

THE QUIET WORD

October 2016 issue no 10



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
Gildersome 260th birthday celebrations
See inside - p13
1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 10.45
in The Court House, Courthouse Street,
Otley

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,



The new upstairs room at Carlton Hill

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

What is Truth	3
George Fox and Swarthmoor	4
Leeds Area Coach Trip	5
Leeds Quakers and the Peace Movement	7
Stories of Courage and Conscience	9
Peace Talks in York	10
Reading Quaker Faith & Practice	11
Experiment with Light	12
Divest, Divest, Divest	13
Some thoughts on personal transport	14
Woodbrooke	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

@ 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 held on 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10.45am**

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

October

Courage, Conscience and Creativity at Leeds City Museum, Millennium Square - an exhibition that looks at Quaker war resistance in WW1 and peace activities then and now. (exhibition runs to the end of 2016)

Saturday 1st 2pm memorial Meeting for Worship for Anna Needham at Carlton Hill QMH

Tuesday 4th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 6th 6pm to 7pm Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

@Sunday 9th 1pm to 4.15pm Leeds Area Quaker Meeting to be held at Rawdon QMH. Topic:

Tuesday 11th 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion Quaker Faith & Practice** at Carlton Hill QMH

Thursday 13th to Wed. 19th - Quaker Week Exhibition: the light that shines in me - venue: Swarthmore Adult Education Centre, Leeds

Friday 14th 5.30pm - Quaker Week Exhibition Launch: the light that shines in me - venue: Swarthmore Adult Education Centre, Leeds

Saturday 15 10am to 4pm Quakers in Yorkshire Gathering at The Mount School, York. Reports from The Mount and Bootham Schools and another topic to be decided.

Tuesday 18th 7.30pm Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

Sunday 23rd 7.30 Rawdon QMH Amnesty Concert Stepping Out of Line

What is Truth?

It is the fragile balance that emerges from clashing antagonisms.

It is the white foam on the waves.

It is the savour that comes from the totality of ingredients brought together and simmering in the cooking pot.

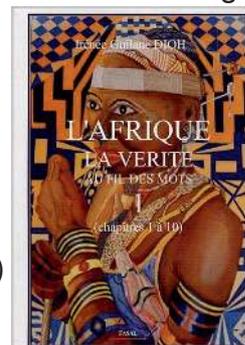
Truth is not monolithic.

It is the enrichment that results from the mutual respect of opposites.

Irénée Guilane Dioh

translated from the book *L'Afrique : La vérité au fil des mots (African Wisdom)*

published by Editions Fasal (1 avril 2005)



This Light that Pushes Me.

From 14th - 19th October there will be an exhibition of photos from the book *This Light that Pushes Me* at the **Swarthmoor Centre, Woodhouse Square, Leeds**.

The book features more than 20 peacebuilders from sub-Saharan Africa; all are Quakers or involved with Quaker work and all have experienced violence. Using photographs and personal testimonies, *This Light that Pushes Me* traces the journeys that have transformed that suffering into a force for social change.

The exhibition will be held in the cafe area and it is hoped that members of the Meeting will be available for most of the time the cafe is open to look after the information table.

If you have an hour or two to spare at any time between the 14th and the 19th please contact Tracey Martin tracey@live.com.



George Fox and Swarthmoor



George Fox was born in July 1624 at the village of Drayton-in-the-Clay (now called Fenny Drayton), near Market Harborough in Leicestershire. He was a bright child *“When I was eleven years of age, I knew pureness and*

righteousness; for while I was a child, I was taught how to walk so as to keep pure. The Lord taught me to be faithful in all things.”

As soon as he was old enough, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker, who also dealt in wool. He also used grazing and had a lot of cattle, *“and I personally handled a lot of his business.”*

“While I was in that service, I used in my dealings the word ‘verily,’ and it was a common saying among those that knew me, ‘If George says verily, there is no altering him.’”

Then in July 1643, *“I left my relatives and broke off friendship or fellowship with all people, young or old.”*

He talks of meeting several priests and having long discussions with them, and eventually he came to the conclusion *“that to be bred at (ie. to be educated at) Oxford or Cambridge was not enough to make a man fit to be a minister of Christ”*. He realised that they knew no more than he did about the Bible and understood even less about what it actually meant. He came to the conclusion that people didn't need priests and ministers in order to reach God. All that was necessary was to believe and to *“stand in the Light of the Lord”*. He soon gathered a group of followers, who called themselves The Friends of Truth.

