

# THE QUIET WORD

November 2016 issue no 11



Meeting for worship

**GILDERSOME** Friends Meeting

House 75 Street Lane, Gildersome,  
Leeds, LS27 7HX

tel: 0113 2564944 or 07973 450368

Sundays, 10.45 am

**ILKLEY** Friends Meeting House

Queens Road, Ilkley, Leeds, LS29 9QJ

tel: 01943 600 806 or 01943 601181

Sundays, 10.30 am

**ADEL** Friends Meeting House

New Adel Lane, Leeds LS16 6AZ

tel: 0113 2676293

Sundays, 10.45 am

**CARLTON HILL** Central Leeds

Friends Meeting House

188 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds,  
LS2 9DX

tel: 0113 2422208

Meetings for worship:

Sundays, 10.45 am

**ROUNDHAY** Friends Meeting House

136 Street Lane, Leeds, LS8 2BW

tel: 0113 2933684

Sundays, 10.45 am

**OTLEY** Friends Meeting

Gildersome 260th birthday celebrations

See inside - p13

1st and 3rd Sundays each month at 10.45

in The Court House, Courthouse Street,  
Otley

usually in The Robing Room

Enquiries: 0113 318 8084,

dmr@cooptel.net

**RAWDON** Friends Meeting House

Quakers Lane, Rawdon, Leeds,  
LS19 6HU

tel: 07582 960092

Sundays, 10.45 am

**LEEDS UNIVERSITY**

Tuesdays, 1.05pm

In Claire Chapel, The Emmanuel Centre  
which is alongside the main entrance to  
the University of Leeds Campus opposite  
the Parkinson Building (with the white  
clock tower).

Organised by the Leeds Universities

Chaplaincy

**Bedford Court**

First and third Wednesdays,



The new upstairs lounge is now open at Carlton Hill

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Please send any submissions for Next month's issue of the Quiet Word to [quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk](mailto:quietword@leedsquakers.org.uk). The Quiet Word is available online from [www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word](http://www.leedsquakers.org.uk/activities/a-quiet-word)

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# Calendar

## November

**Tuesday 1st 7.30pm** Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

**Thursday 3rd 6pm to 7pm** Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

**Tuesday 8th** 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion Quaker Faith & Practice** at Carlton Hill QMH

**Saturday 12th 1pm** Quaker Wedding of Rici and Daniel at Carlton Hill

**Saturday 12th 7.30pm Rawdon QMH Amnesty Concert** The Musical World of William Shakespeare

**Sunday 13th 1pm - 3.30pm** Amnesty Greeting Card Campaign at Rawdon QMH

**Tuesday 15th 7.30pm** Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

**Thursday 17th 6pm to 7pm** Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

**Sunday 27th 7.30** Rawdon QMH **Amnesty Concert** Julian Cima

## December

**Thursday 1st 6pm to 7pm** Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

**Tuesday 6th 7.30pm** Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

**@Sunday 11th 1pm to 4.15pm** **Leeds Area Quaker Meeting** to be held at Adel QMH. Topic:

**Tuesday 13th** 6.15pm refreshments 7pm to 8.30pm **discussion Quaker Faith & Practice** at Carlton Hill QMH

**Thursday 15th 6pm to 7pm** Meeting for Worship followed by refreshments at Carlton Hill QMH

**Sunday 18th 7.30** Rawdon QMH **Amnesty Concert** Bradford Music Club

**Tuesday 20th 7.30pm** Leeds Quaker **Bible Study Group** at Carlton Hill QMH

## Quakers in Yorkshire

Quakers in Yorkshire met at The Mount School in York in October.

An entertaining presentation was given by students of both The Mount and Bootham School detailing their activities over the past year. These included a retreat at Woodbrooke, Peace Jam, the Quaker Pilgrimage (which included visits to Swarthmore Hall, Firbank Fell and the Quaker Tapestry) and the Bootham Environmental and Sustainability Team (BEAST).



Students on Pendle Hill



The Mount Girl's School

A series of reports followed on behalf of both The Mount and Bootham Schools. Chris Jeffery has recently taken over as Head of Bootham School and gave us his first impressions of encounters with Friends and Quakerism.

Adrienne Richmond, Principal of The Mount has been in post just a year and came from an Anglican background. She too explained how Quaker values have helped her in her work.

We learned that Quakers in Yorkshire will no longer be responsible for appointing governors to The Retreat, the Quaker Care Home in York. Instead QiY will appoint to a nominating group, which will then make the selection.

Stephen Pittam then gave us an account of his work on Human Rights with the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, where he was Trust Secretary for eleven years, and with the Centre for Applied Human Rights at York University, and his work on helping to develop York as a Human Rights City. This is due to be launched in 2017.



