

THE QUIET WORD



Meeting for worship

November 2015 issue no.11

GILDERSOME Friends Meeting

House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,
Leeds, LS27 7HX

tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368

Sundays, 10.45 am

ILKLEY Friends Meeting House

Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ

tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601181

Sundays, 10.30 am

ADEL Friends Meeting House

New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ

tel: 0113 2676293

Sundays, 10.45 am

CARLTON HILL Central Leeds

Friends Meeting House

188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,

LS2 9DX

tel: 0113 2422208

Meetings for worship:

Sundays, 10.45 am

ROUNDHAY Friends Meeting House

136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW

tel: 0113 2933684

Sundays, 10.45 am

OTLEY Friends Meeting

1st Sunday of month 10:45 at various houses.

3rd Sunday every month in The Court House -

usually in the Robing room .

Enquiries :0113 318 8084 dmr@cooptel.net

RAWDON Friends Meeting House

Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,

LS19 6HU

tel: 07582 960092

Sundays, 10.45 am

LEEDS UNIVERSITY

Tuesdays, 1.05pm

In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel Centre which
is alongside the main entrance to the University
of Leeds Campus opposite the Parkinson
Building (with the white clock tower).

Organised by the Leeds Universities Chaplaincy

Bedford Court

First and third Wednesdays,

10.30 am



Chris Allen of Carlton Hill standing in the car park with his new Nissan Leaf electric car



One of the owls keeping a watchful eye from the top of Leeds Civic Hall

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Quaker Faith & Practice	page 3
Testimony	page 4
What is QPSW?	page 5
Quakers in Yorkshire Outreach Committee	page 6
Report on Quakers in Yorkshire	page 7
Northern Friends Peace Board	page 9
Young Friends	page 9
A wedding invitation	page 10
Membership: Local Meeting of Area Meeting?	page 11
Meeting for Sufferings	page 12
Quaker Week	page 12 -13
A visit to Glenthorne	page 14
Standing in the Light	page 15

Please send any submissions for Next month's issue of the Quiet Word to quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk. The Quiet Word is available online from www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word

Events Diary - November

@ denotes an event that is only open to those who attend Leeds Quaker meetings.

Sunday 8th

2pm Quaker Peace Witness: remembering all victims of war - outside Leeds Art Gallery

Sunday 8th

7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH

Tuesday 10th

6.16pm for 7pm start 'Quaker Worship and Ministry' study group at Carlton Hill QMH

Saturday 14th

2pm memorial service for Paul Priest - Wrangthorne Church, Hyde Park

@Sunday 15th

1.15pm LAQM Elders and Overseers meeting at Otley

Tuesday 17th

7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Discussion Group - Carlton Hill QMH

@ Sunday 22nd

1pm - Planning meeting for Leeds Quaker Peace Witness against Trident

Sunday 22nd

7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH

Monday 23rd

7pm Out of Silence - a play at Bradford Peace Museum.

Tuesday 24th

6.16pm for 7pm start 'Quaker Worship and Ministry' study group at Carlton Hill QMH

Sunday 28th

11am Quaker wedding at Carlton Hill

Sunday 29th

1pm to 3.30pm Amnesty Greeting Card Campaign at Rawdon QMH

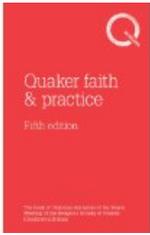
December

Tuesday 1st 7.30pm Leeds Quaker Bible Discussion Group - Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 3rd 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship at Carlton Hill QMH

@Sunday 13th 1pm to 4.15pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to be held at Adel QMH

QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE



The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group invites you to join with them, and other Quakers across the country, in reading and getting to know our current Book of Discipline. They have produced a calendar of suggested chapters to read each month. Each month 'Quiet Word' editors will select one passage for reflection and study. 'The Friend' will also run regular articles on this theme each week. For more information see <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/> and

<http://qfp.quaker.org.uk/reading/>.