“As I went towards Nottingham on a First-day in the morning, with Friends to a meeting there, when I came on the top of a hill in sight of the town, I saw the great steeple-house: and the Lord said unto me, ‘You must go cry against that distant great idol, and against the worshippers inside.’ I said nothing of this to the Friends, but went

with them to the meeting, where the mighty power of the Lord God was among us; in which I left Friends sitting in the meeting, and went to the steeple-house.” An idol is something people venerate; something they take pride in. Church buildings, cathedrals, and such are idols - monuments to man's pride, not to God. So Fox, and eventually his followers as well, started making their presence felt amongst the clergy in churches wherever they went,.

The clergy defended their position by calling in the law-enforcement officers and have anybody that disagreed with them imprisoned. Thus many Friends of the Truth were imprisoned. It was many years later (1765) that Meeting for Sufferings was set up to help those imprisoned and persecuted for their beliefs. (Meeting for Sufferings has now evolved into the main governing body of Quakers in Britain.)



Margaret Fell

By 1652 George Fox had travelled up through Derbyshire into Yorkshire and across to Ulverston in the Lake District. There he met Margaret Fell, the wife of Judge Thomas Fell, who owned Swarthmoor Hall.

Margaret Fell “became convinced” - *“he opened us a book that we had never read in, nor indeed had never heard that it was our duty to read in it (to wit) the Light of Christ in our consciences, our minds never being turned towards it before.”* She then had to pacify her husband, who, by definition had the job of imprisoning Quakers for going “against” the established church. Fell was never totally convinced but did allow his house to be used as a meeting place. He died in 1658 and eleven years later Fox married Margaret Fell. Fox travelled extensively both in England and America and spent very little time at Swarthmoor. He died in 1691 and Margaret Fell died in 1701.



Judge Fell

It was not until 1951 that London Yearly Meeting (as it was then) purchased



Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Cumbria

Swarthmoor Hall for the sum of £9,000.

Today it is a place of pilgrimage for Quakers, a visitor attraction, a place to stay and a place to attend courses.

Upcoming Courses at Swarthmoor Hall in October

1-9 Oct Quaker Week – various free courses and events

14-16 Oct A Drop of Silence: time for stillness in a busy world

28-30 Oct Addressing the Seed of Abraham: Margaret Fell’s mission to the Jews

Get full details from the website <http://www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk/courses-events.php>

For one of the most comprehensive sources of information on George Fox, check the website of Hall Worthington and his wife Joan. They have made it their life's work to research, collate and analyse Fox's prolific writings, as well as the writings of many of the early Quakers. <http://hallvworthington.com/index.html>

Are you enrolled on the free online course on early Quaker history - “Radical Spirituality”?

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers> It starts on Oct 3rd but you may still be able to join – or get your name down for the next time it runs in a couple of months time.

Leeds Area Meeting Coach Trip



Thirty Friends from Leeds Area Meeting recently took a coach ride into “1654” country to visit the

home of one of the earliest Quaker Meetings in the country, at the village of Lower Bentham. George Fox visited Bentham on his way up to Ulverston and was stoned in the market square. However, a number of people were convinced, and started to meet regularly.

By 1686 they had grown in numbers sufficiently to justify their own Meeting House and accordingly purchased a barn on the outskirts of the town, which they converted. It soon proved too small for their use and a larger property was built just a short distance away in 1718. Numbers continued to grow and the existing Meeting House had to be rebuilt to a larger design in 1768. That building still stands



today.

The grounds comprise a large burial ground with one large memorial to the Ford family, who have connections with Leeds.



Bentham Friends made us extremely welcome and provided a generous supply of refreshments.

Our coach driver relied on his sat-nav to get to Bentham and we were taken on a “scenic tour” to get there, on roads hardly suitable for a large coach! From Bentham we carried on to Kendal, where, once again the sat-nav insisted on an “alternative route”. However we arrived safely.

On arrival at Kendal Meeting House lunch was first on the agenda. Some Friends used the well appointed cafe, whilst others elected to have a picnic in the garden.

