



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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**Quote for the month** is from Thomas Merton and was chosen by Lois Lodge to display at our Peace One Day event on September 21.

*Peace demands the most heroic labour and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> followed by simple lunch
Friday 4 Oct	Evening	<b>Sharing ways to deepen our spiritual life</b>
Sunday 6 Oct	10.30-11.30am	<b>Quaker Week Sunday</b> - invite a friend to Meeting
Monday 7 Oct	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing Prayer Group</b> in Friends' own homes
Sunday 13 Oct	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 18 Oct	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting House
Friday 1 Nov	7.30pm	<b>Study Group</b> at Meeting House
Sunday 3 Nov	9.00am	<b>Preparative Meeting</b> at Meeting House
Sunday 10 Nov	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 15 Nov	3.00-5.00pm	<b>Party for older Friends</b> – see below
Saturday 16 Nov	11.15	<b>Regional Meeting</b> at Reigate on Quaker Garden Project
Sunday 17 Nov	time tbc	<b>Area Meeting and Fellowship*</b> at Dorking

\* **Fellowship** planned is for sharing of slides and reflections on recent holidays/events. Bring on CD or thumbstick – projecting equipment provided. Full details will be circulated nearer the date.

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Collections **August and September** for **Quaker Homeless Action: £330**. **Midweek Meeting:** £100 for our Night Hostel (now Leatherhead Start) dinner fund and £50 towards expenses of our Peace One Day event. **September and October** collection is for **Quaker Social Action**.

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### Party for our older Friends

Having celebrated our younger Friends with outings such as the one to Box Hill (see page 2), Overseers think that it is time now to celebrate all our older Friends! We plan to hold an afternoon of tea and cakes at the Meeting House on **Friday November 15 from (3 to 5 pm)**. We hope to contact as many of our older Friends as we can with a personal invitation but otherwise please let us know if you (and your partner) might be able to come, and put a note of the date in your diary.



### ... and Safety for our younger Friends

We need to ensure that our toddlers cannot escape from either of the gates at the ends of the back drive, when they are playing in the garden after Meeting for Worship. Jan will investigate means of making both gates child-proof but hopefully still able to be opened by adults. If you have any difficulty please let an Overseer know. The toddlers are becoming adventurous and quite speedy, so we all need to be on the alert about not leaving doors and gates open.

Dorking Overseers (Anne Brewer, Jan Elias, Trish Humphreys and Frances Poulton)

## Study Group discuss Worship

Worship is such an essential part of our Quaker life-style that one would imagine any attempt to debate this crucial subject also ran the danger of being as dry as sticks for participants. Fortunately, our study group on 6 September proved that this was far from being the case. Many fascinating ideas were thrown into the debate, in a constructive atmosphere of true Friendship, where learning, teaching, sharing, and laughter seemed always to be close at hand. Worship had been chosen as our study subject partly because of it being made a feature of Quaker Week, which ends 6 October, when it is suggested we may each choose to invite a non-Quaker friend/relative to that Sunday's Meeting for Worship.



Our study group discussion ranged from comparing and contrasting Quaker meetings with the services held in most Christian churches and chapels. In particular, we noted our passive nature of approaching God as distinct from the procedures inspired by a prepared liturgy. We also questioned whether there were differences between 'silent worship' and 'worshipping in silence'. It was especially helpful to learn of the specific techniques used by long-term Quakers to help them 'centre down'. Also of what their experiences and responses were to what could truly be described as a 'gathered meeting'.

Bob Humphreys

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## A Spiritual Guide to Sustainable Living with Alex Wildwood

A lot of Dorking Friends were busy with our Peace One Day activities and so were unable to attend Regional Meeting in Guildford. It seems to have been a good meeting, so here is the official report of Sussex and Surrey Regional Meeting held 21 September, at Guildford Meeting House.

The day was spent looking at how our hearts may work with our minds to bring about those changes needed to care for our planet and all those who live on it. We looked at definitions of spirituality, with a theme emerging that its essence is our sense of connectedness with people and with the world we inhabit. Alex Wildwood suggested six practices, which might help us cultivate the sense that we belong to, and are responsible for, something larger and more wonderful than ourselves:

- Awareness of a greater Reality
- A practice of gratitude, appreciation and wonder
- Being present to what is
- Sensing our interdependence with all existence
- An expanded sense of time
- Having a clear intention/ proceeding in a spirit of radical trust

For each of us the day was a journey, individual and shared with friends, maybe summarised by a quote from Frederick Beuchner; "The place God calls us to is the place where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet", and Crispin Tickell's suggestion that we should be "treating the world as if we meant to stay". I would encourage any Friend who feels so called to attend one of Alex Wildwood's courses to experience that journey for themselves.

Christine Habgood-Coote

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## Dorking Children's picnic on Box Hill



We gathered at Box Hill around noon just as the rain poured down and sent us rushing for umbrellas. But soon the sun shone and it just got better and better. We were an excited group of six children and three adults. After eating our picnics we were off on the Nature Play Trail. The children had a wonderful time playing pirates in search of treasure. They ran from one "activity" to another with adults in hot pursuit as they disappeared into the woods. By the end of the trail we were all rather muddy but very happy.

Trish Humphreys

## Peace One Day activities in Dorking

The group organising these activities were delighted with their success! Here are some of their comments:

I love that we trusted that whatever happened would be 'right'.  
I loved that there was a lot of joy in what we did.  
I love that we sang.  
I loved that people all over the world are doing something for Peace at the same time as us.  
Well done to everyone for all the hard work that went into making this happen over many months! Sally.

