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Quote for the month is from a song written in 1955 by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson, an American husband and wife song writing team, and it was sent in by Eileen Scott.

Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 10 June	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 15 June	7.30pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House
Saturday 16 June	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Eastbourne
Sunday 17 June	12 noon	Creative Listening at Meeting House
Saturday 23 June	10.00-4.00pm	Collection of clothing for Gatwick Detainees at Meeting House (see page 5)
Saturday 23 June	10.00-12noon	RefuTea at Christian Centre (see page 5)
Sunday 24 June	12.00-4.00pm	Green Garden Picnic at Meeting House (Details page 6)
Friday 6 July	7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House
Sunday 8 July	9am	Preparative Meeting at Meeting House
Sunday 8 July	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Saturday 14 July	10.30am	Area Meeting at Blue Idol
Sunday 15 July	12 noon	Creative Listening at Meeting House
Friday 20 July	7.30pm	Meditation Meeting at Meeting House
Saturday 21 July		Area Meeting Learning Day with Quaker Life at Claridge House

Notes from Preparative Meeting

Collections:

The May collection for Claridge House raised £40.

The June Collection is for Quaker Bolivia Link and July's for Quaker Council for European Affairs. Donations from sale of Palestinian olive oil from January to May raised £38.60 for the Welfare Association, helping disabled children in Palestine.

Advices and Queries read in May: At Dorking, numbers 19 and 28; At Leatherhead, none.

London Quakers have appealed to Meetings around London for financial support for their work. They produce a leaflet publicising Meetings in and around London, including Dorking Meeting and the Leatherhead Worship Group, arrange lectures in London with excellent speakers and run a Link Group for Young Friends, which two of our teenagers attend. In view of our financial situation we decided not to respond to this appeal this year.

We are invited, as members of Churches Together in Dorking, to be represented at the service for the installation of the new vicar of St Martin's Church. Anne Davies hopes to attend.

The tour of four of the oldest of our Area Meeting's Meeting Houses on a sunny May 26th was much enjoyed by those who went. Although delighted with the way the Meetings involved had responded to the event, Su Johnston, as organiser, expressed some disappointment that only eight people signed up and of these only two were not Quakers. It was felt that greater interest from non-Quakers might be shown if any similar event in the future was organised during Heritage Week, for example. It was agreed that the £500 raised by the event would be sent to BYM, subject to the approval of Area Business Meeting.

Trish Humphreys reported on the work of those supporting our children and young people's activities. We are very fortunate to have a group of two babies and four 5 to 7 year olds, and we will continue to offer a children's meeting each week. We rarely see our teenagers on a Sunday nowadays, but Trish is hoping to arrange an initial activity for them to get together and encourage them to organise future group activities of their own choosing. Alternatively they might be encouraged by Dylan and Elliot Hills to attend the London Link Group.

Those in the Meeting who had attended Yearly Meeting shared their experiences of the event and encouraged those who have not yet taken the plunge to give it a try next year (24-27 May at Friends House, in London).

The Hearing Loop

Vincent Howard from the Dorking Hearing Centre (Amplifon – 51 High Street, 01306 887080) has inspected our hearing loop and reported that it is functioning well. He is very happy to talk to anyone having trouble with their hearing aid – just call into the shop in Dorking and ask for Vincent!



Online Dangers

Many are concerned about the possible negative influences on young people created by their involvement with the internet as a means of communication. Are they being exposed to undue risks and, if so, how can we help by supplying strategies to cope with latent dangers?

New research being organised by the *Christian Faith Communities and E-Safety Project (CFCEP)*, together with the University of Central Lancashire, sets out to examine such potential threats and how being part of a faith community might mitigate them.

The research and subsequent report will seek to:

1. Inform our strategies, both for encouraging young people to use the internet responsibly and for our child protection generally.
2. Provide information for churches, schools, education and child welfare services.
3. Impact on the design of online safety awareness, education and training initiatives.

Area meeting in May agreed that we should participate in the project. This would involve young people, aged 9-18, completing a straightforward online questionnaire about their web behaviours and experiences. All information would be treated anonymously and confidentially. Clearly, in each individual case, it would be up to the parent and their offspring to agree, whether or not, they wish to be part of the research. Further details about the project including a sample letter requesting permission from parents to allow their children to take part, may be accessed at:

[p://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/837757/How-I-Use-the-Internet-Questionnaire](http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/837757/How-I-Use-the-Internet-Questionnaire) and
<http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/692485/CFCEP-Parental-Information-and-Consent-Form>

Should you be interested in participating in this research, or for further information, please contact Bob Humphreys.

