

Leeds Area Quaker Meeting

the Quiet Word

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Meetings for worship

Adel Friends Meeting House, New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ
0113 267 6293, Sundays 10.45am

Carlton Hill Central Leeds Friends Meeting House, 188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DX ,
0113 242 2208, Sundays 10.45am, Thursdays 6.00pm

Gildersome Friends Meeting House, 75 Street Lane, Gildersome, Leeds LS27 7HX ,
0113 285 2466, Sundays 10.45am

Ilkley Friends Meeting House, Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds LS29 9QJ
01943 600 806 and 01943 601 181, Sundays 10.30am

Leeds University Claire Chapel, Emmanuel Centre,
University of Leeds, Tuesdays 1.05pm

Otley Friends Meeting, in The Robing Room,
The Court House, Courthouse Street,
Otley, 01943 463 351, dmr@cooptel.net
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month 10.45am

Rawdon Friends Meeting House, Quakers Lane, Rawdon,
Leeds LS19 6HU, 0113 250 4904, Sundays 10.45am

Roundhay Friends Meeting House, 136 Street Lane,
Leeds LS8 2BW, 0113 293 3684, Sundays 10.45am



News

We are supposed to have finished with the vaccines, but many are now processing through the queues. And there are many online events via Zoom.

Zoom details

If you have not yet participated in online meeting, it is quite easy to install Zoom here:

<https://zoom.us/download>. It will run on laptops, iPads, and smart phones. Once you have installed it and signed up, just click on the relevant link to join a Meeting.

If you can't join by Internet you can access a Zoom meeting by phone, at normal geographic rates, by dialling 0131 460 1196 or 0203 4815237. You'll be asked to key in the meeting ID which is the nine-digit number at the end of the Zoom link, then, if required, the password. Use *6 to mute/unmute the call.

Most Zoom links will ask you to make contact for the Zoom details, which are the meeting ID and possibly a password. This is because of the possibility of being hacked. You can do that via

<http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk/contact-us/contact-us>.

Also the relevant Zoom codes and passwords are in Robert Keeble's weekly email and the LAQM monthly email.

N.B.: Always refer to the most recent information for your Zoom links in case there has been a change. You might find it helpful to create a folder just to hold relevant emails so you can access the links easily.

Children on Sunday – if children join our Zoom Sunday meetings, they will stay in the meeting for up to 15 minutes and then do children's activities in a zoom break out room.

the Quiet Word is written by & for the Leeds Area Quaker Meeting, to swap valuable information & insight, and to join with those who don't often get to Meeting.

It is published bi-monthly. Articles, poems, short stories, and letters should arrive by the end of the month. They can be sent via Robert Keeble at robertkeeble@hotmail.com, or via the Quiet Word email quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk, or directly to the editor (below). A page is about 600-1000 words & an article should be around 2-3 pages.

The Letters page offers a way of contributing on a smaller level in both time and effort. A letter should be around 100 words.

the Quiet Word is available online at www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word

front page picture: Buttercups and forget-me-nots in Gledhow, summer 2021.

editor: Patrick Herring, ph@anweald.co.uk, Carlton Hill meeting

Diary

These dates are for events in the Carlton Hill Meeting, and are via Zoom unless otherwise stated.

Sundays 11am to 11.45am Meeting for Worship. You can enter quietly at 10.45am. Blended meeting, led by Carlton Hill Elders .

Saturdays (1st of the month) 10am - Light Group connecting with the spirit of the Quaker Worship experienced by early Friends – a session with guided meditation.

Tuesdays 1.10pm to 1.40pm – BREATHE – Quaker style worship with the Leeds Universities Chaplaincy Team

Tuesdays 7.30pm Bible book club – everyone is welcome as we value differing views – this week we will continue the theme of 'Miracles'

Thursdays 8.30am to 9am – BREATHE – Quaker style worship with the Leeds Universities Chaplaincy Team

Thursdays 6pm to 6.30pm Meeting for Worship led by Carlton Hill Elders

Fridays 2pm Poetry – Bring one or two poems to share, your own or those of others, or just come and listen – all are welcome

Letters to the editor

no letters were received.