It is suggested that you reflect on the following questions each month:

- 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?

Remember, this is a learning exercise, not a consultation. Chat with other Friends/friends about your responses.

Suggested reading for November:

Chapter 23 Social Responsibility

Your editor's choice:

Quaker Faith & Practice 23.12

The word 'testimony' is used by Quakers to describe a witness to the living truth within the human heart as it is acted out in everyday life. It is not a form of words, but a mode of life based on the realisation that there is that of God in everybody, that all human beings are equal, that all life is interconnected. It is affirmative but may lead to action that runs counter to certain practices currently accepted in society at large. Hence a pro-peace stance may become an anti-war protest, and a witness to the sacredness of human life may lead to protests against capital punishment. These testimonies reflect the corporate beliefs of the Society, however much individual Quakers may interpret them differently according to their own light. They are not optional extras, but fruits that grow from the very tree of faith.



Harvey Gillman, 1988

Testimony

One of the most important of the original Quaker insights was that our testimony is what we do. It is not what we say we believe, or what we claim to value that matters, but what we say with our life. Our testimony is all of our actions; a whole way of life that testifies to who we are and to our experience of God. If we encounter spiritual reality and are transformed by it, we will lead a transformed life, and that is our testimony.

The specific actions of Quaker testimony have always been very various, and have also changed over time in response to different situations. For the first Quakers, the most important aspects of their testimony were plain and truthful speech and the refusal to support the established church. Later, our testimony developed in many directions, including opposition to war, anti-slavery, support for refugees and practising equal marriage.

It was only in the 1960s that all of these very diverse kinds of Quaker testimony were first grouped into the familiar list of 'Simplicity, Truth, Equality and Peace', simply as a convenient way of remembering and explaining them.

Unfortunately, since then we have got into the habit of talking about 'Quaker testimonies' as though they were a list of principles or values that we are supposed to accept and then try (and inevitably fail) to 'live up to'. This makes them into ideas in our heads, that we have to work out how to apply to real life, from the head down. This way of understanding testimonies as a list of values contradicts what is most essential about the Quaker way; that it is a way of practice, rooted in experience, not in principles or beliefs. Our testimony is what we do because we know from our own experience that it is what we have to do. Instead of starting from our heads, it rises up from the ground on which we stand.

Our corporate testimony is all of those actions that we have discerned together as a Yearly Meeting, including the refusal of violence and commitment to peace-making, speaking truthfully, refusing to participate in gambling or speculation, and working towards becoming a low-carbon community. These aspects of our life together are not a list of rules or principles. The fundamental value of the corporate Quaker testimonies is as a guide to discerning our own leadings. By reminding us of the ways in which Friends have been led in the past, individually and collectively, the testimonies can help to sensitise us to the areas where the inward Guide may be nudging us in our own lives and situations.

From a post on onlinequakers.org.uk, based on a talk given as part of the Woodbrooke course 'A New Vision of the Quaker Way' in July 2015



Leeds Quakers outside Rawdon Meeting House

What is Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW)?

QPSW is run by a small team of about 20 paid staff from Friends House in London under the auspices of Britain Yearly Meeting to help each and every one of us live out our testimonies. Their work is overseen by a committee of 17 Friends appointed from Meetings across Britain, who give their time on a voluntary basis.

Quakers find that their experience of worship leads them to try to change the world for the better. Many act as individuals, with others in their local meetings or through a wide range of charities and campaigning organisations. But some kinds of work are best done by Quakers in Britain acting together, and local work can benefit from liaison, resources and encouragement provided from the 'centre'.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) is a hub for local and national Quaker action for peace and justice and is committed to nonviolent social change. We support Quaker witness in local communities in Britain and overseas, and represent Quakers at national and sometimes international levels to parliaments, governments, business and the general public. The following are some of the fields covered:

Peace Education -working with schools and educators to provide peace education for our young people and to challenge the alarming spread of militarisation in our schools.

