



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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January/February 2016
 No. 496

Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Sunday 31 January	9.30am	Special Meeting on finance – see PM report
Monday 1 February	8.30-9.00pm	Healing Prayer Group – in Friends' own homes
Sunday 7 February	9.00am	QF&P reading group – Chapters 2 and 3 (new date)
Sunday 14 February	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Friday 19 February	12.00-1.30pm	Lenten Lunch – p5 for venues of other Lenten lunches
Friday 19 February	3.00pm	Meditation Meeting
Sunday 21 February	After MfW	Traidcraft stall
Saturday 27 February	4.00-6.00pm	All age Party/Barn dance
Friday 4 March	7.30pm	Study Group
Sunday 6 March	9.00am	Preparative Meeting

Advance notice: Overseers are planning a **tea-party for older F/friends and partners** on the afternoon of **Friday 22 April** – more details to follow in March Grapevine.

Notices from Churches Together in Dorking:

Sunday 24 January All Christians are invited to an ecumenical worship service **Salt of the Earth** at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Falklands Grove at 6.00pm. (Saturday 23 January to Sunday 31 January is the week of prayer for Christian Unity.)

Wednesday 27 January Churches Together in Dorking **AGM** in Dorking Christian Centre at 7.30 for 7.45pm.

As there are no general CTD Lent Courses this year, St Martins Church invites anyone interested to join their Saturday morning breakfast one (9.15- 10.30am) entitled "Making Room" starting on February 13. Further details from Elizabeth Dobson on 01306 881479 or emddh7@hotmail.com.

Preparative Meeting 17 January

PM Agendas and resulting minutes are circulated to interested Friends on email. **If you are not on email** and would like copies of either or both of these documents perhaps you can find a Friend living nearby who receives them and is willing to give you a copy. If this is a problem contact an overseer (Colin Brewer, Trish Humphreys or Frances Poulton) for help.

The collection in October and November for Quaker Social Action raised £42.95. The children's collection in December raised £200 for the School Bus Project for refugees in Syria and £70 for the work of the Environmental Information Agency. The collection in January and February is for Peace Direct – see page 6. For Midweek Meeting collections throughout 2015 see page 4.

Advices and Queries read. November: Midweek Meeting Numbers 4 and 17; December: Dorking Sunday Meeting Number 38.

If you are applying for a **Debarring Service (DBS) certificate**, so that you can **help with the Children's Meeting**, please note that Sophie Dodgeon was appointed by PM to continue as the Meeting's verifier.

Our Finance Committee is concerned about **our future finances**, having looked ahead to 2018 at our expected income and expenditure. PM therefore agreed to hold a **special meeting** to discuss our finances, on Sunday 31 January at 9.30am. Papers detailing the predicted figures for income and expenditure will be circulated a few days beforehand, so that Friends can come prepared.

PM agreed that Su Johnston write summaries of **Joan Macalpine's and Charles Kohler's plays**, written for the Meeting, and Colin Brewer put them on a website, with links to the page so that they can be accessed from Dorking Meeting website, the Surrey and Sussex Quakers website, and if possible the BYM website. Those interested would be asked to contact Dorking Meeting for the full text.

It was agreed that Anne Brewer would, in consultation with other Friends, research ways to bring up to date the **work of the Information Centre**, that Rachel Fardon looked after so well while she was able. We hope to find ways to ensure that Quaker-based information is kept up to date and readily and attractively available, and also decide whether, and if so how, other information should be stored or displayed. Anne will report back to a later PM.

Our new Clerks agreed to continue the practice of periodically inviting each of the Meeting's committees to give a report on their work.

Dorking Meeting Handbook

This could be the little brother or sister of the big AM Handbook – and that is a great resource for “frequently-asked-questions” on how the AM functions. But this Handbook, for Dorking LM, is only a black file, now to be found in the Info Room. Premises and Finance hope you will find its contents useful. Want to know where to switch on the external lights? How to place the benches? How to turn up the heating? How the locking system works? Booking forms? These and more can we hope be answered in the Handbook. We have not put in a page about the clock as yet... And please let Premises and Finance Committee know if there is other info you would find useful, that could go in the file.

