



# THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

## Dorking Quaker Meeting

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**Quote for the month** found on the internet, © GodFruits.com:  
*In the bad times, choose to grow stronger.  
 In the good times, choose to enjoy fully.  
 In all times, choose to be grateful.*

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Midweek Meeting</b>	12.45-1.15pm	<b>Every Wednesday</b> , followed by simple lunch
Monday 7 December	8.30-9.00pm	<b>Healing Prayer Group</b> – in Friends own homes
Sunday 13 December	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 18 December	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting house
Sunday 20 December	After MfW	<b>Carols and mince pies</b> in Meeting house
Friday 25 December	10.30-11.00am	<b>Christmas Meeting for Worship</b> in Meeting House
Friday 8 January	7.00pm	<b>Eat and retreat study evening</b> – details below
Sunday 10 January	tbc	<b>Area Meeting</b> at Horsham Meeting House
Sunday 10 January	6.30pm	<b>Meeting for Worship</b> at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 15 January	7.30-9.00pm	<b>Meditation Meeting</b> in Meeting house
Sunday 17 January	9.00am	<b>Preparative Meeting</b> at Meeting House

Note from Churches Together in Dorking:

The Dorking Hospital Carol Service is Tues 15 Dec at 2.30pm. All are invited to sing. If possible bring the orange & green "Carols for Choirs" book. Practice is in the hospital chapel at 1:45pm and the service is in Ranmore ward at 2:30pm. If you want to know more or are going to come please tell [helena.twentyman@talktalk.net](mailto:helena.twentyman@talktalk.net) or [susan.froy@me.com](mailto:susan.froy@me.com)

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### "How can silence change your life?" - a question for the January Study Group

*Friends, meet together and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was. (George Fox, 1657)*

Reading 'Quaker Faith and Practice 2.39' may provide a good starting point for preparation, beginning:

*A Friends' meeting, however silent, is at the very lowest a witness that worship is something other and deeper than words, and that it is to the unseen and eternal things that we desire to give the first place in our lives.*

This is an eat and retreat study evening at Dorking Meeting House on **Friday 8th January 2016, starting at 7pm** with a simple supper of local breads, spreads and cheeses from Dorking's Foodfloat. This question was prompted by one of the Questers in October and it has occupied me a lot since. Please let Sally Elias on 07787 566 212 or [sallysunflower2012@gmail.com](mailto:sallysunflower2012@gmail.com) know if you are coming, to allow for ample food.

Sally Elias

## An Alternative Remembrance Sunday 2015

Three of us embarked on a Remembrance Sunday of alternative ceremonies. We firstly went to the event run by the Peace Pledge Union at the Conscientious Objectors' memorial in Tavistock Square, where a wreath of white poppies was laid. There was also an impassioned talk about the militarisation in society, given by Prof Joanne Bourke, author of *Wounding the World: How the Military and War-Play Invade our Lives*\*. And part of the sermon by Harry Emerson Fosdick (himself a WW1 padre), that inspired David Shepherd to establish the PPU, was read:



*I will myself do the best I can to settle my account with the Unknown Soldier. I renounce war. I renounce war because of what it does to our own men. I have watched them come in gassed from the front-line trenches. I have seen the long, long hospital trains filled with their mutilated bodies. I have heard the cries of the crazed and the prayers of those who wanted to die and could not, and I remember the maimed and ruined men for whom the war is not yet over. I renounce war because of what it compels us to do to our enemies, bombing their mothers and villages, starving their children by blockades...*

*I renounce war for its consequences, for the lies it lives on and propagates, for the undying hatreds it arouses, for the dictatorships it puts in the place of democracy, for the starvation that stalks after it. I renounce war and never again, directly or indirectly, will I sanction or support another. O Unknown Soldier, in penitent reparation, I make you that pledge”.*

This pledge reminds us of Bob Humphreys, who railed against the iniquity of war. And it reminds us of the Introduction to this year's Swarthmoor lecture, where Diana Francis points out that the Quaker Peace testimony was firstly an anti-war testimony, and that it is this anti-war testimony that so many Quakers find difficult.



We moved on to support the Veterans for Peace march to, and ceremony at, the Cenotaph. There was an attempt to disrupt this by the BNP that the police dealt with skilfully (in our opinion). The ceremony included the singing of a very moving ballad about the blood and guts reality of young men signing up as soldiers in the World Wars. A lone bugler blew the Last Post, and Reveille after a white poppy wreath was laid. The road traffic was stopped for the march but not the human traffic close to the Cenotaph. This was a mixed blessing. It allowed more people up close to what was happening, but made hearing/respecting the perspective of the veterans more difficult.



It was a moving day, one we're glad to have been a part of, after overcoming our nervousness at joining these groups. We feel this is a way to bear witness to the peace testimony, and we'd recommend it to other Friends if they'd like to accompany us next year.