News from CTD

2012 Lent lunches raised £793.43 (only a few pennies less than last year). The organiser, Elizabeth Dobson, sends thanks to everyone who came and donated so generously.

The Friends World Conference held in Kabarak, Kenya April 2012

I was very fortunate to attend the 6th Friends World Conference in Kabarak near Nakuru in the Kenyan Rift Valley in April. The conference was organised by the Friends World Committee for Consultation ("FWCC"). I, for one, was not very familiar beforehand with FWCC's role but it acts as a link between the different Quaker Yearly Meetings internationally.

As I imagine many of you know, the type of worship based on silence of most British Friends is not predominant in Quakerism internationally. American and African Quakers and, in particular, those in Kenya, in general worship in "programmed" services – what we would recognise as church services. They have paid pastors and sermons and hymns and very little silence. This made worship, and sessions based on worship, at the conference quite lively and very different from the British Quaker experience. African Friends I met tended to be very knowledgeable about the Bible and referred to it extensively. They also knew their Quaker history well and were very familiar with George Fox. Reference at times was made to the "silent worshippers", yes, those of us whose meetings are based on silence. African Friends typically had traditional Christian beliefs. It appeared to me that they could mostly say the creed of the Anglican Church quite comfortably, which I assume many British Friends would find rather difficult. The diversity of belief and views in British Quakerism was quite puzzling to the African Friends I met.



The venue - Kabarak University near Nakuru.

The conference theme was "Being Salt and Light: Friends living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World", and there was extensive pre-conference reading to support this. The theme was taken from Matthew Chapter 5 v 13-16: "You are salt to the world. And if salt becomes tasteless, how is its saltiness to be restored? It is now good for nothing but to be thrown away and trodden underfoot. You are light for all the world. A town that stands on a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is not put under the meal-tub, but on the lamp-stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven." Each section of FWCC, essentially the different continents, took the sessions in turn each day on the theme. This could have been really repetitive, but didn't prove to be so. Light is a popular Quaker theme, but salt wasn't something I had thought about much before, and this proved quite interesting. There was an acceptance that we live in a complex and difficult world, but we should not be disheartened and can make progress and work with the brokenness.

There were two main points I took away from the conference. The first was, despite the diversity among Friends, how similar Quakers are internationally. There is a real commitment to work to try to bring about a better world. Friends internationally are working on bringing about justice, equality and peace. In Kenya and the Great Lakes region of Africa, Quakers are known as a peace church. There have been outbursts of inter-tribal and politically-inspired violence often before and after elections. Friends have delivered non-violent ("AVP") training for young people particularly, and they had had successes in this work. Because of the risk of violence, the conference was moved forward from July/August, away from the period of the Kenyan elections.

The other point I took from the conference was how cheerful and joyful many Friends were about their Quakerism. It was probably the impact of so much music and singing, but also strong communities. We had been told beforehand that music would play a large part in the conference, and it did. We frequently sang in conference sessions and in worship from our song books, usually either in Kiswahili or English, and the music tended to be upbeat and loud. At other times, when you were in the vicinity of the auditorium during waking hours, you could hear swells of wonderful African music. It seemed that if the conference was not in session, someone wanted to use the sound system to sing or play music together. It really lightened the mood. Hearing the African Children's Choir over the Jubilee weekend evoked strong memories of the conference. After this I have wondered whether British Friends are too serious at times, and perhaps we could all be a bit more joyful about our Quakerism and lighten up a bit.

Having said that, some local issues seemed to be of concern with us too. I was asked several times, by different African Friends, how British Friends set about outreach. They were fairly concerned for us, as they could not see how “unprogrammed” worship, based on silence, could appeal to many, and particularly not the young. As alluded to above, this was said in the context of vibrant, upbeat music being a strong draw in Kenyan meetings, and this is often led by the Young Friends. I explained what we did do, including telling Friends about Quaker Quest. The other issue Friends raised was how you encouraged Friends to attend meeting on time. I was very surprised, because I had the impression that in Africa culturally, time-keeping was accepted as a bit vague. People talked about African or Kenyan time, and it was often Africans who used this term – and they generally meant that something was going to be fairly late. Having overcome my surprise each time the question was raised about being late to meeting, I said that it was helpful that people were on time for meeting, particularly so as not to disturb a gathered meeting, but it was a sensitive issue. People sometimes had personal reasons or difficulties for not being on time. I was asked this in the context of Kenyan meetings lasting for two hours, and I noticed that possibly the majority of those attending turned up in varying degrees of lateness, including five minutes before it ended. Each time I was asked it just seemed a funny question in the African context.

