



# FORTY-THREE

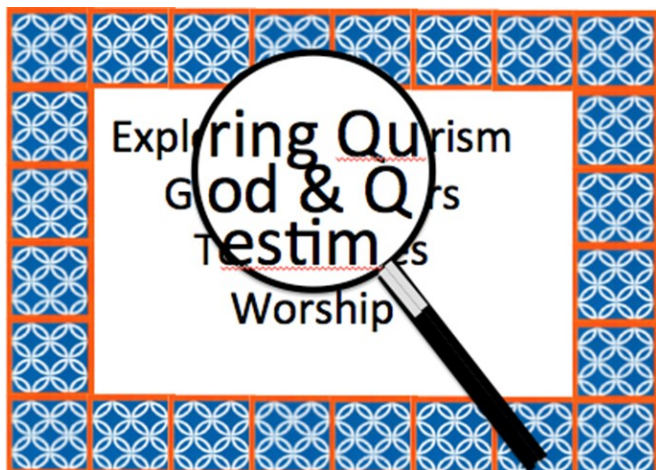
OXFORD FRIENDS' MEETING  
43 ST.GILES OXFORD OX1 3LW

## NEWSLETTER

Number 439 (Online Version)

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### Exploring Quakerism

A series of meetings for those new to Quakers and for those wishing to explore Quakerism further

A series of seven meetings, 7:00 pm for 7:15 pm until 9:00 pm. All are welcome.

#### 10 Dec: Quaker Interpretations of God

Starting from passages from *Quaker Faith & Practice*, participants will be invited to consider their own interpretation(s) of the word 'God' and how it informs their lives.

#### 14 Jan: The Testimonies of Simplicity & Integrity

How does simplicity play out in our 21<sup>st</sup> century lives? What tensions arise for us now from the testimonies regarding integrity?

#### 21 Jan: The Testimonies of Truth & Equality

How do the testimonies to truth fit with remembering that we may be mistaken? What are the implications today of the testimonies regarding equality?

#### 28 Jan: The Testimony of Peace

How do the testimonies regarding peace (including conscientious objection and drawing on Quaker history of refugee support) inform our response to the growth of ISIS and fundamentalism generally?

#### 4 Feb: gap or possible additional meeting (tbc)

*Continued on page 2, column 1*

### From *Quaker Faith and Practice*

When we look at our past we can see the length of time needed for transformation. We are a small church with the pretensions to change the world. But first we have to let God change us – to empower us to be better Friends, and more active in our own work. We should not be creating structures to work for us, but empowering each other to do the work laid on each of us. However we plan ... the Spirit is unchanging and will always lead us... All is interconnected, worship with action, wisdom with love.

**QF&P 29.02**

**Deadline for contributions to the December 2015 issue: noon, Friday 20 November**

*Contributions, preferably of 500 words or fewer, would be appreciated to [newsletter@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@oxfordquakers.org), and items for the calendar on page 6 can be emailed to [office@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:office@oxfordquakers.org). Paper copy can be left in the pigeonhole of any Editor.*  
*For information: tel. 01865 557373 or visit [www.oxfordquakers.org](http://www.oxfordquakers.org)*

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### **11 Feb: Worship and Ministry**

Worship and Ministry lie at the heart of Quaker practices and discipline. What is worship? What is ministry?

### **17 Feb: Quaker Discipline, Quaker Speak**

What is the nature of Quaker discipline? What do some common Quaker expressions and Quaker jargon really mean, and how do they reflect Quaker practices, including their use in business meetings?

### **25 Feb: Journeys in Quakerism**

Accounts of spiritual journeys from current members and attenders, and how these reflect and are reflected in Advices and Queries.

### Ways of Working – Format of the Evenings

- Opening worship
- An introduction consisting of one or more Quaker quotes, followed by one or two accounts of personal experiences which illustrate or are pertinent to the quote.
- An opportunity for specific questions.
- In pairs or threes, exchange personal experiences pertinent to the quote or aligned with the account(s) given.
- Worship Sharing focussing on what has emerged as a result of the exchanges.
- Possibly in pairs exchanging what is now salient about the topic.
- Closing worship.

For more information contact Anthea Richards, Susan Clarkson or me.

**John Mason**, [john.mason@open.ac.uk](mailto:john.mason@open.ac.uk)

### **Single Meeting for Worship**

On Sunday 22 November, Meeting for Worship will take the form of a single MfW from 10:30 to 11:30 followed by Worship Sharing on the theme of spoken ministry and discernment from 11:45 to 12:45. This is an opportunity to meet with and worship share with people who usually attend at different times. For more information contact me.

