



THE DORKING GRAPEVINE

Dorking Quaker Meeting

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For the New Year

As we enter 2017 somewhat troubled by the events of 2016, the following ministries given at Meeting seem appropriate.

At mid-week Meeting Quaker Faith & Practice 20:23 was read:

George Fox wrote to Friends in November 1663, during the time of much persecution: Sing and rejoice, ye Children of the Day and of the Light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of Darkness that may be felt: and Truth doth flourish as the rose, and the lilies do grow among the thorns, and the plants atop of the hills, and upon them the lambs doth skip and play. And never heed the tempests nor the storms, floods nor rains, for the Seed Christ is over all and doth reign. And so, be of good faith and valiant for the Truth.

... and at Sunday Meeting part of Quaker Faith & Practice 19.03:

From the journal of George Fox 1647: ... *I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. And in that also I saw the infinite love of God ...*

Dates for your Diary

Venue is the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.

Midweek Meeting	12.45-1.15pm	Every Wednesday , followed by simple lunch
Fri 20 January	2.30-5.00pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sun 22 January	12.15-1.30pm	Area Business Meeting at Horsham followed by lunch break (bring your own) and at 2.15pm Fellowship session with Graham Taylor talking about Ada Salter
Mon 6 Feb	8.30-9.00pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group – see page 4
Sun 12 Feb	after MfW	Traidcraft stall
Sun 12 February	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead
Mon 13 February	All day	Fellowship outing to Friends House – see page 2
Fri 17 February	2.30-5.00pm	Meditation and Spiritual Exploration
Sat 25 February	3-5pm	New Year Party - see page 4
Fri 3 March	10.30-12am	Women's World Day of Prayer service – see page 2
Sun 5 March	9.00am	Preparative Meeting
Mon 6 March	8.30-9.00pm	Healing/Upholding Prayer Group – see page 4
Sun 12 March	tbc	Area Meeting at Ifield
Sun 12 March	6.30pm	Meeting for Worship at Park House, Leatherhead

Preparative Meeting – Sunday 15 January

The December charity collection chosen by our children **raised £200** for The World Land Trust, an international conservation charity that takes action to save rainforest and other wildlife habitats. *"The money that is given to the World Land Trust, in my estimation, has more effect on the wild world than almost anything I can think of."* Sir David Attenborough.

The Meeting was pleased to accept **the nomination** of Rachel Hope to join Premises and Finance Committee. This committee is very small (still only 3 members) and very busy, so it is hoped that Friends will do their best to help out when they can.

Colin Brewer, as treasurer, presented **a budget for 2017**. Due to generous donations from members and some generous legacies the Meeting had ended 2016 with a reserve of nearly £45,000. The budget proposed that we restore our annual contribution to Britain Yearly Meeting to £6000 and undertake some much needed interior redecoration and repairs to our building. The budget also allowed for £1000 for a possible activity during Quaker Week and still ended 2017 with a healthy reserve of around £42,000. The budget was agreed and accepted.

Betty Chamberlain gave us an interesting potted history of **Midweek Meeting**, including how it raises funds and to what it donates them. Last year it gave half the money raised (£916) to the Meeting's depleted funds. The other £916 was distributed between five local charities and the national Syrian Appeal. Now that Dorking Meeting is in a better financial position, Friends were happy for all funds raised by Midweek Meeting to be donated to charities. Midweek Meeting's valuable pastoral and outreach work in the local community is seen as a concern of the whole Meeting. Friends were asked to consider the problems involved in bringing two elderly Friends in wheelchairs to Midweek Meeting and share ideas with overseers.

Rachel Hope reported **for Premises and Finance Committee**. For the safety of all Meeting House users, two grit bins with salt have been installed at suitable points and have already been of use in the current cold snap. Also to improve outside lighting it was agreed sensor lighting be installed at the front and rear of the building, at an estimated cost of about £1000. Friends raised the idea of a wish list to be published by Premises Committee so that anyone wishing to support a particular project of the Meeting would know what was needed.

Outing to Friends House – Monday 13 February

If you would like to see something of the work that is done on our behalf at Friends House in London, then here is your chance.



