



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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

Editor: Anne Brewer

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No. 551

DIARY



Sunday Meeting for Worship (10.30 to 11.30 am) in the Meeting House. Blended Meetings linked to the Zoom Meeting for Worship will continue while needed – contact anne.brewer43@gmail.com if you don't receive the circulated zoom link.

Wednesday Meeting for Worship (12.45 to 1.15 pm) in the Meeting House. Friends can bring lunch to eat afterwards if they wish.

Sunday Children's Meeting on zoom. Contact alison.carlier@icloud.com or katy_nunn@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 1 Nov	11.45 – 12.45	Prep Meeting – a blended meeting at 11.45 after MfW. See page 4. Link for zoom attendees will be circulated as usual.
Monday 2 Nov	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding prayer session for those in need. On zoom or in own home. Contact Anne Brewer
Saturday 14 Nov	2.00 – 3.30 pm	Area Business Meeting on zoom. Link will be circulated. See page 4.
Monday 16 Nov	8.30 – 9.00 pm	Upholding Prayer session for the Earth and its life. See page 4.
Friday 20 Nov	3.30 – 5.00 pm	Meditation and Spiritual Development Group meeting on zoom. Contact Romy Elias
Saturday 28 Nov	10.00 – 12.00	Regional Meeting on zoom. <i>Money and Tax Justice for the Common Good</i> . To register email sussexandsurreymquakerclerk@outlook.com by November 24th. Spaces are limited.

COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER

Disasters Emergency Committee Coronavirus appeal



Millions of lives are at stake as Covid-19 hits refugee camps and war-torn countries like Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. Help families fleeing conflict face a deadly new threat. See <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/coronavirus-appeal>

Bushra, 9, and her family were forced to flee

their home due to the war in Syria and now live in a camp for displaced people in Idlib. Image: Islamic Relief



You can donate online at the above web address or send a cheque payable to DEC Coronavirus Appeal, to PO Box 999, EC3A 3AA

Most of us are keen to support Fairtrade especially at this difficult time for producers, but unfortunately we can't at the moment have another stall at the Meeting House due to covid restrictions. To help us, Elizabeth Dobson has kindly agreed to the following arrangement. If you can access the web then the goods available can be found at <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/> - decide what you would like and ring or email Elizabeth with your order (01306 881479 or Elizabeth Dobson emddh7@hotmail.com). If you don't have email, then Elizabeth has provided a list of items that you will find attached to your paper copy of this Grapevine. I will attach the list with the emailed copy too in case useful. Elizabeth will put your order together using her own stock as far as possible and ring to let you know when it is ready for collection from her Dorking address or, if easier for you, she will leave it in the Meeting House.



SHARING THE LIGHT

Sarah Freeman writes: On the 18th October we gathered in our Meeting House in Dorking and linked with Zoom. It was the first opportunity I had had for a few weeks to join the meeting on Zoom again and to see how it looks from the point of view of those online. I was thrilled by the view of the meeting house and by the opportunity we had been offered to be linked with the place we knew very well from non-pandemic times. Furthermore, we were able to be both with those who are keen to be in the meeting and those who are prevented for many reasons from 'going to meeting' away from home.



How their screens look to those joining the Meeting on zoom.
N.B. Everyone has agreed to their picture appearing in this way.

I was struck by our beautiful meeting house with the screen up and moved by the light pouring through the windows. We are living through very troubled times globally but how fortunate we are as Quakers and as children of the new technologies to still be able to blend our worship and share each other's' light.

I wanted to read the following from Quaker Faith and Practice 26.62 but I held back because there is an assumption that those participating would know what is meant by the 'heavenly-earthly' fellowship, which is not an expression usually used by Quakers. Taking that into account I believe the rest of Thomas R Kelly's words are very helpful, evoking a strong sense of not just the individual, but the community sharing the

light both outwardly and inwardly. So, I would like to share the piece now.

26.62 The light for which the world longs is already shining. It is shining into the darkness, but the darkness does not apprehend it. It is shining into the darkness, but the darkness is not overcoming it. It is shining in many a soul, and already the new order has begun within the kingdom of the heart. It is shining in many a small group and creating a heavenly-earthly fellowship of children of the light. It will always shine and lead many into the world of need, that they may bear it up into the heart of God. Thomas R Kelly, 1941.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

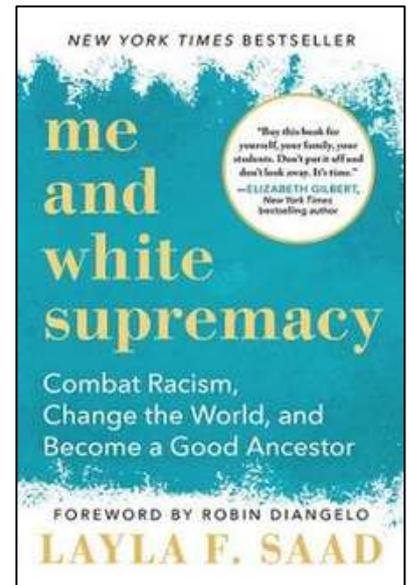
A review of *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F Saad – Quercus Editions Ltd 2020

This is one of the books recommended by Bonnie Gibberd in her article in the 26th June edition of The Friend.

Layla Saad is an East African, Arab, British Black Muslim. She was born in England, and grew up here, but currently lives in Qatar.

The book grew out of a 28-day free Instagram challenge, then a free digital PDF file, which went viral, with responses from over 100,000 people around the world. She calls the challenge “the work” – work that white people must do to combat the conditioned, subconscious racism that we all support through our privileged white lives. She started the work in order to be “a good ancestor.....to help create change, facilitate healing and seed new possibilities for those who will come after I have gone”.