**John Mason**

01865426748 or [john.mason@open.ac.uk](mailto:john.mason@open.ac.uk)

## **Quaker Service & Study Tour – Bolivia**



I met with Barbara Flynn, tour organiser, and many of the group in La Paz, Bolivia. There were twelve from the USA, including three medical doctors and a German volunteer. Most were Quakers.

We travelled to Sorata and stayed in a historic hotel, Residencial Sorata. We ate our meals at the Internado, a student residence where young people can stay while completing high school; the only high schools are in Sorata, several hours walk from remote villages. We played chess, football and had a camp fire with students. The Internado is supported by QBEF (Quaker Bolivia Education Fund).

We helped to run medical clinics for the indigenous Aymara in several rural communities. The first clinic was held at Pallcapampa, a Quaker community that has benefitted from several QBL (Quaker Bolivia Link) projects, and had one of the first QBEF scholarship recipients. The clinic was followed by an apthapi (community meal), and many of the community had brought delicious local dishes to share. The largest clinic was held at Chejje; over 100 patients were seen and many pairs of glasses were given out.

A group of us hiked to a glacial lake below Mount Illampu. It was beautiful but we could see the glacier receding as a result of climate change. We spent the weekend with BQEF university students who had travelled from La Paz to Sorata. We visited the market and the nearby bat caves, helping the students improve their English. Returning to La Paz we shared lunch with about 30 BQEF students.

In La Paz, we were warmly welcomed at the Santidad Amigos Church service, which was very lively with hymns and contributions from the pastor. There are several Friends Yearly Meetings in Bolivia and many members.

We visited Las Gregorias co-operative in El Alto; these women initially had help from QBL to start alpaca weaving and have now developed their textile business. We saw a QBL supported trout farm project on the Altiplano. Eggs are collected and hatched and then when the fingerlings have reached a suitable size, they are released into the lake to grow.

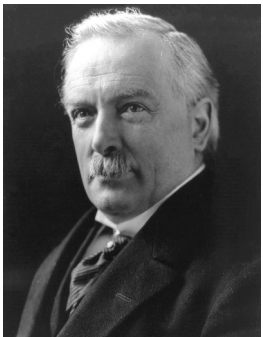
A meeting at the U.S. Embassy with Donn Titus, political and economic counsellor, and dinner with Eugenio Poma, former Bolivian ambassador to Denmark, and his wife, gave us an insight into the current political and economic situation in Bolivia.

The group visited the archaeological and cultural site at Tiwanaku and then continued to Lake Titicaca where we saw boats made from totara reed. From Copacabana we travelled by boat to the sacred Island of the Sun. We hiked up to an Inca site and held a short but moving silent meeting at the sacred stone circle. Most of the group then returned to La Paz but David, my brother, and I went on to visit Peru.

More information about Quaker work in Bolivia can be found at [qbl.org](http://qbl.org) (Quaker Bolivia Link) and [bqef.org](http://bqef.org) (Bolivian Quaker Education Fund).

**Beth Tomkinson**

## Seebohm Rowntree



On 9 October, a small group of Oxford Friends had the privilege of hearing a talk on the life and work of Seebohm Rowntree. Bridget Morris, Director of the Rowntree Society in York, gave us a fascinating picture of a multi-talented Quaker industrialist

who, in the early twentieth century, made an important contribution to British social policy. His father was – the perhaps better known – Joseph Rowntree, founder of R's chocolate industry. Seebohm entered the business as a young man, quickly becoming interested in the lives and fortunes of working people. He wrote widely on

housing, poverty and inequality, as well as on the responsibilities of management. His ideas on working conditions of and on what we now call HR would make good reading for many of today's employers. He also had a good understanding of natural sciences.

At its height, Rowntree was one of York's three major employers. The family, descendants of a long line of Quakers, took their responsibilities very seriously. They paid fair wages, provided medical care and convalescence and encouraged the development of education in York. Alas, their views on the role of women – and on Trade Unions – would not appeal to today's Friends, but in many ways they were ahead of their time.

In 1899, wishing to make decisions based on knowledge, Seebohm organised a statistical investigation of working class life in York. The resulting book, *Poverty*, is now a classic of social science. He was fortunate to have the ear of central government, which took advantage of his knowledge and experience in planning social and industrial policy. Sadly, in the different climate of the 1980s, the then British government did nothing to discourage a hostile takeover bid by the huge Swiss firm Nestle. Nestle wanted the Rowntree brand, but not its culture; and people in York still talk sadly about their loss.

