



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

Editors: Anne Brewer and Sarah Freeman
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Quote for the month is from QF&P 10.20 and is by George Gorman in 1982:
If we are sensitive, we find that everything that happens to us, good or bad, can help us to build a vision of the meaning of life.

Dates for your Diary

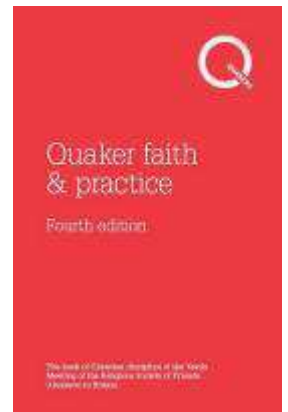
Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sat 3 to Sun 11 October is Quaker Week		
Friday 9 October	7.45-9.30pm	Quaker Quest – Quakers and Silence
Sunday 11 October	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 16 October	7.45-9.30pm	Quaker Quest – Quakers and Christianity
Friday 23 October	7.45-9.30pm	Quaker Quest – Quakers and God
Friday 30 October	7.45-9.30pm	Quaker Quest – Quakers and Faith in Action

No meditation meeting in October – next one will be on the afternoon of Friday 21 November.

Reading Quaker Faith and Practice

There are some thoughts that it may be time to revise Quaker Faith and Practice, and the group planning for this are hoping to raise Friends' awareness and appreciation of this essential Quaker book, through a yearly meeting-wide programme for reading/study groups or for personal spiritual reflection

The process is designed to run from October 2015 to April 2017, with Friends encouraged to read one or, sometimes two, chapters a month, and then reflect on this using a recommended series of five questions, either on your own or in a group. The list of suggested chapters can be found at qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/calendar/, but for those not online there is a leaflet available.



The suggested questions are:

- how do I react to this material?
- what does this material, and my reaction to it, tell me about the history and development of Quakerism?
- what authority do I give to this text?
- how does this speak to me today?
- what spiritual benefits do I gain from reading and reflecting on this?

Our Elders may organise some study groups on the material, but meanwhile a small group of Dorking Friends have decided to read the chapter chosen for October – Chapter 21: Personal journey – and get together to share their responses either before (9am) or after meeting for worship on Sunday 25 October – time to be confirmed. Any one is very welcome to join them.

Bob Humphreys

It has brought great happiness and wonder to witness the light, constant, brilliant, shining through the compassion and keenness of spirit in our Friend. (Sarah Freeman)

Bob Humphreys, a much loved Elder of our Meeting, died in hospital in the afternoon of Monday 28 September. His warm friendliness, unflinching good humour, and willingness to join in enthusiastically and helpfully with every aspect of the Meeting's life will be sorely missed. He had great compassion for all suffering, which led him to work many years with the Samaritans, and to join actively in campaigns for the relief of poverty and exclusion.



The funeral will be on Thursday 15 October, at 3.30pm, at Randalls Road Crematorium in Leatherhead, and afterwards at the Burford Bridge Hotel.

Anne Brewer

Moving piece from The Friend

I find it hard to understand some aspects of depression, and found a poem in The Friend which was very moving and very helpful to my understanding. As I have space in the Grapevine this month I will include the poem here. I'm sure Bob with his long experience of working with the Samaritans would have understood and sympathised with this Young Friend, who wrote the poem at Woodbrooke during a conference on mental health issues. Hilary had anorexia, and died peacefully in her sleep not long after the conference. The poem, and some accompanying information, was published in The Friend of 25 September.

What makes me human?

I lie in bed and caress my ribs, the smooth ebony as hard as piano keys. Questions overwhelm. Why? I am two people. I am a thousand people. I am a pathetic, broken soul, battered by the pain of the world; fighting a furious civil war with myself where there is no victor. Yet I am also the girl who finds beauty in a fragile sapling. I am the girl who experiences a delicious thrill as the sun silently slides into the sky. I am the girl awed by two geese who penetrate the morning air as if they own it and we are yet to find out. I am the girl fascinated by the 6.42 train to Kings Cross – dreams, hopes and fears shuttling along in the half light of dawn. I am the girl who sees every plate of food looming as poison.

