

THE QUIET WORD



Meeting for worship

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 and 3rd Sunday of month 10:45 am at 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

October 2015 issue no.8



Have you ever spotted the
Carlton Hill Meeting House cat?



Lea Keeble shows off the apple
harvest from the new Carlton
Hill Meeting apple tree.



Carlton Hill friends enjoy lunch
in the front garden



Robert Keeble, warden at
Carlton Hill gets ready to
welcome all the students to
Leeds 'Welcome to Leeds'



Leeds Peace Witness - Trident
on the move again! Next
Leeds Quaker Peace Witness
event will be on Sunday 4th
October at 3.30pm on
Briggate, Leeds (meet outside
Debenhams)

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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

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

Quaker Meeting for Worship at **all Leeds Meetings** at **10.45am on Sundays**

Quaker Meeting for Worship at **Otley Court House** on **1st** and **3rd Sundays** at **10.45am**

Quaker Meeting for Worship at **Ilkley** is held **10.30am** on **Sundays**.

October

Sunday 4th 10.45am Otley Quaker Meeting

Sunday 4th 3pm Public space Meeting for Worship outside Denenhams on Briggate, Leeds

Sunday 4th 3.30pm Leeds Quaker Peace Witness against Trident Nuclear Weapons

Friday 9th 'For Conscience Sake' - a new play by Plain Quakers about opposition to conscription in World War One. **Ilkley QMH 7.30pm**. Contact Martin Ford
Telephone: 07867 688171

Saturday 10th 10am Cycle Ride from Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting to Saltaire

@Sunday 11th 1pm to 4.15pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting – topic 'Spirituality' at Rawdon QMH

Sunday 11th 7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH Miaoyin Qu and Ilias Devetzoglou (piano and violin) playing Beethoven, Schuman and Brahms

Saturday 17th 10am to 4pm Quakers in Yorkshire at Bootham School, York.

Saturday 17th 1.30pm to 4pm Family fun day at Roundhay Quaker Meeting

Sunday 18th 10.45am Otley Quaker Meeting

Otley Quaker Meeting is very low in numbers. Friends are asked to support them whenever possible.

November

Sunday 8th 7.30pm Amnesty Concert at Rawdon QMH



Paul Priest

Friends will be saddened to hear of the death of Paul Priest who died on Tuesday 8th September. Paul had become a regular attender at Carlton Hill Meeting, having moved into one of the 'Quaker House Flats' at Carlton Hill only a year or so ago. For the last two weeks of his life was cared for at Weatfields Hospice

Paul was a wonderful man and his life enriched us all. Paul attended the fortnightly Carlton Hill discussion group. On one occasion the group looked at a quotation from Isaac Pennington written in 1677. Paul liked the passage so much that he immediately memorised it. The passage reads:

"Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand."



A Memorial Service is to held on Saturday 14th November, at 2pm, at Wrangthorne Church, Hyde Park, Leeds. The date chosen for this celebration and thanksgiving is Paul's birthday. The church is one that Paul attended regularly before he moved to Quaker House.

NEWS OF MARTIN SCHWEIGER

Martin Schweiger, a Quaker stalwart of Roundhay, Leeds and beyond, whilst travelling in France to a wedding, has had emergency surgery for an aortic aneurysm on Thursday 24th September. He is recovering well but needs to remain in Amiens, France, for at least two weeks, until he is well enough to travel home. Liz Schweiger is staying down there to visit him every day.

Martin and his family are in all our thoughts and prayers – we must all hold them in the Light.

If you have any messages of support, please send to dapherbs@yahoo.co.uk and I will forward them to Martin's family.

Donald Purves Clerk Roundhay LQM

29 September 2015

Grandpa Wood....

With the serialisation of the memories of Horace England being detailed in the Quiet Word (see July and September editions), Edward Starkie of Adel meeting has come across the following excerpt from The Friend (23rd April, 1926) about his great-grandfather, Robert Wood.

Robert Wood, a notice of whose death appears in another column, was a well-known figure in the business life in Leeds. Educated at Rawdon and Ackworth, where his father (John Wood 1820 – 1902, familiarly known as 'Quaker' Wood) first built the Meeting House and later married in it, he studied civil engineering and subsequently joined his father's firm. During his younger manhood he interested himself in the welfare of children, teaching in the Sunday School at Carlton Hill and also that of men in connection with 'the Old Queen', a transformed public-house, then a branch of the British Workman temperance movement and now an Adult School Social Club. This interest was renewed in connection with the Leeds University Men's Club.