Kendal Meeting House is home to the





Quaker Tapestry, a monumental work comprising 77 hand worked panels depicting Quaker history. It took 15 years to complete with the help of 4,000 pairs of hands across many countries. Space prevents all 77 being displayed at once so, just 40 are on display, with the remainder being accessible by computer. All known tapestry stiches are listed on a database but the originator of the work, Ann Wynn-Wilson, needed a new stitch to make the lettering stand out. This is now registered as the Quaker Stitch.

If you haven't been to see the Quaker Tapestry before, it is well worth a visit.
Our thanks to all those that made the trip possible.

Pete Redwood



Mindfulness in the Garden an experiment

Between 1 and 4 pm on Sunday 4 September the rain stopped on schedule and the sun shone on the garden of Rawdon Meeting House. The meeting house was open, a few chairs and benches were made available outdoors, the school room was furnished with books, poems, inspirational readings and refreshments, and we waited to see how the afternoon would proceed.

In the course of the afternoon, fifteen Friends from four Leeds Meetings made themselves quietly at home, meditating, thinking, reading, writing, snoozing, gently chatting, walking barefoot or lying in the grass, having tea, coffee and cake. The over-all experience was far more powerful than many of us had expected: "transcendental", "heavenly", "an open-ended meeting for worship".

It was a magical afternoon, one that will be repeated.

Barbara Parry

Leeds Quakers and the Peace Movement – 1756 to 2016



Gildersome Quaker Meeting House was built in 1756 so it was not unreasonable that the 'history talk' on Heritage Open Day focussed on this date. The talk was given by Robert Keeble who also did a talk in 2015, on that occasion, the focus was on the lives of the Quakers who worshipped at Gildersome (see October 2015 Quiet Word for a full account). This year, Robert focused on some of the events that took place in the last 260 that related to Leeds Quakers and 'The Peace Movement'

Quakers have long been associated with Peace starting with George Fox, the movements founder, who with other early Quakers presented a peace declaration to King Charles 2nd in 1661 which stated 'All bloody principles and practices we do utterly deny, with all outward wars, and strife, and fightings and outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever, and this is our testimony to the whole world'



"Robert Walker"
scarecrow at
Gildersome

One local story is that of Robert Walker who was born somewhere in Gildersome village in 1717 and attended Gildersome Quaker Meeting most of his life. He was the son of John Walker who was from Batley and was a clothier by trade. Robert and his family lived in a little cottage at Gildersome and hand wove woollen cloth for the Leeds market. At the age of 34 he was recorded as a Quaker minister at

Gildersome ie someone who was recognise as being gifted in preaching. One contemporary described him as 'a preacher eloquent by nature' ...'learned without education, and

polite beyond all the forms of good-breeding'.

In 1756 he started travelling and visited most parts of this country and Ireland. In 1773 he visited America, where, in April 1775, he was so concerned about the 'bitter hatred of the Mother country' that had developed and the prospect of a war, that he travelled to Washington and spoke to the newly formed Congress. Sadly, Roberts attempt to avert the American War of Independence was not successful.

If we move into the next century, we would find that the Quaker Meeting at Gildersome would have been using the 1802 'Extracts from Minutes and Advices' which is a for runner of book we still use, but is now called Quaker Faith and Practice – it is a collection of Quaker writings, thoughts, experience, advices and queries. Quakers are not stuck in the past and the book we now use is much changed, however, we do still have 'Querries' that are periodically read at our meetings. In 1822 Query 8 asked Quakers the following: "Are fiends faithful in our testimony against bearing arms, and being in any manner concerned with the militia , in privateers, letters of marque, or armed vessels, or dealing in prize goods?"

In the early 1800's Gildersome meeting became very small in number and a number of Quakers from the Leeds area visited on a regular basis. These Leeds Quakers were very aware of the world in which they lived. In 1842 Leeds Quakers founded the Leeds Peace Association and this saw a period when they became increasingly vocal in their concerns, selling hand bills through a bookshop on Briggate. They spoke out about the 1850 war in South Africa, 1852 Burma War, The Criamean War, Persian War, the 1857 Indian Mutiny. They informed public opinion in Leeds on War and Foreign Affairs.

The Thoersby Society booklet ' Leeds Quaker Meeting' by Wilfred Allot (1966) records that one of the Peace Association public meetings at the time of the Criamean war attracted an audience of 6,000 people!