Stephen Pittam

The next Quakers in Yorkshire Meeting will be on 21st January 2017 at the Oxford Place Methodist Centre in Leeds from 10.00am - 5.00pm.

*Pete Redwood*

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### Don't forget

#### Mid Week Meeting for Worship

every **1st and 3rd Thursdays** of the Month

from **6pm to 7pm**

at **Carlton Hill**

followed by refreshments.

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**30th Oct – 6 Nov is Living Wage Week**, an annual focus for a campaign that Quakers across the country have played a key part in.

Instigated by Lancashire Friends, the Quaker Living Wage campaign has seen a range of Meetings and Quaker bodies become accredited Living Wage employers. The Quaker Living Wage Campaign Group have produced a newsletter which will be available on their website during Living Wage Week.

For further information please email [livingwage@lancsquakers.org.uk](mailto:livingwage@lancsquakers.org.uk)

or visit our website <http://www.lancsquakers.org.uk/livingwagecampaign.php> to see and download the materials the group have produced to support campaigning.

# White Poppies



White Poppies symbolise the conviction that there are better ways to resolve conflict than through the use of violence. They embody values that reject killing fellow human beings for whatever reason.

From economic reliance on arms sales to renewing and updating all types of weapons, the UK government contributes significantly to international instability. The outcome of recent military adventures highlights their ineffectiveness and grim consequences. It is far better to celebrate peace.



Poppy Day is held to “honour” service personnel who have been killed in battle.

The Royal British Legion, which runs Poppy Day, and controls the sale of red poppies, has recently re-structured itself to become more of a commercial undertaking, and has been actively seeking sponsorship for its activities amongst the worlds arms manufacturers. Poppy Day 2016 is being sponsored by BAE Systems, the worlds largest “defence” contractor, the French armaments company Thales and the American giant Lockheed Martin, the worlds largest arms manufacturer.



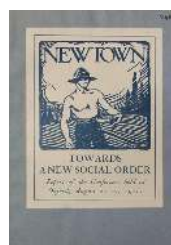
All three are making sure their name and logo is plastered across the campaign. Three very good reasons for not wearing a red poppy.

Instead, wear the symbol for peace, the white poppy, to show compassion for the millions of innocent people who have been killed or maimed by aggressive military action. These are available from the Meeting House.



## Foundations of True Social Order

Friends Rachel Muers and Rhiannon Grant have recently completed a research project on the 'Foundations of True Social Order' , a short text approved by London Yearly Meeting in 1918 against a backdrop of war and revolution. It lists eight characteristics which Friends at the time thought a just and fair society would have. They can still attract and challenge Quakers today. Explore the context and legacy of the document on Rachel and Rhiannon's website.<http://www.quakersocialorder.org.uk/>



# Poverty

The UK is one of the world's richest economies – yet over 13 million people are still living without enough to meet their basic needs.

So what will it take to overcome poverty in the UK?

This month saw the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) launch a comprehensive strategy designed to answer that very question.

Drawing on four years of careful research the strategy sets out a five point plan designed to boost incomes and reduce costs, deliver an effective benefits system, improve education and skills, strengthen families and communities and promote long-term inclusive economic growth.

The strategy emphasises that governments, businesses, employers, service providers, investors and citizens each have a role to play in overcoming poverty.

Poverty is real in the UK. It's shameful that in the 21st century, 13 million people (20% of the UK population) in our country are living in poverty. It is time for governments, business and communities to work together to solve poverty once and for all.

According to a recent report by Oxfam the UK is now classified as the most unequal society in the whole developed world and instead of improving, the situation is getting worse. But this is not just a UK problem. Figures published by Oxfam show that just 62 individuals own over 49% of the entire world's wealth and that wealth has increased by 44% in the past five years. According to the World Bank, the richest few have amassed £5.68 trillion in off-shore tax havens. That's more than the entire GDP of UK and Germany combined.

As far as the UK is concerned, Oxfam say that the top 1% (approx 640,00) control more wealth than the bottom 13 million people combined and the top 10% control more than 54% of the entire country's wealth.

Oxfam is calling on the Government to instigate;

- Workers on company boards, as the PM has suggested.
- Skills training on the job, with incentives for employers who do this, especially in sectors that employ many women, such as retail, childcare and social care.
- Skills training on welfare, with the benefits system rejigged to encourage training and education to boost wages.
- Curb bosses pay with pay ratios for top and bottom-earning workers, aiming for 20:1, so bosses don't earn more than 20 times the lowest paid worker.
- Tackle corporate tax avoidance including UK-linked tax havens.

Oxfam is not alone in applying pressure to the Government. In September this year the Joseph Rowntree Foundation published its latest report on poverty in the UK - "We can solve poverty in the UK."