Shortly after his marriage to Mary Latchmore he moved to Leicester for a few years, during which time he was responsible for building several railway stations in that neighbourhood. The Shire Hall at Bedford is another mark on his ability. Among important



undertakings in Leeds the Yorkshire College, the nucleus of the University, was built by him, and he was the pioneer of the construction of flats from large old-fashioned houses, which has helped to ease the after-war shortage.

For many years Robert Wood was an active member of the Premises Committee at Carlton Hill and also of the Committee of Rawdon School. His interest in education was also shown in connection with Ackworth and Ayton Schools, with teachers and the Flounders Institute during the years when it was situated in Leeds, when he took a kindly personal interest in the students. He was keenly interested in all pertaining to the Society of Friends, but, in the last few years deafness cut him off from participating much in public gatherings, and for the same reason he shrank from all but small companies of people. However, he found much satisfaction in frequent visits to 'Cupplesfield' at Bainbridge, which he acquired after the death of Lucy Harrison. Here friendship with nature and the associations of the house made appeal to him and he enjoyed worshipping from time to time in the little old Meeting House at the corner of the village green. He maintained his activity nearly to the end of his life. Within his family circle his uniting influence was strongly felt and his wife and six children and grandchildren look back upon many happy family reunions.

Notice of Deaths: Wood – 13th April 1923. At his residence, Virginia House, North Grange Road, Headingley Leeds, suddenly, Robert Wood, aged 76

Virginia House still exists on North Grange, Headingley and the Quiet word 'photographer' was able to pay a visit. The House has now been divided into flats and presently needs some love and attention. However, you do get a good glimpses of its past – a resident showed where the water pump at the back of the house was and there is a 'DAIRY' sign above one of the basement windows. The grounds are also very impressive and can be seen momentary as you travel by bus (on the top deck) from Heading to Leeds. Edward remembers visiting his grandfather, Joseph Wood (1880 to 1952) at 'The Homestead' which was located



in the grounds of the Virginia House estate, and for a short while, Edward, as a young man, lived at the large block of flats called Grange Court which are also on the same estate and were built by Robert Wood.



Friends at Rawdon Meeting will also recognise the 'Wood' name as there is a plaque on the 'School Room' wall giving thanks to Edwards grandfather, Joseph Wood who helped make the conversion of the room possible. See it for yourself on Sunday 11th

October when Leeds Quaker Meeting is to be held at Rawdon Quaker Meeting House.

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting: Spirituality

Sunday 11th October at Rawdon Quaker Meeting House

Programme:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10.45am | Worship with Rawdon friends |
| 12.15 | Leeds Quaker Peace Witness Against Trident |
| 12;30 | Shared Lunch |
| 13:00 | Meeting for worship |
| 13:15 | All Aged Workshop : Spirituality |
| 14:30 | Break |
| 14:45 | Business as led |
| 16:15 | tea with Rawdon Friends |

All those who attend Quaker Meetings in Leeds are invited to attend Area Meeting. Please stay for the whole day or come for part of the day.



Leeds Quaker 10:10:10 Cycle Ride to Saltaire

10am Saturday 10th October

Leaving Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House

Take advantage of the new cycle path to Saltaire
(the route is about 97% 'off road')



All welcome.

Friends not able to cycle are encouraged to visit Saltaire by train and we will all meet up in the afternoon.

There is an option to return on the train

Possible highlights: Rodley nature reserve, Appleby Bridge, Bingley five rise and Saltaire. Numerous café's and other refreshment providers are available on route. cycle helmets are advisory as is a working bell!



Please contact Robert Keeble if you would like to attend, or simply arrive at 10am on 10th Oct. with a cycle.

Nb. cycle helmets are advisory, as is a working bell!

TIME TO CHANGE THE TEMPERATURE

Riding Lights Theatre presents **Baked Alaska**

written by Paul Burbridge and Jonathan Bidgood

An island in the South Pacific has a problem. It's hollow. Anxiety levels are rising in a North American boardroom. Eve's garden is bursting with next door's rubbish. Even the ducks have relocated... they're in Bangladesh.

From the four corners of the earth come colourful, inter-connecting stories of humanity living with the wild, unpredictable effects of climate change.