Individual Quakers also spoke out – Wilson

Amistead became very concerned about slavery in America. In 1853 he put together a book 'Leeds Anti Slavery Tracts' he ordered 500,000 copies and described them as '500,000 strokes for freedom'. He then had a period of self doubting he ordered a further 300,000 copies. By the time he reached 50 he had written over 40 books and tracts.

If we move forward to the next century, the dark clouds of war were threatening Europe. In 1913, Leeds Quakers joined with Quakers from Yorkshire and the North to create The Northern Friends Peace Board which campaigned for Peace. The NFPB employed Robert Long who was a passionate peace campaigner and First World War conscientious objector.

In 1914 Ted Harvey, a lifelong Quaker, was an MP, sitting as a Liberal for Leeds West. On August 3 1914, just before the war started he 'caught the ear of the House' with an impassioned speech for a positive view of the Germans. With his brother in law and fellow MP Arnold Rowntree he was already working on setting up the Friends Ambulance Unit. He also travelled in Europe organising the Friends War Victims Relief Service which had no military connections but helped people and places ravaged by the war. When the Military

Service Act was to be introduced in 1916 he lobbied for the inclusion of 'work of national importance' as an alternative for Conscientious Objectors. He then served on the Pelham Committee, the Board of Trade group set up to decide what counted as 'work of national importance'.

The story of Ted Harvey and Robert Long are detailed in an exhibition at Leeds City Museum entitled 'Courage, Conscience and Creativity'. Other stories include the experiences of Earnest Spencer and the England Brothers who were all 'Absolutists' and imprisoned for refusing to fight. Also detailed are the experiences of three Leeds Quakers who volunteered for the Friends Ambulance Unit and that of Isobella Ford, who was passionately opposed to war; in summer 1914, she helped organize a peace demonstration in London and she led peace demonstrations on Woodhouse Moor in Leeds. The exhibition does not just look at the past, but also looks at our modern day Quaker Peace Witness in Leeds, especially the Leeds Quaker opposition to Trident nuclear weapons. The exhibition is free to visit, it is located in the Leeds Gallery and will be open to December 2016.

Remembrance Day Friday 11th November 2016

The Quaker Bookshop is teaming up with the Peace Pledge Union to help raise the profile of white poppies in this 100th anniversary year for conscientious objection.

Please consider not only wearing a white poppy, but helping to sell and promote them!



Songs and Stories of Courage and Conscience

The stories of some of Yorkshire's conscientious objectors during WW1 and the songs that helped to sustain them.

One hundred years ago, in 1916, Clifford Cartwright was 21, a Leeds man working in the printing industry. That year, with rocketing First World War casualty rates, the Government introduced compulsory conscription into the army. Clifford was a member of the Churches of Christ, and took his religion seriously. "Realising the futility of war and its opposition to the teachings of Christ", he decided to oppose the war entirely, and to refuse conscription regardless of the personal consequences for himself. He was an "absolutist" who wouldn't even do non-combatant work in a war he believed was wrong. As a result, he was arrested and imprisoned with other "conscientious objectors" (COs) in Richmond Castle in Swaledale. Their fragile graffiti can still be seen on their cell walls.

That graffiti is extraordinary. It shows what inspired the COs, whatever their backgrounds or beliefs. Some were motivated by religion and wrote verses from their favourite hymns, urging them to stand fast to what they believed in. Some were socialists, opposed to the war for political reasons, seeing imperial powers grabbing land and arms manufacturers making profits; they sang and wrote "The Red Flag". Others were moved by poetry and song showing that true patriotism meant standing up for social justice and peace.

In fact there is a whole range of songs and ideas associated with resisting war during 1914-1918. The Peace Museum in Bradford even has a 1916 copy of a "Conscientious Objector's Song Book". Many of the songs continue to be inspiring to read, to hear, and to sing again.

The Leeds-based Free Range choir is used to singing songs of justice and peace. In April this year their performance of Sing Freedom, with story and songs about apartheid South Africa, won a standing ovation and much acclaim from the audience.

On 6 November, at Lidgett Park Methodist Church, Free Range will give a concert of the songs that inspired war-resistance in 1914-1918. In addition, everyone gets a chance to sing some of the songs that are set to popular tunes. The music is interspersed with an illustrated presentation on the diverse stories of the conscientious objectors. Altogether, the occasion is informative, entertaining and inspiring.

