

An Krenner Kernewek The Cornish Friend Number 24, September 2022

Have you met the Queen?

I thought you might like to hear the story of the American tourists and the late Queen which I retold in Afterword at Meeting for Worship on 11th September, three days after her death.

The story was told by a man who was the Queen's bodyguard for many years. When she was at Balmoral privately, the Queen liked to go out for lunchtime picnics in quiet places, often with just her bodyguard. One day the two of them came across a pair of American tourists on a walking holiday, who obviously didn't recognise the Queen. They told her where they were from, then asked where she lived. "Oh, I live in London, but I have a holiday home just the other side of the hills". And how long had she been coming here? "Over 80 years". "Wow," they said. "Have you ever met the Queen?" "No," she said, "but he (pointing to the bodyguard) sees her often." "Can we have a picture?" they asked, posing with the bodyguard and giving the camera to the Queen to take the snapshot. Then they posed with the Queen. "I'd love to be a fly on the wall when their friends see the pictures and tell them who I am", said the Queen as they walked on.

A rare glimpse perhaps of the warm human being behind the persona of monarchy. A human being of deep faith in God which was the foundation of a true sense of duty and service that carried her over so many years. Yes, of course, flawed as we all are, but monarchist or republican, we can give thanks for the grace of God in the life of Elizabeth Windsor. We hold in the Light her family and all who grieve her loss.

By Geoff Watson, Marazion Local Meeting



Editorial

It has been great to collaborate with Jackie in producing this bumper newsletter! We certainly are living in interesting times. I don't know about you but the heatwaves this summer have been challenging for me and for the horse I've been taking care of. I have found myself feeling both depressed, afraid and angry about global warming. The Queen dying (four years after the death of my beloved mother) has also been thought provoking. It feels like the end of an era.

As evidenced by the articles in this newsletter, Quakers continue to take a proactive interest in all that is happening in our world. We hope that the contents enable you to ponder, laugh and be inspired to live adventurously!

By Nancy Thompson, nancythompson731@btinternet.com, co-editor with Jackie Carpenter, jackie@fourseas.org.uk

Area Meeting July 2022 Summary

Cornwall Area Meeting was hosted by Marazion Meeting at their newly renovated Meeting House on Sunday 10th July. It took the form of a blended meeting, with a total of twenty six Friends present.

Thanks were given for the lives of late Friends Jenny Stevenson and Thelma Stewart, whose funerals have recently taken place in Cornwall.

Transfers and applications of/for memberships were noted and nominations including concerns regarding the availability of long term clerks were discussed.

Deborah Mitchell reported on BYM 2022 and a request from the Black Lives Matter Quaker Alliance Cornwall was submitted and accepted by Friends. A report was read out from Meetings for Sufferings as well as from our local Developmental Worker Pip Harris. Other items on the agenda covered were a Quaker Response to the climate Emergency and Quaker Week.

By Nancy Thompson

Area Meeting September 2022 Summary

September 10th's Area Meeting was hosted by Falmouth at the light and airy Dracena Centre, where they meet, with some 24 Friends present in person plus 6 via Zoom. The hospitality, soup, crutons and cake were much appreciated as was the time together tackling the quiz on how much we knew about carbon footprints, based on the book "How Bad are Bananas" (a copy of which was awarded to the losing team!)

The technological challenges helped to increase awareness of each other and the need to be a gathered Meeting, and we moved through the Meeting for Worship for Business together and thank Deborah Mitchell for her willingness to take up the challenge of first-time clerking under our current rotating system.



Come-to-Good are the hosts of Saturday November 12th's Area Meeting, but it will be held at St Austell FMH to enable a blended meeting. Miranda Bird is now Area Meeting clerk, with Deborah as assistant and several other Friends - indeed, we hope the whole of Area Meeting - offering support. That day is planned to include a first session on sharing our Local Meetings' responses to the "Ten Questions" about Sustaining Our Meetings, and considering the way forward. *By Rachel Bennett*

It's your newsletter!

We know you won't read this or take note, but it really helps the editors if you give a sensible file name to your newsletter contributions. Imagine sorting through documents all called "Article"! A good title is "Quaker news camp Nancy" with the separate pictures called "Quaker news camp 1", "Quaker news camp 2" and picture captions provided separately.

What to send us? News from your Local Meeting; short insights; poems; pictures - drawings and photos - (separate not embedded please); weighty articles (but **brief**); letters to the editors. Please send by email to Nancy Thompson, nancythompson731@btinternet.com and Jackie Carpenter, jackie@fourseas.org.uk and put "Quaker newsletter" in the subject line.

Quakers join international action in solidarity with victims of climate breakdown

Quakers in Cornwall will be holding a Meeting for Worship outside Truro Cathedral as part of an international day of action calling for big polluters to pay compensation for the impacts of the climate crisis. A number of interfaith vigils highlighting these impacts will take place around the UK as part of Loss and Damage Action Day on Thursday 22 September.

The term 'loss and damage' refers to climate impacts including floods and sea-level rise as well as extreme weather events such as hurricanes, which are becoming more frequent and more severe as a result of fossil fuels heating the planet. The Truro vigil is particularly held in solidarity with Pakistan, where catastrophic flooding has killed more than a thousand people and affected 33 million.

Climate-related loss and damage is destroying homes, lands and livelihoods around the world – but there is no international agreement on who should pay for it. Quakers in Britain have joined the Make Polluters Pay campaign to call for the UK to support a loss and damage fund paid for by the biggest polluters – for example through a tax on fossil fuel company profits or frequent flyers.

Olivia Hanks, Climate Justice Lead for Quakers in Britain, said: "This year, we have seen the impacts of climate breakdown like never before – from the heatwave in the UK to floods in Pakistan and drought in East Africa. The injustice is so stark: people are losing their homes and livelihoods, losing everything they know and love, because of a crisis caused by others - with no compensation or redress. And at the same time, the fossil fuel companies responsible for climate breakdown continue to make vast profits.

"Quakers and the other faith groups we work with are united in calling for an international loss and damage fund to be urgently set up. The UK government must take action to hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the chaos they have caused."

*By Lyn MacLachlan,
Penzance Local Meeting*



Thursday 22nd September

11.45 for 12 noon start

LOSS and DAMAGE

Meeting for Worship for Loss and Damage outside Truro Cathedral. All welcome, those of faith or none, with concern for those living with the loss and damage caused by climate breakdown.

Please congregate at 11.45 outside the old library, Union Place, Truro TR1 1E. We will stand in silence for 30 minutes outside the cathedral. Please bring a chair if needed and dress appropriately for the weather.



"Thursday 22 September is Loss and Damage Action Day - an international day to stand in solidarity with those living with the worst impacts of climate breakdown, and to call on wealthy countries and fossil fuel corporations to pay up for this loss and damage they continue to knowingly cause. Join us and other faith communities around the UK as we engage in prayer, reflection and action to mark the day!" **Quakers in Britain**

More information: susqic@gmail.com

International Day of Peace

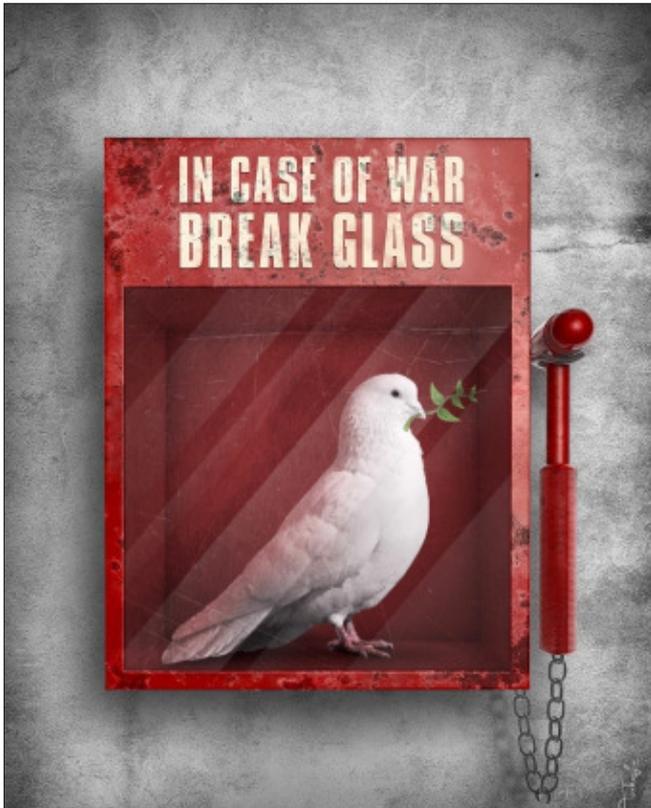
I am organising a stall to be outside Truro Cathedral on Wednesday 21st September from 10 till 4 that day.

I have ordered White Peace Poppies and copies of The Peace News. These and other items promoting peace will be given away on the day.

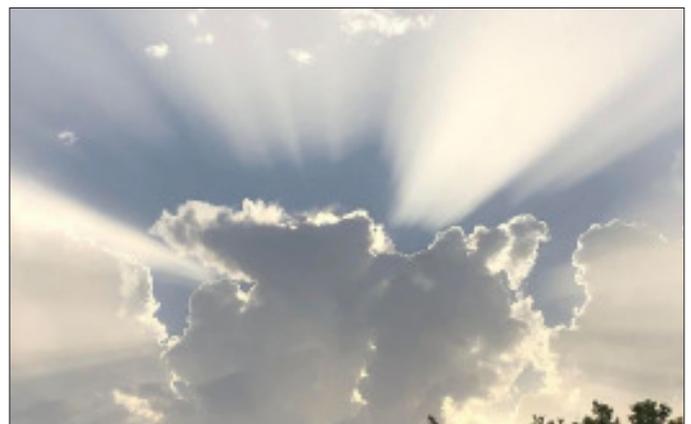
I am putting together information to hand out to members of the public which promote variety of peace organisations, some with religious background (such as Pax Christi or Quaker's Peace Testimony) as well as information about non faith and other faith organisations, UN, Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Please do publicise this event to your congregations - I would welcome helpers on the day (or beforehand) so if you can offer an hour on that day please contact me. I would ideally like to have a small team of volunteers for the day. I will have space in my car to take two people with me. I will also put together a poster to put on notice boards to promote the Peace Day Stall and will email these out asap.

Please contact: Karen Morozova, 07397 997930, karenlita43@aol.co.uk



there is justice, restoration, forgiveness. Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love ← that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free.