Peace campaigning and disarmament – to inspire Quakers in the call to action of our Peace Testimony, by campaigning against Trident nuclear weapons, the growing deliberate militarisation of our society and to work for a peace-building approach to

security.

One-year peace-workers – A small number of people are recruited each year who would like the opportunity to apply their commitment to working for peace. They are funded in a placement with a peace-building organisation, either in the UK or abroad. In 2105 there are three in Britain, one in Burundi and one in Congo(DRC).

Turning the Tide – a number of groups trained in the power of non-violence to “turn the tide” of injustice. Trained units are at work in many parts of the world (for instance in the troubled areas of Ukraine), as well as in the UK. Training courses are run at various times throughout the year and volunteers are always needed.

Economic Justice – In order to live within the constraints of the availability of the earth's natural resources we need an economic system that supports this and encourages fair share for all, instead of one which encourages greed, thus increasing the division between “haves” and “have nots”,

Criminal Justice - Quakers have a long-standing historic involvement with the criminal justice system.

The main Quaker website is currently being upgraded to a new “mobile friendly” version but you can still find more information on the above at: <http://old.quaker.org.uk/qpsw-information-and-resources>

Apart from above “official” projects, QPSW also actively supports the **Quaker Housing Trust** and works closely with **Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)** in Geneva. It also supports a number of smaller Quaker organisations such as: **Quaker Asylum and**

Refugee Network (QARN), Living Witness (Quakers for Sustainability), **Quakernomics** (working to create faith into action on economic justice). QPSW also works closely with a number of external organisations such as Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), and various peace and environment groups within the UK.

Quakers in Yorkshire Outreach Projects Committee

The Outreach Projects Committee was formed in 2013. Its task is to give grants to Quakers throughout Yorkshire for outreach projects that local Friends cannot fully fund themselves. The committee consists of one Friend from each of our seven area meetings, plus a clerk. The work is done largely by email, but the group also aim to meet once a year face to face.

In 2014 OPC made six grants. These all had exhibitions or displays as their central feature, and some of them revolved around the First World War or peace more generally. Pickering Meeting put on an exhibition in October during that town's wartime weekend. Sheffield Friends had two small displays, in a public library and at a peace and craft fair, in autumn. Thirsk held a week-long display called Choices 1914. This was a well publicised event which has been reported in The Friend and elsewhere. Friargate worked with the Castle Museum in York to provide a room full of additional material to complement a major exhibition on the war. Beverley Friends also worked with a local museum, to put on a display on Quakers in the East Riding and Beyond, alongside a well-attended public talk on Quakers given by Geoffrey Durham.

During summer 2015, Carlton Hill Outreach in Leeds shared a stall at Leeds Gay Pride, a very popular event held yearly and attracting huge crowds to Leeds. Beverley Friends also had a stall at Beverley Folk festival in June providing information locally and about who and where Quakers are further afield.

Our grants varied in size from £24 to £1000. The committee has received reports (some still at the informal stage) on all the projects.

A wealth of imagination and impressive amount of work went into them. Please seek out any Friend who may have been involved in putting on one of these projects; what they have to say will encourage and inspire you. Area and local meeting clerks have been sent a summary of the projects funded, with contact details, with the intention that any Friend wishing to set up an outreach event can potentially find a Yorkshire Friend who may be able to offer advice.

The committee has a full complement of seven members, one from each Area Meeting, and a new clerk is being sought. Area meetings appoint representatives for three years in the first instance. Applications are received and decisions made by email. This system mostly works well and the aim is to have a face to face meeting once a year, enabling us to continue to improve working together. Local Meetings are encouraged to approach their AM representative if they want to discuss a proposal. Grant funding must have a connection to Yorkshire and not to meet individual needs or to be made retrospectively.

The funding application form can be accessed via www.laqm.leedsquakers.org.uk and go to the QIY page where you will find the link to download the form

The committee decided to support any local meeting which wishes to take up the opportunity to put on a Kindlers workshop, as proposed at the Kindlers presentation to QiY in October 2014. This represents a new departure, being inreach more than outreach. There seems a good case for thinking that the one activity is likely to support the other and the committee was enthusiastic about the proposal.