Scientists, farmers, oil magnates, climate warriors, prophets, mothers, journalists and others just like you and me – we're all in the mix and hungry for a recipe of hope. In the struggle over power, some sound the warming bell, some blow hot and cold, while others make a pudding of the planet.



Vivid, sharp and deliciously entertaining, BAKED ALASKA serves up the realities of climate change with flair and clarity about the temperatures involved.

In the high-energy, 'seriously funny' style for which Riding Lights is well known, BAKED ALASKA is something we can all look forward to... unless we do something about it.

Extra-ordinary theatre for these extraordinary times.

Now touring the country. The one and only performance in Leeds – Friday, November 06, 2015 at 7.30 pm at St. Edmund's Parish Church, Lidgett Park Road, Leeds.

Tickets: £12 / £9 (concessions)

Youth Groups: £7.50 (under 18s in groups of 8+)
<http://ridinglights.org/baked-alaska/>

Central Box Office: 01904 613000

What is Quakers in Yorkshire?

Quakers in Yorkshire (QiY) is an umbrella body for most of the Quaker Meetings in Yorkshire.

It was formerly known as Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting because it meets four times a year but its function has now changed.

Now its aim is to reach out to help those who are looking for what Quakerism can offer, and to help those who have found Quakerism to deepen their faith.

It runs Quaker Quest, a series of events held in various locations aimed at helping people discover or deepen a knowledge of Quakerism;

At Easter every year it is responsible for Easter Settlement at Cober Hill, a large guest house with Quaker connections on the outskirts of Scarborough – a gathering for fellowship, worship and fun for families, single people, newcomers, longstanding members, Friends of all ages;

In the autumn a weekend conference is held at Glenthorne Quaker Guest House in Grassmere in the Lake District;

It holds four meetings a year for business, inspiration and information. The next one is at Bootham School, which is in the middle of York on Bootham (YO30 7BU for satnavs) on 17th October.

On the agenda is an update on TTIP (see last month's Quiet Word), information on the Hospitality Company of Britain Yearly Meeting and some interesting reports on the two Quaker schools in York – The Mount and Bootham.

The clerks, Barbara Parry and
Chris Love, also pose the following:



"Could your Meeting please help The Mount put our faith into practice by it accepting some refugee girls into school next term? The need will arise and it will be good to be prepared. The Mount will have some classroom and some boarding spaces, and with some loving Quakerly nurture and some money The Mount could use its capabilities to help some refugee girls at this time, as it has been enabled to in past times of crisis."

There is also an appeal for help with childcare (children's activities) at future QiY meetings to enable families to attend.



QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

Saturday 17th October 10.00am

Bootham Quaker School

Bootham, York, YO30 7BU

Bring your own lunch. Afternoon tea provided.
Open to anyone who attends any Quaker Meeting in Yorkshire. A worthwhile experience, and a chance to learn more about Quaker life outside your own Meeting.

REFUGEES WELCOME IN LEEDS

There has been an amazing response from the people of Leeds to the refugee crisis reported in the media over the last few weeks.

Following a demonstration in Briggate on Saturday 12th September to ask our council and government to give asylum to greater numbers there was a public meeting at the West Yorkshire Playhouse on Tuesday 15th September.

This was a collaboration of Leeds City of Sanctuary, Together for Peace, LASSN and Migration Yorkshire – organisations which have been supporting asylum seekers and refugees in Leeds over recent years.



170 people gathered and heard an introduction to the current situation in Leeds; Leeds Council is preparing for a small number of Syrian families and vulnerable people to come to Leeds in October.

In the last few weeks, charities have been completely overwhelmed by offers of donations of clothes, food, toiletries etc. This is wonderful and they are keen that everything gets to where it is needed.

However, many organisations delivering aid to refugees in Leeds, nationally, in Calais and beyond have also been overwhelmed with donations and many are temporarily closed to donations in kind (particularly clothes) because of a lack of storage space.

Because of the level of response, members of Leeds City of Sanctuary are working with Yorkshire Aid (<http://www.yorkshireaid.org>) and Leeds City Council to be able to use a large

storage space so that donations can be stored, sorted and distributed more effectively. Any news on this space and opening hours to receive donations will be posted on

<http://leeds.cityofsanctuary.org> and on the Yorkshire Aid website.

Financial donations are still desperately needed by organisations in Leeds, nationally and internationally.