Come to Good Local Meeting Annual Report

During the pandemic we maintained a zoom meeting for worship throughout. This was particularly important for keeping in touch with our dear Friend Mary Gamper, who attended these meetings for worship to the last. The various phases of the pandemic included periods where we had some people meeting on zoom and others at Come to Good under strict Covid-compliant rules. On a couple of occasions we were able to get the technology to work to connect the “zoomers” and the in- person “meeters”, after a fashion. During this last year, along with the trials and tribulations of Covid we have also suffered several bereavements and miss Mary, Judith Warren and Graham Marsden, all of whom were very active in the life of the spiritual and practical life of the meeting.

We are now gradually getting back to normal and are finding some green shoots. We have managed to find people to do most of the roles needed and held a meeting for cleaning to ready ourselves for welcoming people back into the building. We hosted a wedding in March, which was a very joyful occasion. Recently we made the decision to reopen our doors to visitors at all times, which feels like a very positive turning point. We’ve had 4 – 5 new attenders who seem to be coming quite regularly. One attender has recently applied for membership. We have held some meetings for reflection, which lots of different people have volunteered to lead and which seem to be well attended and appreciated. We had a party in June with a picnic lunch and songs from a local choir. 23/06/22

Making the banner



I was not comfortable about the Cornwall Quakers climate protest banner at Truro in the autumn of 2021. Poly. takes 200 years to break down in landfill. The Cornish banners are probably made from an even less sustainable material, but I am not sure what.

I decided to make something with scraps. I have used some poly., as I was obliged to use that when making scrubs, so the larger fauna is made from it, but most of the rest was in my stash. I was given the largest piece when my late friend’s husband was clearing out her studio. It’s cotton,

like most of the other elements. Held with a garden cane but can also be held by vertical poles. This picture was taken at County Hall on the day of the “3rd birthday party”, to raise the issue of the Council’s failure to implement anything much in three years.

I embarked on it after the climate protest in November, adding the larger elements over that week. At this point, I suddenly decided it wasn’t finished, but wanted to get on with other things and it fell off my to-do list. I had ideas for a rock pool, some mammals and invertebrates. Then in February, I got the email about the “third birthday” event, so got on with these elements, finishing the evening before.

You’d be hard pressed to spot the holly blue and the bunny, but the choughs are the stars of the show.

By Kit Williams, St Austell Local Meeting



The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022

“The Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 became law in June despite strong opposition from Quakers in Britain. Protest remains legal. However, police in England and Wales can now put restrictions on protests because they might be noisy, including one-person protests. Protesters can be sanctioned for breaching restrictions they ‘ought to have known’ about.” Quakers in Britain, 28 June 2022



I joined a peaceful protest in Camborne walking behind a coffin, symbolic of the death of free speech and civil liberties. The beat of a dustbin lid drum reverberated along the streets as we walked to the police station. At the police station the coffin was placed on the ground while the protestors deliberately made a noise, blowing whistles, kazoos, ringing bells and singing.



Peaceful protest to challenge and express one's views is a human right and the PCSC Act prevents

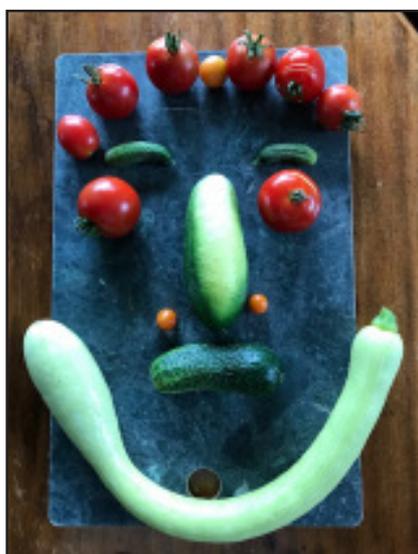
this. Taking part in a protest that MAY be noisy, coordinating a protest, inviting others to join a protest is now illegal. It is also now an offence to be "intentionally or recklessly causing a public nuisance" by linking arms with other protesters. I was motivated to take part in this action to highlight both the absurdities and dangers of this new draconian law.

The police declined to arrest anyone nor make a comment on this occasion.

How can we, as Friends, speak out for peace and equality if we can no longer lawfully take part in peaceful protests?

By Alison Meaton, Penzance Local Meeting

*I'm sending you couple of shots of my effort to ape the art of Archimboldo. No attempt to be woke here. I just couldn't decide which background was best.
Kit Williams, St Austell Local Meeting*



Understanding the Ukraine crisis - and how to resolve it...

I wonder if any other Friends feel uncomfortable with the recent plethora of Ukrainian flags one sees fluttering all over Cornwall at the moment? Personally I feel deeply uneasy when confronted with nationalism (or indeed any kind of 'ism'). I am mindful of the words of Erasmus, that great thinker and pacifist who said "*I am a citizen of the world...*"; words that our late Friend Peter Le Mare often cited when asked what nationality he was.

It troubles me that the pervasive narrative in this country is that we are to "stand with Ukraine". What does this mean exactly and how can we as Friends understand why Russia has acted in the way it has? Have we examined our collective consciousness and thought about what part Europe may have played in creating this conflict?

In their recent article for the Movement for the Abolition of War's newsletter, Tim Devereux and Colin Archer make some salient points about the hypocrisy of both the USA and NATO's actions prior to the current crisis. They point out that while NATO saw Russia again threatening a democratic and sovereign state, Russia saw NATO as relentlessly expanding up to its frontiers.

Furthermore, the US established anti-ballistic missile batteries in Poland and Romania, which could easily be used to attack Russia itself. All this happened after NATO had promised Russia that it would not expand eastwards, a promise that Russia now sees as a flagrant lie. Devereux and Archer ask us to consider how the USA would view Russian missile launchers in Mexico, Canada (or Cuba!). We might also consider how the UK would view Russian missile launchers in Ireland or France...

So what is the answer? Churchill is famously quoted as saying "*better to jaw jaw than to war war*". We all know that any conflict, however terrible, is ultimately only ever resolved via dialogue. So how is arming the Ukraine helping this process? I have to agree with Devereux and Archer when they suggest that "rather than banging on the war drums, [the West needs to] focus on persuading NATO and EU partners to work to get all sides back to diplomacy." They go on to say that "This is not caving into a bully, it is the path away from a terrifying conflagration". We need some creative non-violent solutions, not blame, hatred and side-taking. Vilifying Putin helps no one. The media talks endlessly of Putin's war crimes, but what about the West's war crimes? Has everyone forgotten the illegal war in Iraq? When are the press going to mention the lies, atrocities and war crimes committed there?

I recently had a conversation with a young man who alarmed me by saying that nothing was ever won by peaceful means. He did not seem to have heard of Ghandi or Martin Luther King, he seemed to think it was OK to punch people in the face if they said things that were deemed (by him) to be offensive and wrong. He is young and I hope one day he will change his stance on conflict resolution. It's too easy to think in terms of good and evil. Life is more nuanced than that. I invite friends to consider the following poem and quote, to try to love their enemies and to contemplate Jesus' suggestion that we "remove the beam from our own eye, in order to see clearly before removing the speck from our brother's eye" (Matt. 7.5).

By Nancy Thompson, Marazion Local Meeting

"The most disadvantageous peace is better than the most just war."

Adagia (1508)

In the famous words of Robert Burns...

**"O, wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us!
It wad frae monie a blunder free us"**

James Lovelock

James Lovelock was born in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, in 1919 to Nellie and Tom Lovelock, who brought up their son as a Quaker. He died recently on July 26th on his 103rd birthday.

James was viewed as one of the UK's most respected independent

scientists and never officially retired, taking daily two-to-three-mile walks until quite recently, and publishing his book *Novacene*, an argument for the emergence of a new age from existing artificial intelligence systems, just before his hundredth birthday.

James' Quaker upbringing gave him the notion that "God is a still, small voice within rather than some mysterious old gentleman way out in the universe", which he thought was a helpful way of thinking for inventors. Among his numerous and notable inventions are the electron capture detector, making possible the detection of ozone-damaging CFC gases, and the microwave oven which he invented to help with his research but did not spot the commercial possibilities.

Lovelock's Gaia hypothesis proposed that life on Earth is a self-regulating community of organisms interacting with each other and their surroundings. Until then, much of the world had come to relate to the Earth as a dead rock and to Nature as a machine. Lovelock began to sow seeds that allowed an awareness of our interconnectedness to grow. His was one of the first voices to alert the world to the dangers of the climate crisis, calling the environment movement into being. Until his last days, he worked tirelessly to awaken humanity to the need to come into right relationship with the Earth.

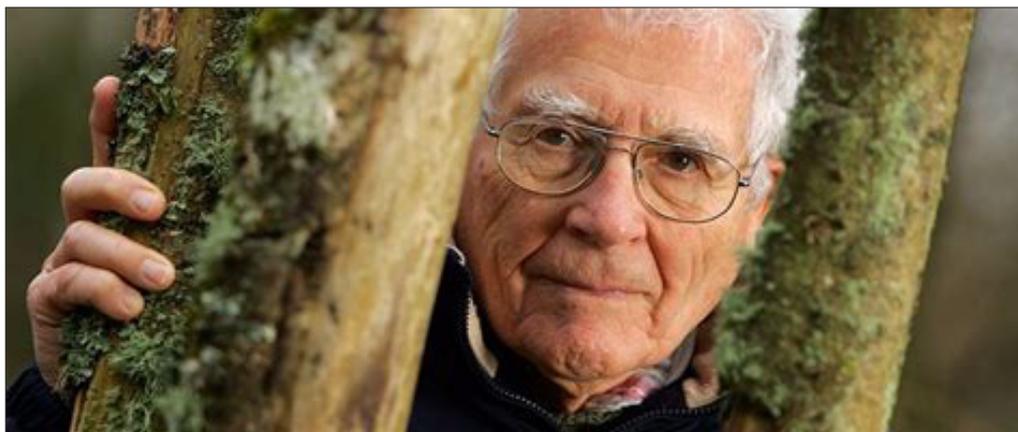
Roger Wade, one of the trustees of Cornwall Area Meeting, spent a month on-board a research vessel with James Lovelock in 1972, travelling down to the Antarctic. Roger has a doctorate in chemistry and was a young research scientist back then - see picture on the left.



Roger writes, "James was one of the most humble, likeable, and inspirational people I ever met. He told me that he went to a Quaker School and said that was a very formative part of his life. Before publishing his Gaia theory, he went through it with me in the bar on the boat.