\* Bought the book for the library.

Lois Lodge, Lesley Hunka, Theresa MacIntyre

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## Quaker Quest

Quaker Quest was held in our Meeting House over October Friday evenings. An amazing amount of effort and enthusiasm was put into the activity, with a number of people attending a Train the Team day earlier in the year and then contributing to each evening, either by presenting, chairing, facilitating small groups or being a back up presence. I think we all learnt a lot from hearing people talk so openly about personal journeys and belief systems in areas such a worship, god and social action.

The number of people from outside the Meeting who came along was small, but they were interested, questioning and keen to discuss issues raised – so the process clearly stimulated thinking about what Quakers can offer.

I will organise a review of the whole process later, probably after Xmas now, but if anyone wants to comment on their experience or observations that would be welcome.

Catherine Carr

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### Zaytoun Palestinian Produce For Christmas gifts or your own enjoyment

I have now restocked with some Zaytoun products, as listed below, to help support the Palestinian farmers. I will keep a 5 litre can of olive oil at Meeting as before. If Friends can let me know if they would like any of the produce listed, I will bring them along the following Sunday.



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|--|--------|
| • 5 litre can organic FT virgin olive oil        | £56.00 |
| • 500ml bottle organic FT virgin olive oil       | £7.00  |
| • Refilled 500ml bottle                          | £5.60  |
| • 500gm pack Medjoul dates                       | £5.00  |
| • 250gm Freekeh (smoked rice)                    | £1.70  |
| • 250gm Maftoul (wholemeal large grain couscous) | £1.70  |



Anne Brewer

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### Rotas

Unfortunately there have been several Sundays when Friends have forgotten they had put their name down to do door duty or teas and flowers. Other Friends have stepped in to save the day of course! However it would be good to find a way to ensure our failing memories don't let us down.

Does anyone have a good idea how this might be achieved? Pinning the list on the notice board doesn't seem to have worked reliably!



Keith Poulton

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### Rachel Fardon – interment of ashes



It was our dear Friend Rachel Fardon's wish that her ashes be placed in the Rose Hill Oval, which is the field just down the back path of the Meeting House.

Rachel was born at 23 Rose Hill, grazed her horses in the Rose Hill Oval for many years and lived either in Rose Hill or Upper Rose Hill for the whole of her life. A plaque has been designed, and is being carved by a local artist, referring to her devotion to the Rose Hill Oval Trust, which her father helped set up, and of which she was either Trustee of, or Secretary of, for over 50 years.

Friends are very welcome to the interment of Rachel's ashes in the Oval, which will take place at **3 pm on Sunday 10th January 2016**. It is hoped that those Friends who are attending Area Meeting at Horsham on that day, and wish to be at the interment, will be able to get back to Dorking in time for the interment. If you are not able to be there afterwards, you will be able to see the stone and admire the view and remember Rachel whenever you walk round the Oval. Any enquiries to Romy Elias.

Romy Elias

## Dorking Friends of all ages at the London Climate March



Katy, Thomas, Ewan, Gayle, Pippa, Theo, Sophie, Anne and Colin were all on the colourful 50,000 strong march in London on November 29. People all over the world were making their voices heard in various ways – it is estimated that at least 750,000 people took part globally. All trying to impress on the world leaders the importance of dealing effectively with the risk of drastic climate change.

Some of my favourite banners read 'Don't be a fossil fool'; 'Act today or swim tomorrow'; and (see



the Buddhist banner in the photo) 'change the values not the climate' and, of course!, 'Save the planet'!

Anne Brewer

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## December charity collection – chosen by our children

Our children have been very much inspired by the recent climate change march, but also feel great empathy for children affected by conflict, particularly those fleeing the conflict in Syria. They are keen to support work in both these important areas, which coincide with the concerns and active witness of local Friends.

With respect to Syria, they are very taken with the school bus project - creating mobile classrooms to take into refugee camps - see <http://www.schoolbusproject.org> for more details



For climate change (& associated protection of endangered species) we are choosing to support the EIA who uncover & campaign for action on some of the worst contributing factors to climate change. see <https://eia-international.org/our-work/climate> for more details.

Gayle Banks

## Reflection from our Elders

We need both a deeper spirituality and a more outspoken witness. If our spirituality can reach the depths of authentic prayer, our lives will become an authentic witness for justice, peace and the integrity of creation, a witness which becomes the context for our prayer. Out of the depths of authentic prayer comes a longing for peace and a passion for justice. And our response to violence and injustice is to pray more deeply, because only God can show us the way out of the mess that the world is in. And only God gives us the strength to follow that Way.

Gordon Matthews, 1989  
Quaker Faith and Practice