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Quote for the month comes from the words of St Francis of Assisi:

Go out and preach the Gospel. Use words if necessary.

(Perhaps Friends would like to share their thoughts on this quote. How can we preach without using words? What do you understand by 'the Gospel'? Please send contributions to the editors.)

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday followed by simple lunch
Monday 3 Feb	8.30-9.00pm	Healing prayer Group in Friends' own homes
Friday 7 Feb	7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House on the <i>Natural World and our Spiritual Lives</i>
Sunday 9 Feb	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 21 Feb	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Sunday 23 Feb	After MfW	Traidcraft stall (FT fortnight 24 Feb -9 March)
Sunday 2 March	9.00am	Preparative Meeting at Meeting House
Monday 3 March	8.30-9.00pm	Healing prayer Group in Friends' own homes
Friday 7 March	11am	Women's World Day of Prayer service at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Road West, Dorking
Friday 7 March	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House
Sunday 9 March	1.30pm	Area Meeting at Capel followed by Fellowship session on membership
Sunday 9 March	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

The collection in **December**, our Young Friends choice for UNICEF UK - Syrian children's appeal raised £345. **Midweek Meeting** gave £200 to Médecins Sans Frontières for their work in Syria.

Advices and Queries read. *Dorking*: Sunday: Nov. none, Dec. Nos. 18, 27, 33; Wednesday: Nov. No. 2, Dec. Nos. 6, 11. *Leatherhead*: Nov. none, Dec. No. 22.

Notes from Preparative Meeting ...

Friends agreed that Premises Committee go ahead with **refurbishment of the cottage kitchen** as soon as they have a suitable quote below their limit of £2000. See their report on page 2.

Collections for 2014 were agreed as follows:

January and February	Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre
March	Fellowship of Reconciliation (Chosen by Peace & Social Witness Committee)
April and May	Claridge House
June and July	To be decided nearer the time
August and September	Quaker Homeless Action
October and November	Quaker Social Action
December	To be chosen by the children

A contribution of £135 towards Sally Elias attending facilitator training sessions for a **Carbon Conversations Course** in February was agreed (see <http://carbonconversations.org/home> or ask Anne for paper with details). Transition Dorking are paying the other half of the cost. Sally

expects to run sessions locally which Dorking Friends will be able to attend. Incidentally the organisers of Carbon Conversations have had financial support from the Quaker-based Polden Puckham Charitable Trust.

The Area Meeting Clerking Team have put forward some proposals which would simplify the processes involved in the **nomination of Elders, Overseers, Trustees and Clerking Team**. We discussed these proposals and agreed them all with some qualifications as follows:

- Elders and Overseers should be nominated and appointed by Local Meetings, but they should meet occasionally on an Area Meeting basis.
- Trustees should be nominated by Local Meetings in consultation with Trustees and appointed by Area Meeting, but the Clerking Team should advise Local Meetings of particular skills needed for unattached Trustees, so Local Meetings can try to offer additional names for this role.
- Trustees should be able to choose their own Clerk.
- The Area Meeting Clerking Team should be nominated and appointed by Local Meetings with one member from each Local Meeting. This seven-member body could then act as a combined Area Meeting Nomination/Clerking Group, sharing out the work as suited the Friends serving. However, we accepted that the number of seven is unlikely to be achieved.

It was suggested previously that **Peace & Social Witness and Outreach Committees** might be merged for 2014. Catherine Carr said on behalf of both committees that they had decided they would like to operate as one committee for this year, without actually merging.

Lois Lodge outlined a varied and interesting **combined programme for the year**, which will need support from Friends in the Meeting to be successful. There was discussion about the commemoration of World War 1 and particularly the importance of acknowledging there will be a spectrum of views, all of which should be respected. All members of the Meeting need to be comfortable with the message we present to the outer world. Subject to arrangements being made by Churches Together in Dorking, it was agreed our Elders would organise a special public Meeting for Worship on the evening of Sunday August 3rd. It is suggested that the Meeting sends a contingent to a silent vigil being organised by a variety of groups including QPSW, with the message *War no More - War never again*, on the steps of St Martin's in the Fields on Monday August 4th. Arrangements for this and other parts of the programme will be discussed at the shared lunch on March 23rd. Ask Lois if you would like a copy of the full proposed programme. See also the piece on page 3 from Catherine Carr about a meeting for our younger parents.

Anne Brewer

News from Premises and Finance Committee

We have been looking at plans for what we must do in 2014, in and around the meeting house. First thing to plan – to spend only the minimum!

But long overdue is the replacing of the units and worktop in the cottage kitchen. Fortunately, kitchen planning companies are eager to give substantial discounts at this time of year, so we are confident we can keep the cost down to under £2,000.

More basically, and less predictably as to cost, we have been looking at the wall in the garden that runs from the Cottage down to beyond the shed – the south west wall. Quinquennial inspection showed that there is a buttress to the wall that is very decayed. So as early as the weather allows, you will see the ivy and undergrowth being cleared away so that we can see what needs to be done. The sand bank that used to back this wall was excavated in the days when there was a milk distribution centre there, the Co-op. Now it is a car park, with unknown owner, but we continue our enquiries.



In the garden, the weather-delayed clearance of the beds will go ahead on a rolling programme, and we hope then that it will be easier for the Warden and Friends to keep everything in good order. The children of the Play Group continue to enjoy playing in the garden via the new gate, thus preserving the grass.