How? How do I marry together all that astonishes and scares me? How can I

know some of the depth of human suffering and yet still be entranced by the gentle moon as she tenderly moves through her cycle? How can I be delighted by the intricacies of a spider's web, the morning dew clinging resolutely to every fibre – yet also know of torture, loss, grief and despair. How can I strive to nourish every soul but my own? This me. Perhaps this is all of us. Aren't we all simply walking dichotomies of beauty and pain, suffering and joy, dreams and disappointments, holding on and knowing when it is time to let go? Our place in this world is as transient and fleeting as the clocks on a dandelion and as we stumble, soar and crawl through this wild, mundane and intoxicating world, perhaps it is this, then, that makes me human.

(Hilary Botwright April 2015)

Anne Brewer

Women and Peace-making



As our Government considers whether to bomb Syria, it was timely to attend a conference organized by Pax Christi and WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).



WILPF have produced a short film called **These Dangerous women**, about the women who tried to stop the First World War – several of whom were Quakers.

Women from different countries came together for a conference at The Hague in 1915, calling for an end to the war. You can watch the film on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a2xYvXwGiw Their courage and quiet self-belief, that women can make a difference, is inspiring.

One hundred years later women are still campaigning for peace, and our four speakers illustrated how ordinary women can make a difference.

Marie-Lyse Numuhoza, a Rwandan refugee, spoke movingly about her journey to safety in the UK, the years apart from her father, not knowing if he was alive, and how the images she sees today bring back such painful memories. She said: **A refugee's life is a challenging life and requires such endurance.**

Virginia Moffat calls herself an 'armchair' activist – her salary helps to support her husband's Peace activism, including times when he is in prison, as well as caring for their three children. But she is a keen user of social media to promote their message. She also spoke of the conflict that Peace activism can bring within families, friendships and at work, and she now works for EKKLESIA – which is a better place for her skills and beliefs. She lives near Brize Norton and, as she runs near the Base each day, she prays **I AM BREATHING IN WAR, I AM BREATHING OUT PEACE** – so that even her running is an act of Peace making.

Mia Tamarin became a conscientious objector when she refused to join the Israel Defence Force in 2008– going against family and cultural norms. She spoke of how militarization is normal in Israel, and how it is difficult to speak out against the Occupation. She served four prison sentences before being discharged from the Israeli military. She is now studying for a BA in Peace Studies and International Relations in the UK. **"We need to empower women from these countries, and give them the opportunity to become leaders and change both their own futures and the world's."**

Mary Dobbing is a Quaker who spends her free time promoting global solidarity and campaigning against Drones. She told us about her recent visit to Kabul, where she met Afghan Peacemakers at the Borderfree Non Violence Community Centre, working with street children. You can read more about their work at: globaldaysoflistening.org/ and ourjourneytosmile.com. Back in the UK Mary is also campaigning against the use of Drone warfare and she finished her talk by reminding us that **EVERY LIFE IS SACRED.** www.dronewars.net

The message that came out loud and clear from the conference, and from 100 years ago, is that women can reach across borders in their quest for peace – that women can make a difference – and that women will make a difference.

Elizabeth Cooper

Interfaith event (Churches Together in Dorking)

An evening with
KAUSER AKHTAR
(Surrey Faith Links Adviser)

Thursday, 29th October 2015
7.30pm

St John's Church, Inholms Lane, North Holmwood, Dorking RH5 4JH

- **Confusing times?**
- **Materialistic society?**
- **New ideas?**
- **Understanding faith differences?**
- **Need to know more?**

Questions will be put to Kauser in an open evening of discussion so that we can engage with our changing times.

No need to book; just turn up on the night.

Contact: Caroline Lazenby at caroline.lazenby254@gmail.com

Healing Prayer Group



The regular monthly healing prayer group is on Monday 5 October. We stay in our own homes, and from 8.30 to 9pm maybe light a candle and then, in the way of a Meeting for Worship, hold in the light those Friends and friends who are in need of loving support. Obviously we will be holding Trish and the family this Monday, so some of you may like to join in at that time.

Reflection from our Elders

QF&P 2.60

All true ministry springs from the reality of experience, and uses our gifts of heart and mind in its expression. But ministry is not a place for intellectual exercise. It comes through us, not from us. Although we interpret the Spirit it is the Spirit which will lead us to minister. The Spirit will decide which experiences are relevant and which will speak to the condition of the meeting. If you have to decide whether it is right to speak, consider that it isn't. If your words are important the meeting will find them anyway.

Conference: Exploring the fundamental elements of Quakerism, 1986

Rachel Hope on behalf of Elders