A group of Friends will be leaving Dorking on the 9.34am train (South West trains not Southern! and reduced fares if we travel as a group (about £10 each – less if it is a big group!!)) to reach Friends House around 10.45am. We will be welcomed with a warm drink and a special room to leave our coats etc before Friends House staff entertain us with talks, tours and activities – it is half-term and young people will be welcome. If not in use we will be able to see the newly refurbished Meeting Hall, known as The Light. We can have a half price dinner in the excellent

Friends House restaurant, about £3.25 for the main course (all vegetarian as it is no-meat Monday!) or you can bring your own picnic to eat in the restaurant with the group. **Contact Anne Brewer (01306 500187) if you would like to join the group.**

Womens' World Day of Prayer – Friday 3 March

Don't forget we are hosting the Women's World Day of Prayer this year. The Meeting House will be open to the public from 10.30am with tea/coffee available and the service is from 11 to 12. Everyone is welcome including men! Su Johnston will be leading the service and some members of the Meeting will be taking part as readers. Offers of help for serving the tea/coffee very welcome and do come and support the service – it was written by women of The Philippines this year and the theme is *Am I being unfair to you?*

Fairtrade Fortnight – 27 February to 12 March

The theme this year is *It's time to put Fairtrade in your break* with a focus on tea, coffee and chocolate – all things we might consume in a short break. Thousands of farmers in countries such as Malawi, Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire all contribute to the tea, coffee and cocoa we enjoy in the UK. And yet many of those farmers are still living in poverty as they are not paid a fair price for their crops. Elizabeth will be with us with her Traidcraft stall on 12 February so let's all stock up and ensure our enjoyable breaks are not at the expense of our fellow humans elsewhere!



Woodbrooke courses

The Woodbrooke catalogue of courses for 2017 is now available in the Information Centre. If you would like to attend one of these courses financial help may be available from Meeting funds – just ask an Overseer (Trish or Margaret)

Charities for January and February

We are currently living in a refugee crisis unseen since the Second World War. The UN estimates that 65.3 million people are now refugees, seeking asylum, or internally displaced.

Civilisations fall apart when we stop caring for our fellow men.

These quotes come from Help Refugees website (<http://www.helprefugees.org.uk/>). 'Help Refugees' is one of the charities we are encouraging Friends to support in January/February and the other is 'The Refugee Council' (<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/>)



'Help Refugees' focuses on providing immediate practical aid to refugees arriving in Europe. From their website: – We provide **emergency aid and vital services** to those affected by the global refugee crisis. We work where governmental and other non-governmental bodies cannot, filling the gaps in services to those displaced in Europe and beyond. ... We identify the **most effective grassroots groups** active in the crisis and provide them with funding, enabling them to focus their time and energy on the vital work they do every day rather than on raising funds.

'The Refugee Council' focuses on helping refugees that arrive in the UK and on lobbying the British government to introduce more humane treatment of these refugees. From their website: *We work with refugees and people seeking asylum in*

the UK. We offer practical support and advice throughout their journey in the UK. We have been helping refugees for more than 60 years and have a thorough understanding of the difficulties facing people arriving in the UK, having fled war, rape, torture and with unimaginable stories to tell. Many refugees have lost everything and their lives will never return to normal. We offer a helping hand to support and empower them to rebuild their lives.



We also speak up for refugees using our direct work as an evidence base, and ensure refugees have a stronger and more influential voice in decisions that will affect them.

You can make donations to either or both charities via their websites, or using donation forms which are available in the Meeting House.

Anne Brewer

Dorking Area Foodbank ('DAF')

Romy's report on the Dorking Foodbank for the CTD AGM (slightly edited to make it fit!):

'We have now been providing food and other necessities to those in need in the Dorking Area for over 20 months, covering two Harvest Festival seasons, two school summer holidays and two Christmases. The foodbank is running very smoothly and there is certainly a need for it.

The year has been one of consolidation, looking at areas for improvement and ensuring continuity. We now understand the pattern of the year better, including how many churches and schools are very generous to us with their Harvest Festival gifts. The flood of generosity does, however, put a great deal of pressure on both our warehouse storage capacity and our warehouse volunteers. We are very fortunate to have such a strong and extremely efficient team there. They keep control of the quantity and age of each of our stock items so that we can provide the nutritionally balanced food parcels that the Trussell Trust give us guidance on and distribute it within the 'Best Before' date while living within our storage capacity.

