



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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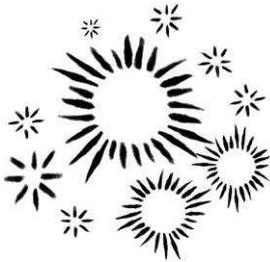
Quote for the month comes from *The Road to Joy: Letters to New and Old Friends* by Thomas Merton (1915 to 1968)

Our real journey in life is interior: it is a matter of growth, deepening, and of ever greater surrender to the creative action of love and grace in our hearts.

Dates for your Diary

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Friday 5 June	7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House
Sunday 14 June	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 26 June	7.30-9.00pm	Meditation Meeting in Meeting House
Friday 26 - Sunday 28 June		Celebration Weekend at Blue Idol MH - details page 4
Friday 3 July	7.30pm	Study Group at Meeting House
Sunday 5 July	9.00am	Preparative Meeting in Meeting House
Saturday 11 July	10.00am-4.30pm	Kindlers Workshop in Meeting House (See below)
Sunday 12 July	Time not yet decided	Area Meeting in Dorking MH - note change of venue

Kindlers Workshop: ANSWERING THAT OF GOD



On **Saturday 11 July, from 10am to 4.30pm**, our Elders have arranged a Kindlers Workshop at the Meeting House. Please encourage your friends to attend – ask Rachel Hope for publicity material.

This whole day workshop, led by Peter Parr, Sarah Fox & Alice Harlan, of The Kindlers team, in the framework of worship, will explore the following questions through simple spiritual practices.

- **What does 'that of God in everyone' imply?**
- **What is God for me?**
- **Could answering God be responding to God in others?**
- **How might relationships need to change to reflect this?**
- **How do we let go of ego-self to know our greater self?**

Please bring your own picnic lunch: coffee/tea will be provided all day

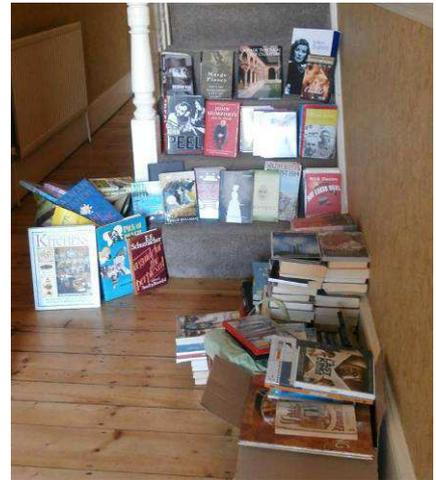
There will be a charge of £5 for the day: cheques, payable to Dorking Quaker Meeting, should be given to Rachel Hope.

A Kindlers' booklet, *Answering that of God* by Peter Parr, is available at £3.00 from the Bookshop at Friends House, and there is a copy in the Meeting's library (catalogue number SQ88).

Area Meeting Fellowship fund-raising

You may know that our Area Meeting is at the moment struggling to raise funds for 3 major building works (Blue Idol, Ifield and Horsham) so the Fellowship committee decided to combine fellowship with fundraising.

Our first effort to raise funds for Ifield, by sharing our books and DVDs at 50p a time, has so far raised £52! A drop in the ocean of the thousands needed, but a great way to enjoy each other's books and DVDs! This is an ongoing exercise, and the collection of items for borrowing will be brought along to the next Area Meeting – Sunday July 12 at Dorking. Meanwhile, if you fancy a book to read or a DVD to watch, contact Sarah Freeman who is storing the collection at her home. The photo shows some of the collection!



We hope to help Horsham with a sponsored walk round the Meeting Houses of the Area Meeting. A Horsham Friend is planning this, and other Friends can sponsor her and accompany her on all, or parts, of her journey. Details will be circulated when available.

Then next spring we plan to hold a plant, preserves and cake sale, in aid of Capel Meeting – to help them pay off their large debt to Area Meeting funds. So please start making those jams and chutneys ready!

Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman for the AM Fellowship Committee

Dorking Area Foodbank

(The following is a letter from Peter Essex, the Chairman of Churches Together in Dorking, to church congregations in Dorking, with encouraging news about the Dorking Area Foodbank.)



Now is a good time to give thanks to God for progress and pray for His ongoing blessing. You are invited to share this good news with your congregations and include the foodbank in your intercessions and personal prayers. After discussions last year and intensive activity this year, **the foodbank is open for business from Tuesday 2 June.** Here's how we got there and will go on.

A steering group towards a local foodbank was convened in the first half of 2014 by Voluntary Action Mid Surrey (VAMS.) In September the CTD committee agreed that CTD should be the host organisation for financial and property purposes. The VAMS initiative then stalled. After two months of disquiet at this, the CTD committee co-opted Rosemary Elias from the Quakers to chair an Action Group and be Project Leader. Her position was confirmed by the CTD AGM in January. Just before Christmas, the four CTD trustees had applied successfully to become partners with the Trussell Trust whose expertise benefits some 400 foodbanks nationwide. Usefully if unusually, CTD was already constituted as a company and charity with objects including the relief of poverty.

Funding has been generous. At 26 May CTD's ring-fenced foodbank account had received just over £12,000 including an initial input of £1,500 from CTD's general fund. Eleven churches had given or pledged sums ranging up to £1,400. Individuals had given up to £1,000, but the smallest amounts had been received with equal gratitude. Over £2,000 had come from donors whom we have not recognised as churchgoers. Over £600 had been recovered under Gift Aid.