They define poverty as being "when a person's resources are well below their minimum needs, including the need to take part in society." In 2008 they established the Minimum Income Standard, which, by 2016 standards says that a couple with two young children – one school age and one pre-school age – need a minimum income of £422 per week, and a single person requires a minimum of £178 per week. The JRF benchmark for poverty is 75% of these incomes - £317 for the couple and £134 for the single person. At these levels it is unlikely that their income will meet their needs. Job Seekers Allowance for people unemployed currently stands at £73.10 for single people over the age of 25 and £114.85 for married couples. Housing Benefit is normally available for claimants so the above amounts are considered by the government "to be sufficient" to cover all other needs. It is however, unlikely that a claimant can obtain the Minimum Income Standard and thus they are likely to be in poverty. Other benefits may be available but not guaranteed.

Over the past 30 years retail prices of many consumer goods have actually fallen, but housing and fuel prices have risen out of all proportion. Food generally has also increased, although supermarkets are fighting to keep prices seemingly low by reducing the price they pay to producers and using cheaper (less healthy) ingredients. This has an adverse affect on the job market because farmers are forced to seek the cheapest possible labour, which often means overseas workers prepared to work for low wages. It also has an adverse affect on health since people on low incomes are likely to buy the cheapest and thus least healthy food. Obesity, diabetes and other diet related illness has increased dramatically over the past few years.

Many of the jobs which allowed unskilled workers a reasonable level of income have now gone, replaced by work outsourced to cheap overseas companies, and many jobs that now require, at the very least, "previous experience", but often some form of qualification.

Poverty is seldom the result of a single factor. JRF has identified five key causes in the UK today that need priority action: unemployment, low wages and insecure jobs; lack of skills; family problems; an inadequate benefits system; and high costs.

The JRF plan, which it is putting forward to solve poverty, is to:

- Boost incomes and reduce costs; Set the vision for inclusive, sustainable future growth; Use tools and incentives to develop local economies while reducing poverty: Increase the supply of genuinely affordable housing
- Deliver an effective benefit system;. Reform Universal Credit to make it a poverty reduction tool; Refocus welfare-to- work services on poverty; Ensure benefit payments keep up with the cost of essentials; Prevent child poverty by raising household incomes
- Strengthen enforcement of minimum wages; Enforce existing rules on wages and work
- Improve education standards and raise skills; Improve the educational attainment of children experiencing poverty; Deliver skills

that employers need and enable people to participate in society; Improve young people's prospects for adulthood; Promote opportunity in employment.

- Community, faith and voluntary sector groups should make solving poverty an explicit goal: Organise locally and strategically around a shared goal to reduce poverty, building on what is already there and taking action together; Strengthen community relationships and address barriers such as loneliness, isolation and stigma; Galvanise community-led approaches and social action to build pressure for change.

Leeds City Council and Leeds City Region have been working in partnership with JRF to tackle poverty by creating more and better jobs. This has included an emphasis on 'good growth' in their strategic economic plan; creating jobs through planning and procurement; targeted employment programmes for young people; creation of a Leeds Low Pay Charter; development of in-work progression programmes; and a city region-wide, targeted employment and skills strategy. More than 2,000 young people were helped into employment, education and training through the Devolved Youth Contract as a result of the 2012 City Deal.

In total contradiction the Government has just introduced a programme of Quantative Easing to "boost the economy". It is a well proven and documented fact that this process only makes the rich even richer and the poor poorer!

The full JRF report is available at <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/we-can-solve-poverty-uk>



See also Ian Kirk's appraisal in **The Friend, 9th September 2016**

The Oxfam report can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/jk8eszx>

## Peace Lecture

The annual Leeds Olaf Palme Peace Lecture was held at Leeds Civic Hall on 27th Oct. It is organised jointly by Leeds Beckett University and Leeds City Council's Peacelink Group. This year's speaker was co-leader of the Green Party, MP, former MEP and peace activist Caroline Lucas, addressing a packed audience.

Caroline concentrated on the main problems today, which have all been man-made – a global economic system which encourages greed, favours the rich and denigrates the poor, which in turn leads to gross exploitation of the world's resources and is one of the prime causes of climate change, which is causing social unrest and violence, including the threat of nuclear war, throughout the world and is also leading to massive species loss. She posed the question that we now have the power to destroy ourselves and our planet but do we have the intelligence and initiative to change our ways and save ourselves? She then went on to detail many possible and practical solutions that could easily be put into action if only politicians and world leaders were prepared to cooperate with each other and with their communities instead of trying to dominate.

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Martin Schwieger of Roundhay Meeting spotted this item.