Committee members are keen to promote different sorts of activity amongst Yorkshire Friends. We have discussed, for instance, a display at the Great Yorkshire Show in 2016. Your comments on this and all aspects of our work would be welcome. OPC has a budget of £10,000 available and made grants in 2014 totalling £2050 and in 2015 the amount was £1480. The money is there, Friends; so please make use of it !

Christine Middleton (Roundhay)

Quakers in Yorkshire

Bootham School, York, Saturday 17th Oct

The day covered a wealth of detail on many topics and this report merely skims the surface. All the minutes will be available on the Quakers in Yorkshire website. <http://www.quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/>

The clerks to the governors and the bursars of the two York Quaker Schools, Bootham and The Mount, gave inspiring reports. Bootham's finances are in a good state and last year turned in a £284,000 surplus. Many improvements have been made to the buildings. The Mount is now recovering from losses over the past couple of years and is now on top of them. They have now been removed from the bank's "watched" list. They have agreed to take 2 to 4 Syrian refugee girls.

The Heads of the two schools then gave their joint report. We learned that both Jonathan Taylor (Bootham) and Julie Lodrick (The Mount) were leaving next year – Jonathan to retire and be replaced by Chris Jeffrey in August 2016; and Julie to move to another, larger, school in Tunbridge Wells. She will be replaced by Adrienne Richmond in January 2016. Both were thanked for their service.

The biggest problem throughout the year for both schools was getting new pupils. Maintaining pupil numbers is absolutely vital to ensure a healthy balance sheet. Julie went on a tour of Russia, Hong Kong, Nigeria and Mexico to drum up new enrolments. Bootham employs an agency to do the same job. Staff also require replacing and existing staff also require continual re-training and updating of skills to keep pace with demands from changes in government policy.

In terms of pupil results, both schools are excellent, despite the fact that they have had

continual disputes with the exam boards over faulty marking. Jonathan declared that "the exam boards are totally unfit for purpose"!!!!

A brilliant report from pupils at both schools followed. They told us that they had spent a weekend at Woodbrooke and as a result now employed the "Quaker Business Method" in their school council. They also did a tour of 1652 country. We were told that they were involved with the political elections earlier in the year, using their IT skills to make predictions and, with the help of Jonathan Taylor, held a hustings which was well attended by the public. The girls told us that they are the only Quaker school in the country to run PeaceJam, <http://peacejam.org/>, a web-based educational activity, founded by Bradford University, where pupils are mentored by Nobel Peace Laureates. They actually got to meet a couple of them face to face. The programme explores adolescent stories of the Peace Laureates and provides activities that explore positive identity development and decision-making. It also explores such things as bullying and conflict.

We were then treated to a talk on Friends House Hospitality Ltd, the trust company that maintains Friends House in London. It became necessary to manage Friends House as a valuable asset and the company was set up eight years ago to do just that. The management is 100% Quaker and answerable to Britain Yearly Meeting. Their aim is to make Friends House a profitable asset whilst still maintaining Quaker ethics. A few "throw away" statistics – last year they served 39,832 cups of coffee, and looked after 253,000 non-Quaker visitors (quite apart from the Quaker ones). This took the combined workforce of 50 a total of 5,850 man-hours to clean and maintain. Including lettings, for which they are responsible, their efforts brought in £1.17 million in revenue for BYM. Last year they won the award as Best London Sustainable Restaurant. They have now acquired the

responsibility for Swarthmore Hall.

The afternoon was taken up with a very informative discussion on the Transatlantic Trade Investment Programme (TTIP) led by Simon Bond of Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) This is a very complex issue, far too involved to delve into in this report. For details on most of what was discussed see the September edition of Quiet Word.

The next meeting will be at the Oxford Methodist Centre, Leeds on Saturday 16th January 2016.