The Rowntree Society has acquired a collection of Seebohm's books and papers, as well as a letter written by him on 10 Downing Street notepaper, urging the Prime Minister to maintain the purchasing power of wages. Copies of these have been put together to form a small travelling exhibition. For the next few weeks, this can be seen in the Meeting House library. I do urge you to take a look.

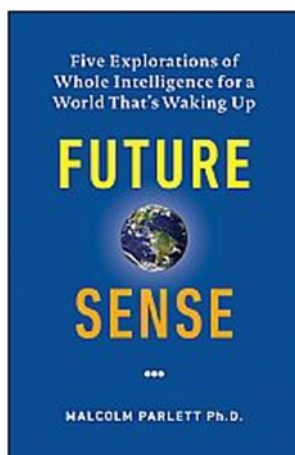
**Judith Atkinson**

## HOST

Make the world a little friendlier! Charity HOST is seeking friendly people who could volunteer to offer an invitation to adult international students for a day, weekend, or four days at Christmas. Learn about other cultures, welcome a guest far from home, and make the world a little friendlier! To be put in touch with your local organiser, visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call 020 7739 6292.

**Kimberley Brough**  
Deputy Chief Executive of HOST

## Future Sense



My book, *Future Sense*, is now available. I have been writing this for about three years, more or less the same time period as I've been attending the Friends Meeting in Oxford. A number of Friends have known about my obsession, and have been very supportive and encouraging. It is written for a general readership.

The book's message is revealed in the title: it's about the future, and it's a plea for cultivating a different sensibility – an increase in 'good sense'. Many people feel powerless or hopeless when they think about the climate, biodiversity, and sustainability issues, and the staggering level of armaments, and the increases in population and inequality. We are bound to feel sometimes as if the human situation is dire.

The book points out, however, that humanity has vast resources in the form of untapped potentialities, and individually and collectively the capacity for making creative, wise, and radical changes. There is vast scope for participating together differently with regard to the future – that is, if we can only make more humane, rational, compassionate, and enlightened choices. The question is how to help make these more likely?

The book's subtitle points to possibilities: *Five Explorations of Whole Intelligence for a World That's Waking Up*.

In terms of 'waking up', the book suggests there are numerous signs that a shift in public consciousness is already happening. People the world over are joining dots, expressing longings for fundamental change. The undercurrent is more sensed than articulated and known for sure. But people are questioning as never before what does not ring true, or seem sensible, or justified, or useful for the future. There's been a spiritual vacuum and longing, with many feeling cast adrift in a sea of triviality, and the tide may be turning.

The book argues for recognising a human intelligence which is more than mere facility with mental operations – something that embraces good judgement, wisdom, and insight. This is what I name as 'whole intelligence' (abbreviated as *whi* – and pronounced as 'whee'). I am introducing five approaches that can support more *whi* to be manifested, in ourselves, our relationships, and in organisations. The five 'whi-dimensions' derive from my observations as a working psychological practitioner, operating in the manner of a natural historian. I suggest these five interlocking ways of being-in-the-world need incorporating in an education fit for the future, and are immediately relevant in our own lives and circles of influence.

Greater whole intelligence is within each person's reach, and in living, communicating, and modelling these five dimensions of *whi*, we add a different form of activism to go alongside others we pursue. They are part of transforming the world from the ground up – beginning with ourselves.

In *Future Sense*, I try to level with and engage the curiosity of the reader, and to share stories, including from my own life.

The book is available from [www.troubador.co.uk](http://www.troubador.co.uk), and costs £12.50 + p and p. Or from me on most Sundays between the two meetings.

**Malcolm Parlett**

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## Have you made a will?

We all share a responsibility to the friends and family who outlive us, to make sure that we leave them with clear instructions about what we wish for them when we die. You can avoid leaving them with the stress of coping with legal complications. Each November you can use a local solicitor who has signed up to Will Aid and enjoy the added feel-good factor of supporting nine leading UK charities. Instead of paying your solicitor's fee, you will be invited to make a donation to charity. The suggested voluntary donation is £95.00 for a basic will, or £150.00 for a pair of basic mirror wills. Simply visit [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) to find out how to make your will easily this November.

**Jill Green**

Co-convenor of the Pastoral Care Team



## Quaker and Business Conference Wed 4 November, Friends House, London

This year the conference is asking what is the purpose of business? The aim of the day is reach out to the communities of businesses, NGOs, business schools and students as well as to Friends so that we can explore how business and organisations can better fit people and planet. Too many of us live lives so fast and hectic trying to meet work deadlines and balance our own finances while trying to be the best parents, friends or citizens we can be, and wonder if society has to be like this.