Outgoing Premises and Finance Committee: Su Johnston and Keith Poulton
Incoming: Judy Johnson and Richard Bass

Rachel Fardon

On Sunday 10 January Rachel Fardon's ashes were buried in the Rose Hill Oval. Despite the rain (see photos by Jan



Elias) there was a good turnout with several Friends from Meeting and some of Rachel's friends and family. One of Rachel's horsey friends had come all the way from Exeter.



Andrew Campbell-Hart spoke briefly about Rachel and her wish to have her ashes in the Rose Hill Oval, and Romy Elias read a prayer by Carmen Bernos de Gastold (translated by Rumer Godden) that she found in Rachel's papers, as follows:

The Prayer of the Old Horse

See Lord,
my coat hangs in tatters,
like homespun, old, threadbare,
All that I had of zest,
all of my strength,
I have given in hard work
and kept nothing back for myself.
Now
my poor head swings

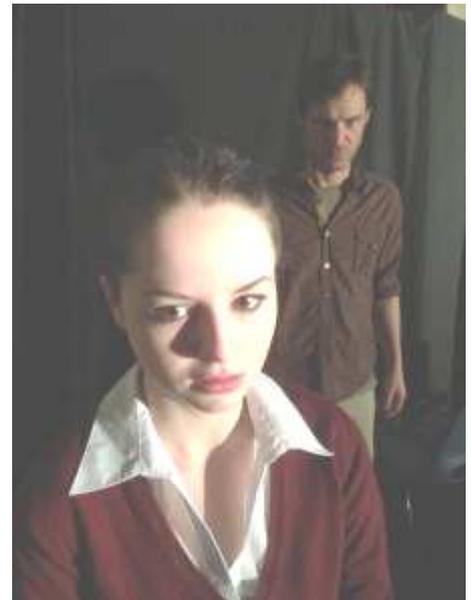
to offer up all the loneliness of my heart.
Dear God
stiff on my thickened legs
I stand here before You:
Your servant
Oh! of Your goodness
give me a gentle end.
Amen

Protecting the young

Back in November local churches, faith groups, teachers and parents were invited to a Surrey police event on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) at Dorking Halls. I went along on behalf of Children & Young People's Committee. I had no idea how engaging the event would be.

Rather than a lecture from the police, there was a powerful piece of theatre from a group called Alter Ego. Their play, *Chelsea's Choice*, has now been seen by over 300,000 young people, with six sets of actors touring it. But few parents tend to turn up when performances are offered. It seems that many adults just don't want to believe it could happen in their town or to their family.

Over half an hour the story is told of an apparently worldly wise and confident teenage girl, Chelsea. She wants to grow up and be independent from her family. This makes her prey to an older man who reassures her, praises her, charms her, and skilfully isolates her. She moves in with him. From a bright excited girl she gradually becomes controlled by him, not allowed out, and is made dependent on drugs. He then pretends he is in a debt crisis and Chelsea is forced into prostitution to repay the debts of a man she believes loves her. The story is true.



From: www.alteregocreativesolutions.co.uk/chelseas-choice/

It was good to hear that the real 'Chelsea' is now free to rebuild her life after sustained abuse. However her abuser has not yet been caught. The last part of the evening involved two mums whose daughters had experienced CSE despite their very different characters. Although young people from 11-15 are the most vulnerable, it was explained that this manipulation can happen to anyone of any age or gender.

It was explained that the perpetrators are often very skilled at manipulating vulnerable young people, and have well practised ways to build an emotional connection with them, and then begin to control them, in person or via the internet. They act according to a plan that they have thought through from the start.

Some useful websites: www.direct.gov.uk/spotteenabuse, www.direct.gov.uk/thisisabuse, www.parentsprotect.co.uk

As Quakers I think it is our natural approach is to welcome and trust those we meet, which makes this a challenging issue to reflect upon, but as many will know, Quakers also have a strong history of engaging with those convicted and supporting them to avoid re-offending – see for instance www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/86

Sophie Dodgeon

Tools for Self Reliance



Tools for Self Reliance is a UK-based charity which helps to relieve poverty in Africa. It works with local African organisations to deliver a programme of tools and training, to bring about effective and sustainable change to artisans and their communities. There are local groups in the UK, where volunteers refurbish quality tools before they are shipped to Africa. Hugh Baker, in Fetcham, is a volunteer at the Sutton group, so if you have any surplus tools – woodwork, metalwork, leather, or any other trades; or sewing machines (hand or electric) – please give him a ring on 01372 376642, or email him at hughgbaker@gmail.com, and he'll take them off your hands and prepare them for shipping to Africa. Any unsuitable tools are sold locally to raise funds to send the tools.