Our start-up costs have been pleasantly modest. One reason has been the equally generous giving of time, talents and materials free of charge by various individuals and others. We have a warehouse from Mole Valley Council in Station Road, for which we have only had to pay an initial admin charge – no rent, no rates, no electricity bills. Similarly our first distribution outlet is at Dorking Christian Centre where we have free use of a room for storage and of the

cafe area to meet clients during our opening hours of 1630 to 1830 on Tuesdays and 1430 to 1630 on Thursday. A second distribution centre is contemplated, at Goodwyns.

Some of us have visited other foodbanks to see how best we might operate. Our own training sessions have been considerable on various fronts such as manual handling and how to help clients by signposting them to further help when giving them food.

Our first supermarket collection day was on Saturday 16 May at Waitrose, when shoppers were amazingly generous, meaning we had to house some 1.3 tons of stock straight away. Collection arrangements have also begun with churches, schools and others, keeping in step with storage space and anticipated demand. The National Childbirth Trust has offered various non-food stock.

The Besom Project's food aspect is being given over to the foodbank, with liaison in progress to help this happen smoothly. Besom's Christmas hamper scheme will continue.

Notices will shortly be going up in numerous places, saying that if people need the foodbank they should contact the Citizens' Advice Bureau, which is one of about 15 referral agencies with whom we are starting off. Others include individual churches, the police and Circle Housing. Although we do have an emergency procedure, anyone wanting to benefit from the foodbank normally needs to come with a referral voucher.

The core purpose of **Dorking Area Foodbank**, like others, is to provide **emergency food for people in crisis**, so we have systems in place that will suggest the wider needs of anyone who has been given a voucher more than three times. Each voucher gives entitlement to three days' worth of food per person. Of course, some folk are unfortunate enough to experience more than one crisis.

From the ecumenical perspective it was wonderful at our distribution centre training session this week to see people from so many churches (and none.) Examples: the Dorking Baptist Chapel (Paper Mews), Crossways, St Paul's, St Martin's, St Joseph's, village churches such as Capel and Westcott, and people from churches outside CTD's normal catchment, such as Buckland and Brockham. At our first volunteer meeting, over 60 people came and more than 20 others expressed interest, and our bank of volunteers at 28th May stood at 72 people.

Some people question the need for a foodbank in an area like ours. They are wrong. Bombing with statistics isn't always useful, but here's an example based on reliable and fairly recent research. We discovered one pocket within the Dorking urban area with over a third of children found to be living in poverty, nearly a fifth of households with nobody in work, and domestic violence running at three times the county average. And one person in three helped by a foodbank is a child.

Prayer underpins all that we do. So does scripture, where our prime text is found within the "sheep and goats" passage of Matthew 25: 31-46 but particularly verse 25: **"I was hungry and you gave me food."**

There is much more information that could be included. For example, we may well ask you to prioritise the foodbank as part of a Harvest Festival. Please ask your CTD representative if you have questions. Representatives and indeed allcomers can find out more from our website www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk, our facebook page Dorking Area Foodbank, or by emailing info@dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk.

Peter Essex, Chairman, CTD
May 29 2015

Street collection for Nepal

The street collection for Nepal on 27, 28 and 29 May, organised by Churches Together in Dorking, on behalf of the Disasters Emergency Committee, raised £2938.70. The Quaker helpers contributed £346.24!



New library book

A Friend has donated to our library the booklet *Twelve Quakers and Prayer*, one of the series from Quaker Quest, in which 12 Quakers share their thoughts about and experience of prayer. Here is an extract from one contribution that spoke to me:

A monk once told me that 'prayer is not so much a matter of words or ideas' as a deep, inarticulate longing for one in whom one's whole being can rest and be at peace.' We all have our individual relationship with prayer, our own practice, our own understanding of what it means. In the end, it is important to 'pray as you can, not as you can't'.

Anne Brewer

Prayer-walking with Churches Together in Dorking

Some Friends may be interested in joining members of other Dorking churches in this different way of praying. Next walk: Saturday 27 June: 10am meet outside Harvest Community Church, Goodwyns

For more info contact: Juliet Fuller – 01306 886830 – email: faith.hope.love@live.co.uk



Celebration weekend at Blue Idol Meeting House

To celebrate their return to their Meeting House after extensive and prolonged repairs, Friends at Blue Idol Meeting are having a series of events over the weekend June 26 to 28.

Friday 26 June at 7.30pm, at the Blue Idol MH – concert with words and music from the time of William Penn. To include chamber music by J S Bach, Purcell and Arvo Part, with flute and Festival Strings – tickets £25 from 01403 750220, or online at www.thecapitolhorsham.com.

More info at www.BMGlive.com



Sunday 28 June – West Weald Friends invited to Meeting for Worship (10.30am) followed by shared lunch. Then from 2.30pm onwards, an Open Afternoon – Blue Idol Friends are providing tea and cake, while West Weald Friends admire the refurbished building and the lovely gardens.

(Photo from www.blueidol.org)

Reflection from our Elders

From: J.R. Miller, *In Green Pastures*, p.114 (1926; originally published as *Bits of Pasture* in 1890),

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

There are causes enough to separate people and to produce frictions and alienations. Let us not add to the world's bitterness and grief by ever encouraging strife or putting a single coal on the fire of anger. Rather let us try to heal the little rifts we find in people's friendships. The unkind thoughts of another we find in anyone's mind let us seek to change to kindly thoughts.

Bob Humphreys on behalf of Elders