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Quote for the month is from the writings of St Augustine of Hippo AD 354 - AD 450. With thanks to Ruth and Martin Chick of Horsham Meeting, who recently attended a Woodbrooke course 'What on earth do we mean by prayer?'

We come to God not by navigation, but by love.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 11 May	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 16 May	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Sunday 18 May	10.30-3.30ish	Family outing to Tilgate Park – details page 2
Friday 23 May	7.30pm	The Perfect City musical in Dorking Meeting House
Monday 2 June	8.30-9.00pm	Healing prayer Group in Friends' own homes
Friday 6 June	7.30pm	Study Group in Meeting House
Sunday 8 June	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 13 June	cancelled	Garden party – new date Sunday 20 July
Saturday 21 June	11.15am	Regional Meeting at Hastings Meeting House

Notes from Preparative Meeting ...

Sunday collection for March, for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, raised £104. The collection for April and May is for Claridge House – see page 3.

Advices and Queries read in March and April. *Dorking*: 31, 24, 42, 41 and 19 in March, and 21 and 28 in April. *Leatherhead*: None in March, and 27 and 28 in April.

Su Johnston reported for Premises Committee. The **south west boundary wall** stretching from the Cottage up to the top of the garden is thought to be in an unsafe condition. It is not our wall, so the owners have been contacted but so far have not replied. The MV Building Control Officer will investigate the wall and give us his opinion on what danger it presents. We understand that if it is dangerous MV will arrange for its repair and bill the owners.

Friends will probably have seen that one **garden flower bed** has been cleared of weeds. A Friend offered £100 to help towards clearing further beds, and PM agreed to the release of a further £100 from our funds for this purpose. Once the deep-rooted weeds have been cleared as much as possible, Friends are invited to offer any bee/butterfly-friendly plants they have spare to Premises Committee, to enable the bare patches to be filled. Any volunteers willing to adopt a bit of garden, to keep it looking tidy, will be very welcome.



Photo from www.theguardian.com

The **cottage kitchen** has been refurbished, and Denise is very happy with the result.

Su Johnston is planning an exhibition for **Heritage Week**, on the work of Conscientious Objectors in the Macalpine and Fardon families. It will be held, alongside children's activities and a slide show, in the Meeting Room on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th September, from 2pm to

7pm. Su welcomes offers of help. Anne Davies will coordinate teas and refreshments on Sunday 14th September, for Allan Brigham's usual walk ending at the Meeting House.

We agreed to a change of date for the **garden party**, listed in the Meeting's diary of events for Friday 13th June – it will now take place on **Sunday 20th July**, after Meeting for Worship. It will be an all-age bring-and-share picnic lunch, to which we will invite the playgroup families. Organisation will be by Overseers in conjunction with Children and Young People's Committee.

We agreed to the Clerk's suggestion that the **collection in June and July** would be for the Cape Town Peace Centre. He had visited them in January and was very impressed with their work, and he could see how it was desperately needed.



There was some discussion about the **Special Area Meeting held on April 26th**, and the minute from it was read. If anyone has not seen this minute, please contact the editor for a copy. It was agreed that the AM Clerking Team should be encouraged to circulate, before the next Special Meeting on July 13th, a paper outlining the facts associated with some of the various options that have been suggested as a way forward. See below for an extract from the message sent earlier by the AM Clerking Team to all members on email.

Extract from Message from AM Clerking Team

We are very pleased that the Special Area Meeting was well attended, and we feel it was a valuable opportunity to share our feelings about the place of AM in our lives, and to develop ideas to tune current practices in ways that might ease our present problems. ...

We have followed up the welcome offers by several Friends to serve on the Clerking Team or Trustee body. New Friends in these roles would certainly ease the immediate situation, but there is still an underlying problem to be addressed.

The Clerking Team ... has made a start. We have contacted Friends who kindly offered to help with some of the other work that needs doing before our next Special Meeting. We are also studying all the useful material on the flipcharts etc from Saturday 26th. **The next Special Meeting is, for various reasons, going to be held in the afternoon after the next planned Area Business Meeting on Sunday July 13th at Ifield.** There may also be an afternoon meeting with the Trustees on Friday May 30th, but this is to be confirmed when Trustees have decided whether it is a workable idea.

... The Special Meeting may bring up a variety of suggestions, so we will try to have enough facts to hand (or preferably circulated beforehand!) to help Friends to see which suggestions are worth pursuing, always remembering, of course, that the Spirit may lead us to do something which we may think at first is impossible! ...

Please come, if you can, on July 13th, to continue our search for a way ahead and, meanwhile, uphold prayerfully those Friends who are working hard to enable the development of an Area Meeting which will meet Friends' needs for a spiritually nurturing Quaker community.

Family Outing – May 18th

Families and Friends meet at 10.30 at the entrance to the Tilgate Nature Centre in Tilgate Park
(www.crawley.gov.uk/pw/Leisure_and_Culture/Tilgate_Park/Tilgate_Nature_Centre)

Note: entrance fee is £2 for over-17s, £1 for 2-16 year olds, free if under 2. You will also need change for the car park, which is a 5-10min walk from the Nature Centre.

The Plan is to have an hour or so wandering around there at our own pace, reconvene in the nearby cafe area for 11.45/12ish – either have picnic lunch in the courtyard there, or move to the park-y area.

Play-filled afternoon in play park area, and/or walk round lake, and/or hide-and-seek in the bushes, i.e. a very flexible day! All ages welcome.

For further details please email Gayle Banks at snayley@gmail.com .



Photo from quoted website

April/May Collection



Claridge House is the Quaker Retreat Centre in the Surrey village of Dormansland. For over 50 years, it has provided sanctuary to anyone seeking time for rest and renewal, in a peaceful atmosphere of understanding and love. Guests may stay for a few days for informal personal retreats, or can take part in one of many courses provided, on spiritual and recreational subjects – see leaflets on the noticeboard, or www.claridgehousequaker.org.uk, for details.