A Letter to Spiritual Friends: In the Shadow of Covid

When I look back, I can see that the various stages of my life were necessary for this work I am doing now. Especially at times like this, I cannot ignore the contribution to human welfare that is being made by the empirically based physical sciences; Anyone suffering from “long Covid” or other forms of post-viral fatigue is reminded each day of how fluctuations in their bodily health have a marked influence on their state of mind. Yet, whatever our belief system may be, we have to make an existential leap of faith if we want to try out ways of managing our situation as productively as possible. Even if we seek divine inspiration, most of us still learn through trial and error – and, speaking from personal experience, we can be very slow learners indeed!

Yet we cannot improve the quality of our lives if we rely on the methods of the physical sciences alone. We ourselves not only have to make an existential leap of faith if we are to seek better ways of dealing with our situation, rather than relying on old, habitual reactions. We not only have to use our critical reasoning to make judgements about what a “better” way of life might be like. We have to try out ways of training our own “embodied” minds and learn through our own subjective experience what will eventually work in the long run: Here we need considerable patience and it is a great help if we are exhorted by those who have travelled this path before us. Here, the Buddhist tradition scores high like the other profound contemplative traditions of the world. Each provides a certain rationale for the practices which often require considerable patience and commitment to learn.

The traditional scientific method studies people from the outside and it serves as a useful check on the claims made by meditators. If people report that certain kinds of breathing meditation have made them calmer over the years, scientists may check this out by observing their outward behaviour and their brain function under various circumstances. If a revered “meditator” shows all the normal signs of irritation when faced with critical questioning. We have good reason to suspect that there is a problem with their practice. I once saw this happen when a well-publicised guru was badgered with a series of highly rational questions from a sceptic. His critic was being treated for a mental illness, but the only obvious sign that nothing was amiss lay in his insensitivity to the devotees who made up the bulk of the audience. The guru reacted like a school master whose authority has been questioned, wagging his finger at the critic and ticking him off in a petulant tone of voice.

Perhaps, in his meditator's cave he had entered into a profound and blissful realisation of the nature of our being. But, even if this were so, it did not seem to be sustainable under these circumstances. As a sceptic myself, I would not have chosen this man to be my teacher at that time in my life. Even today I would be happier with someone who could talk openly about their more obvious human limitations and how they dealt with them. [tbc]

Andrew Lloyd, Carlton Hill

Philosophy talks of record

These talks are recordings of those given by Ben Wood. They need the OneDrive driver by Microsoft. When I ctrl-clicked on these links they worked straight away, opening a new browser window, presumably downloading whatever was needed without me noticing. There will be another term of talks starting in the autumn.

Jung's Red Book:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AhHmTR9sCAkpmGgFybeBsl-PJkYP?e=htyRZr>

Pride and Prejudice: The Life of James Baldwin:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AhHmTR9sCAkpmEwhXdiPc3ZjMrdV?e=HqSxZw>

The Philosophy of Mary Oliver:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AhHmTR9sCAkpmDxAzmw8tMlXpSE-?e=OCpYej>

Simone de Beauvoir: The Myths That Make Us:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AhHmTR9sCAkpl2wQu2YHw8wD53rk>

Ben Wood

Poem: *summer rain*

*First glimmer of day
a low-key mumble of wind
through the damp gardens*

Rose Anderson, Carlton Hill

Seeing with Pictures

Some art has a spiritual interpretation. It may not be the intention of the artist, nor be the only possible interpretation. But sometimes you see things in a new way. It's worth writing it down to remember the thought. Hopefully others will have such thoughts to contribute.

the divine feminine



Orange oasis, Tunisia, Christopher Corr

This is by Christopher Corr, who also did one of the Royal Mail Millennium stamps, of a scene in Tunisia. It isn't directly of an interpretation of a picture as being of the divine, which has to be seen and explained, more directly of a divine subject matter.

What's shown is an oasis with several buildings and male and animal figures, and one female with a basket of oranges.

But the feminine figure is the most prominent. The male figures are all small, some tiny. She carries the oranges a bit like the way Ceres carried cereals. This is a picture of the divine feminine but differently shown.

Patrick Herring, Carlton Hill