When he disembarked in Montevideo he left me with his instrument, the magnificent electron capture device, to continue measuring the presence of ozone depleting gases in the atmosphere and oceans. This work was seminal to the later science which led to their ban. I don't think I've ever been so fascinated in science. I feel very privileged to have met him and worked with him."

By Jackie Carpenter with help from Roger Wade



Breakfast Project in Penzance



The Breakfast Project is the longest running project of Churches Together in Penzance Area, actively supporting homeless and vulnerable people in our community since 1999. Breakfast is served from 9.30-10.30 Monday to Friday at the St Petrocs resource centre in Penzance to anyone who is homeless. While this is independent of St Petrocs, the project coordinator, Vance, and chef, Ivor, work closely with the St Petrocs staff to support clients.

Volunteers are needed either for a regular morning or to cover for holidays and illness. A DBS check is required, organised through Churches Together and training is given to

make hot drinks and serve food. For those interested, Ivor the chef will train volunteers to cook the breakfasts which means an earlier start of 8am. This is a useful and rewarding way to spend an hour or so a week. To find out more information please contact Vance kvtrementh@myphone.coop

If you are unable to volunteer you can support the breakfast project to buy breakfast ingredients by donating here with Ref: breakfast project. CTIPA - GENERAL FUNDS

SORT CODE: 40-52-40 ACCOUNT: 00 02 28 33

By Lyn Mclachlan, Penzance Local Meeting

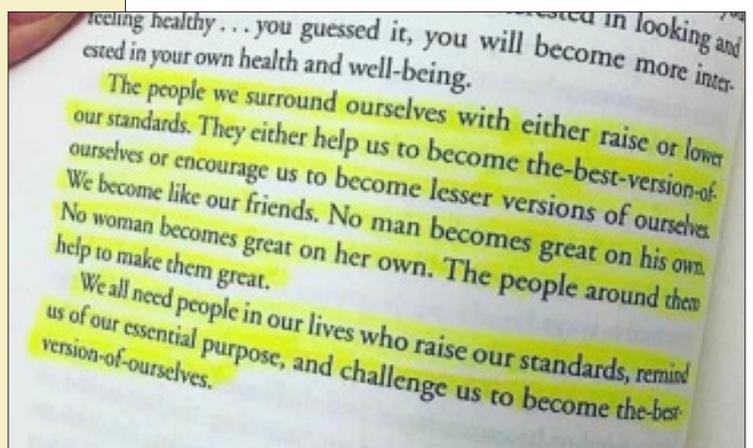
Wedding Vows

During the Sunday Meeting on 21st August 2022 at Marazion, our Friends Martin and Christiane renewed their wedding vows. They were spoken in German, but here is a translation of what they said:

“ I am your husband (I am your wife) because I belong to you. I want to support you in your inner growth as we both joyfully devote ourselves to the world and the Light. I'll be there for you when you need me and give you space when you need it. Our life together is rooted in love, respect and trust.”

It was a very happy and moving moment and gave rise to some heartfelt and deep ministry.

By Joanna Wren, Marazion Local Meeting



Life through the eyes of a New Marazion Quaker

I have found myself, through that Quaker silence, drawn to explore the words of the historical Jesus as recorded in the gospel of Mark, the book that was written down around a generation after the radical Jewish carpenter-turned-preacher and faith healer was executed by the Roman occupation forces in Palestine, after being targeted by the elders of his own faith who were threatened by his unorthodox and subversive teaching. I was already a socialist and I had had a gentle conversion experience back in the mid-1980s. My identity as a Christian Socialist was established but it was an illuminating experience to return to a seminal text such as Mark's story of the good news that the Jewish people had at last encountered their Saviour, the Christ, the Anointed One.

It seems natural to want to identify with this man, Jesus, and try to live in the way he said would lead to a good life. I acknowledge my feeling of discipleship. I don't fully understand what was going on when I had my gentle conversion experience in my mid-thirties - but I do feel that it has brought goodness into my life. My world has been enriched - and my potential to do good has grown. And that is enough. Judge a faith by the works that follow.

Let me give you a taste of these sayings of Jesus that seem to me to transcend his time and place:

How angry must he have made the elders of his faith when he exposed the limitations of the dietary regulations that all Jews should follow. 'Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean.' (Mark, 7:15-16) And then the formal identification of what makes a man bad: 'For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly.' (Mark, 7:21-23) Whenever human beings gather in a community, across all cultures, these twelve 'evils' will serve to disintegrate that society.

Jesus had a vision of the perfect world - the kingdom of God. I love the way in which he corrects his disciples who turned away the little children who were being brought to him for a blessing. 'I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' (Mark, 10:15-16) Emphatic, absolute clarity. If you want to repent and change your ways to discover the fruits of atonement, the joy of being at one with yourself and others, you need to rid yourself of all the luggage associated with adult misunderstanding and corrupted ideas. Humility and a return to innocence are essential for a true change of heart.

That wonderful insight is followed immediately by the first of the teachings about the dangers of wealth. Jesus was addressing a man who claimed that he had followed all the formal teachings of his faith but still was unsure if he had done enough. 'Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' (Mark, 10:21) But the man possessed great wealth and it was a step too far.

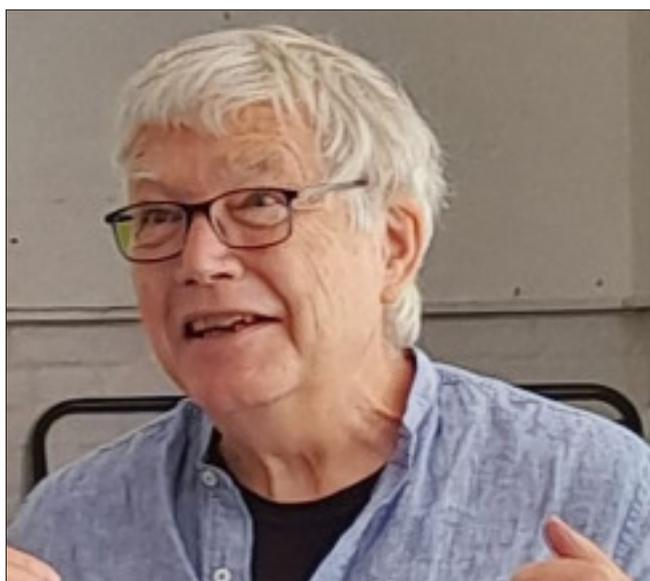
Jesus continued, developing this diatribe against wealth to the astonishment of his disciples: 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' (Mark, 10: 23-24) 'It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' (Mark, 10:26) I have been told that this mention of a camel and needle, is a reference to a tiny gate in the walls around Jerusalem that was notoriously difficult for a laden camel to pass through. The carpenter-turned-preacher had a marvellous turn of imagery. I am sure I don't need to labour the point when I say that here is a foundation stone for my identity as a Christian Socialist.

One final saying to consider: When Jesus was asked which was the most important commandment, he replied ‘... you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength’. (Mark, 12:30) Living a life in faith needs an absolute commitment. He then added a second part to this greatest commandment: ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself’ (Mark, 12:31) Jesus’s parable of the Good Samaritan brilliantly turned this traditional Jewish teaching on its head: now, the stranger, the outsider, even your enemy, was to be regarded as your neighbour. We are all one in the Light of God.

There we have it, in a nutshell. As I understand this teaching, we need to centre on that which we know as God, which for me is the ground of my being and the ground of everyone else’s being. Worship means being true to the guiding Light of God that lives in all of us. The Quaker authorised text *Advices & Queries* (1994) states: ‘We have found corporately that the spirit, if rightly followed, will lead us into truth, unity and love: all our testimonies grow from this leading. (p.3) And then again, ‘Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.’ (p.5)

Thank you for sharing this personal journey of mine. I hope it has been thought-provoking and worthwhile.

By Rob Donovan, Marazion Local Meeting



Right: Tuesday evenings at the Sally Army followed a pattern: a communal supper followed by worship; this evening was a fancy dress occasion and the photo was taken in the kitchen. It was and felt fun. The holy spirit can be joyful.

Rob Donovan’s blogspot series on seeing life as a new Quaker attender by Zoom

Rob Donovan is an academic doctor with a working lifetime in the classroom behind him and a new life as an author already over a decade long. His blog spot address is: www.robdonovan.blogspot.co.uk. Do you read blogs? This one is worth a read!

His latest work – ‘**Dying to Know – Running Through a Pandemic**’ - was published in February this year.

enthusiasm (n.) c. 1600, from French *enthousiasme* (16c.) and directly from Late Latin *enthusiasmus*, from Greek *enthousiasmos* “divine inspiration, enthusiasm ...from *entheos* “divinely inspired, possessed by a god,” from *en* “in” (see *en-* (2)) + *theos* “god”

Penzance LM Annual Review June 2022

We are pleased to be meeting again in person, now at the YMCA Penzance, in a light and airy studio with open doors to a garden area (weather permitting), allowing the frequent ministry of birdsong. The Covid episode has brought about this change of venue, and we have reflected that unforeseen change can be good for us; also that in difficult times Quakers will go back to basics and find a way to meet in the Spirit, if not in person. The YMCA cafe has rid us of the need for biscuits and tea towels, and means we can enjoy a social time after meeting whilst contributing financially to the organisation. Visitors have been positive about the changes.

We have restarted our monthly informal discussion groups after MfW on the 3rd Sunday, allowing our newer Friends and Attenders to share our different journeys as Quakers. We look forward to AM resuming in person so they can experience Quakers at Area Meeting level, and seeing many familiar faces again.

We do not currently have a regular Children’s Meeting, but are in the process of organising so that we can provide for families if called upon.

Our team approach to Eldership, Oversight and Clerking is an important part of running our meeting, and we are beginning to explore how we can move that forward and what it may be called.

Penzance Friends and Attenders are involved in faith in action in many ways.

Volunteering at the Breakfast Project (Churches Together in Penzance area project) at Breadline, the St Petrocs resource centre in Penzance, where, with Marazion LM, we jointly run a computer drop-in project. Volunteers offer laptops and iPads with access to the Internet. We hope to reopen the project soon once St Petrocs decide that groups can start meeting safely inside.

Penzance friends joined peaceful protests against the police, crime, sentencing and court bill which becomes law on 28th June. We are a group member of Quakers in Criminal Justice and 2 of our members were actively involved in in the annual conference held earlier this year near Bath.