There were over seventeen thousand conscientious objectors in the First World War. Many faced terrible conditions in prisons and work camps. Clifford Cartwright was in a small group taken from Richmond to France; on the way they sang at the station to keep up their spirits, they sang on the train and sang more on the boat. They were tortured by the army, but stayed firm to their belief that the war was wrong. They even faced a death sentence, subsequently commuted to hard labour. Back in Britain many were sent to brutal work camps. Clifford spent the rest of the war in Winchester prison, then an Aberdeen work camp, then Wakefield prison.

The decisions of "patriotic" politicians from 1914 led to millions of people dying for a few metres of mud. Perhaps the conscientious objectors got it right, that one's patriotic duty was to resist the war and to stand up for justice and peace.

Dr. Clive Barrett

The Peace Museum

NOV 6th Songs and Stories of Courage and Conscience

3.30pm Lidgett Park Methodist Church, Lidgett Place, LS8 1HG

Tickets £5 (£2 Low Income) Pay at the door



Invitation to the 5th series of Peace Talks Thursdays in Autumn 2016

6 th Oct : Veterans for Peace UK -

Ben Griffin, (ex-Para, ex-SAS), Founder of Veterans for Peace UK working to abolish war as an instrument of national policy

13 th Oct : Over the Top

A play which tackles militarisation in our schools

Journeymen Theatre, (Lynn & Dave Morris) A play which tackles militarisation in our schools

3 rd Nov: Preventing Education?

Human Rights and UK Counter-Terrorism in Schools

Yasmine Ahmed, Director of Rights Watch UK

17 th Nov: Revisiting Trident

Where we are, how we got here and where we might be going with our nuclear weapons

Nick Ritchie, Co-author of 'Trident in UK Politics & Public Opinion' and Lecturer in International Security at York University.

Quaker Meeting House, Friargate, York, YO1 9RL

7.30 – 9.00pm

Retiring collection

For more details: tel 07425-289334

or e-mail: peacenetWORK@yorkquakers.org.uk

or see www.yorkquakers.org.uk

Quaker Activist Gathering

Saturday, 3 December 2016, York Friargate Quaker Meeting House

Quaker Peace & Social Witness is holding the third annual activist gathering – this time in York. This is a day for Quakers currently taking action for social change to connect, share ideas and inspire each other. This year we'll explore our place and role in movements, and give time sharing the skills we use to make change happen.

Sign up to attend at the [activist gathering event page of the Quaker website](#), or contact Kristen Skarsholt: kristins@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1121, for more information.



Reading Quaker Faith & Practice

Last month your editor erroneously gave you the recommended readings for October, so to redress the balance this month, here are the recommended readings for September!

Chapter 28 Sharing the Quaker experience.

Chapter 8 – Centrally managed work

Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) is one of four Standing Committees appointed directly by Meeting for Sufferings and directly accountable to the Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees. The other three are Quaker Life Central Committee, Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations, and Quaker World Relations Committee

QfP 8.11 Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee

Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee works for Britain Yearly Meeting to translate our faith into action. As Quakers we are impelled by our faith to make our lives an active witness for peace and justice. Our historic testimonies to equality, justice, peace, simplicity and truth challenge us to alleviate suffering and seek positive social change.

The committee aims to ensure that its work is clearly rooted in Quaker values, expresses Quaker testimonies and builds upon Quaker experience. It works to build the daily experiences and spiritual leadings of Friends in their meetings into our corporate work. With this foundation the committee seeks to support Friends individually in their lives, jointly in their meetings and in Britain Yearly Meeting, to witness on behalf of Quakers in the world. Our work should be primarily directed to areas where our Quaker witness can be best done corporately and where it has a particular contribution to make. Two-way communication with Friends and meetings is maintained by the annual conference and other specialist events.