The book follows the course, with chapters addressing different aspects of white supremacist behaviour, such as white privilege, the unearned advantages that come from our legislative, systemic, and cultural norm, and white fragility, which is when white people get upset if they are accused of racism; because they don't overtly abuse black, indigenous or people of colour (BIPOC), they see themselves as innocent in this respect, and make a fuss, so that the focus is on them, not the black person or incident that is in question. Having read each chapter, the reader is asked when/how/why questions about their own behaviour. They are asked to keep a journal of their responses, as they complete the four-week course.

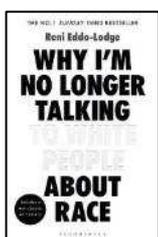


The book is relentless; there is nowhere to run, nowhere to hide! Living, as I do, in an almost all white community, and retired so that I do not meet BIPOC on a daily basis, I could not fully engage with “the work”. But each chapter evoked very uncomfortable feelings and memories. The book is written in a clear and direct style, assertive, but non-judgemental, for, as she says, we did not choose to be white and privileged. But, having read the book, one can no longer ignore the appalling discrimination that every BIPOC experiences daily.

This book, importantly, raises our awareness so that we can no longer ignore the tragic, ongoing aspect of our history, and, at least, seek to minimise the damage we do, and help others to do the same.

I urge everyone to read this, or a similar book, to start the journey we all need to take, to give BIPOC the justice and equality that is their due.

Lesley Hunka



Roger Baker of Ifield Meeting recommends another book on this issue. *Why I'm no longer talking to White People about Race* by Reni Eddo-Lodge. It is available from Waterstones – it was their non-fiction Book of the Month for July 2020.

He read it after reading *White Fragility* which was reviewed in the October Grapevine and found it equally interesting and similar in its conclusions, but easier to read and more relevant to the British situation. The author of *White Fragility* is American.

ANOTHER RECOMMENDED BOOK – written by a Quaker teacher during lockdown

Turbulent School by Jeremy Shaw. As an unsolicited Amazon reviewer commented: “I didn't expect to be 100% gripped by a book about a school and its deep-rooted problems, but this was an astonishing read.” Eydon Vale is the polar opposite of existing UK Quaker Schools. However, its pupils' behaviour may be familiar to Friends who've worked in tough comprehensives. The calming strategies explored, such as Secret Friends, owe much to Quaker practices and are rooted in Quaker writers like Parker Palmer. Free copies can be downloaded from: https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B089LWGP9K/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=Turbulent+School&qid=1591275241&s=digital-text&sr=1-2 but the author has promised the proceeds to the Friends' School Ramallah.

AN INVITATION TO ALL READERS

To share your experiences during the covid pandemic.

We are inviting all Friends who receive the Grapevine, and our Meeting's children, to share how they have felt/are feeling during this unusual time. Contributions welcome in words, poetry, or artwork of any sort. You might like to consider what has disturbed you, comforted you, inspired or depressed you. If you would like a little bit of help with how to start your writing or other contribution, please do not hesitate to ask us. (Tel. Sarah 01306 887738, or 07703 598815.) Please send your contributions to anne.brewer43@gmail.com or post to 53 Chart Downs, Dorking RH5 4DF for inclusion in the December and/or January Grapevines.

Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman

PREP MEETING – SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Your clerking team are arranging for a blended Preparative Meeting on Sunday 1 November. You can attend on zoom or in the Meeting House and we will do our best to ensure everyone is able to participate.

There will be a 15-minute break after meeting for worship to give time for joys and sorrows and notices and we hope to start the Prep Meeting at around 11.45. Hopefully, we will finish by 12.45 but you never know!

The agenda will be circulated by email on 26/27 October, probably before you receive this Grapevine, along with a draft copy of our Meeting's annual report, which is to be finalised so that it is ready to go to Area Meeting on Saturday 14 November. If you are not on email and would like a copy of the agenda and/or the draft report, please let Anne know (01306 500187)

UPHOLDING OUR PLANET AND ITS LIFE IN THIS CHALLENGING TIME



Anne Brewer writes: The upholding prayer group are inviting anyone who wishes to join with them on Monday November 16th in sending love and light to the planet, to all those who are responsible for its survival as a wonderfully beautiful and diverse home for life, and to all those who are suffering. The recent programmes by David Attenborough have highlighted the urgent need for both practical and spiritual energy to be given to this task. Reading QF&P 25.02 might be good way to focus your thoughts.

We will gather either on zoom or quietly in our own homes from 8.30 to 9.00 pm. Those wishing to join on zoom should contact me (anne.brewer43@gmail.com) for the link.

AREA BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday 14 November at 2.00 pm on zoom – link will be circulated a few days before.

The agenda includes the Annual report from Dorking Meeting, Nominations for 2021, and reports from Quaker Life Rep Council and from our Trustees.

SOME OTHER INTERESTING OPPORTUNITES FOR THOSE ABLE TO USE ZOOM

Chichester Quakers Annual Peace Lecture. *No Climate Justice, No Peace* given by Molly Scott Cato, former MEP, on 11th November at 5.30pm. More info at <https://chichesterquakers.org.uk/calendar/>

Luton and Leighton AM invites Meetings across BYM to join a **webinar on assisted dying** on Saturday 7 November 4.00 – 5.00 pm, with Dr Stefanie Green. Dr Green is a Canadian doctor, a practising GP and also a provider of Medical Assistance in Dying [MAiD]. We hope this will deepen our understanding and so help in our discernment of a Quaker view on the issue of legally assisted death. Registration is open and you can book a place at <https://tinyurl.com/register4web> The webinar will be recorded, so it may subsequently be made available across BYM, and also on YouTube. Only the panellists will be visible on screen.