Penzance Friends regularly take part in various activities to raise awareness of the need for climate justice, such as the Sit for Climate on Saturdays at 11am in Penzance and peaceful protests at County Hall. Friends took part in the Cornwall climate camp , organised by the Cornwall Climate Action Coalition, in the grounds of County Hall in Truro. Our Friend, Alison Meaton, led a Quaker Epilogue with about 20 people at the end of Spirit Day. A meeting was also arranged with our MP, Derek Thomas, to discuss his voting record on the climate and ecological emergency.

Members have also used Craftivism as protest messages, creating beautiful pieces of craft with a message about climate action either left anonymously to be found by members of the public or delivered to our MP, Derek Thomas. A textile panel about homelessness and Climate Justice is on display in the Loving Earth (Quaker) pop up exhibition.

Despite the challenges of emerging post Covid world Penzance Local Meeting remains strong in the spirit and ready to face the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Letters - 10 June 2022

9 Jun 2022 | by The Friend

From A gigantic amount of hope to A place simply to be

A gigantic amount of hope

I attended some of the Yearly Meeting (YM) sessions on Zoom, as our Quaker community thought about 'learning uncomfortable lessons and how to take our witness forward'.

I feel drawn to say something outside the comfort zone of many, swimming into the cold waters mentioned in the Swarthmore Lecture. My witness is one way of thinking and Quakers can surely permit ideas to be spoken, avoiding the group-think of slave-traders in the past.

As we heard at YM, the slave-traders' ideas were linked to economic growth: economic necessity as some of them thought. Our modern technological global trading economy depends on more economic growth, which is still considered by many to be a necessity. But perpetual growth on a finite planet is not possible.

More growth is based on fossil fuels which release carbon dioxide, leading dramatically towards climate collapse with the possible extinction of our species. There is no time to change to less damaging energy sources. Sudden cessation of the use of fossil fuels will lead to economic collapse, with little food, warmth or well-being for most people, in the UK as well as in countries far away. It seems that we are between a rock and a hard place. Some of us think we are already in a state of collapse: that our world is in its dying phase; that the end of the world is certain; and that it will be soon. *Advices & queries* 42 includes: 'Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.' Perhaps it is God's will that the creation will *not* continue? We don't know what the future will hold. We can discern many things, but we cannot discern the future with certainty.

If there is a collapse, who is likely to suffer most, who is already suffering the most? White, brown or black? Rich or poor? The suffering will be very unjust, and this is the terrible, uncomfortable truth that was not spoken at YM during the sessions I attended.

The idea of accepting collapse and planning what to do is *not* the end of hope. It is not doom-mongering. It is about accepting reality, just as we accept our own death as something that will certainly happen. If our world collapses soon – if it is already collapsing *and* if mentioning this is part of truth-telling – then there is a huge amount of work for Quakers and all good-hearted people to do. We must maintain a gigantic amount of hope! Hope that we shall go through the collapse together, globally, summoning the love and justice required of all of us. Whether we live together in a new future, or die together as the world changes beyond belief, holding to our testimonies and living in a state of love and justice is the Quaker way.

Jackie Carpenter

Items published in the national Quaker magazine "The Friend" - articles or letters - are reproduced in our Cornish Quaker newsletter "An Krenner Kerenwek" if we spot them. Here is one from June.

Three Peaks Challenge

Who?

Jonathan Woods of Truro Local Meeting

What?

To walk (and scramble) the three highest Yorkshire Peaks

When?

20th, 21st and 22nd of September 2022

Where?

The three peaks Pen-y-ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough (in the Yorkshire Dales)

Why?

To raise money and awareness of ataxia: it's Jonathan's way of saying thank you, particularly to Ataxia UK (see <https://www.ataxia.org.uk>); having received, and benefited from, free advice, guidance, information, research and support.

How?

The Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge involves doing all three peaks, one after another in a circuit, in under 12 hours, which Jonathan feels is beyond him now! But his sense is that trying to walk them in three days is something that he could do. Jonathan's estimation is that by doing the peaks in sequence but separately he'll cover approximately six miles per day and climb a total of 1,460 metres.

Donate!

If you would like to find out more about what Jonathan is planning and/or make a financial contribution and/or learn about ataxia please see his 'Just Giving' page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jonathan-Woods7. Thank you!



By 13th September
2022, Jonathan had
raised **£3,629**
of his £2,000 target
from 97 supporters.
WOW!

What is Ataxia?

My diagnosis of spinocerebellar ataxia was confirmed in 2011 ("with spasticity" was added later!). For those of you that don't know, ataxia is a long-term health condition or genetic disorder that gradually gets worse. It is a progressive neurological condition that disrupts the messages sent from the brain to muscles.

It is currently affecting my balance, coordination, gait, swallowing and speech. I also occasionally get vertigo and some visual disturbance. I can expect these things to get worse, to have greater difficulty walking and to have poorer muscle strength (stiffness and discomfort). I think of my diagnosis in genealogy terms: although I know what family I'm in (i.e., ataxia) after numerous tests I don't know what family member I am (e.g., SCA 6 etc)! This is because my faulty gene has not been identified and, as a result, no specific prognosis is available to me.

New Zealand Experiences over 20 years

When our daughter was offered an exciting opportunity to work in New Zealand and decided to emigrate with her husband and children of 10 and 5, I naturally had mixed feelings of loss and pride.

However, over those years we have had so many unexpected surprises and ‘adventures’ on our visits, that I thought I would share some of these. Not only obvious ones like exploring the huge variety of both North and South Island in campervan or car, but being welcomed by Quakers at about half of the dozen Meetings scattered over a land area similar to the UK - but with a population of under 5 million. We have frequently stayed overnight at Auckland Friends’ Centre which is adjacent to the Meeting House, where the ‘Resident Friends’ offer warm hospitality (and have often been British) to a regular flow of Kiwi quakers and those of us easing our transit through jet-lag days. In ‘Quakerspeak’ this is part of our service called ‘intervisitation’, encouraged in QF&P (11.29) and welcomed especially by small, remote Meetings who can, like us in Cornwall, feel upheld by visitors.

While in Wellington, we investigated the NZ National Archive for traces of the grandparents of my husband Tony. Named Barker, they had faced a 6-week ocean crossing to emigrate here in 1913, when his mother was only three years old, with her older sister and a brother.

Fortunately, they had retained the family name of Varley and there was only one of those in the record – in Auckland. The record also revealed the addresses of the houses in which they had lived, so it was possible to see most of these to help put together the puzzle of the Barkers’ 30 years in New Zealand. Another surprise was to come. On our way home via the Friends’ Centre, Tony looked in the local ‘phone book and found a Ramon Varley Barker living on the outskirts of Auckland. Miraculously, the phone was answered by his wife – another Moira – who confirmed the relationship and a long lost connection was made! Back home, letters and photos were exchanged until we were able to get to know them in their home and share the ‘family history’ on our next and subsequent visits.

At Auckland Meeting, we had met with Michael and Merilyn Payne who told us of the Wanganui Quaker Settlement where they had lived since the mid-70s when they had been inspired to set it up as a community of Friends. We were eager to accept their invitation to stay with them there and enjoy another new experience which was a deeply spiritual retreat. Now, there are 16 simple homes, the land has become a growing area for most of their needs, vegetables, fruit and nut trees thrive and chickens and ducks forage underneath. The ‘settlers’ share the work required for the maintenance and meets together to confer on the management, development

and practical day-to-day decisions. In the summer months, residential courses are run for the ongoing spiritual development of Quakers throughout New Zealand and Regional Meetings for Worship and Business.

Central to the life together is the Meeting House, built octagonally in wood from felled on-site trees with full-height windows. Over the door is the Maori name for Quakers, translated roughly as:

“The people who tremble in the winds of the Spirit”.

It is August 2022 and we are currently staying with our family at Whangarei Heads in Northland, about 100 km north of Auckland.

By Moira Fitt, Marazion Local Meeting



Marazion Meeting House Refurbishment Project 2021-2022: A Brief History



Scaffolding and temporary roof erected. Roof stripped and new insulation fitted.



Completed slate roof (left).

Floorboards in main room of meeting house lifted and found to be infested with woodworm and beetle.

Floor joists found to be sub-standard and required removal and replacement.





New floor joists installed with under floor heating pipes fitted.



Air source heat pump installed in upper garden.

The windows and some lintels over were badly rotted and have been replaced with new.

The box frames were severely rotted and required replacement.





New windows fitted along with overhauled shutters.



The completed Meeting House interior with new hemlock reclaimed floor boards and beautifully redecorated. Overhead projector installed ready for our blended Meetings for Worship.



Marazion Friends Meeting wish to thank all those that have funded this Meeting House refurbishment project. Without their support it would not have been possible.

Gratitude to Mike Berris, Member of Marazion Local Meeting, who project-managed this complex project, and to the many local Friends, building contractors and supporters who helped it come true.

What a wonderful project!

No need to be an activist

I have seen quieter Friends hurt by the implication that they do not care enough, because they are not seen to be 'politically active'. Some worry unnecessarily that they may be doing things of a 'less important' nature, as if to be seen doing things by the eyes of the world is the same thing as to be seen doing things by the eyes of God... I suggest that we refrain from judging each other, or belittling what each is doing; and that we should not feel belittled. We cannot know the prayers that others make or do not make in their own times of silent aloneness. We cannot know the letters others may be writing to governments, similarly... We were all made differently, in order to perform different tasks. Let us rejoice in our differences. Margaret Glover, 1989

From Quaker Faith and Practice 20-13



*Quiet
aloneness
in the
beauty of
Cornwall*



Moira in New Zealand

Every day brings surprises and appreciation of the panoramic views of mountains, trees, sea and wildlife here. The fantails dip and dive flycatching, I have spotted a Monarch butterfly twice, a kingfisher perched on a wire and heard kiwis squawking in the night. Yesterday, I watched a huge sting-ry fish in the river from a bridge. Early mornings reveal plate-size dew-laden cobwebs between bare branches and evenings radiate with red and purple sunsets. I am learning that Nature's gifts are so generous when I just stand and stare and BE in the now.



Dust If You Must
by Rose Milligan

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter,
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in your hair;
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
Old age will come and it's not kind.
And when you go (and go you must)
You, yourself, will make more dust.