I count up the scratches on the handrail in the front drive! Six so far, but it is a sturdy piece of work; and part of me hopes the scrapes on the offending cars are only bad enough to remind the drivers to give themselves more room!

Su Johnston, convenor

Meeting to support younger parents

The Outreach group have arranged a meeting for younger parents - the date is Thursday 6th February at Sally Elias's home, 7.30 - 9.30pm. This will allow parents to come and enjoy a light supper, a 30-minute Meeting for Worship and then a discussion. If there is interest in continuing with this, other dates will be arranged over the year. It is considered to be Outreach, in that we are offering something to people already involved in the Meeting but hope then to draw in their friends and contacts as well.

Catherine Carr

Food Banks in Dorking

Debbie Harrison and Keri Marshall gave a talk at Wednesday Mid-week meeting on 4th December 2013 about their work with Voluntary Action Mid-Surrey. Their aim is to support local charities and the local faith sector. Keri is based at Epsom & Ewell and Debbie in Mole Valley. They provide help in setting up local charities by offering practical advice on funding and signposting to appropriate organisations.

Debbie said she was currently working on a project to establish a food bank in Dorking. Work was progressing, but it was still very much in the planning stage. Discussions were being held with Mole Valley Council and Churches Together in Dorking. The idea was to eventually have two food banks. The first one was likely to be at the southern end of Dorking, where the need is perceived to be the greatest, and a second in the town centre. Finding storage space large enough to accommodate the necessary 32 tons of food (a space equal to our small hall) is likely to prove difficult, especially in Dorking town centre.

The plan is to purchase a franchise with the Trussel Trust who will provide the benefit of their experience in setting up food banks, including computer software in the control and management of food, volunteers, finance, etc. Distribution of food would be on presentation of vouchers allocated to needy people mainly by Mole Valley Council, Citizens Advice Bureau, etc. The Trussel Trust may also pass vouchers to local charities such as BESOM and designated local churches.

Eligibility for vouchers is not necessarily based on receipt of benefits; they will also be available for people on low pay who struggle to feed their families.



Keri talked about her work with the Trussel Trust Food Bank in Epsom where they also offer cups of tea and a friendly listening ear. She talked of the reticence and even shame of people having to accept charity. Hard times can hit anyone, especially when circumstances change through family illness, redundancy, unemployment etc. Depending on the size of the family, up to 9 bags of food can be donated at one time. People are warned that they will need to carry the provisions home themselves as transport is not provided.

The feeling of the meeting was that Friends would like to help in some way once a food bank has been set up in Dorking.

Trish Humphreys

Comment on the weather – food for thought

I have a little space so with my Green Team hat on I would like to include a quote from David Attenborough (The Big Issue, New Year edition 2014). *If you are a cook or a chemist – you know that if you heat things up reactions take place. The Earth is heating up – it's bubbling more, it's fizzing more. If climate change continues, as one suspects it might, a lot of fertile lands will be under water, a lot of lands that are fertile now will become desert and there will be huge changes in population. We're well placed in this country, and we'll have to make decisions about that. Do we allow everybody who wants to come to live here to come here? It's tricky.*

So the problems some people in the UK have over immigration at the moment could be nothing compared with what might happen if the world continues to fail to address climate change.

Anne Brewer

Appeal from Emily Elias



Glyn Elias's daughter, Emily, is inviting Friends to support her efforts to raise money for Kidasha – a charity supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Nepal. She is trekking to Everest Base Camp in March/April this year with her University and then working with Kidasha in one of their centres, to see how the money she raises is put to use.

You can support Emily by visiting her JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/EmilyEliasClimbsEverest or, if you don't have internet access, then I'm sure any of the Elias family will pass a donation on to her

Women's World Day of Prayer

Phyllis Russell and I as your Quaker reps were at the planning meeting for this service recently. It's a thoughtful service with interesting activities, including a bit of drama. We hope some Friends are able to support it – men and women are welcome!

The service will be followed by the first **Lent lunch** of the year.

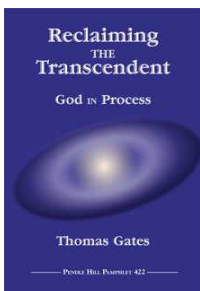
Talking about Lent, the **Ecumenical Lent groups** this year will be based on material from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland called *Parables and Possessions*, about economics and the right relationship with money. I have downloaded a copy of the course, so if you would like one please ask.

From the info provided by Elizabeth Dobson who organises the groups: *These groups provide an excellent opportunity to get to know members of other churches in Dorking, to be stimulated by our differences and to grow in understanding of how much we share. Non-churchgoers who are interested in exploring the topic will be equally welcome, and can often bring added liveliness to the discussions – invite your friends and neighbours.*

Seven groups have been set-up with the earliest starting March 4th. There are groups in morning, afternoon and evening slots. Ask me for full details or look on the notice board in the Small Hall.

Anne Brewer

Another new library book



A new Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Reclaiming the Transcendent*, adds a further dimension to the emerging stories explaining the how and why of our existence in line with modern scientific understanding, but with a spiritual dimension. I referred to these stories in the December Grapevine in my short review of *Universe as Revelation: An ecomystical theology for Friends*. I recommend both books if you are interested in this sort of thing.

Anne Brewer

Reflections from our Elders

This month Rachel Hope shares The Serenity Prayer by Rev. Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr

*God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
And the wisdom to know the difference.*