Colin Brewer

Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March 2016

Informed Prayer, prayerful action

11am at Crossways Community Baptist Church, Junction Road, Dorking

The women of Cuba have prepared a service on the theme
Receive Children. Receive Me.

All are welcome.

And there will be an introductory slide show about Cuba in the Christian Centre at 10.30am on Monday 15th February, to which you are also welcome.

Friends, we need to provide Girl 3 – Maria Carla - to read from the script prepared by the women of Cuba. She speaks 3 times. Please will you volunteer? The commitment is to the practice/preparation at 1.30pm on Thursday 3rd March, and then to the service on the 4th.

I'm the meeting's new representative to Women's World Day of Prayer in Dorking, and we are hosting the service, written by the women of the Philippines, next year. So please come along this March and we'll learn together what will be required of us.

Lois Lodge

Meeting on Refugees - Faith Perspectives

Faith and refugee speakers, followed by discussion, on Tuesday 2 February, 7pm for 7.30pm start, at the United Reformed Church, 83 Portsmouth Rd, Guildford GU2 4BS

Midweek Meeting charitable donations

The Midweek Meeting usually donates £200, to the mostly local charities they choose, from suggestions made by the members of the Meeting. The total donated during 2015 was £1,452.50 made up as follows:

Dorking Area foodbank £199.35 (Midweek meeting was happy for £200 to go to the foodbank, but the foodbank said they would prefer to receive food they were short of, and so the foodbank's warehouse manager went out and spent £199.35 on milk powder, puddings and other items they were short of, and the Meeting reimbursed them.)

Dorking Beatitudes £200

East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services £303.15 (Following up the request from Dom O'Reilly in the November 2015 Grapevine for items for ESDAS such as dolls houses, Midweek Meeting gave ESDAS the remaining funds in the kitty at the end of the year to buy the needed items.)

Holiday at Home £150

Leatherhead and Mid-Surrey Samaritans £200 in memory of Bob Humphreys

Pitstop £200

Theatre Troupe £200 - a charity that Emily Hunka is involved in.

The total for the year was **£1,452.50**.

Betty Chamberlain and Romy Elias

Thank you from Besom

Donations in the Besom box, to provide Christmas boxes for the people helped by Besom, were very much appreciated by both Besom and the recipients of the boxes! Thank you.

Veronica Mills

Friday Lenten lunches (Sponsored by Churches Together in Dorking)



We believe in life before death

On Fridays during Lent you are invited to share a frugal meal of soup, bread and cheese, and give what you might have spent – more if you wish! – towards the work of Christian Aid.

12 February at the Christian Centre (St Martin's) 12.30–1.30
 19 February at the Friends' Meeting House, Butter Hill 12.00–1.30
 26 February at St Joseph's Church, Falkland Grove 12.00–1.30
 4 March NO LUNCH (Women's World Day of Prayer – see page 4)
 11 March at St Paul's Church 12.00–1.30
 18 March at Culver, Spook Hill, North Holmwood (RH5 4EG) 12.00–1.30

Appeal for Refugees

The latest collection for aid for Syrian refugees is currently happening at St Martin's Church, Dorking. There is a collection point inside the church and here is what is needed:

- WINTER CLOTHES, new and used – adult, child & baby
- COATS & SNOWWEAR, new and used – adult, child & baby
- NEW underwear only, with tags or in packaging
- WINTER SHOES (polished) new and used
- BOOTS & WELLY BOOTS, clean, adult/child
- Blankets & sleeping bags, new and used
- Sheets & towels
- Duvets
- Wheelchairs, zimmer frames and crutches (paired)
- Moses baskets and baby bedding
- Disposable nappies & sanitary towels, unopened packs

Please separate your donations into bags and mark them as used women's clothes, new baby clothes and so on. Please place them in the collection point under the table.