Update from Pip Harris for South West Friends

Quaker Life Local worker (West Somerset, Devon & Cornwall) August 2022

“Conversations in the yurt”

I have just returned from a memorable week based at Spiceland Meeting in West Somerset. Most conversations took place around picnic benches under the shade of a large field maple, overlooking the edge of the Blackdown Hills and catching what breeze there was. Around 30 Friends called by, some returning several times.



I was accompanied by Devon Friend Amanda Woolley, who camped with me and upheld me in such a lovely way. This emphasised for me the value of not doing things alone: we have a Quaker tradition of sending Friends in pairs, and that is worth reflecting on, in all our forms of Quaker work.

The worrying heatwave built during the week and several Friends were unable to attend. That was something I didn't predict in planning the event: another small confirmation of our changing world, and a

nudge to continue doing what we each feel able to do, in support of “Climate Justice”.

Over the seven days common themes emerged, and yet there was also great contrast. Friends spoke of their Meetings feeling heavily burdened, struggling to fill roles and oppressed by expectations laid on them. Others shared their optimism, having experimented with organising their Meetings in a less traditional way. There were so many encouraging stories of Friends ‘living out their faith’ in small and large ways within their communities: but also intense frustration and concern from a few that ‘Quakers are losing their way’.

All spoke of the importance of being together in worship, whether in person or online, as part of a ‘traditional meeting’ or as part of an extended online group.



The strange paradox of ‘the peaceful Quaker’ ...

In our conversations, we frequently returned to our difficulties in ‘dealing with our differences lovingly’. Differing viewpoints appear in the letter pages of *The Friend*, often unhelpfully expressed. We should remind ourselves that this is independent journalism and not necessarily indicative of what all Quakers feel. I am saddened that it detracts from



some inspiring and helpful articles. We do need to find more ways of coming together to share our feelings in a safe and securely held space. Often, as we find in our international work, the presence of an ‘independent’ Friend can help. “Restoring Relations” (Home - Restoring Relations a Quaker Recognised Body) is developing a new workshop “*Quaker Listening Space: reconnecting and strengthening our communities*”: this and other work is vital in ensuring “all our heard, valued and supported” (Our Faith in the Future, Quakers in Britain). This continues the “RESTORE” themes which many Friends explored last year.

A focus on community: locally and nationally

During the pandemic naturally our focus has been on our local worshipping communities. As we come to terms with where we are now, many Meetings are returning to consideration of the “Simpler” themes. Our ‘Simpler’ aspirations extend to our Area Meetings and to the combined community which is “Britain Yearly Meeting”. Many initiatives help to build a sense of wider community and an understanding of what this means. This includes the development of the new websites and intranets for each of the three Westcountry Area Meetings, and the newsletters that are so beautifully compiled. I also hope to explore ways we can reach “Friends on the bench which existing communication cannot reach” (with apologies to Heineken beer).

I look forward to one final year in my role supporting Quakers in the South West: there is much to consider, what to concentrate on? Shortly I will circulate a brief survey, to gather thoughts on which areas might be most fruitful for me to focus on in the next ‘academic year’.

I have no magic carpet-bag full of solutions, but I am here to work alongside you. Do get in touch if you’d like to talk about anything, whether it be as part of your Quaker role, or as an individual.

Good wishes to you, your households and communities in all their varied forms.

In Friendship
Pip Harris

piph@quaker.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7663 1163 (re-routes to my computer phone, do leave a message)
Mobile: 07422 973 089

This article includes some snapshots from Spiceland, West Somerset Area meeting.

[Spiceland \(Uffculme\) Quakers – Simplicity, Truth, Equality and Peace \(spicelanduffculmequakers.com\)](http://spicelanduffculmequakers.com)

Perhaps I can base myself down in Cornwall in a similar way, in 2023? I’m open to invitations and we have a yurt for Quaker use, thanks to the generosity of Quaker downsizer, Gill Westcott. *By Pip Harris*

Weather is changing, isn't it?



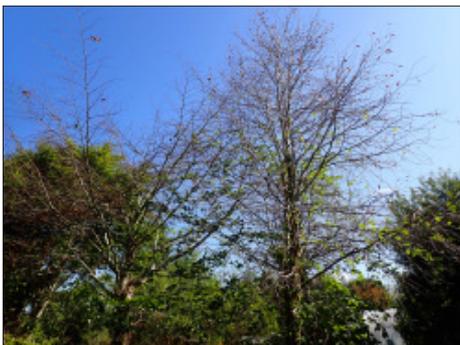
Forest fires in many places, even in London



Flooding in Pakistan, as far as the eye can see



The Loire valley running dry



Trees in Cornwall shedding their leaves in August instead of autumn, because of the heat and drought in England

Fires and floods

We need more and more water to put out the forest fires that are burning hotly,

But the rivers are running dry, except in the places where there are floods.

Pakistan is going under: flooded, submerged, glaciers melting, soon to be under the sea;

Black and brown people suffering like the black slaves of the past. And orang-utans.

Unfair. Unjust. Unkind. They didn't burn the fossil fuels;

They didn't benefit from travelling the world, from too much food and plastic ornaments.

Will we be able to house a flood of 230 million Pakistani refugees in Cornwall?

Share our last crust of bread with them? See that of God in every one?

Will we be able to help them (and all others who need help) through the fires of anxiety?

By Jackie Carpenter, Marazion Local Meeting



Quakers in Cornwall Climate Café

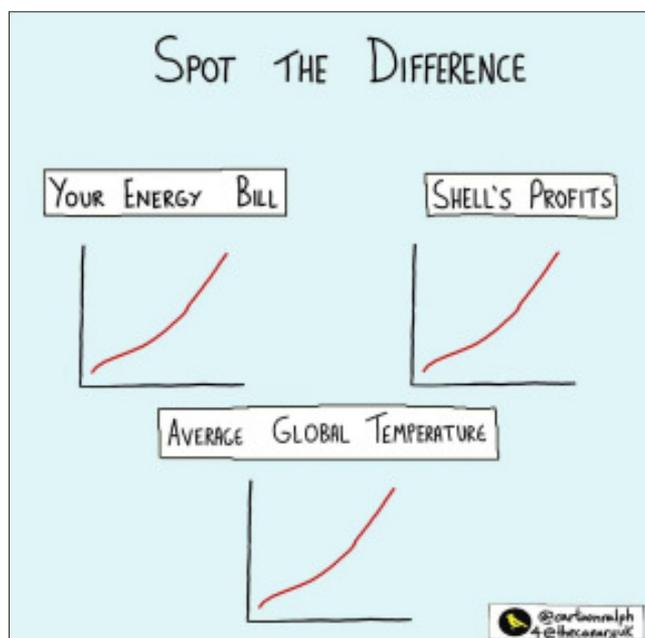
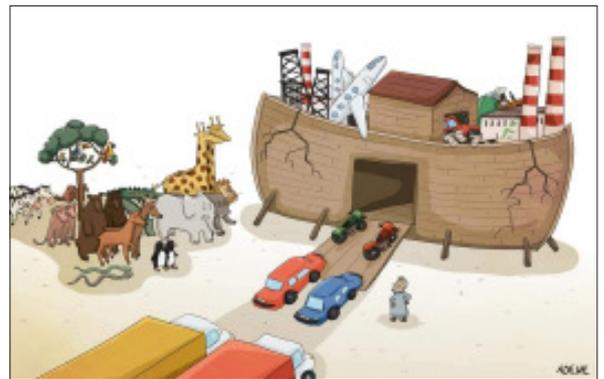
Area meeting in July minuted awareness that there was a hope to re-start the Climate Cafe. The café is intended to be a virtual on-line space; an informal way of sharing awareness of events and developments, together with thoughts and anxieties about the nature and development of the Climate Crisis. No-one has to speak, but all will be given opportunity to speak and be listened to. Friends do not have to attend regularly or stay the whole time. This meeting is not a substitute for SusQIC (the Area Meeting 'sustainability' group, which has formal Terms of Reference and appointed representatives from Local Meetings and reports to Area Meeting), which is in abeyance at the moment partly pending appointment of a convenor/clerk. However, the Café did originally rise from SusQIC and we hope that it will develop as a helpful forum.

The first Meeting was on 17th August, with nine or ten Friends present and several prevented and gave rise to a sharing of ideas, concerns, dilemmas and more.

The next Climate Cafe is planned for Wednesday 28th September from 7pm finishing some time between 8 and 8.30pm, and then on the last Wednesday of the months to come.

Please contact me for the Zoom link.

By Rachel Bennett (as Zoom host to the Climate Café Zoom)



WHAT WILL YOU DO TODAY?

- Read the news & panic.
- Search job listings & realize you're not qualified to earn a living wage.
- Drink too much coffee.
- Swear at inanimate objects.
- Rewash the clothes you left in the washing machine for three days.
- Send memes as the world falls apart.
- Organize your sock drawer to give yourself the illusion of control.
- Cry in the car.
- Immerse yourself in a fictional world to escape reality.

@introvertdoodles

From Britain Yearly Meeting: Climate

Climate Justice

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/climate-economic-justice/exploring-faith-and-climate-justice?fbclid=IwAR2WqNoMJzLABMp2YhhHMYmzejaxHubCQ-qAF7AtEBsLEseZfAfpINsYkkM>

We are launching a new year-long learning and reflection project to help explore what climate justice really means and what it looks like in practice.

Over the last few years, we have seen a huge upsurge in public awareness that our climate is in crisis. We have also seen many people moved to take action to prevent climate breakdown. There are many ways we can respond to this breakdown – one of which is taking action for climate justice.

Rooting our action in justice is a core part of Quaker work on the climate crisis. We believe in national and worldwide economies operating within ecological limits and upholding the wellbeing, dignity and equality of all. As part of that, we need to understand the root causes of climate breakdown and how it is connected with other forms of injustice.

What is loss and damage?

Loss and damage caused by climate breakdown is a present reality for people around the world, and it is getting worse every year. For people in the global majority, extreme weather events (hurricanes, wildfires, flooding) and slow onset events (rising sea levels, desertification) are destroying lives, livelihoods and biodiversity.

Despite being recognised in the Paris Agreement, there has been no progress on where money to pay for loss and damage should come from. It's a priority for countries most vulnerable to climate breakdown, and it's fundamental to climate justice. At COP26, countries representing 85% of the world's population put forward a proposal for a new loss and damage financing facility. This was rejected, but it's the closest we have ever come – and we must keep up the pressure.

Quaker work on loss and damage is about placing justice and equality at the head of our climate action. Whether you consider it solidarity, compensation, or reparations, we know hundreds of billions a year are needed – and that money must come from those who caused the crisis.



