Elizabeth Cooper, the assistant editor, is unable to assist as the library where she does her computer work is closed.

Quote of the month from *Healing with the Herd* Facebook page.



World: "There's no way we can shut everything down in order to lower emissions, slow climate change and protect the environment".
Mother Nature: "Here's a virus. Practice."

What's in the Grapevine this time

- Quote of the month – see above
- Any events left in the diary – not much! See below.
- The Meeting's support network – details and contacts – page 2
- An appreciation of the meeting!
- Meeting for Worship possibilities – page 2
- Follow up to death and dying discussion – page 3
- Update on the Food Bank arrangements – see page 3
- The children's online meeting – they are ahead of the game! – page 4
- The upholding group – page 4

Events in Friends' own homes

Friday 27 March		Thought for the week to be circulated
Sunday 29 March	10.25 - 11.45 am	Dorking's Online Meeting for Worship (See page 2)
Monday 6 April	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding Prayer Group (See page 4)
Monday 20 April	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding Prayer Group (See page 4)

Woodbrooke's online Meeting for Worship is available every Thursday and Sunday via Zoom, and every Wednesday and Friday via Adobe Connect. See www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/online-mfw

Everything else, unfortunately, is cancelled, including the Leith Hill Walk and the May Area Business Meeting with the accompanying Fellowship session on Assisted Dying. Hopefully the Fellowship session can be rescheduled, and AM Trustees and Clerks will find a way to deal with any urgent matters.

Dorking Grapevine is printed on 100% recycled, post-consumer waste paper using electricity from renewable sources

The Meeting's support network

Your Elders and Overseers are doing their best to ensure that no one in the Meeting is left feeling isolated and unsupported during this difficult time.



For a start we have approached Friends, whom we think may be vulnerable and not have family support, and offered them the opportunity to join a group of Friends assigned to one of the Elders or Overseers. So, each Elder and Overseer now has a group of Friends they will keep in touch with, and other Friends whom they can draw on to do shopping etc. If you would like such support, and haven't been approached, please contact Alison on 01306 743505 or 07591 191571 or alison.carlier@icloud.com and she will find you a suitable group.

Also, if you would be happy to oversee such a group let Alison know and she will give you some Friends to keep in touch with.

Or, if you would be willing to fetch shopping for anyone who cannot leave their home, please let any Elder or Overseer know (that's Anne B, Sarah, Tara, Alison or Jan. Margaret, our other overseer, is out of action due to a health problem).

A heart-warming message from Barbara Pare

For some time I have thought that I would like to say in Joys and Sorrows that I have found it a joy to feel that I am a part of this meeting. I can't say it, but I want to record it here.

Meeting for Worship

Sarah Freeman (azdak@runbox.com) is very familiar with using Zoom and is setting up an **online Meeting for Worship for Dorking Friends**. **If you would like to join in with this, then get in touch with Sarah** and you will be given the necessary link and instructions. Anne Brewer is going to attempt to 'host' the Meeting (welcome, start and close) but she is not at all familiar with Zoom, however I know you will forgive the inevitable mishaps! All those wanting to join in will be offered a practice session on Saturday 11.00 am – Sarah will be in touch in due course to confirm the timing and explain how to proceed.

We are anxious to ensure that those without online facilities don't feel excluded. Once we have successfully (hopefully!) held an online meeting this coming Sunday then Sarah will explain how you can join in just using a mobile phone and help those who wish to do so with a little practice run.

Alternatively, some Friends may be quite happy just joining in by sitting quietly for the hour knowing that other Friends are doing the same. Anne and Sarah will be circulating, via the Meeting's email list, a Thought for the Week each Friday. If you would like to offer a suggestion for this, please do – just send it to either or both of us. Those not on email will receive printed copies of the available Thoughts for the Week with their Grapevine.

Whatever you decide to do, please do get in touch with Anne (01306 500187) or Sarah (01306 887738) if you are feeling unhappy about your experience of Meeting for Worship at home.

