

Forty-Three Newsletter

Number 532

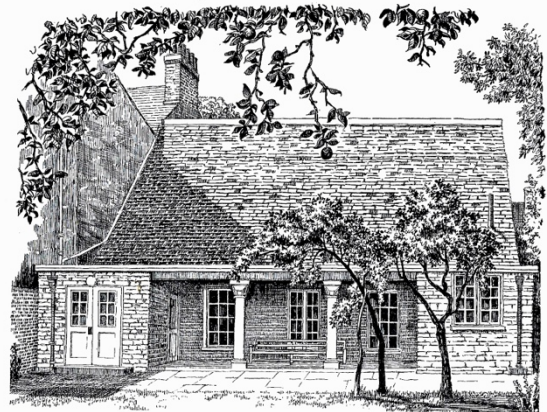
August 2023

Oxford Friends Meeting

43 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW

+44 (0)1865 557373

office@oxfordquakers.org



Love in Action for Oxford Meeting

Denise Cullington

It can seem as if all the organisation and care happen seamlessly, invisibly for the Meeting. But as anyone who's run a household knows, there's always much to do under the surface which can be exhausting if left to a few, or enjoyable and companionable when shared.

Apart from the paid jobs – and many thanks to Jacqui, Georgia, Julia, and soon Phoebe – there are all those others who accept roles at the Meeting to attend to finances and bill-paying; to the building works; to care for those who are elderly or unwell; who support outreach works and charities in the UK and abroad; who Elder for us; who run the children's groups; who take on clerking; who provide refreshments; who

garden... and more. Their work is generally unseen and unsung but greatly appreciated.

Some who have been involved in work in other areas might enjoy offering their skills in something different. But there are relative newcomers who might not know what needs to be done and might be hesitant to offer their help – and if so, joining in can be a lovely way to feel involved and a part of things.

The nominations committee welcomes offers from Friends and attenders to contribute in some way to the work of the Meeting. Often roles are for three years, but if someone is in Oxford for a shorter time, they would be welcome too. The current nominations members are Linet Arthur, Nicole Gilroy, Bryony Insua-Summerhays, and Denise Cullington. If you want to find out more, we'd be delighted if you contacted one of us, through the Office –



Virginia Allport and Denise Cullington

Photo by J Henderson

office@oxfordquakers.org.

Oxford Quaker Meeting August Appeal: Peace Works Zimbabwe

Anne Watson

Debates within Britain Yearly Meeting about reparations include the Quaker Africa Interest Group (QAIG quakerafricainterest.org.uk) urging us all to consider supporting projects in areas of Africa that have been affected by British colonialism in the past. Quakers have been working in Matabeleland since 1967 and we are delighted to tell you about a relatively recent area of work that needs our support.



Photo from peaceworkszimbabe.net

Peace Works Zimbabwe (emanating from Milton Keynes Quaker Meeting) is raising money to support **Peace Education** in Zimbabwe. The money raised goes to **Alternatives to Violence Zimbabwe** (AVPZ). AVPZ is based in the Quaker Meeting in Bulawayo. AVPZ runs courses in conflict reduction for community groups like young people, women at risk of violence, community leaders and prison staff.

AVPZ's other focus is on **training teachers to use conflict resolution** and students to become peer mediators and ambassadors for peace in their schools.

There are now over 60 Peace Clubs in both primary and secondary schools. The number increases by about 10 per year and is dependent on funding to support the initial training and training the trainers.

Teachers have a huge appetite for these courses. Zimbabwe has recently outlawed the use of corporal punishment in all schools, so this is a huge opportunity to promote 'peaceful schools' and a much-needed cultural shift.

For more details and how to donate see www.peaceworkszimbabwe.net

Bank transfer or standing order:

Account name: Milton Keynes Quaker Meeting
Bank Name: Coop Bank
Sortcode: 089028
Account #: 50528862
and give the reference 'zimpeace'.

Inform peaceworkszim@gmail.com that you have done so and request a Gift Aid form if appropriate.

By cheque made out to:

Milton Keynes Quaker Meeting
and sent to:

PeaceWorksZim
c/o The Quaker Centre
1 Oakley Gardens
MILTON KEYNES
MK15 9BH

Include a note that it is intended for PeaceworksZimbabwe.

Hello

Phoebe Larcombe



I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself as the new Deputy Manager here at the Meeting House. My name is Phoebe Larcombe and I am absolutely thrilled to be joining this amazing community. From the moment I walked through the doors, I have been met with such warmth and kindness from all of you. Thank you for making me feel so welcome!