The committee is responsible to Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees for promoting a committed and rigorous social and political engagement for the building of a just and peaceful world. The committee tries to address the causes of violence, locally, nationally and globally, by engaging in nonviolent peacemaking in areas affected by armed conflict, working for a culture of peace and justice based on nonviolent change. It

works towards a society where diversity is appreciated and all people can fulfil their potential for fullness of life in harmony with others. It promotes social justice, the reduction of prejudice and the equal treatment of all people, and works against unjust systems. The committee also seeks to promote changes that will help us to live responsibly and in harmony with all life and the Earth itself.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee works with individual Friends and meetings to make available advice, education and information as Friends seek to respond to their leadings.

The committee engages in dialogue locally, nationally, internationally and globally to witness to Quaker values and testimonies; and to express the views of Quakers in Britain to governments, intergovernmental bodies and other political institutions. The committee seeks to promote truthfulness, integrity, openness and accountability in social and political institutions. Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee works with other Quaker bodies nationally and internationally to share experience and expertise. It works with ecumenical and interfaith groups, and with other churches and faiths at home and abroad, to advance shared concerns.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee seeks to express corporately our experience that the Holy Spirit moves people to serve and learn from their fellow human beings and to promote peace and social justice.

High Flatts Quaker Meeting

Experiment with Light: deepening the practice

This retreat focuses upon the Experiment with Light in a new format. Share silence, worship, spiritual companionship and refreshment.

**Saturday 8 October, 10 am – 4 pm
at the Meeting House**

Bring something to share for lunch, drinks are provided. Some art materials are provided. We ask for a donation of £10 towards the upkeep of the Meeting House.

We regret that disabled access is limited and we have no disabled toilet at present.

For further information about the day contact Andrea Freeman far-end@virginmedia.com or Helen Meads helenmeads@gmail.com

For further information about Experiment with Light, visit: <http://www.experiment-with-light.org.uk/>

The Meeting House is on the A629 between Shepley and Penistone.
Postcode HD8 8XU

Amnesty Greeting Card Campaign

Please join us in sending seasonal greetings to prisoners of conscience across the world

Sunday November 13th,
1pm - 3.30pm

**Rawdon Quaker Meeting House
Quakers Lane Rawdon LS19 6HU**

We provide all the information you need and the cards – and you write them

It would be very helpful if you could contribute enough to cover postage for the cards that you send, as we don't have a budget

There'll be drinks and cake to keep you going

Come for as long or as little as you like - it's fun

Everyone is welcome

Divest, divest, divest

Where is your money invested? Does the bank or institution you use invest in fossil fuels – a major cause of climate change?



Recent research by Rainforest Action Network, Bank Track and the Sierra Club has revealed that the largest 25 banks have invested \$784 billion of their customers' money in the fossil fuel industry. Of the UK banks, **HSBC** invested **£1.13 billion** last year in oil exploration, coal fired power producers, and fracking. **Barclays** invested **£86**

billion in similar industries, and **RBS** invested **£66 billion**.

Barclays are responsible for bank-rolling the company taking out the fracking licences in Pickering. They own **97%** of the company! A national campaign picketing branches of Barclays across the country is taking place on 29th October, a campaign instigated by Quakers and Friends of the Earth in Ryedale.

*Protesters outside a Barclays Bank
in Ryedale*



How about pensions?



UK local government pension schemes invest over £14 billion in the fossil fuel industry. The Waltham Forest Council Pension Fund Committee committed in September to divest their £735 million pension fund from all fossil fuels, becoming the first in the UK to make this full commitment. The Waltham Forest motion was passed unanimously, to protect the pension pots and safe futures of 18,000 local members.

There is still time to apply pressure to persuade the West Yorkshire Pension Fund to divest from all fossil fuels.

Sign the petition: <http://tinyurl.com/np3esc>

More information here: <https://fossilfreewypf.wordpress.com/>

QPSW has teamed up with Operation Noah to persuade members of all faith groups to disinvest from fossil fuels. They are hosting a “skill-up” at Friend's House in London on 17th November. More information from QPSW on divestment here: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/sustainability/fossil-fuel-divestment>



Some thoughts on personal transport



It is a well documented fact that one of the biggest causes of air pollution is the internal combustion engine. Leeds is high up amongst the seven most polluted cities in the UK. It is also ranked well up amongst the most congested. Too many vehicles in too small a space.

Some 37 million vehicles are registered for use on Britains roads but, according the Office of National Statistics, 23% of all households do not own a car. That leaves 77% of all households who own one or more cars. In fact this averages out to 1.56 cars per household – across all households. So, if you are one of that 77% (21.5 million households) that do own a car (or maybe more than one car), do you know how much you are contributing to the pollution in Leeds?