Pete Redwood (Carlton Hill)



The new art and music block at Bootham school

David Robson and Una Parker, both from Leeds, enjoy the tour of the School given by the headmaster. They are shown in the newly refurbished 'recital' room. Complete with portraits of former heads. The middle portrait is of Arthur Rowntree, head from 1899 to 1927 - David was very interested to see him as he is a distant 'uncle'.



Many hands.... the steady hands of the Clerk, Barbara Parry keeps the table still!!

Northern Friends Peace Board

Quakers and attenders from Wales, Scotland and the northern half of England met at Perth Subud Centre on Saturday 26th of September 2015.

The Trustees' report, including finance, was presented.

We heard a summary of the Building Peace in Diverse Britain project work which has been taking place over the last five years in West Yorkshire and Lancashire, amongst young people from diverse backgrounds. Two current group members are interested in continuing the work and any Friends who are interested in helping take it forward are invited to contact the Peace Board Coordinator, Philip Austin.

Between 1999 and 2001 the Peace Papers were published. These gave individuals an opportunity to describe their own motivation and concern for taking action and the way in which they had taken that action. There are sufficient funds remaining to republish some of these on the web and also to reflect on some of the peace action and stories that have arisen since then. We felt encouraged by recent positive changes in Scotland and the rising compassion within society in response to the refugee crisis. It is a good time to be involved in work for peace.



Drawing on some of Diana Francis' 2015 Swarthmore lecture we thought about security in the context of current and long-term peace priorities. We noted that security begins in individuals, that we are all responsible for common security, that having fun together helps to diminish fear and isolation, that it is helped by a sense of belonging, building relationships and trust, bottom-up democracy and by speaking truth to power.

York Area Meeting are holding a peace vigil outside the Minster every fourth Saturday and have invited other churches to join.

On October 28 part of the Off the Shelf literary festival in Sheffield will feature a contribution from the Forgiveness Project.

There has been a World Party in Huddersfield as part of Huddersfield Town of Sanctuary events and a Peace Lecture given by Paul Rogers entitled "Conflict in the Middle East".

Skipton Meeting will host the sixth annual Peace Lecture in cooperation with the Grassington and Area Peace Group. It will be delivered by Jenny Pearce from Bradford University.

Peace packs will be delivered to all schools in Craven, the QPSW one and the Quaker one for primaries and the Peace Museums one and the Quaker one for secondary schools.

The next meeting is in Lancaster.

Fiona Pacey (Rawdon)

Young Quakers Youth Participation Day

Friends House, London

4 September 2015

Because it was only three weeks after Yorkshire Friends Holiday School, I was looking forward to meeting up with some people I knew from there.

To start, we had some refreshments and met other participants. There were about 30 young

people from across England and Wales. We then joined Meeting for Sufferings for a short meeting for worship, before regrouping and playing some getting to know you games. After that, we talked about the "be the change" resource and different methods of peaceful protest, in smaller groups.

We then had a meeting for worship for business where we discerned to have a

meeting for worship at the British Museum against their sponsorship by BP. Some of us decided to go into the museum for a short meeting for worship, while others stayed outside with a banner and wrote feedback forms to the museum against their use of BP. Pictures of this protest were shared across social media to spread what we were doing. It was really exciting to be part of this protest as it was something that I wouldn't normally have the chance to do and it really felt like we were making a change to the museum and people's views of BP, which was very empowering.

In the afternoon, we were joined by Paul

Parker, the recording clerk of BYM, who told us about the long term framework for Britain Yearly Meeting and invited us to talk about where we see ourselves within a Quaker context in five year's time and we looked at the aspects that stood out to us most. We had presentations about other Quaker groups for young people that we could become involved in like YFGM (Young Friends General Meeting), JYF (Junior Yearly Meeting), YPP (Young People's Programme of BYM), JYM (Junior Young Friends)! The whole day was really interesting, worthwhile and fun. I thank Area Meeting for nominating me to go.