Follow up to our discussion on Death and Dying on 23 February

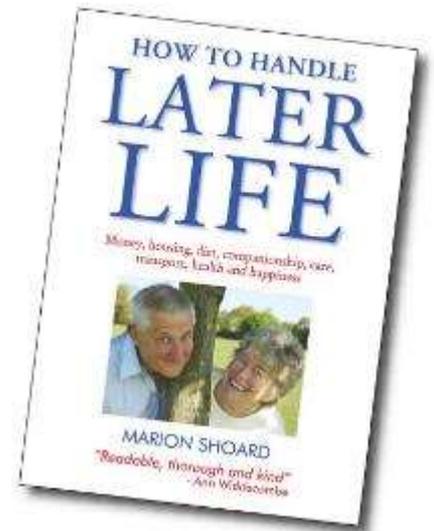
1. A message from Elizabeth Dobson who joined us for the discussion:

Among the books recommended in the Notes from the Discussion on Death and Dying in the March Grapevine, is one I mentioned to Sarah, which I have since looked up online, and I feel I ought to pass on that there is a newer version, that can be found at

<http://www.amaranthbooks.co.uk/titles/how-to-handle-later-life/>

It deals with practicalities rather than the spiritual side, and the contents listing is given on that page.

The author has her own website (marionshoard.co.uk), which has a good photo of her, if any Friends are curious to see whether they remember her from her time in Dorking.



2. A message from Barbara Pare who would have liked to have joined us but was unable to do so.

Death. For the discussion. I am quite ready to leave this life. After all, I am 93 and have had a good life. What is worrying is the way I go. Now, even more so. I would like an injection; I am in favour of euthanasia. Not on offer. Today I read that there are two words we need, wait and hope. This is what I do.

The Food Bank

Sarah Freeman writes: Foodbank organisers say the situation for foodbank users is more desperate than usual. When I took the foods kindly provided last week, they said this is because staple survival food is disappearing fast with the current 'stockpiling' of essential goods. Long life milk, toilet paper, pasta are all very good examples.

I regularly send out, to an agreed email list, details of the food required each week – please contact me on azdak@btopenworld.com if you would like to be added to this list.

If you are worried how to get the food to a collection point, then please contact me on 07703 598815 or 01306 887738. The Dorking Meeting House will be closed for several weeks but depending on the restrictions on journeys taken from home, I will do my best to collect food from you and take it to the foodbank. It could certainly be described as an 'essential journey'.

Some people have asked about giving financial donations rather than food to the Dorking Area Foodbank. Donations are welcome and there are two ways of them reaching the Foodbank. Firstly, you can make a banking online payment using the following details:

NAME: Dorking Area foodbank c/o Churches Together in Dorking
SORT CODE: 405240 ACCOUNT NO: 00016313

Secondly, if you prefer to pay by cheque then please make your cheque out to 'Churches Together Dorking' and send to the following: David Wells, Treasurer, 2 Norfolk Road, Dorking RH4 3JA

Banking online is preferred as we all try to keep paper deliveries and visits to the bank to a minimum for c-virus purposes, but some people may prefer not to use online banking, in which case cheques are fine. Ask me if you would like a standing order form.

Our young families rise to the occasion!

News from our Children's Online Meeting and a photo with screen shots of each family taking part – Christopher is behind the axe in case you are wondering, and I think Louis has turned into a bear!

Alison Carlier writes: The Children's Meeting met over Zoom on the Internet this morning (Sunday March 22) for an hour. Eight families joined in, so it was both experimental and lively! There are a few self-isolating families amongst the group, but everyone was in pretty good health and it was lovely to see so many smiling faces.

I led the session using *Journeys in the Spirit Issue 113 - Hope in Turbulent Times 'Coping with Change'*. We discussed what we thought about when we heard the word 'change' and thought of impermanent things that required our care. We played a game of change where we took turns to go off camera, make a change (e.g. put on a hat) then return for the rest of the group to guess what change had happened. And then we drew trees of change, where we wrote on the leaves what made us **us** now, and on the leaves that had fallen to the ground, something about us in the past.



The Upholding Prayer Group

Anne Brewer writes: We have decided that in this rather stressful global situation, we will hold two sessions of upholding a month – our usual one on the first Monday of the month and an extra one on the third Monday.

As usual on the first Monday we will contact those already on our list to see how they are, to let them know they are not alone with the physical or emotional difficulty they are facing but are being remembered with loving sympathy. Then from 8.30 to 9.00 pm we hold them in that 'ocean of light that flows over the ocean of darkness' trusting that they will be nurtured. Anyone is welcome to join us – just let me know and I will email or phone the current list of names.

On the third Monday, we will set aside the same time to sit with our candle, or whatever, to uphold anyone we know who is struggling, and to uphold the earth and its life as a whole as it struggles with the many problems it is facing. Do join in if you would like to. It is always good to know that other Friends are with you in spirit if not in body.