To encourage us to think in different ways, we are very pleased to announce some of our speakers:

- Professor Colin Mayer – Said Business School, Oxford University. Colin is a government advisor on new business models and the author of *Firm Commitment: Why the Corporation is Failing Us and How to Restore Trust in It*.
- Graham Randles who is Managing Director of NEF consulting (New Economics Foundation). NEF calls itself an independent think-and-do tank whose aim is to improve the quality of life by promoting innovative solutions that challenge mainstream thinking on economic, environmental and social issues.
- Giles Hutchins who is a freethinker and writer. He is the author of *The Nature of Business*, which fuses his business background with a range of theories and practices that include bio-mimicry, cradle-to-cradle and industrial ecology, and applies them to the challenges businesses face today.

The format of the day will be a mixture of speakers, interviews and group exploration, with the hope that this debate will be one that Friends will take forward. For more information: [www.qandb.org/qbc15](http://www.qandb.org/qbc15)

Sally Bagenal



On Sunday 6 September, hundreds of people demonstrated in Oxford urging the government to accept more refugees. Quakers were well represented. Photograph courtesy of Hoonie Feltham.

# CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2015

All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Sunday 1	12:30 pm	Meeting for Worship for Business	Wednesday 18	1:45 pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing
Saturday 7	10:00 am	Ministry and Extension	Friday 27	7:00 pm	Friday with Friends <i>The Challenges of Painting the Refugee Crisis</i> with Karima Brooke
Wednesday 11	11:00 am	Poetry Group	Sunday 29	12:30 pm	Bring-and-share Lunch
Tuesday 17	6:30 pm	SEE Justice	Every Monday	7:00 pm	Young Adult Friends

## Office News

We want to wish Cecilia Stinton a fond farewell and thank her for all her hard work and enthusiasm over the summer. Sadly, she's leaving us and joining Sotheby's at the end of October. However, we are delighted to welcome Max Howells as our new Office Assistant. Max is a history graduate, and he will be working in the office on some weekday evenings and weekends. Stop by and say hello!

We are extending the trial of the lobby presentation screen until the end of November, after which time the proposition will be taken to the December business meeting.

Over the next two months we are very lucky to have the Oxford University Student Consultancy joining the Office Team to help us streamline our systems, and to offer us suggestions for improvements. In December the consultancy will be giving a presentation on the work it has done with us. All Friends are invited to attend.

Security: An important reminder to all Friends to be vigilant, and to take care of their personal belongings whilst in the building. We have had a spate of thefts over the last few months, so please do keep a close eye on your possessions. We are in the process of reviewing our security procedures.

### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Sundays** at 9:30 and 11 am at 43 St Giles  
(followed by tea and coffee)

**Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** at 7:30 am at 43 St Giles  
(followed by breakfast at 8 am)

**Wednesdays** at 12:15 pm at 43 St Giles  
(followed by tea and coffee)

**Headington LM worships on Sundays** at 10 am  
at The Priory, 85 Old High Street, OX3 9HT

# the Friends Quarterly

## Quakerism and Judaism

**Stuart Masters** "the early Quaker position implies that, with the new covenant, all people and all nations have received a priceless gift that has been delivered through the Jewish people"

**Joan Darbyshire** "Quakers were instrumental in helping to bring German Jewish refugees to England by sponsoring them and finding homes and jobs for them"

**Sally Bruyneels** "among the many things Margaret Fell addressed was the question of the place of the Jewish nation in the world, and among their fellow human kind"

**Stevie Krayner** – two poems: Wall and Holy Land

**Anthony Gimpel and Isa Levy** "if as Quakers we argue amongst ourselves about the existence of God, as Friends with Jewish Connections we have even more diversity about being Jewish"

If individual friends would like a copy we could put in a bulk order at £2.50 each, including UK postage. I'd be happy to arrange that if friends let me know if they'd like a copy.

**Tina Leonard**, tina.leonard3@gmail.com

*Forty-Three* is available online, at [www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter](http://www.oxfordquakers.org/newsletter)

If you are considering writing an article or notice but would prefer it not to go online, please don't hesitate to contribute it. Just indicate that the piece is not for inclusion in the internet version — no reason will be asked for. Articles & notices are very welcome to appear in the print edition only, and the same applies to calendar items.

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