Jo Parker (Carlton Hill)



Young Friends join others in a protest at the British Museum against BP sponsorship.

Photograph: Niklas Halle'n/AFP/Getty Images

An Invitation

Peter and Rania would like to invite all Leeds Quakers to their wedding which is to be held on Saturday 28th November at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House and is followed by a reception at Oakwell Hall, starting at 17:00, to which everyone is welcome (even if they can't make it to the wedding).

The meal is a bring and share dinner, we've asked everyone to bring along their favourite dish. We have a few allergies so we've asked for everyone to label any dish with fish, nuts, gluten, eggs, or lactose in. Oakwell Hall is a little far out so people may want to share lifts. The address is Nutter Lane WF17 9LG

Accommodation

Quaker House, which is next to Carlton Hill Meeting House, offers good accommodation for the over 60's. One of the flats is about to become available, if you are interested, please contact Una Parker on 0113 2445454 for more details.



Membership : Local Meeting or Area Meeting?

Some people ask 'why do I have to be a member in the Area Meeting, with people I do not know? I just wanted to join my own local meeting where I feel at home.' This feeling has been recognised in Leeds Area Meeting and for some years we have had the possibility of an alternative path into membership, which happens mainly in the local meeting. (See the leaflets 'Thinking about Membership' which should be available in your meeting house.)

The last two people welcomed into membership by the Area Meeting used this method, and it worked well for all concerned. Has your meeting recently invited anyone to become a member, using either the traditional or alternative methods? And if not, why not?

So what's the point of your membership being in the Area Meeting? Basically the help we can give to each other. Each meeting has its own strengths and its own idiosyncrasies. People change and meetings change; what was a good and comfortable fit may begin to feel uncomfortable. The balance of other idiosyncrasies across the Area Meeting may provide a new home with a minimum of fuss. If you have a concern to turn your faith into action, your own meeting may seek help from others across the Area Meeting to support and help with this. If you or your meeting is feeling fragile and weak the Elders and Overseers appointed to the whole Area Meeting may be able to offer support. And if your meeting has property to maintain it can do this with the help of the Trustees. These are the things which come into focus after 10 years with a meeting, not two.

What do you think are other good or bad things about being a member in an Area Meeting rather than a local meeting? Send your thoughts to me at susan.robson@cooptel.net and I will include them in another piece like this in a little while.

Susan Robson – Membership Secretary



New vases donated by Robin McDermot to Carlton Hill Meeting. Robin has made them from wood that came from the trees trimmed in the Carlton Hill garden earlier in the year 'I don't like to waste anything' he said. Robin attends the meetings of the RSPB which are held at the Meeting House and asked if he could take some of the wood off the woodpile to make some vases for a children charity - in return for this favor, he has given three of the wooden vases to the meeting for all to enjoy.

Meeting for Sufferings

Meeting for Sufferings took place on at Friends House on Saturday, 5 September 2015. It was, as always, an interesting time. There was a lot of talk and ministry around the North Wales concern for building a Quaker-led Credit Union to counter the likes of Wonga with their totally unrealistic rates of interest, piling more pressure onto people who are already facing financial hardship. There was a light-hearted moment when they said they would report back more honestly at the next Meeting for Sufferings. I thought this sounded odd and said I hoped we were always honest; this got a great laugh, but I had meant it to be a serious comment!

After all the usual business, we also heard about the Quaker statement on Syria. One of the members of Meeting for Sufferings asked if a semi-colon could be removed; I sometimes think that we can lose sight of the bigger picture that thousands of people are displaced through our own country's foreign policies and that we have a moral duty

towards these people — so let us not get hung up about a semi-colon. We moved on and I spent a happy hour talking to Ian Kirk Smith, the editor of *The Friend* and a sound engineer (someone I knew when I worked at Television Centre in London). Perhaps all ex-BBC employees find their way to Friends in the end! After lunch we had a fascinating talk from Julian Rutherford about the work of Southern Marches Area Meeting's work for a memorial to the innocent people who have been killed as a by-product of war; this was fascinating not least because the use of the word 'innocent' provoked quite a reaction. I could not help but think that there were innocent people, children who through no fault of their own had been born at the 'wrong' time into the 'wrong' country. After much talk and ministry it was decided to take this concern on board and back it. We also heard that Lancaster and Chorley Meeting will become part of Pendle Hill Area Meeting.