The appeal will end on 01/02/16. Please give what you can as it could be a matter of life or death for someone in Syria.

Dom O'Reilly

Talking about silence

On Friday 8 January, members and attenders of Dorking meeting were treated to a study group run by Sally Elias asking us - 'What does silence mean to you?' Sally explained the impact silence has had on her: this was very much about the silence in meeting for worship and how it has both changed and nourished her life. She described it as an opportunity to recalibrate. Then others were encouraged to share their experiences. Here are a few extracts:

Rachel – 'stillness' is better than silence – silence is like a deadness. In Meeting this stillness is a listening and she is alert to every word in ministry.

Frances Harber – silence is 'earthing'. She often sits outside first thing in the day to absorb the stillness – nurturing and life-giving, acknowledging her part in a great mystery.

Su – silence is a way in – it's an awareness of another dimension of our life.

Keith – engineer's view: silence is a cleansing solution. It's possible to look at things freshly once the silence has poured through.

For everyone it seems silence or stillness is a process – whether taking years to process or just the length of a Meeting – connecting a guiding voice and light.

The contributions were rich and we agreed that we should collect people's writing or other expressions of silence as an anthology about silence, as a tribute to this special study by those at Dorking Meeting. When we have time....!

Sarah Freeman



Supporting local action against conflict

Meeting's Charity of the months Jan-Feb 2016

In 2014 Peace Direct celebrated its tenth anniversary as a global champion of local peacebuilding. They supported grassroots peacebuilders in Africa and Asia, promoted peacebuilding internationally, and influenced other organisations to support this work themselves. Here's the impact they made, working with partners worldwide:

- Burundi – 30 grassroots groups formed the early warning and response network to monitor violence in the run up to elections
- Burundi – 10 schools in 5 provinces received peace education
- Congo (DRC) – 5 peace courts were opened in remote areas outside the rule of law, bringing the total network of community-run courts to 12 and covering 70,000 people
- Congo (DRC) – helped reintegrate 332 ex-combatants, including 165 child soldiers, and provided micro loans for 275 women affected by war so they can start small businesses and support their families
- Pakistan – *Aware Girls* has a 'Youth Peace Network' which has reached almost 4000 young people at risk of radicalisation, through peer education projects
- Sudan – 14 peace committees were supported and a rapid response fund was used to stop 12 grassroots conflicts before they could spread
- Philippines – to combat religious prejudice nearly 10,000 Muslim workers were placed into Christian community charities
- Sri Lanka – 4000 people participated in interfaith peace projects, and 130 female clergy and community leaders were trained to work as peacebuilders in war-affected areas
- Zimbabwe – 45 village chiefs were trained to manage conflict, to counter a widespread culture of political and criminal violence.

You can find out more, and support Peace Direct by going to www.peacedirect.org
Alternatively there are envelopes available in the Meeting House for your donations, and if you give them to Lois she will make sure the money gets to them.

Lois Lodge

NB. Some members of Meeting are attending the **Stop Trident rally** in London on **Saturday 27 February** – see www.quaker.org.uk/events/stop-trident-national-demo or see Anne Brewer for details. We hope to be back in time for the party/barn dance!

Reflection from our Elders

The Quaker World Plenary Meeting opens on Tuesday 19th and runs until 27th January in Pisac, Peru in the valley below the mountains that hold Macchu Picchu. The organisers wrote:

Imagine 350 Friends in a room in the Sacred Valley in Peru, surrounded by terraced mountains, singing 'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God' in multiple languages including the native Aymara language [spoken by Peruvian and Bolivian Quakers].

Imagine early morning Bible study co-led by two scholars from different parts of the world and two different Quaker traditions [the Quakers who have programmed services and those like us in Britain whose worship is based on silence].

Imagine 88 Young Friends influencing the discussion on leadership and ministry in the next 20 years.

Imagine the family of Friends gathering its voice about sustaining life on earth, working with the Quaker United Nations Offices and other Quaker organisations who propel the work we feel called to do.

Tara Craig and I from Dorking Meeting will be there. Please hold the World Plenary in the Light and think of all the Friends gathered in Pisac for this meeting.

Romy Elias for the Elders