Apart from the conference itself, and the warmth of Kenyan Friends, Kenya made a huge impression on me. It is a beautiful country, with abundant wildlife. However, the reality of Kenyan life is that for most money is short. I was told that the average income in Kenya was approximately US \$2 a day. Even in Nairobi, people tend to have water intermittently. I was told that if the rains don't come, the first issue some Meetings have to deal with is that some Friends can't feed themselves and their families. It makes some of our concerns seem really trivial.

I really enjoyed the conference and the country, and being woken up on the last day by a lion roaring outside the lodge we were staying in, was the icing on the cake.

The whole experience has given me a lot to think about in relation to Quakerism and how we interact with the world.

Incidentally for those of you are interested in the conference theme, the FWCC website gives details of the many talks. I wouldn't recommend the keynote speech, which many British Friends regarded as “unseasoned”, but I would look at Jocelyn Bell Burnell's talk, and also those talks of the Australia and Pacific sections, given by three particularly inspiring Young Friends.



Romy Elias

New library books

We have three new books this month:

1. The 2012 Swarthmore Lecture – *Snakes and Ladders: A personal exploration of Quaker work on human rights at the United Nations* by Rachel Brett. (Code SL2.12)
2. *Living the Quaker Way* by Ben Pink Dandelion. A small booklet, companion to his earlier *Celebrating the Quaker Way*. It has three sections headed Inward Spirituality; Worship; Life, and some thought-provoking questions for reflection at the end. (Code RQ.122)
3. *Answering That of God: discovering Spirit within* by Peter Parr. Another Kindlers booklet, again with questions for reflection. (Code SQ.88)

Reminder re RefuTea

RefuTea will be held 23 June, between 10am and midday, at the Christian Centre, to raise funds for refugees - see www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/refutea. Homemade cakes, biscuits etc will be welcome, as will partakers of the refreshments!

See below for a reminder about the clothes collection on the same day.

Lois Lodge



Men's Clothes Collection

for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group

www.gdwg.org.uk

Where:

Friends Meeting House, Butterhill, Dorking

When:

09.30 to midday, Saturday 23rd June

What is needed:

- Casual clothes for men, from size Small (or age 15 years upwards) to XXXL.
- Shoes - including flip flops and trainers

Please note that the men are mostly young, and GDWG do not give out clothes in bad condition.

All Grapevine readers are warmly invited by Dorking Meeting Green Team to

A Green Garden Picnic

at

Dorking Meeting House

Saturday June 24th - 12am to 4pm



We hope to make all picnic food have at least one aspect of LOAF – **L**ocal, **O**rganic, **A**nimal-Friendly and/or **F**air-traded – and members of Dorking Meeting are encouraged to bring contributions.

We are inviting the playgroup children and their parents and there will be parachute games – weather permitting – and other simple, green fun activities for the children.

We hope that if possible you will arrive by a green mode of transport – shanks pony or donkey perhaps?! – but the most important thing is we hope to see you there!

Info from the Green Team

FREE Insulation for all

Remember the call from Yearly Meeting to be a low carbon sustainable community? Here is some help towards achieving that aim.

Action Surrey, in partnership with its installer network, is now able to offer **free cavity wall and loft insulation** for **all homeowners or private tenants** (with the landlord's permission). Previously, the offer of free insulation was only available to those over 70 or in receipt of benefits. Energy companies currently subsidise insulation, to meet energy efficiency targets set by the government, and this offer is likely to end at the end of 2012, when it will be replaced by the Green Deal. Call **0800 783 2503** for a free, no obligation survey.



Besides lowering your carbon footprint, cavity wall and loft insulation can save you approximately £300 a year in energy bills, as well as making your house more comfortable to live in – cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Recycling plastic punnets

The clear, or sometimes dark green, plastic punnets, which hold the fruits you buy in supermarkets, can be reused by a market stallholder in Leatherhead. Either bring them to Meeting and leave in the box under the shelves in the Information Centre, for Janet Lewin to collect, or take them to the Leatherhead market fruit and vegetable stall on Thursday or Saturday – it's the one near the NatWest bank.

Reflections ...

A quotation from Jean Vanier:

*To love is not to give of your riches
but to reveal to others their riches, their gifts, their value,
and to trust them and their capacity to grow.*

Mary Brooks