The meeting on 15.9.2015 then divided into interest groups and you can read the notes from these groups at <http://tinyurl.com/obfblym>

The Faith group discussed setting up of WYDAN Night Shelter in Leeds – this would rotate between venues – each place for 7 days. WYDAN provides beds. People can either train as volunteers (there will be training first weekend of October I think) or we could offer meeting house as a venue. More details from nightshelter.wydan@gmail.com

Also City of Sanctuary needs men's clothes and people to transport them to reception centre in Wakefield – can be delivered at Ebor Court.

The next public meeting on responding to the refugee crisis will be on Weds 21st Oct - details TBC

Currently the Leeds2Iraq appeal will be running at St Lukes in Holbeck between 3-14 Oct, collecting warm winter clothes and care packs to go to refugee camps in Iraq. Volunteers needed for sorting and driving. More info here: <http://tinyurl.com/owxax25>

You can find out more about how to help refugees here: <https://leedsmultiagency.wordpress.com/help/> and here: <http://tinyurl.com/pd7cxoo>

There will be a rally in Leeds city centre on Saturday 17th October at 3 p.m. – Millennium Square in front of Leeds City Museum.

Pauline Leonard

REFUGEES WELCOME -continued from page 8

Yorkshire Aid has been designed to help the people of Yorkshire coordinate their kindness and efficiently bring relief and dignity to people in need. Please check the website: <http://www.yorkshireaid.org>, to locate your local aid networks, and find out how you can make a difference.

Leeds City of Sanctuary is part of a national movement to build a culture of welcome for people seeking sanctuary in the UK. In Leeds they are committed to making our city a haven for anyone who needs its protection. Both PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) and LASSN (Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network) are part of Leeds City of Sanctuary.



The news is currently full of stories and pictures of people travelling across Europe, fleeing war, oppression, persecution and poverty. The journey is dangerous, exploitative, and for many, quite horrendous. When people do arrive in the UK, many are detained and imprisoned, whilst they prepare their case for asylum.



What are Quakers doing? The answer is quite a lot, and I am fortunate enough to work for one of the charities that Leeds Quakers have been supporting for many years : Solace Surviving Exile and Persecution. Solace is a registered charity that provides free psychotherapy, trauma therapy and pain management therapies in the Yorkshire and Humber region to asylum seeking adults and families and refugees who are suffering mental health problems.

These people have arrived in the UK by a variety of routes: some trafficked against their will, some making similar journeys against all odds, some arriving more conventionally by plane. After the initial relief of reaching safety, many asylum seekers then struggle with mental health problems: depression, grief, and the effects of being traumatised by torture, rape, the death or disappearance of loved ones and other atrocities.

A small group of committed individuals with backgrounds in psychotherapy saw that there was very little mental health support available to asylum seekers and refugees, especially for those speaking little or no English. With others working in the field they set up Solace to meet this need, and we have now been running for nine years. Many of our psychotherapists and counsellors are volunteers and most of people we help are referred to us by the NHS, and the remainder from charities such as PAFRAS and LASSN.

Leeds Quakers have been instrumental in supporting Solace and its governance. Our current chair, Jo Newell, is from Otley Meeting, and Peter Coltman, from Adel, is

a founding Trustee. We have been, and continue to be, supported by Meetings throughout the area, and in 2011 this support enabled us to gain a grant from QPSW to support our work with children. This grant is now completed but the work continues, and this Autumn we will be helping a group of Syrian families relocated to Leeds from refugee camps. These are the first beneficiaries of the Governments Gateway project, selecting the most traumatised and vulnerable for direct assistance.

Since our inception, we have seen over 1100 clients. They consistently say that Solace provides them with a place where they feel safe, valued and supported: many say they wouldn't be alive if it weren't for Solace. In 2012 an external evaluation calculated that Solace generated over £6 of social value for every £1 invested and saved the NHS in Leeds and Bradford over £190,000 a year.

Our review of client outcomes for the year to March 2015 showed that, over 70% of those who received long-term therapy from Solace experienced some improvement, such as feeling less isolated, being more able to do things for themselves, feeling more stable and able to cope with stress, and reducing trauma symptoms. Our work has just been highly commended by the Lloyds Bank Foundation 2015 Charity

Achievement Awards.

Personally, working with Solace as Funding and Finance Manager, and as a volunteer counsellor, is professionally rewarding but, most importantly, I have a real sense of being able to express my faith in my work, both with individual clients and also as part of something bigger, working with others to meet an urgent need.