*Yorkshire MP given new peace role*

*Monday 24th Oct 2016*

*posted by Morning Star in Britain*

A YORKSHIRE MP has been given a new shadow cabinet post of peace and disarmament minister by Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, writes Peter Lazenby.

Fabian Hamilton, who has been the MP for Leeds North East since 1997, was confirmed in the role at the weekend.

Mr Hamilton said: "The role is unusual because no such post exists in government, but the Labour leader has made peace and disarmament his major international priorities — and I also share his belief that these are important aims, especially given what is happening in so many parts of the world today."

The newly appointed minister said that one of his main roles will be to participate in UN multilateral disarmament meetings in New York.

"At present, the UK Conservative government does not attend these meetings and I believe that the Labour opposition can fill that vacuum, with the help of our Foreign Office officials," he added.

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O God. You western world. God's world is not a shop. What you are considering true will be considered counterfeit. Your society will surely fall upon its own swords. You have created a society whose sole function is to exploit the poor for the benefit of the rich.

*Muhammad Iqbal (1877 – 1938) Indian philosopher and poet. Written in 1905.*

# Songs and Stories of Courage and Conscience

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Dr. Clive Barrett*

*The Peace Museum*





**Clive Barrett and Free Range present  
Songs and Stories of Courage and Conscience**

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

**Sunday 6th November at 3.30p.m.**

at Lidgett Park Methodist Church, Lidgett Place, Leeds LS8 1HG

Doors Open at 3.00 p.m.

Tickets: £5 (£2 low income) - Pay at the door

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

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## **Leeds Palestinian Film Festival 2016**

This tender new festival is back for its second year, with an ambitious programme of 11 events. It offers insights into aspects of Palestinian history, culture and society rarely-seen in mainstream culture and media.

The festival launches with 3 showings of award winning and hard-hitting film 'Ambulance' – being shown as part of the prestigious Leeds International Film Festival (Everyman cinema). The 24 year old maker of the film has just been announced as winner of the Sunbird Young Filmmakers Award in Palestine.

Three films highlight Palestinian women defying cultural expectations – playing football (Balls, Barriers and Bulldozers at Otley Courthouse); in an Israel/Palestine rock band (Promised Band at Shine); and as racing car drivers (Speed Sisters at Hyde Park Picture House)

Four films show the aspirations of Palestinians – and especially young people - to sing, dance and play, to have a life beyond conflict -

- Teenagers creating a skate-boarding 'scene' from scratch (Epicly Palestine'd)
- The jubilant true story of a wedding singer from Gaza who won the Arab world's equivalent of the X factor in 2013 (The Idol) – these two show as a double bill at Heart
- Young people in the Gaza strip aiming to

shatter the Guinness World Record for kite-flying (Flying Paper at Woodhouse Community Centre)

- An electrical engineer wanting to stage a contemporary dance performance in Ramallah (Rough Stage at Leeds Beckett)

And Blackwell's Book Shop host 'The Great Book Robbery' which tells of the confiscation – or was it theft? - of untold literature from Palestinians forced to leave their homes in 1948

The film-makers include Palestinians, Israelis, a North American and British people who have been inspired by visits to the West Bank and Gaza.

We are pleased to have some of the film producers doing Q & As after some of our screenings, and will also be finishing with a food & film night.

At several screenings we will have stalls selling Palestinian ceramics, crafts and produce (olive oil, dates, almonds etc). These make great christmas presents and the sales help to support producers in the ailing Palestinian economy in the West Bank.

The Leeds Palestinian Film Festival runs from 4 November to 9 December at locations across Leeds.

*Leeds PSC website:*

*www.leedspsc.org.uk/filmfestival Contact:  
Frances Bernstein 07759563848*

## Ambulance Trains in WW1

An exhibition at the National Rail Museum, York

I heard about this upcoming exhibition in March when I attended a peace conference at the Leeds Museum. Having heard so much about the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) while working on the Courage, Conscience and Creativity exhibition I was keen to learn more about how the wounded were transported. Although the exhibition has been running since July it was almost the middle of October before I managed the trip to York but the effort was well rewarded.

In a corner of the Great Hall, past the Bullet train and the Mallard is a carriage from an ambulance train, showing a 'ward' with an injured soldier projected onto the bunk while voice-overs recreate the atmosphere. Particularly moving is the story of 'Tommy' leaning over to 'Fritz' encouraging him and saying 'We're all in the same boat now'. Also displayed is the pharmacy with a hologram nurse selecting medicines, and the staff room where the orderlies and medical staff could relax if they had time.