In addition to my role here, I have a full and vibrant life outside of work. I am married and have two beautiful children who constantly remind me of the importance of compassion and care. Our family is also lucky to have a furry friend – a loveable dog, Bella, who brings boundless joy to our home.

Oxford Quakers has kindly allowed me extended time to hand over my previous role as School Office Manager to my successor. As a result, I will be working fewer hours until September when I will begin working 24 hours a week as Deputy Manager.

When I'm not busy with the responsibilities of work you'll often find me out and about in nature. I love walking through woods, fields, and along the river, taking in the beauty that surrounds us. There's something truly magical about being in nature that restores my spirit and brings me peace.

I am genuinely excited to be a part of this incredible community and to work alongside all of you in furthering our shared mission. I invite you to come and say hello whenever you have a moment. Together, we can continue to nurture a space that fosters understanding, supports one another, and works towards positive change in our society. I believe that building connections and nurturing our community is at the heart of what we do.

Thank you once again for your warm welcome. I am truly grateful to be here and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

With peace and friendship, Phoebe



Photo by M Hughey

August 11th Workshop – Exploring Quaker Christianity

Matt Rosen

On 11 August, there will be a Friday with Friends workshop on ‘Exploring Quaker Christianity’. This will be an evening to consider what Christianity meant for earlier generations of Friends and what it might mean for us today. Friends are invited to bring their questions, doubts, and uncertainties along with their faith and assurance. There will be plenty of space for all of it. The workshop will take place in the meeting house, 19:00 for 19:30pm. It will also be possible to join via the meeting for worship Zoom link. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, matt.rosen@new.ox.ac.uk. See below for a further description.

British Friends sometimes talk about Quakerism’s ‘Christian roots’. This may accurately capture the feeling of some of our meetings, yet it risks obscuring the particularity of Quaker understandings of Christianity and the ways in which they are still alive for us today. Most Quakers around the world are Christian, and Quaker Christianity differs in numerous ways from other forms of Christianity: for example, in its understandings of baptism, Christ’s saving work, the nature of sacraments, the place of the Bible, spiritual authority, pacifism, and worship. George Fox, one of the key founders of the Society of Friends, rarely spoke of ‘that of God in everyone’. More than anything else, he told people that ‘Christ has come to teach his people himself’.

Basically, everything distinctive about Quakerism – from our modes of worship and decision-making to our understandings

of the authority of scripture, baptism, spiritual nurture, community, ministry, and communion – stems from early Friends’ sense that the risen Christ was present among them as their living Teacher, gathering them together.

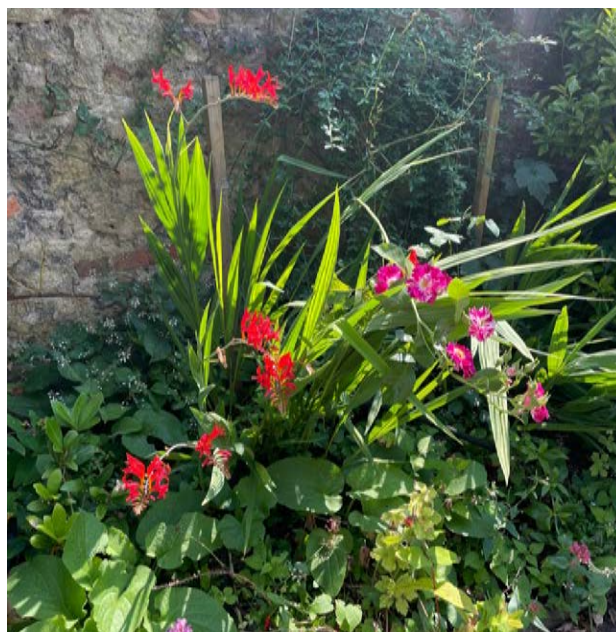


Photo by J Henderson

This evening workshop will explore Quaker Christianity – what it meant for earlier generations of Friends, and what it might mean for us today. We will discuss the person and work of Jesus, the origins of Quaker practices and vocabulary, the beliefs that led early Friends to suffer greatly in prisons across Britain, and the state of Quaker Christianity around the world. There will also be time to reflect on what Christ means for us (if anything), how the Spirit is at work in our lives, and how this colours the ways we walk through the world as Friends.