Solace is always interested to hear from professionals working in mental health who would be interested in volunteering with us. We would also particularly welcome people with expertise in public relations and marketing..... and as a charity, reliant on public fundraising, financial support is always welcome!

If you would like to find out more about Solace please look at our website www.solace-uk.org.uk which has many interesting videos about our work, or contact me at Kate@solace-uk.org.uk.

Kate Graham

(Ilkley Meeting)



Download the latest newsletter from <http://www.solace-uk.org.uk/pdfs/Solace-Newsletter-autumn2014.pdf>

For Conscience Sake

A new play by Plain Quakers.

Ilkley Friends Meeting House, Friday 9th October 7:30pm



This new play by Plain Quakers (Arthur Pritchard and Mike Casey), explores the choices faced by conscientious objectors in World War One against the backdrop of growing militarisation today.

For more details <http://tinyurl.com/qgbpc4b> or telephone Martin Ford 07867 688171

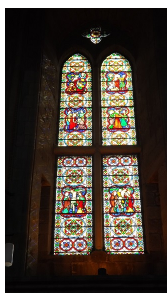
Summer outing....

Friends from across Leeds enjoyed the annual summer outing on Saturday 5th September. A delayed X84 bus from Leeds meant that things got off to a slow start, but thereafter, all the planning went like clockwork. Friends regrouped into a small convoy of cars and made the short trip from Addingham to the nearby and historic Fairfield Quaker Meeting House which was built in 1689 and was in regular weekly use by Quakers till 1820 when the meeting moved to Addingham.



After tucking into some overdue sandwiches, the twenty five or so present listened with interest to the Historian and former Britain Yearly Meeting Clerk, Chris Skidmore, who told us about the 'Fairfield Story'. One of the first Fairfield Friends was Anthony Myers, who in 1666, gave the land for a burial ground at Fairfield. The Toleration Act of 1689 made it

possible to build a simple Meeting House at the burial ground and date of 1689 is inscribed on the door lintel. Anthony, who died in 1697, is buried at the burial ground in a 'chest tomb', this is of a very unusual design for a Quaker burial ground but not unique and Chris told us that he knows of two other in the country. We were told that the building is now owned by the Historic Chapels Trust.



After the talk, we gathered for a short meeting for worship – it was good to experience worship in the building and to experience just how cold it was. The floor was made up of Yorkshire stone 'flags' and in the past, it had been a very damp building.



On this occasion, the appointed elders drew the worship to a close after twenty minutes, by which time, we all needed to head outside and warm up in the sun. Quite how early Friends endured an hour or possibly many hours of worship when there was a visiting 'Quaker Minister', one dreads to think, but clearly, those early Friends were a tough breed. Publicity photos were then taken for the Ilkley Gazette and The Friend.

We then continued the afternoon with a visit to Bolton Abbey and were treated to a guided tour of the church – the main highlight was getting 'caught up' in the wedding photo's of a newly married couple who had just been married only a short while before. The day ended with a cake treat in the company of many good friends. Roll on 2016 and our next Leeds Quaker summer outing!





Heritage Open Day 2015

Rawdon Quaker Meeting House



On Saturday 12th September, Rawdon Meeting House was open to visitors in the afternoon. A number of people came and were guided around the Meeting House and treated to tea and cakes. One thing was missing – the partition, installed by our ‘modernising’ Victorian Quaker ancestors. This has, for many generations, split the room in two – initially, presumably, to keep a clearly marked boundary between the ‘women’s’ side and the ‘men’s’ side of the room. Thankfully, this practice of dividing the men and women has long since passed. One concern was whilst this ‘historic’ divide was now no longer needed and had been well overdue its ‘use by date’, what had happened to it, where did it go, was it destroyed or hidden away? When you next go to Rawdon meeting, see if you can answer this question for yourself!

Gildersome Quaker Meeting House

Over 300 years of Quaker history in Gildersome were on display at the Grade 2 listed Gildersome Quaker Meeting House as part of Heritage Open Day on Sunday 13th September.



Initially, things looked ominous as there were no visitors during the first hour, but then the visitors came and over twenty, mostly local people then came. Many had come in response to a feature article in the local Morley Observer newspaper about the Meeting House



Local residents, including former Morley mayor and present Morley Town Council member, Andrew Dalton, listened with interest to the talk given by Leeds Quaker, Robert Keeble on the history of Gildersome Quakers. Robert dressed in seventeenth century Quaker costume for the occasion said “dressing up has been quite a bit of fun and I like the hat, but I think I will stick with my normal jeans and T-shirt for future Sundays!”.