A Cornwall Facebook page:
Question - Could you change the name of the COP26 group please? I find it a useful place to share information and link up with Friends.

Answer - yes, it has been changed to "Quakers in Cornwall for Climate Justice".

Book Review

Title: What we Owe the Future; A Million Year Review. Author: William MacAskill

William MacAskill is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University. His academic work spans a breadth of fields within normative philosophy, including practical ethics, population ethics, social choice theory and decision theory. At age 28, he became the youngest tenured professor of philosophy in the world. MacAskill is the cofounder of Giving What We Can, 80,000 Hours, the Centre for Effective Altruism and the Oxford University-based Global Priorities Institute. He's recognised as a World Economic Forum Young Global Shaper and a Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur.

Publishers: Oneworld publishers Price: £20 AND request Cornwall libraries order a copy using this link: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/libraries-museums-and-archives/libraries/using-thelibrary/book-request-form/>

Date of publication: 1 September 2022

Resumé: Humanity is in its infancy. Our future could last for millions of years – or it could end tomorrow. Astonishing numbers of people could lead lives of great happiness or unimaginable suffering, or never live at all, depending on what we choose to do today. As we approach a critical juncture in our history, we can make profound moral decisions about how humanity's course plays out. We can create positive change on behalf of future generations, to prevent the use of catastrophic weapons and maintain peace between the world's great powers. We can improve our moral values, navigating the rise of AI and climate change more fairly for generations to come.

The challenges we face are enormous. But so is the influence we have. If we choose wisely, our distant descendants will look back on us fondly, knowing we did everything we could to give them a world that is beautiful and just.

Reviews: 'Unapologetically optimistic and bracingly realistic, this is the most inspiring book on 'ethical living' I've ever read.' Oliver Burkeman, *Guardian*

'A monumental event.' Rutger Bregman, author of *Humankind*

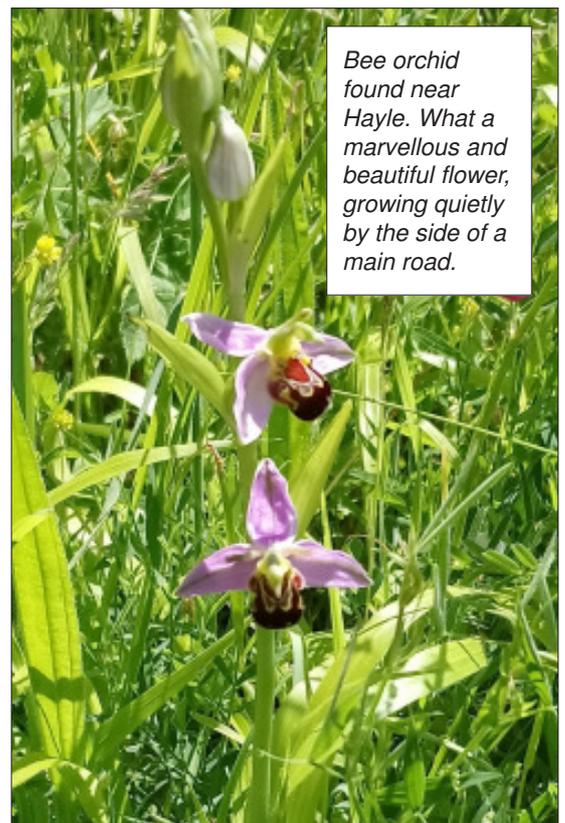
'A book of great daring, clarity, insight and imagination. To be simultaneously so realistic and so optimistic, and always so damn readable... well that is a miracle for which he should be greatly applauded.' Stephen Fry

Sent in by Nancy Thompson and Tony Fitt

Words to end silence

It seems to be enough
That we are here
Seeking something beyond the everyday
And seeking it together

Sent in by Gavin Mason



Worship Sharing

(sometimes known as Creative Listening)

Worship sharing focuses on a particular question and helps us to explore our own experience and share with each other more deeply than we would in normal conversation. It seeks to draw us into sacred space, where we can take down our usual defences, and encounter each other in “that which is eternal.”

The guidelines for worship sharing have been evolving among Friends for the past half century, drawing on a number of different sources. Click under “Files” below to download suggested guidelines.

Worship Sharing Guidelines

Worship sharing focuses on a particular question and helps us to explore our own experience and share with each other more deeply than we would in normal conversation. It seeks to draw us into sacred space, where we can take down our usual defences, and encounter each other in “that which is eternal.”

The guidelines for worship sharing have been evolving among Friends for the past half century, drawing on a number of different sources. They can be summarized as follows:

1. The convener or leader should define a question as the focus for sharing which is simple, open ended, and oriented toward individual experience. It might be a question about the spiritual journey. (How is God moving in my life today? Where do I experience beauty most intensely?) It might be related to an issue that is exercising or dividing the meeting. (What is it that frightens me most about this controversy? What do I most long for in our community?) It might relate to a book you have been reading together. (What touched me most deeply? Which character seems most like me when I was a child?) The question should be chosen prayerfully, to meet the particular needs of the group at that time. There are no stock questions.
2. The convener then explains the basic rules for sharing:
 - a. Reach as deeply as you can into the sacred center of your life.
 - b. Speak out of the silence, and leave a period of silence between speakers.
 - c. Speak from your own experience, about your own experience. Concentrate on feelings and changes rather than on thoughts or theories.
 - d. Do not respond to what anyone else has said, either to praise or to refute.
 - e. Listen carefully and deeply to what is spoken.
 - f. Expect to speak only once, until everyone has had a chance to speak.
 - g. Respect the confidentiality of what is shared.
3. Some leaders feel that going around the circle makes it easier for everyone to speak. Others prefer to ask people to speak as they are ready. Explain which practice you would like to follow. In either case, participants should know that they have the option of “passing” or not speaking.
4. Allow at least half an hour for a group of five or six to share their responses to a single question, and at least an hour for a larger group. If you have more than a dozen people, it would be better to divide into smaller groups to make sure that everyone has a chance to participate.
5. Enter into worshipful silence, and begin.

[Home - Friends General Conference \(fgcquaker.org\)](https://www.fgcquaker.org/)

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/>

Worship sharing - continued

Cornwall Area Meeting has asked us all to consider some very basic questions about our faith and our community and it is suggested that we might use the method of Worship Sharing to ensure that they get the best attention possible.

On page 26 you will find the basic guidelines as framed by Friends General Conference for American Quakers. They do translate quite well! I hope you find them helpful.

By Tony Fitt, Marazion Local Meeting

Sale of UK Arms to Saudi Arabia

To Derek Thomas MP

Thursday 28th July 2022

Dear Derek,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me recently about what you are doing to challenge the ongoing arms sales from the UK to Saudi Arabia. I was glad of the opportunity to talk more about this to you when we met at the recent Marazion Quaker Meeting House open day.

It is commendable that you have written several letters to the Secretary of State for BEIS and the former Defence Secretary, as well as more recently to the departments involved in the export of arms requesting a full non-departmental Select Committee to ensure the right level of scrutiny to our export of arms. I will certainly feed this back to fellow Quakers via our regional newsletter.

You mentioned in your letter that “since its formation..” there has been a “marked improvement” in the way in which the Saudi-led Coalition conducts itself and that this is mostly because of the pressure and advice coming from the UK and the US. Nevertheless, there is overwhelming evidence of repeated breaches of international humanitarian law by the coalition. So why does the UK continue to support air strikes by Saudi Arabia and its coalition partners and why is the UK providing them with both arms and ongoing maintenance and support?

I understand that you do not generally sign early day motions but wonder if there is more you could do to contend this ongoing sales of UK arms to Saudi Arabia? As you know, both the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates (another country in the coalition) are using weapons bought from the UK to bomb hospitals, schools and places of worship in the Yemen; yet the UK government does nothing to stop the sale of arms to these countries. I wonder if you are able to raise this issue directly in the Houses of Parliament?

The UK government has a moral imperative to stop the sale of arms to both Saudi Arabia and the UAE and should work together with the new US Administration to bring an end to the devastating attacks on Yemen. I pray that both as a Christian and in your role as our MP, you will put pressure on our national leader to firmly commit to ending this immoral arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

Yours in Christ,

Nancy Thompson

On 16th June we heard the sad news that Thelma Stewart, from St Austell Local Meeting, had passed away after a long period of illness. Her daughter Lucy, who came over from Portugal several weeks before to care for her, was with her as she died.

Quaker Camp 2022

Since 2014 the Thompson family have ventured out of Cornwall to join other fellow Quakers in an annual, national Quaker camp which takes place every summer. We always enjoy fellowship, laughter and community at these camps and it has been great to get to know Friends from other Meetings in the UK and beyond.

This year we camped in Exmoor (hooray not too far from Cornwall!). Here are some photos of the camp which include rainy outdoor Meeting for Worship (we

meet every morning for a short time outside), entertainments night (when Friends took part in a Madagascan dance lead by Friends Sophie and Fortunat from Guildford!) and the famous "pudding night" (which remains for many, one of the highlights of the camp!)

If any Friends from Cornwall are interested in joining Quaker Campers next year then they would be very welcome! Quaker Campers agreed at their 2022 business meeting, to meet next year at the Vale of Pickering campsite in Yorkshire from the 29th July to 5th August 2023. (A long way from Cornwall, but worth it!).

There is a link to Quaker Campers on the national Quaker website and you can email the clerk using this link:

<https://quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-groups/quaker-campers-1>



Pudding night



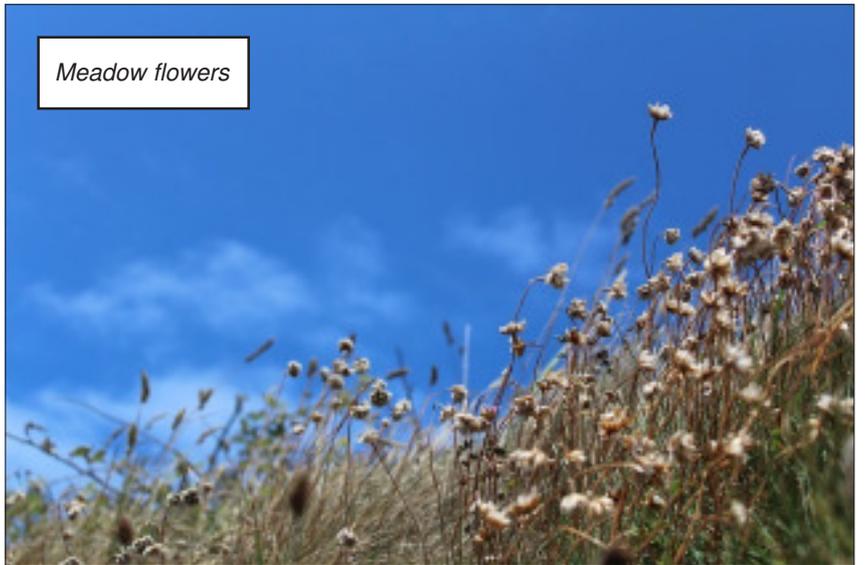
Quaker camp on Exmoor

*By Nancy Thompson,
Marazion Local Meeting*

Come and have fun at next year's camp in Yorkshire!