John Arnison - Roundhay

Quaker Week

Quaker Week is the annual publicity opportunity for Quakers. This year it ran from 3rd to 10th October. A number of events were held around the Leeds area and our intrepid photographer was out and about to record the them.

Otley QM hosted the Churches Together in Otley Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 3 October.



Carlton Hill organised a Meeting for Worship on Sunday, 4 October in Briggate in Leeds city centre, followed by a vigil (with our Trident shaped banner) against the renewal of Trident.



Ilkley hosted the Plain Quakers on Friday, 9 October, who performed, 'For Conscience Sake', a play about opposition to conscription in World War I.

The Quaker Cycle Ride



The Quaker Cycle Ride to Saltaire left Carlton Hill at 10am on 10th October - billed as the 10.10.10 cycle ride, it proved to be a very good day out.

Six cyclists set out - we were led by Jeremy on his uni cycle. We took the newly relaid cycle path along the canal with our first stop being for tea and coffee at the Rodley Nature Reserve - this is one of Leeds 'hidden secrets' - If you have not yet been it is well worth a visit, but the priority is for nature, so people are only allowed on Wednesdays and Saturdays!



The weather was good and we were making a good pace, but a few miles before we reached Saltaire, Jeremy's unicycle developed a puncture which slowed him down and gave Hugh, who had been one of our slower riders, the great satisfaction of overtaking Jeremy as he did some pumping prior to fixing his puncture we reached Saltaire. This



was the first puncture in the five years of what is now developing into our annual Leeds Quaker Cycle ride.



We had a very enjoyable lunch together at the park cafe near to Salts Mill. Nothing like building up a good appetite! After our lunch, we split, with three friends returning to Leeds and three continuing to Bingley Five Rise, the very impressive set of five locks at Bingley. At this point, there was a suggestion that we could carry on to Skipton....only another 12 mile according to the sign. Thankfully we thought better of that idea and headed back to Leeds.

At Rodley we stopped for further refreshments at 'The Railwayman' and and by the time we got back to Leeds, we were able to reflect on a most enjoyable day.



Five Hi !!



Homeward bound

A Visit to Glenthorne

One of the very practical ways Quakers offer support to refugees and Asylum seekers is through occasional weekends at Glenthorne, the Quaker Guest house in Grasmere run by Quakers in Yorkshire. Solace clients were invited to a weekend there, and eleven took up the invitation, including three children. Anne Burghgraef, Solace Clinical Director, drove them over and writes:

“It was an outstanding weekend. It gave our Solace clients an experience of really being cared for and nurtured in a tranquil and breath-taking environment. You could see people beginning to relax and to communicate with each other in new ways. It was lovely to see faces that are often stressed and anxious breaking out into smiles.

They all wanted to stay longer. One woman from Uganda who had been in the UK for several years said Saturday was her best ever day in the UK. She went on a boat for the very first time as she was always too frightened to in Africa. One man from Kashmir said how wonderful it was as the mountains reminded him of home. He also really valued the worship time of being together with others in quiet to worship God without barriers.

There were other delights, such as seeing two women, one from Albania, and one from Iran, discover with a sense of joy that



they could communicate with each other in Turkish.

Whenever I mention the weekend to those who went when I see them at Solace, they immediately smile and say how good it was.

Terry (Winterton) was a very warm and sensitive host who put people at their ease with his relaxed manner and sense of humour. So a big thank you to Glenthorne and the Quakers from us all for a transformative weekend.”