Welcoming and caring at 11 o'clock

Anne Watson

To all who attend 11:00 meeting for worship on Sundays. The meeting house lobby is alive with humanity before the meeting; people who attended 9.30 meeting for worship are popping in and out meeting and chatting, children arrive and disappear upstairs for their meeting, office staff are answering queries and checking supplies, and in the midst of all this are the fresh arrivals for 11:00 meeting: some regulars, some returners, some new people, some passers-by.

Welcomers are needed to ensure that those on their way to meeting, maybe for the first time, are really and truly welcome amidst this joyful mix. Then, after worship, that coffee and tea are served to them and tidied away.

Currently, there are too few people doing this work. There are two welcomers who also worship at 11 o'clock, and one friend who commits to staying to serve refreshments after her own worship at 9.30. People who have worshipped at 9.30 are friendly towards those who come into the building, that is not the same as being welcomed by people with whom they will then worship.

Office staff are often willingly helping with refreshments and clearing away but their main job is security, not serving the worshippers.



Photo by J Henderson

The 9.30 meeting has 11 people on their welcoming and refreshment rota. This means each of them is on duty about once every two months and they also cover the 10.30 meeting on the first Sunday of the month. **For 11 o'clock meeting welcomers and servers are only needed 3 or 4 Sundays each month. Can we find enough people to commit to doing this work once every two months? I am sure we can.** Please contact me:

annewatson1089@gmail.com.

Oxford Open Doors Outreach Event 9 and 10 September 2023

The Office

Oxford Preservation Trust has been running Oxford Open Doors for 15 years. An annual weekend where places not always open to the public open to celebrate heritage and culture across all walks of the city's life. Oxford Open Doors 2023 will take place on 9 and 10 September.

The theme this year is 'everyday life'
. As usual we will open 43 St Giles and the Meeting House to visitors. If you or your group or committee would like to offer something as part of the weekend, please let the office know. In the past we have had a pop-up café in support of OXFAP, an OXFAP stall, children's activities, plant outreach stall, open gardens, and a special display in the library. People are always needed to Meet and Greet and generally help over the weekend – it is normally a very positive and good fun experience as well!

Contact: office@oxfordquakers.org.



Photo by J Henderson



Photo by J Henderson

Quaker Videos in this Month's Forty-Three



Todd Drake
Brooklyn Meeting
New York, NY

Communal Living at Penington Friends House

'Penington Friends House was established by Quakers in New York City who wanted to offer visiting Friends a safe home-like environment, but in the 1980s it transitioned to a communal living model, accommodating people of various faiths—while holding firm to its founders' Quaker values.'

QuakerSpeak

<https://youtu.be/IC1MIbSAO2M>

6 Minutes

Please send newsletter contributions by the 15th of the month, the submission deadline.

Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, can be emailed to newsletter@oxfordquakers.org or a paper copy can be left in the office pigeonhole of any editor.

For more information: tel. +44 (0)1865 557373 or visit www.oxfordquakers.org.

August 2023

Many meetings and events are held via Zoom. Link for all Oxford Meetings for Worship:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87383304611?pwd=Vkkya2ZweVVRZjRmOE1JVDBFdTdwUT09>

Please contact the Office for more details:

Email: office@oxfordquakers.org Telephone: +44 (0)1865 557373

From Quaker Faith & Practice 2.11

Experience and nature of worship

*But this individual experience is not sufficient, and in a meeting held in the Spirit there is a giving and receiving between its members, one **helping** another with or without words. So there may come a wider vision and a deeper experience.*

1925, 1994

OXFORD MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings for worship are via Zoom and/or in person.

For more information, contact the Office at

office@oxfordquakers.org +44 (0)1865 557373

First Sunday of each month:

Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30 (in person & Zoom)

MfW for Business 12:15 (in person & Zoom)

All other Sundays:

Meetings for Worship 09:30-10:15 (in person and Zoom)

11:00-12:00 (in person and Zoom)

Monday:

Young Adult Friends 19:00-21:00 (in person and Zoom)

Tuesday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (in person only)

Wednesday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (Zoom only)

Meeting for Worship 11:30-12:15 (in person & Zoom)

Friday:

Meeting for Worship 07:30-08:00 (Zoom only)



Photo by J Henderson

Forty-Three is available online at

<https://brooksidepress.org/quaker/>

and on the Oxford Quakers website,

www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter

HEADINGTON MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Headington Meeting meets each Sunday at 10:00
at Old Headington Village Hall,
Dunstan Road, Headington, OX3 9BY

For full details see

<https://headington.quakermeeting.org/>

The views expressed in **Forty-Three**
do not necessarily reflect those of the editors.

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