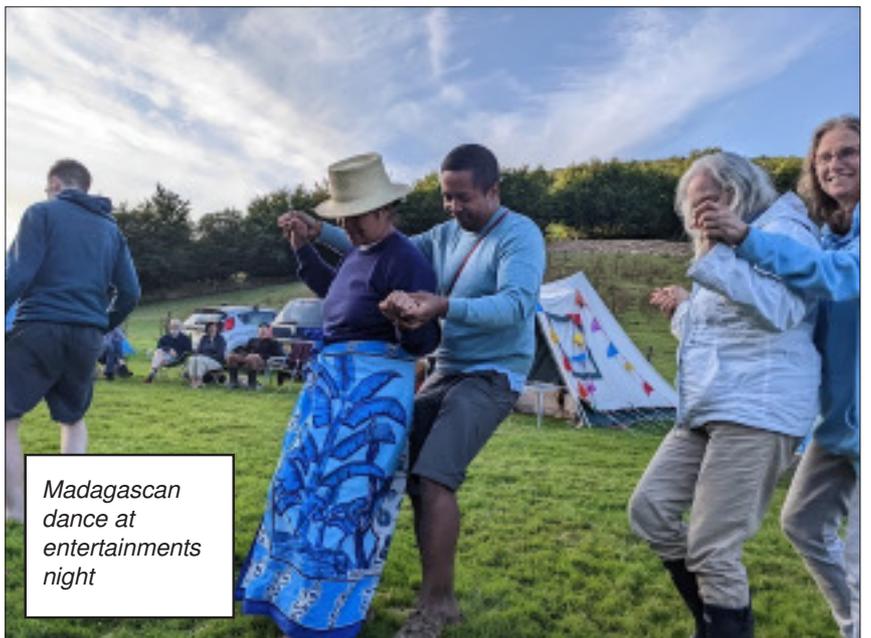
Tree tunnel



Meadow flowers



Quakers walking



Madagascan dance at entertainments night



Meeting for worship in the rain

Vices and Virtues in the Judeo-Christian Tradition

At a recent book club I attended, we discussed a book called "The Feast" (by Margaret Kennedy). The book is loosely based on the stories of people whose downfall is caused by their manifesting one of the seven deadly sins. Members of the book group seemed uncertain what the seven deadly sins in fact are and also what their opposites or remedies might be.

We agreed that vices and virtues in the Judeo Christian tradition were probably first consolidated in the early Church and in Catholic Teaching. Being interested in both theology and etymology I decided to look them up and found an image which depicted them all nicely (a picture speaks a thousand words!).

I have found in my experience using The Virtues Project in educational settings that it is a useful educational tool for positive reinforcement as opposed to setting boundaries using punitive measures. I like the way The Virtues Project encourages children to mine for and polish virtues hidden inside of them, virtues such as patience and kindness. Many of the virtues used in this project overlap between different faiths and so in a way are universal to us all.

I wonder which of sins Friends struggle with and which virtues they would like to polish...? Of all the deadly sins, which do Friends consider to be the least pleasurable?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church here are seven virtues which are divided as follows: three *Theological Virtues* (Faith, Hope and Charity) and five *Cardinal Virtues* (so called because they hinge on all other moral virtues); these are: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.

Vices or sins are seen by the Church as being remedied by specific virtues, as follows:

Pride - Humility
Envy - Fraternal Charity
Anger - Meekness
Sloth - Diligence
Avarice - Liberality
Gluttony - Temperance
Lust - Chastity

I have included Boch's depiction of the seven deadly sins for contemplation!

Sent in by Nancy Thompson



PRAYER

Let us give thanks for:
The meeting organisers
The secretaries and letter writers
The minute takers
The small-change counters
The safeguarding officers
Those website wonks and brave Zoom managers
The article writers
The flower arrangers
The meeters and greeters
The biscuit providers
The gloved washer-uppers
Those who dust, mop and vacuum
The chair stackers
The lift givers
The hand holders
Those with a spare tissue for tears,
And the keyholders, there long before you arrive and long after you leave.
May we give thanks and praise for all those working to make our world a better place.

Amen

Sent in by Gavin Mason

Lao Tzu's Four Cardinal Virtues

Lao Tzu's four cardinal virtues represent the surest way to leave habits and excuses behind and reconnect to your original nature. "The more your life is harmonised with the four virtues, the less you're controlled by the uncompromising ego."

1. Reverence for all Life

This virtue manifests as having unconditional love and positive regard for all creatures in the universe, starting with ourselves, then this will naturally flow out to all others. This reverence is for all life, not just some forms. It is honouring all forms of life, and at its core has an innate spiritual understanding of how the universe truly works – that we are all sparks of the one fire. When we live with reverence for all life, we surrender our need to control and to dominate. We naturally come into heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for all of life. This first virtue is the key to diminishing the ego.

2. Natural Sincerity

This virtue encompasses kindness and authenticity. To me, it has a feeling of compassion and an all-encompassing love for all beings. When we are sincere and act with integrity, we move towards peace and inner tranquility. Our conscience clear, we don't have the inner niggles over our dishonest actions that can erode a peaceful mind. Much of these four pillars relate to karma, the law of cause and effect, and maintaining equilibrium and impeccability. This virtue is honesty, simplicity, and faithfulness, says Wayne Dyer. It is about being true to yourself and walking your talk.

3. Gentleness

Gentleness is a deeply powerful trait. Often interpreted as weakness, gentleness is sensitivity, respect, and reverence for all life. Perhaps this virtue can be summed up by the Dalai Lama who often says; "my religion is very simple, my religion is kindness." In life, it is far more important to be kind than to be right, and to be kind rather than important. Gentleness is an umbrella for forgiveness, acceptance and love. It is much like the yogic term ahimsa, or non-violence. When we give up being right and being superior, we start accepting ourselves and others, and so much conflict in our lives drops away.

4. Supportiveness

When we are supportive of ourselves, with kind words, loving actions and self-care, we are naturally supportive of others. This virtue is the basic tenet of humanity. We are naturally social beings and, at our core, we want to be with others and to help others. Many experiments show how humans are motivated by connection and will move towards this rather than other things. When we give to others, share and support others, we become happy. Our lives become meaningful and our hearts full. Supportiveness is about service. Open hearted service for the sake of helping others and benefiting others, with no thought to our own gain. Supportiveness is also about holding space for another, listening to another, and being there for others. It is radical loving kindness in action.

This quote by the poet, Hafiz, sums it up: "Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth 'you owe me.'"

Sent in by Jackie Carpenter

Lao-Tzu (l. c. 500 BCE) was a Chinese philosopher credited with founding the philosophical system of Taoism. He is best known as the author of the Laozi (later retitled the Tao-Te-Ching translated as "The Way of Virtue" or "The Classic of the Way and Virtue"), the work which exemplifies his thought.

New Ecological Community in Cornwall

Project Q is a society, and the Q refers to the Quaker ideas with which it is aligned. The mission of Project Q is to “grow cohousing for the climate crisis”. The society was set up in 2019 and its first community was Friendship Cohousing at Maningham, purchased in 2021. We aim for Project Q to become a network of cohousing communities in Cornwall and the Southwest, sharing things we learn and helping each other to find ways to live joyfully though any difficulties that might arise in the future as the climate crisis develops. Each community will be aligned with the principles of truth, peace, equality and simplicity, a pattern and example of simple sustainable living, enabling people to survive and thrive.

Earlier this year, Project Q set up a new company, Four Seas Ltd. Four Seas is a pun on CCCC, the initials of Climate Change Cohousing Community. This non-profit company has been investigating the purchase of various properties this summer, but buying a property and forming a bonded group at the same time is proving very difficult! We hope to announce the establishment of another community soon.



We rejoice in the fact that we are part of a world-wide movement creating local ecological villages as our response to the climate crisis. The (unedited) words written about the community below fill us with delight: we share similar ideas about accessibility regardless of money, collapse-awareness, picking our own food and welcoming visitors, but in the landscape of Cornwall rather than the mountains of Italy. If you are interested in helping us, joining us, making donations, or finding out more, please get in touch.

By Jackie Carpenter, jackie@fourseas.org.uk

Ecological Community in Tuscany, Italy

Small but decisive steps forward of the Comunità resilienti e rigenerative in Drocala (932 m), a “Bel Poggio” where we want to build a radical, self-sufficient, deeply ecological community.

A real ecological village outside the loop of privilege and compromise, accessible to anyone who wants, regardless of how many pennies or millions of euros they have in their pocket. Because we believe in the power of being together, overcoming taboos and instilled fears that revolve around money. In financial accountability.

A real ecological village, not a monetized corsifce that in the privilege of capitalist colonialist society lives on yield on the riches that allow the few easy access to (for a short time yet, by the way) abundance of men sun of the supermarkets.

A real ecological village where we put our hands in the ground more often to sow and harvest, than our hands in our wallet to pay for bananas, coffee, winter green beans, plasticized food packages, at the expense of those who later drown in the Mediterranean frog.

A real ecological village where we have a clear awareness of what “average global warming of at least 3-4 degrees by the end of the century” means! Where do we know what can happen if one in four species of plants and animals is endangered.