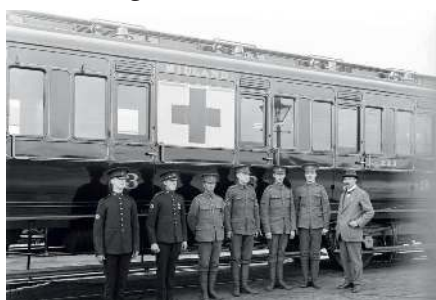
Round three sides of the carriage is the story of the ambulance trains, starting with their manufacture. It was a surprise to me that these were designed and planned and built for their specific purpose. I thought they would adapt existing carriages. As soon as war was declared in 1914 the engineering staff were recalled from their holidays to start work on the rolling stock. The first ambulance train was delivered within eighteen days and up and down the country these trains were on display for the general public to view. One photograph shows an enormous queue waiting to get into the exhibition hall.

There were continental ambulance trains (to transport the wounded from the front to the ships) and home ambulance trains (for transporting the wounded to British hospitals), the latter being slightly less crowded and a bit more comfortable. A train contained up to 500 patients, was cramped and dirty, with 47 orderlies, but only 3 medical staff and 3 nurses. It is clear that the patients could expect little nursing care with such a ratio. The orderlies – which would include FAU members – would be mainly responsible for looking after patients. The FAU managed four of the continental trains and there is a photo of them in front of two of the locomotives, as well as some pictures of the magazines they wrote which are on loan from the Liddle Collection in the Brotherton Library.

There are many quotes round the walls, from those who cared for the soldiers and then from the patients themselves. One nurse felt it a great 'stroke of luck' that she was allocated to the train nearest to the front and would be the first to help badly injured men. Some of the orderlies talk of working for 24 hours without a break. Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon were among the patients. Rupert Brooke describes the discomfort of not having room to move or raise his knees because of the bunk just above him. Another soldier is grateful for the bottom bunk because he can at least see out of the window. Many men were thankful to have a respite from the guns and shells and slept easily for the first time in months.

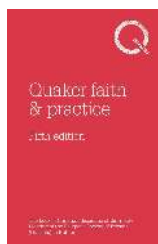
I was deeply moved by the horror of some descriptions and the courage and dedication of the ambulance train staff. Even writing about it brings a lump to the throat. Later that day I visited the English Heritage Cold War Bunker in York with its unwelcome reminder of the horrors of nuclear war. Quite a day! Do go and see the NRM exhibition if you can. If not you can get a flavour of it here: <http://firstworldwar.nrm.org.uk/>

*Pat Gerwat - Adel Meeting*



# Quaker Faith & Practice

November 2016



Every month your editor selects a text from QfP in line with recommended readings from The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group. This month's recommendation is:

## Chapter 24: Our peace testimony

### 24:01 The corporate testimony

The Peace Testimony is probably the best known and best loved of the Quaker testimonies. Its roots lie in the personal experience of the love and power of Christ which marked the founders of the Quaker movement. They were dominated by a vision of the world transformed by Christ who lives in the hearts of all. Friends sought to make the vision real by putting emphasis on Christian practice rather than primarily on any particular dogma or ideological system. Theirs was a spontaneous and practical religion. They recognised the realities of evil and conflict, but it was contrary to the spirit of Christ to use war and violence as means to deal with them.

The Peace Testimony has been a source of inspiration to Friends through the centuries, for it points to a way of life which embraces all human relationships. The following extracts trace the source of the Peace Testimony in the experience of the founders of the Quaker movement and illustrate its evolution over three hundred and fifty years in response to a changing world. As a Society we have been faithful throughout in maintaining a corporate witness against all war and violence. However, in our personal lives we have continually to wrestle with the difficulty of finding ways to reconcile our faith with practical ways of living it out in the world. It is not surprising, therefore, that we have not always all reached the same conclusions when dealing with the daunting complexities and moral dilemmas of society and its government.

In the closing years of the twentieth century, we as Friends faced a bewildering array of social and international challenges, which have widened the relevance of the Peace Testimony from the issue of peace and war between states to the problems of tensions and conflicts in all their forms. Thus we are brought closer to the witness of early Friends, who did not draw a hard and fast distinction between the various Quaker testimonies, but saw them as a seamless expression of the universal spirit of Christ that dwells in the hearts of all.

“I told [the Commonwealth Commissioners] I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars... I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and strife were.”

*George Fox, 1651*

Join Friends at Carlton Hill for an evening of discussion on Quaker Faith and Practice.

**2nd Tuesday of each month 7.00pm to 8.30pm**

Arrive for 6.15pm and enjoy a soup supper beforehand



## QUAKER INSIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

**Confession** – telling it like it is “Speaking the unspeakable, admitting the shameful, to someone who can be trusted and who will accept you in love as you are, is enormously helpful.”(QF&P 12.01)

Although confession has never been a formalised practice among Friends, the value of a commitment to plain and truthful speaking is well-established. When the Spirit reveals our darkness to us, we need to be willing to express outwardly what we have found to be true. Public recognition of our personal and collective complicity with systems of violence, injustice, cruelty and destruction, helps us to face up to this predicament or ‘condition’ and join with others in discerning the most appropriate way to respond. Knowing that we are loved and forgiven might also lead us to express gratitude and joy.