As a Quaker who has enjoyed many lovely community weekends at Glenthorne, I feel immensely proud that we can and do offer such a wonderful support. Thank you to all those who make these weekends possible: it is a very heart warming and, as Anne says, transformational gift.

For more information about Solace see www.solace-uk.org.uk or contact me at Kate@solace-uk.org.uk

Kate Graham, Ilkley PM



Glenthorne Quaker Guest House is a Victorian country house set in an idyllic location just five minutes walk from the centre of Grasmere in the Lake District. It offers year round accommodation as well as hosting a variety of courses, open to all.

For full details <http://www.glenthorne.org>

Standing in the Light – a personal



view

A favourite Quaker expression is “to stand in the Light” or “to hold someone, or something in the Light”. But what does it really mean?

According to George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, the Light refers to Jesus Christ and Fox's conviction of the power of believing in Christ. The expression is taken from the Bible - John, Chapter 1:

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
4. In Him was life, and the life was the **Light** of mankind.
9. The true **Light**, who gives **Light** to everyone, was coming into the world.
12. ...not born by human parents or by human desire or a husband's decision, but by God.
14. Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us.

(Quotations from the .NET Bible, on online version of the New English Translation)

Throughout Fox's Journal, on almost every page, there is a reference to The Light or to The Divine Light of Christ. Early Quakers understood that they did not need a preacher, indoctrinated in what they saw as corrupted and distorted ideas, to intercede for them. They could believe in the power of the Divine for themselves. They could, each of them, find their own level. It was completely experiential.

Advices and Queries asks “How do you interpret your faith in the light of this heritage? How does Jesus speak to you today?” Many Quakers today have far less dependence on the Bible, and indeed less dependence on a firm belief in Jesus Christ per se. But for most I think, The Light refers to the Divine within each of us and within the world.

When I first discovered Quakers I had rejected Christianity completely and was dabbling with New Age ideas, and from there progressed to Hindu teachings which led on to Buddhism. In each of these ideas there is a strong sense of The Divine. My dictionary defines “divine” as “from or pertaining to a god” from the Latin *divinus* – a god, a supreme being. Quakerism has taught me to look behind the words of the religious texts and extract the deep meaning contained in their pages. And there, deep in every page of the Bible, the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita, or the Qu'ran is the Divine guidance on how to live a good life, to love one's 'enemies', and to be a better person. It is sad that all too often the Light of these ideas is so distorted by the misinterpretation of the words on the page, often resulting in a state of spiritual anguish.

In the words of George Fox “The Word given by the letter killeth.”

Pete Redwood



Selected events at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

Seeds of Silence: an Appleseed retreat

Monday 16 November 2015 - Thursday 19 November 2015

In this retreat we shall try to nurture the seeds of silence in each of us. Some input will be offered at the beginning of each day, leaving participants free for personal process and reflection.

Speaking up and Speaking out

Run in partnership with Turning the Tide

Friday 20 November 2015 - Sunday 22 November 2015

A series of 3 linked weekends responding to and developing ideas within the 2015 Swarthmore Lecture given by Diana Francis, on 'Faith, Peace and Power'. The purpose of the course is to develop participants' understanding of peace and their confidence as advocates and practitioners. The programme is being run in partnership with Turning the Tide

Early Christianities: the first century

Friday 27 November 2015 - Sunday 29 November 2015

We will explore that diversity while also acknowledging the significant common beliefs that unite the expanding church.

What is Quaker Ministry?

Friday 27 November 2015 - Sunday 29 November 2015

What do we as a Faith Group understand by Ministry? We will be exploring how past Friends have used Ministry and how contemporary Friends experience Ministry. We will also be considering our own and our Meeting's needs for Ministry.

Dreaming for Ministry: Do I dare to be so bold?

Sunday 29 November 2015 - Tuesday 1 December 2015

Ministry is essential in sustaining our own religious life and the life of our Quaker meeting. Do we know from where it comes? How do I minister? Can I minister? Is everyone called to minister? How do I know that I have ministry?

For the full listing see <http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/courses.html>