With the joy of independence, the freedom of the mountains, the satisfaction of picking your own food from Mother Earth. In the immeasurable wealth of the many meetings of those who are coming to help us, for a week or more, and of those who are preparing their move to come to us. Together it is possible. We are all we need. <https://tinyurl.com/PresentProgetto>

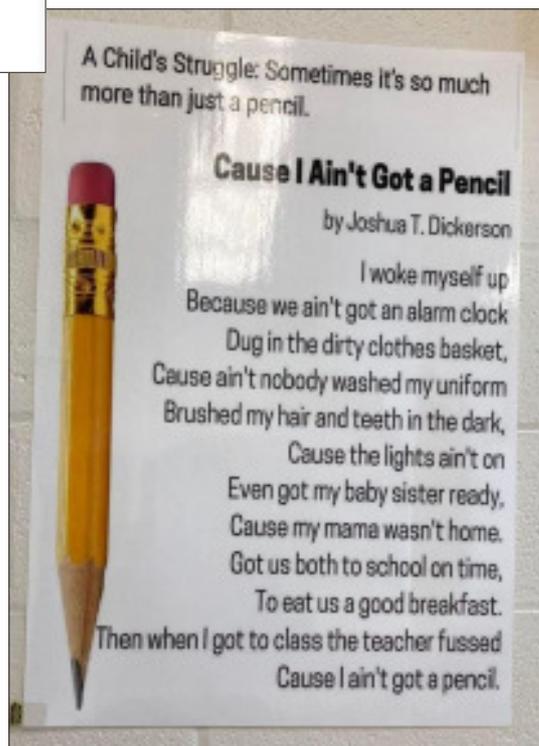
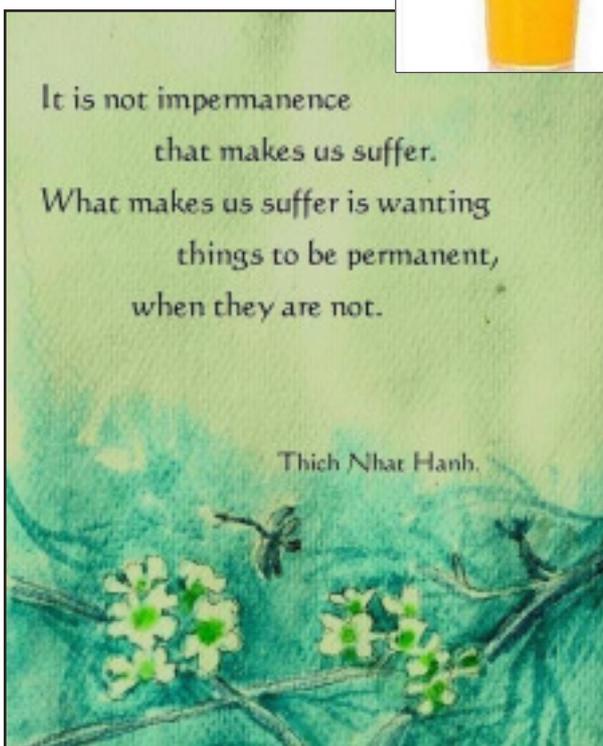
From the “Quaker Renewal” Facebook page, 6th September 2022



Maningham Friendship Cohousing

Maningham Friendship Cohousing and Quaker Recognised Body is having an Open Day on Sunday 25th September 10am - 4pm. Address: Maningham, Churchtown, Illogan, Redruth, TR16 4QZ enquiriesfch@gmail.com

 **Kendra Fortmeyer**
 We thought it was our ability to love that made us human, but it turns out it was actually our ability to **SELECT EACH IMAGE CONTAINING A BOAT**



Autumn Faith in Action Gathering

25 October 2022, Online - Zoom

Autumn Faith in Action Gathering - Bayard Rustin edition

“My activism did not spring from being black. Rather, it is rooted fundamentally in my Quaker upbringing and the values instilled in me by the grandparents who reared me... Those values were based on the concept of a single human family and the belief that all members of that family are equal.” *Bayard Rustin, Quaker and proponent of nonviolence*



Bayard Rustin in Trafalgar Square, London, grinning joyously as pigeons flock around him and feed from his hands and arms and head

Are you seeking a deeper spiritual connection with making positive change in the world?

Do you feel the need to rejuvenate your energy for action by connecting with a wider community?

Are you Quaker-curious - or a Quaker who puts your faith into action?

If so, this gathering is for you. Faith in Action Gatherings are rejuvenating spaces for spiritual and community connection. Quarterly gatherings for sharing and stillness around creating a more just, equal and peaceful world.

Sign up here: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/autumn-faith-in-action-gathering>

For our first Faith in Action gathering we are looking to the Quaker Bayard Rustin, both in honour of Black History Month and of his outstanding contribution to nonviolence.

This gathering will be spacious, with significant time spent in quiet, reflective, Quaker worship.

As we will only be briefly glimpsing at the rich and deep history of Bayard Rustin's life, here are some resources if you wish to learn more.

“Bayard Rustin was a key behind-the-scenes leader of the Black civil rights movement—a proponent of nonviolent protest, a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the principal organizer of the landmark 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. And he was gay and open about it, which had everything to do with why he remained in the background and is little known today in comparison to other leaders of the civil rights movement.”

Listen to more about Bayard's work on nonviolence here: <https://makinggayhistory.com/podcast/bayard-rustin/>

And read here: <http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/884/the-roving-ambassador-bayard-rustins-quaker-cosmopolitanism-and-the-civil-rights-movement>

Sign up here and share within your networks: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/autumn-faith-in-action-gathering>

By Lyndsay Burtonshaw, Quakers in Britain

Faith-based responses to disruption and distress from global heating

Many people describe their awakening to the extent of the environmental predicament that faces humanity as a 'dark night of the soul' or even a 'near death experience' because of how it both troubles and changes them deeply. As a result, many people have reported a new sense of freedom from past concerns and compromises, with a shift towards living more truthfully, compassionately and courageously from now on.

As the cause of this awakening is a collective one – the state of the planet – some have wondered whether it might trigger a mass awakening with huge potential for societal change. Conversely, some have wondered whether more people will try to suppress this awareness and their feelings about it, and instead double down on their worldview and identity. Others have just assumed it will all end in apathy and depression.

In my own experience, I have discovered there is both a wonderful way through allowing despair while finding guidance, and a not-so-easy way to live after that transformation – which can benefit from ongoing support. It is not-so-easy, because neither the world situation or personal situations are going to get any easier, while the delusional stories from the media and elites become louder and louder.

Which brings us to religion.

This year I learned that in many religious communities the idea that humanity is in 'apocalyptic' or 'end' times is becoming widespread. Although not unusual in the history of humanity, today that view relates to environmental change. Whether such a perspective leads to more or less 'prosocial' responses will influence how any future breakdowns occur. In particular, whether 'worldview defence' trumps active compassion as people become more anxious, will be key to how societies respond. Even if you are not actively engaged in any particular religious community, their responses will definitely shape your future experience. Even people who've abandoned their faith still often find themselves praying when something awful happens to a loved one – it's so deeply ingrained it's seemingly inescapable.



Thankfully, both indigenous wisdom and the teachings of many traditions remind us that, in even the most emotionally challenging times, kind and collaborative responses are possible.

By Professor Jem Bendell, 12th September

Our Website - quakersincornwall.org.uk

Pip Harris emphasises the exciting potential of our new website's public pages for creating a clear and attractive web presence for the 'Quaker curious', as a form of outreach. Pip is also encouraging us to see our secure 'intranet' pages as a 'Quaker treasury', allowing us to access event details and documents and to exchange ideas and link more easily.

We thank our Friend Tony Fitt for embracing the challenge of familiarising with these new developments, and being a role model for us all. We encourage Friends to join the Quaker app (intranet) via the invitation link which gives access to the secure pages to create an account with their own password. There is more in the latest AM minutes. **JOIN OUR WEBSITE NOW!**

For further info /help please contact Tosh Brice christopher.brice@gmail.com and/ or Pip Harris (Quaker Life Local Worker): piph@quaker.org.uk

Quakers in Britain are known formally as the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

Around 21,000 people attend 469 Quaker meetings in Britain. Their commitment to equality, justice, peace, simplicity and truth challenges them to seek positive social and legislative change.



Dates for your diary

Peace Day Stall

Outside Truro Cathedral on Wednesday 21st Sept from 10 till 4

Loss and Damage event

Meeting for Worship to be held outside Truro Cathedral on Thursday 22nd Sept gathering at 11.45

BLM Quaker Alliance Cornwall

Zoom Meeting on Saturday 24th Sept 9.30 am. All welcome, contact Voirrey Farragher for zoom link.

Quaker Week

24th September - 2nd October. Local Meetings are invited to report on their response.

Area Meetings

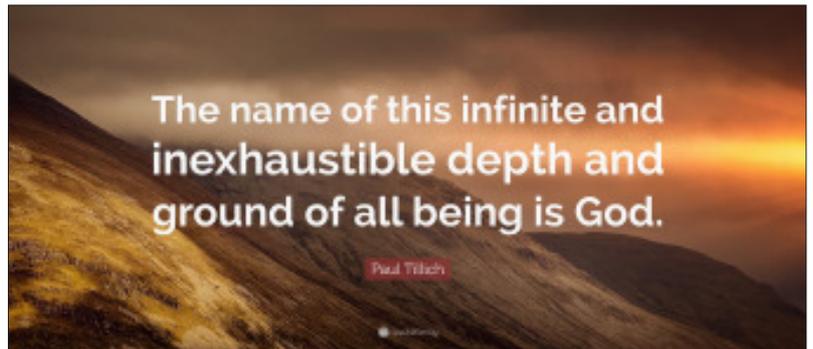
Saturday 12th November 2022, (Come to Good but held at St Austell Meeting House)

Sunday 15th January 2023, (Bude)

Saturday 11th March 2023, (Truro)

SusQIC Climate Cafe

Zoom meeting Wednesday 28th September from 7pm, and then on the last Wednesday of the months to come. All welcome, contact Rachel Bennett for zoom link.



*I expect to pass through this world but once;
any good thing therefore I can do,
or any kindness that I can show
to any fellow creature, let me do it now;
let me not defer or neglect it,
for I shall not pass this way again.
~ Stephen Grellet, Quaker c. 1800*

Printed copies

This newsletter is published as a coloured pdf file for sharing by email. Please contact jackie@fourseas.org.uk if you would like me to email you a copy without the coloured boxes for cheaper printing.

We shall continue to print newsletters and send them to local meetings and will print more if requested. Let us know if there is a Friend in your local meeting who would appreciate a printed copy this time.

Please send any contributions for the next newsletter by middle of October 2022 for the December issue. Please send by email to Nancy Thompson nancythompson731@btinternet.com and Jackie Carpenter jackie@fourseas.org.uk and put "Quaker newsletter" in the subject line.