**Ecological Reflection** – Affluent people in Western societies have benefited greatly from the exploitation of other humans, animals and the natural world. These benefits are embedded in our daily lives, for example, through the things we buy, and what we eat and drink. Public recognition of the ways in which we are implicated in these forms of injustice represents a form of confession. It can help us to begin to make a break with destructive patterns of behaviour and seek alternative ways of living based on right relationship.

**Query** – In response to God’s revelation, love and forgiveness, are you will to publicly express your complicity with systems of violence, injustice, cruelty and destruction, and join with others in discern a better way of being?

**Salvation** – being saved from ourselves “The truth is that we are all hurt and need healing. There is a spiritual poverty among both rich and poor... If we are to be whole, we can no longer ignore the divisions created by idolising wealth, success and power.” (QF&P 29.13)

The Quaker way has tended to see salvation more in terms of building the kingdom

of God on earth than the promise of heaven as a spiritual dwelling place after death.

This involves seeing salvation as a process of saving ourselves from the implications of our own darkness and ignorance. What are the key dimensions of this?

**Bondage** – we find ourselves in bondage to social, economic and political systems and ideologies that lead us into a destructive relationship with each other, with other animals and with the rest of the natural world.

**Liberation** – We need to be released from this bondage. The Spirit, acting as our Inward Teacher, has the capacity to break these bonds and release us from our dependence on the powers of death and destruction. This is an experience of liberation.

**Ecological Reflection** – What does salvation mean in the context of ecological crisis? If our vision of salvation is understood in terms of Gospel Order or right relationship, then individual salvation cannot be meaningfully separated from the well-being of the whole creation, understood as a complex system of interconnected and interdependent parts. If humanity currently functions as a disruptive and destructive element within creation, then salvation involves our liberation from systems, ideologies and motivations that lead to violence, hatred, cruelty, injustice, oppression and destructiveness. These fallen ways make life a ‘hell on earth’ for so many humans and other creatures and destroy the very ecosystems that support life on earth.

**Query** – Are you aware of the impact that your lifestyle has on the well-being of other humans, other animals and the rest of the natural world? Are you willing to join with others in attending to the Spirit, as your inward teacher, which has the power to liberate us from bondage to systems of violence, injustice and destruction?

Excerpts from a paper by Stuart Masters, Woodbrooke tutor.

## Quaker Activist

**Saturday, 3 December 2016**, 10.00 to 16.30, Friargate Quaker Meeting House, York



This is a day for Quakers who take action for social change to connect, share ideas and inspire each other. With support from Turning The Tide, we'll explore our role in movements and share the skills we use to make change happen. Please try to come with someone else in your local or area meeting, who shares your interest in an issue, so you can work together afterwards.

To attend, book online at the Quaker activist gathering event page on the Quaker website.

To find out more contact: Kristin Skarsholt: [kristins@quaker.org.uk](mailto:kristins@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1121.



**Beautiful Trouble** is a book, web toolbox and international network of artist-activist trainers whose mission is to make grassroots movements more creative and more effective.

### Leeds Tidal host - Beautiful Trouble Training in Creative Activism - Leeds

19th (9.30am - 4.30pm) and 20th (10am - 4.00pm) November, Ebor Court, Skinner Street Westgate, Leeds LS1 4ND

Beautiful Trouble training - Leeds 19th and 20th November for 'Creative Activism and The Art of Protest - Beautiful Trouble in the UK' - This will be an interactive dive and exploration of strategic creative cultural resistance and action, with a look at core principles, theories, stories and tactics that every activist building for a more equitable and just world would want in their toolbox! Check out [www.BeautifulTrouble.org](http://www.BeautifulTrouble.org) for more info.

Book your place on Eventbrite at <http://tinyurl.com/ho3o2h4>

### Living Our Faith in the World

8–13 April 2017, Embercombe, Devon

A five day event for young Quakers aged 13–17 and their friends taking place at Embercombe, Exeter, Devon. Participating in Embercombe's 'LEAP programme' young people will live in yurts and learn from the environment by contributing to tasks such as gardening, building and cooking. They will learn sustainable living skills and reflect on their experience in relation to this and Quaker testimonies. Application deadline: 1 December 2016.

For further information go to [www.yqspace.org.uk/bym-events](http://www.yqspace.org.uk/bym-events) or contact: [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1013.