Following our experience of Harvest gifts in 2015, we tried in 2016 to steer potential Harvest donors to think of giving instead to the Calais Refugee camp and some schools and churches did so. It is quite a difficult message to get across as saying we have enough at any point can leave potential donors with the impression that we do not need more which in time we will do, or we need specific items. So we publish a list of the four most needed items, weekly, on our website: www.dorkingarea.foodbank.org.uk.

The absolute core of our activities is, of course, to provide food to the hungry and to do this we need our 38 Referral Agencies (including church workers and schools) who professionally assess potential clients and, where appropriate, issue our vouchers. When clients come into our distribution centre, we have had feedback on the warm welcome our volunteers give and how our volunteers really alleviate the apprehension some clients feel in coming to the foodbank. We also offer our clients prayer if they would like it. We have in 2016 for the first

time run two 'Pop-Up' foodbanks - one weekly 'Picnic Pop Up' across the six week school summer holidays and then two sessions a couple of weeks before Christmas. They were held at the Children's Centre on Goodwyns Road. Needy families were invited by our Referral Agencies. The 'Picnic Pop Up' provided families with extra meals and items for picnics to counter the loss of free school meals over the holidays and the Christmas Pop Up provided Christmas food and a couple of extra meals. The 'Pop Ups' were very well received by clients and the agencies.

We would like to thank so many in the Dorking Area churches and the wider community for their generosity in giving us stock, money and their time.

We are grateful to the Dorking Christian Centre who houses our distribution centre rent-free and also to Mole Valley District Council for providing our warehouse rent-free.

Everyone working on the foodbank is a volunteer. I also thank our outstanding team of volunteers who give their time and talents so willingly and compassionately to help those in need in our community and thank all those who pray for, and uphold, us in this work.'



Romy adds: DAF really appreciates the support of Dorking Quaker Meeting. Trish Humphreys is the Meeting's Representative for the foodbank and deals with the donation box we have at the Meeting House, including delivering its contents to the foodbank's warehouse. The DAF warehouse manager tells me that the donations Trish delivers from the Quaker Meeting are always very suitable for which she is very grateful. The Midweek meeting also provided £100.20 in June 2016 to buy food which the foodbank was short of which included 38 cartons of Milk powder which amazed DAF's warehouse manager who asked where on earth we managed to buy that quantity: it was from Sainsbury's first thing (7 am) for several days and clearing most of the shelf.

A Rose by any other Name...

In 1991/92 I was invited by Charles Kohler to join **Dorking Meeting Healing Prayer Group**. Once a month on a Monday evening we met in Charles and Peggy's flat in Holly House and as the names of people were read at steady intervals the bell ringers at St Martin's Church rang the bells and the old gas fire popped. Later we met at Nancy's flat and then in the Information Room of the Meeting House. Now, because we are older, still busy, but far flung, we stay in our own homes and on the first Monday of the month take the list of names of those who have contacted us and, from 8.30pm, silently and with love, think of these people and trust God to help.

Each of us in the group will have our own unique way of doing this. There is no script or formula. Some will use words or phrases another would not choose. Sometimes we are told of the reason for a Friend asking to be included on the list, but also sometimes we only know that a request has been made and that is enough, and always everything is confidential.

I gather that perhaps some Friends would use another name for the group. Always there will be differences of opinions and words can be divisive, but the spirit heals.

Frances Harber

Party!



The 25th February will see our children gathering for the traditional celebration of the new(ish) year, to which all are warmly invited. We will be in the Meeting House from 3-5pm to enjoy food, games (some Harry Potter themed) and, most importantly, each other's company. Any contributions to food are most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

Katy Nunn for Children's Committee

A Goodbye: The Meeting was sorry to say goodbye to Lois on January 15. She was thanked for her great service to the Meeting and everyone wished joy in her new home in Skipton.

Reflection from our Elders

May the New Year bring to you warmth of love,
And a light to guide your path towards a positive destination.
(Source unknown.)

Eleanor Campbell for Elders