I would estimate we had about 25 doves made by passersby in the end. So very nice that many of the children mentioned their assemblies and dove-making they had done at school. Sophie



Many thanks to Lesley for her ministry this morning. How great to think that the Iraq march all those years ago has had an impact on (not) going into Syria this time. And a great bonus to hear that Elizabeth was able to make doves at her school open day too, and have people hear that it was the International Day of Peace. Lois

Pippa was singing 'All we can say (SIC) is give peace a chance' in the bath, and broke into a bit of 'All you need is love' as we got ready for bed. Well done everyone - it was a great event, and as Sally says, so special to feel we were part of a global community recognising and upholding peace. Gayle

We were blessed many times over. With Lois, with our dynamic young mothers, with having the Tour of Britain come through right next to our stand, with having beautiful weather and the kind donation from Mid-week Meeting. And we were particularly fortunate to have the tireless efforts of Sally Elias, who worked on publicity for the schools, the library display, and put enormous energy, rich resources from her contacts in the town and massive enthusiasm into the morning event itself! Sarah

In Costa this morning two young mums (I used to teach them many years ago) noticed I was carrying the deconstructed boxes from the library display. They both shared stories of how their daughters had come home and talked at length about their assemblies. Lily (who I think is 6) said: "My friend came in this morning and told us that there is a place called Peace in Dorking where we can place our doves. It's near Waitrose building site. I MUST go there on Saturday and see my friends and take my dove!" Both girls/women said that it had been quite a talking point among mums last week as more children came home having had their assemblies delivered. Sally.

Anne Davies was handing out notes from the Regional Meeting on spirituality and sustainability and I think this paragraph (tense adapted) describes why our POD programme was so successful: *Having a clear intention/proceeding in a spirit of radical trust. 'Doing what love requires of us and surrendering the outcome; accepting and embracing impermanence, imperfection and uncertainty (in ourselves and our endeavours). Cultivating a spirit of adventure: trusting the wisdom that is present within our communities and networks (ultimately the wisdom of Life itself). Trusting the process.* Lois

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### Interesting notes from Churches Together in Dorking (18 September)

#### Surrey Faith Links

We had a presentation by Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Adviser for the Communities Engagement Team of the Diocese of Guildford. She is, by the by, wife of the mullah of the Shah Jahan mosque in Woking. Their website, [www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk](http://www.surreyfaithlinks.org.uk), includes a database of over 600 Faith Organisations in Surrey. Dorking Quakers is on this, but we need to add our website details.

They distribute a regular Newsletter with news of faith activity for the community e.g. Youth East Surrey (YES) project and inter-faith events e.g. Inter-Faith Week beginning 17 November. We could have advertised our Peace One Day activities, and they would welcome a report from us.

### **Soul Connect**

This is work with young people and they are very active, on a shoe string. CTD agreed to ask churches for a contribution to build a fund on which Soul Connect can call. One example of what the money could be used for is training presenters for Bible Explorer at a cost of £400 for two. The Priory Chaplaincy Team has created a prayer space at The Priory school for a week, and the feedback was almost 100% positive from the around 200 young people who really enjoyed the quiet time out to reflect on God.

### **Street Pastors**

The commissioning service is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September and the first patrols will go out then. The current 14 volunteers are approaching the end of their training. They need another 6-7 volunteers for the team in order to be able to go out every Saturday, and age is no limit.

### **Christians Against Poverty (CAP) – Mole Valley branch**

This is a debt advisory service. Apparently they sort the debt out for clients (send information on the clients' situation to a Head Office, who come back with a suggested plan for the client), befriend them in the process, and there is a call to faith. They need volunteer befrienders for the longer term with the client, who will receive training and have to be CRB checked. Some Dorking churches are involved.

### **Events**

Gala Night in Dorking is 5<sup>th</sup> December with carol singing as usual. Street Pastors will be out on the night. A nativity scene is to be located at the South St bandstand from Gala night until Christmas. Watchnight service (31<sup>st</sup> December) will be at St Martin's with possibly a Lantern Parade from the car park at Dorking Halls, and down the High St to the nativity scene if agreeable to the police. Bells at 23.15 hours. Street Pastors will be out.

### **News from churches and projects**

St Martin's are moving to being a single congregation from 6<sup>th</sup> October after a long and difficult debate and discernment.

Most churches seem to be at the stage of prayerful seeking of vision and purpose.

**Beatitudes is a victim of its success and is calling for more volunteers. A half day a week would be much appreciated.**

For those who know him, John Berry, ex minister at the URC, has suffered a heart attack, but seems to be on the mend after an operation.

I offered our invitation to attend Meeting for Worship on the 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am.

Lois Lodge

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### **Appeal from the librarians**

The following library books have gone missing for a long time – please scour your book shelves and see if by chance they've taken up residence there by mistake!

RQ88 Barclay's Apology in Modern English

RQ92 Quakers Worldwide (History of Friends World Committee for Consultation)

RQ101 A Certain Kind of Perfection by Margery Post Abbott

RQ114 Quaker Quotes chosen by a group of present day Quakers.

### **Reflections**

Danny Dorling is a Human Geographer who has studied equality issues in the same field as Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett who wrote 'The Spirit Level'. In Danny's recent book *Population 10 Billion* he looks at concerns about population growth and the connected sustainability issues. He says in the face of rising concerns that it is not always rational to be an optimist but he urges us to be "possibilists" - to see what is possible and work with that. He suggests that providing energy to keep everyone clean and warm is possible but providing enough for some of our most extravagant wishes is not. Extravagance he says may simply be having an endless supply of cans of baked beans, the unsustainable element being the can, not the beans.

As Advices and Queries 41 concludes: "Do you keep yourself informed about the effects your style of living is having on the global economy and environment?"

Rosemary Elias, for the Elders