The stresses of the modern world mean that their services are needed more and more. So that they can continue to provide them most effectively to anyone who may benefit, they welcome donations towards building up funds to keep fees as low as possible and to provide bursaries for guests who need them. Our collection will contribute to the **bursary fund** which helps to finance the stays of those who could not otherwise afford to stay (and who are often especially in need of Claridge House's services).

Claridge House is the only residential Quaker Retreat Centre in the South East of England. Guests come from all over the UK and abroad, and for many it is their introduction to Quakers. Claridge House's mission is to provide a tranquil place of retreat to anyone, of any faith or none. Any donation you give will help them to fulfil that mission into the future.

Gayle's Marathon Recap

As many of you know by now, Sunday 6th April turned out to be an even more emotional day than I expected. With wonderful support from friends, family and colleagues, I was able to complete the marathon in 3 hours 24 minutes and 7 seconds (well within my target time of 3 and a half hours). My race strategy went well, despite a rather horrid blood blister on my bunion (which has still not fully healed 4 weeks on), and I am, on reflection, proud of what I managed. However, on the day itself I think I had about 7 minutes of being happy about my time (albeit in a rather disorientated, exhausted state) before it completely ceased to matter to me...

As any readers of Grapevine know, I was running this marathon to raise money for the charities who support a childhood friend, Anders. Anders, as a Cystic Fibrosis sufferer, had been waiting for over a year for donor lungs as his own had ceased functioning.

As I turned on my phone to call my husband, and arrange how to find each other post-race, I saw a text message from Anders' brother Stefan, which I thought I'd quickly read. It told me that (as I was running) Anders had gone into surgery for his new lungs. A tumult of emotion followed (amplified by my exhausted but elated state!) – from joy at this long awaited news, to concern about the risks of the surgery, and for his family waiting anxiously.

The weeks that followed have not been dissimilar. He survived the surgery and seemed to be making good progress, then suffered a setback, as his new lungs stopped responding to his body's commands and declined rapidly. They have not actually died (yet), nor been outright rejected by his body, so he is now in the situation where he is back on a machine doing the breathing for him, but simply has to somehow get these lungs working for him. Nobody knows if he can – and there is no clear timescale in which it has to happen, but clearly it is a very anxious time for his family. The doctors say they have never met anyone as determined as he is, which must surely count for something, but I would humbly ask that you hold him in the light as much as you feel able, to give him the best chance of turning his determination into medical reality. I hope to have better news in future.



Fire!!



Friends are reminded that, if they to hear a fire alarm sounding on a Sunday morning at Meeting, they should react at once as though the building was on fire, although it may well be our fire marshals (Premises Committee and Overseers) starting our annual fire practice.

So what should you do when you hear the alarm? Have a look around next time you are in the Meeting House – you should see, in every room, a useful A4 notice headed FIRE PROCEDURE. This says that you should make your way immediately but calmly (i.e. don't run!) towards the nearest fire exit – these are clearly marked by the standard signs as illustrated. Don't try to collect your coat from the lobby, or your favourite book from the library – after all, it may be a real fire – just head straight for the exit, taking care not to panic! Assemble with everyone else on the grass at the front of the building. The fire marshals will ensure everyone has left the building and, in the unlikely event of it not being a practice, will take any action needed such as contacting the fire brigade and utilising any appropriate fire extinguishers.

Colin Brewer, Meeting Fire Officer

The Leith Hill Walk

A thoroughly enjoyable day despite the dampness! The bluebells were beautiful, and Capel Friends, helped by Jenni Hope-Jones, laid on a really warm welcome with lots of lovely things to eat for tea. In the words of Chris Kohler, who led the walk – “We thought the day a great success - young and oldies and in betweenies all seemed to enjoy it. I think about 23 started the walk (and some dropped out) but only 13 names on the sheet. They are assorted Brewers and Kohlers plus Janet Lewin, Martin Chick, Anne Davies and Elizabeth Cooper. Can you recall the names of any of the other 10 starters? I'd like to add them to the list.”



Copies of the annual list with signatures of all those walking each year goes back to the 1980's when Michael and Anthony Brewer and Katy Kohler vied for who would get back first and head the list! That place is now taken by Adam Brewer, so far without competition! In answer to Chris's question, here are the rest of the starters: Katy Nunn with Thomas and Ewan (in the back pack) who did the whole up walk and had a lift back from the landslip car park; Gayle and Aidy Banks and their children Pippa and Theo, Val Rowling and a couple of Kohler relatives, who all did part of the up walk.

Incidentally Michael had his smart phone with GPS and we are now informed the up and back walk totals 8.8 miles and not 8, so well done everyone!

Anne Brewer – photo by Michael Brewer

The Healing Prayer Group

This group has been running for well over a year and is much appreciated by many Friends. Currently thirteen members of the Meeting take part. The meetings are held 8.30 to 9pm on the first Monday of each month, with members staying in their own home but sharing a common list of names to hold in the Light. Frances Harber has now taken over the organisation of the group from Anne Brewer, so please get in touch with her if you wish to join the group or have a name you would like to add to the list any month.

Reflection from our Elders

Jesus told his disciples “Love each other as I have loved you” (John 15.12).

William Penn wrote in 1693 “Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.” (QF&P 22.01)

Why should loving one another be so difficult?

John Lampen points, in his recent Kindler's publication *Love growing in us*, to the Quaker belief that there is something of God in everyone. At times, when we are ourselves in conflict with another, that will mean seeking the good in the person we are in conflict with, and also seeking the good in ourselves.

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