**Northern Friends Peace Board** was held at Penrith Quaker Meeting House on 1st October – a number of Leeds Friends were able to attend and had a very enjoyable day meeting with Friends from throughout the north (including Scotland). For those that have not visited before, Penrith is a historic meeting house and has many interesting features, including 'modern' candle lighting! One particular attraction was the new 'garden Room'. The next NFPB meeting will be at York Frigate Meeting House on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am – all Quakers are invited to attend – full details of the programme and speakers is to be announced soon.



**Adel Quaker Meeting  
Visit to Glenthorne  
March 3rd – 5th 2017**



**Glenthorne is the Quaker Guest House in Grasmere, set in the heart  
of the Lake District  
Friends and attenders are invited to join us from Friday supper to  
Sunday lunch**

**Cost in the region of £145**

**Financial help available**

**Contact Pat Gerwat – or any Elder or Overseer – if  
you would like to find our more or book a place**

Adel Friends still have plenty of room for other guests and invite F/friends from across Leeds Area Meeting to join us. If you would like to book, or if you need more information please contact Pat (pat.gerwat@hotmail.co.uk, 0113 2899626) or Sarah (coltman.sarah@googlemail.com, 0113 2160202). We need to give our final numbers to Glenthorne early next month, so we hope to hear from you by 1st December.

## St.Francis of Assisi

As part of the Peace History Conference that was held in Leeds a few weeks ago, there was the opportunity to explore some of the official Leeds Peace Trail.



This included a stop at St.Georges Church, and a special viewing of a very impressive stained glass window of St.Francis which was given in memory of, Revd Percy Donald Robins, who, at the age of thirty, started what we now know as 'The Crypt' in the 1930'S. He saw the familiar signs of the Depression: enforced idleness, hunger, hardship and despair. Beneath the Church lay a Crypt which was full of vaults and coffins, there were gaping holes in the walls and the floor was deep with dust.

Don and a few brave members of the congregation opened up the Crypt and cleaned and cleared it as much as possible. The first £3 ever raised for the Crypt was spent on canvas to cover the coffins and gaping holes. Members of the congregation brought milk, sugar and cocoa. As soon as it opened, homeless men poured in. The rest was history, but sadly, homelessness in Leeds is now on the increase again and this has resulted in a very public 'tent city' protest in the Cite Centre – did you see it?



## WYDAN

### Asylum Seekers Night Shelter

The West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Seekers Network is to run its Night Shelter Scheme for male asylum seekers again this winter. After last year's success the Scheme has been expanded and will start on December 6th at St Chad's. The Scheme is based on different churches and synagogues hosting the overnight guests a week at a time. While the venues themselves provide the volunteers there are times when they require extra help.

Last year Carlton Hill Meeting provided a pool of volunteers that venues could draw on if they were short handed. We would like to be able to do the same this year. Volunteers may be asked to cook or serve food, to go along and socialise or to sleep overnight. If you think you might like to be involved contact Keith Mollison 0113 345 8907 ([firstseason@btinternet.com](mailto:firstseason@btinternet.com)).

## Invitation

from **Susan Robson** (Assistant Clerk, Membership) and **Fiona Pacey** (a new Member)  
to a meeting for  
**Elders and Overseers**

with

### **Attenders who might be thinking about becoming Members**

The meeting will be a non-threatening open discussion where Attenders can ask questions and raise concerns, to help them decide whether Quaker membership is the right step for them at this time.

**Wednesday, November 9th, 7.30 p.m.** at  
26 Stanhope Court, Brownberrie Lane, Horsforth, LS18 5SR  
or

**Sunday, November 27th, 2.00 p.m.** at  
Carlton Hill Meeting House

If you are intending to come, please email

*susan.robson@cooptel.net* or *fiona.pacey@btinternet.com*

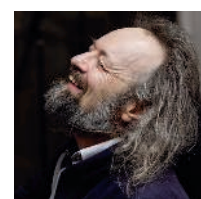
Directions for the Horsforth meeting available when you rsvp.



**White Peace Poppies:** On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November everyone is invited to give out white Peace Poppies to all those people that pass the Carlton Hill Meeting House from 8am to 10noon. The aim is to give away 1000 poppies – this is a challenging but realistic target, given that each year, Carlton Hill Friends also give away about 1000 Fairtrade Bananas in about 2 hours during Fairtrade Fortnight. This outreach event is aimed at making people think about what peace means to them, there will also be publicity material drawing attention to the Leeds Quaker Exhibition at Leeds City Museum. The event is being underwritten by the Quakers in Yorkshire Outreach Projects Committee.

## War and Peace

An evening of song, music and poetry on  
**Friday 11th November, starting at 7.30pm**  
at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House.  
Led by Robin Fishwick.