Among some of the interesting things shared with the audience was the establishment of a Quaker school in 1772 at Gilead Farm, which is on the edge of Gildersome and was in use to 1815. It was a boarding school and the cost of sending children from poorer Quaker families was met by local Quaker Meetings, for others, the school fees were 10 guineas per year or the fees could be reduced to 8 guineas per year, but where the reduced fees were paid, there was a requirement for the children to work three to four hours a day! There is no record of what work the children were undertaking, but there are some clues – records show that milk was served at every meal, so someone had to hand milk the cows and then there was the mucking out..... Robert said “I grew up on a dairy farm in Cornwall with four other children – it

was like having our own adventure playground, so I hope and expect that the children at the school enjoyed their farm upbringing as much as I did”

One of the most interesting features at the Meeting House is the historic stables which were installed to accommodate the horses of Quaker visitors from Leeds and other areas. The stables were built in 1849 and have remained unchanged since then – glimpsing through the door you are taken back to a different era. There is also a carriage house and a room for the coachmen above the gatehouse arch.



Robert said “Then as now, Quakers were very worried about the harmful effects of gambling, but I do wonder if the coachmen would have played cards whilst the Quakers were holding their service!”

The Meeting House is open every Sunday morning when Quaker Worship is held from 10.45am to 11.45am. Visitors are always welcome.

From Quaker Faith and Practice

Chapter 21 - Personal Journey - Leading a full life

21.22

There is, it sometimes seems, an excess of religious and social busyness these days, a round of committees and conferences and journeyings, of which the cost in ‘peaceable wisdom’ is not sufficiently counted. Sometimes we appear overmuch to count as merit our participation in these things... At least we ought to make sure that we sacrifice our leisure for something worthy. True leisureliness is a beautiful thing and may not lightly be given away. Indeed, it is one of the outstanding and most wonderful features of the life of Christ that, with all his work in preaching and healing and planning for the Kingdom, he leaves behind this sense of leisure, of time in which to pray and meditate, to stand and stare at the cornfields and fishing boats, and to listen to the confidences of neighbours and passers-by...

Most of us need from time to time the experience of something spacious or space-making, when Time ceases to be the enemy, goad-in-hand, and becomes our friend. To read good literature, gaze on natural beauty, to follow cultivated pursuits until our spirits are refreshed and expanded, will not unfit us for the up and doing of life, whether of personal or church affairs. Rather will it help us to separate the essential from the unessential, to know where we are really needed and get a sense of proportion. We shall find ourselves giving the effect of leisure even in the midst of a full and busy life. People do not pour their joys or sorrows into the ears of those with an eye on the clock.

Caroline C Graveson, 1937

Courses at Woodbrooke during October



Nonviolent Apocalypse: Peace Church perspectives on the Book of Revelation

Friday 23 October 2015 - Sunday 25 October 2015

Lakes of fire? Many headed beasts? To many contemporary readers, the Book of Revelation remains a sealed-up book. At first glance, this is a controversial text of fantastical imagery and horrifying destruction that has been much misused over the centuries. This course aims to reveal Revelation as a radical political manifesto that is vital to understanding the message of early Quakers, and is still highly relevant to the 21st Century Church.

Being a Quaker parent

Monday 26 October 2015 - Wednesday 28 October 2015

This event is an opportunity for Quakers who are parents to come together and explore our values as Quakers and the highs and lows of parenting. We will take time to think about where we may draw strength from within ourselves and from the Quaker way. Sessions will include sharing, listening, reflection and input. The programme is not designed to provide therapy.

There will be a parallel programme for children aged 4-12-years-old. Parents may attend on their own if they wish. If you have children outside this age range please contact us about what we can provide. The groups will come together for some sessions. This is a chance for Quaker parents and children to come to Woodbrooke and to leave feeling refreshed and resourceful.

‘A Place for the Scriptures’: Quakers and the Bible today

Friday 30 October 2015 - Sunday 1 November 2015

The approach of early Friends to Scripture was extremely controversial. Their experience of the living Spirit made them suspicious of placing authority in a fixed text – but they believed this insight was rooted in the Bible itself. How do we now articulate the Quaker approach? And how does it shape how the Bible is used among Friends? This course was run last year as part of a continuing exploration of how Friends today relate to the Bible without compromising Quaker insights.

Check details and availability at <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/courses.html>