It may be worth stopping to think sometimes how our use of our own personal transport affects other people in terms of pollution and congestion.

In a recent report in The Guardian, actual road tests on 260 diesel cars across all brands revealed that not one passed the Euro 6 air pollution limits test when driven on the road, although all cars were claimed to have passed laboratory tests by the manufacturers. Fiat/Suzuki, Renault/Nissan, and Opel/Vaxhaull were among the worst, but none fared well.

What about electric cars? True they help solve the pollution problem but they are still a vehicle on the road causing congestion, and congestion prevents other alternatives from operating. A conventional diesel engined bus sat in a stream of traffic is causing as much pollution as a diesel car, but when it is moving, with anything between 40 and 75 passengers on board, it is causing only a fraction of the pollution per person that a car with only one occupant is causing. An electric bus, of course, is even better, but an electric bus sat in a stream of traffic still cannot maintain a timetable and the biggest drain on the battery comes each time the vehicle starts moving. At present pure electric buses are only suitable for very local services where they can keep moving, but technology is improving all the time. On the other hand several all electric cars exist with a good range capability and public charging points exist in most locations. There are currently 10 in the Leeds area. The hybrid – part electric, part petrol engine – gives even better range, but is not pollution free.

If one is fit enough of course, the bicycle is the most benign form of transport available.

In order to cut pollution, congestion and possibly climate change – stop and think for each trip you make – is this the best way to travel for the sake of my fellow human beings?



Woodbrooke Courses in October/November

Thursday 6 October 2016 Exploring ways of running a quiet day

In the busyness of life, people are often looking for ways of taking time out to reflect, pray, meditate and re-centre on the essentials. Offering a Quiet Day is one response to this need. There are many ways of running such a day, according to the particular gifts of the person proposing it or the requests of a particular group. This training day will be an opportunity to explore together different approaches and to gain some practical experience. Hand-outs will be available but you might also like to bring a notebook.

Please book online or fill out a booking form via www.bit.ly/wbform1 Alternatively call us on 0121 472 5171

Monday 3 October 2016 Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers - Future Learn

Through this course, we will be finding out about what lies at the heart of Quaker beginnings, who its main characters were, and how in a few weeks during the summer of 1652 the Quaker movement was formed in the north of England.

This course is being run by Lancaster University in association with Woodbrooke. To take part visit www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers/

Friday 4 November 2016 - Sunday 6 November 2016 So you've read Quaker faith & practice: What next?

Facilitated by three members of the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group, this will be a rich weekend filled with opportunities to explore different issues relating to Quaker faith and practice, our book of discipline, and its possible revision. We will explore questions such as: What is the book of discipline for? What's the 'biography' of our book? What do we want our book to be like for the future? There will be a range of activities including discussion, input, group and solo activities and some challenging exploration.

If you've come to Friends in the last ten years or so or even since the last revision, this event is especially for you!

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Book of the month - from the Quaker Bookshop

MENDING BROKEN HEARTS, REBUILDING SHATTERED LIVES – Quaker peacebuilding in East and Central Africa

Esther Mombo and Cecile Nyiramana £6

An important aim of our peacebuilding has been to help communities to heal and be reconciled to each other so that they grow together as communities. The first step is forgiveness. Reconciliation begins with healing past hurts and framing a vision for a better future. Esther Mombo and Cecile Nyiramana give a flavour of Quaker peacebuilding in East and Central Africa, a region that has seen devastating internal conflicts in the last 20 years. Directly affected by these conflicts, and driven by the belief that all are made in the image of God, Quakers have been challenged to respond. Esther and Cecile explore that response and the difference it has made.



Clive Barrett and Free Range
present

*Songs and Stories of
Courage and
Conscience*

The stories of some of Yorkshire's conscientious
objectors during WW1 with the songs that
helped to sustain them

Sunday 6th November at 3.30 p.m.

at Lidgett Park Methodist Church
Lidgett Place, LS8 1HG
Doors open at 3.00 p.m.

Tickets £5 (£2 low income) – pay at the door

Proceeds from the concert will
support Leeds Autism Services
and Christian Aid projects in
Central America

**FREE
RANGE**