## Living Witness Project

Living Witness Project came into being in 2002 with a grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and became a registered charitable trust in 2007. In 2008 it merged with Quaker Green Action, the group of British Friends concerned with our sustainability witness since 1986 and developed a supporting network of Friends from Meetings all around the country. It continues to function as the main grassroots network among British Friends, working closely with Britain Yearly Meeting (Quakers in Britain) and Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and is closely connected with the QPSW Sustainability Program. It also works closely with Quakers internationally, in particular Quaker UN office in the UN climate negotiations.

At the beginning of October twelve members of Living Witness Project met at the Quaker Community in Bamford, near Sheffield for an engaging weekend to determine the future direction of the network.

Many ideas were floated but we eventually managed to refine it to:

- 1) developing our Quaker Eco Spirituality – showing how our faith and our practice connect us with the natural world, the world around us and our fellow human beings.
- 2) developing our Interfaith relationships to address the ecological challenges that face us all.
- 3) holding retreats and workshops to help us achieve those aims.

Living Witness Project publishes a newsletter, earthQuaker, four times a year. To obtain a copy and become a member, go to <http://www.livingwitness.org.uk/getinvolved.html>

Back numbers of earthQuaker are available at <http://www.livingwitness.org.uk/earthquaker.html>

There is also a blog page at <http://livingwitness.org.uk/hd/>

‘The Creator of the earth is the owner of it. He gave us being thereon, and our nature requires nourishment, which is the produce of it. As he is kind and merciful, we as his creatures, while we live answerable to the design of our creation, are so far entitled to a convenient subsistence that no man may justly deprive us of it.’ John Woolman, 1763 (*Part of Qf&p 20.32*)

‘If John Woolman’s approach is the right one for the Society of today it is not enough to go over our own behaviour in detail, cutting a bit here and pulling back a bit there; we must be concerned with our and society’s attitude to life as a whole, to ‘live answerable to the design of our creation’.’

*Michael Lee, 1976 (Qf&p 20.34)*



Would you like to see a transport infrastructure for Leeds that is suitable for everyone – pedestrians, cyclists, shoppers, disabled, buses, better air quality – not just more parking space for even more cars?

Have you had your say on the **Leeds Transport Survey**?

Let the City Council know your views.

Go to <http://bit.ly/LeedsTransportSurvey>

## Late Additions

**The Leeds Area Quaker Meeting (LAQM) Annual Report and accounts for 2015** is now available on the LAQM website.

**Leeds City Museum** – What are Quakers doing today to make a more peaceful world? **See the Quaker exhibition in the Leeds Gallery before it ends on 4<sup>th</sup> December.** How did Leeds Quakers respond to the outbreak of World War One? Live guiding sessions will take place on various dates throughout November including 12<sup>th</sup> November – meet some of the Quakers who have put the exhibition together. Other dates to be confirmed soon – please ring Robert Keeble on 0113 2422208 for details.

**The men who said “NO”** A display by Quakers in York at York Castle Museum from 1/11/16 to 29/1/17. The display looks at Conscriptio and Conscientious Objection and how it affected York Quakers during World War One.

**Someone to Listen** (beginning co-counselling) 7.30pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 1pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November at Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House. An opportunity to learn about the value of exchanging listening time with others, and to try it out. Time to think aloud, time to talk about joys, sorrows, old hurts and fears, remember happy memories, laugh, perhaps even cry. The course will be led by Una Parker, a co-counsellor for over 40 years.

**Amnesty Greeting Card Campaign** will be held at Rawdon Quaker Meeting on Sunday 13 November from 1-3.30pm. Rawdon friends will provide contact information and cards for people to write their messages. Tea, coffee and cake will be available to help the process. There is no charge but contributions to help with postage will be very welcome.

**Kindlers Workshops** – advance notice! A national Quaker ‘Kindlers’ workshop will be held in the Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House starting on the last Saturday of every month from January 2017 to May 2017. Put it in your diary now – full details will be announced soon.

**Leeds International Film Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November** – see [leedsfilm.com](http://leedsfilm.com) – celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the LIFF30 guide details over 300 events at 30 different venues, one of the most atmospheric being Leeds Town Hall which has a ‘giant screen’ fitted for the occasion. The festival offers the sort of films that you do not normally get to see, such as the five and a half hour long ‘Napoleon’, complete with three intervals..... Comedy, horror, romance, drama, documentaries, shorts, animation – the very best from around the world (but not so much from Hollywood) the festival has something to suit every taste.



The Swarthmoor Centre in Leeds was the venue for an exhibition of plates from the book "This Light That Pushes Me", stories of African Peace builders. Some of the people featured in the book were able to attend.