



Forty-Three newsletter

Number 463
November 2017

Oxford Friends Meeting
43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW



Cards, Bracelets, and Necklaces to Support People in Rwanda

On Sunday 12 November, and on the following four Sundays, Christmas and greeting cards will be on sale in the lobby of 43 St Giles. These cards are made by widows and orphans belonging to Quaker-assisted AIDS support groups in northern Rwanda. The cards, which are made from banana leaves glued to cardboard, come in 25 different designs. In addition, bracelets and necklaces made by Kath Wilson will also be on sale, with all proceeds going to support people living with – or affected by – the HIV epidemic in Rwanda.

Last year 78 people in Rwanda benefitted from the sale of these items: 50 people had their annual health insurance payments paid for, and 28 orphans received financial support for their schooling.

Please stop and look at these beautiful, hand-crafted items. By purchasing just a few, you will be helping some families affected by the HIV epidemic, and by the stigma and discrimination associated with it.

Glen Williams



All Age Worship on 22 October

At this Meeting it was the Young People who gave the ministry. Gwen told us about Junior Yearly Meeting, in which she had been co-clerk. Then Bea and Rosamund told us about their experiences at Junior Gathering in August. Their theme had been gender equality. We were much moved by their quiet intensity, and their pleasure.

Just before coming into Meeting at 11:30, Iris took the children out into the Children's garden at the back, and picked the giant orange squash which they had grown from seed. Emil carried it proudly into Meeting. Our theme was 'Hope' as well as 'Gender Equality', so we sang the hymn 'Lord of all hopefulness'.

After the teenagers' ministry, Matthew told us his adaptation of the story of Zeus with his magic box of wishes, which curious humans had opened so that they all flew away, leaving only Hope in the box. He gave us the chance to write our messages of hope on pictures of butterflies which the children collected up, and returned to the box. Afterwards, Mark carved up the squash and shared it with all the families.

Virginia Allport

Deadline for contributions to the December 2017 issue: noon, Wednesday 22 November

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

Tabora League for Children

The Tabora League for Children (TLC) has been a Meeting charity for 3 years. This is Hadija, one of the TLC-sponsored children at our TLC Isevy Centre in Tabora, Tanzania. She is 6 years old and lives with her mum in Tabora. With treatment available in Ethiopia, she has an opportunity to stand up and walk, or she will crawl for the rest of her life.

Hadija had her harelip treated when she was a baby but at the time no one knew what to do about her feet and legs. She has popliteal pterygium syndrome, and club feet, and has never been able to straighten her legs. She will need surgery and 6 months of stretching by an orthopaedic device (the Ilizarov external fixator) on both legs and feet to get her into an upright position so that she can walk. She currently crawls on all fours.

A one-off moment of attention from four doctors, including the world expert in popliteal pterygium syndrome, led to an offer of help from a British doctor working for CURE Children's Hospital in Addis Ababa. The treatment will be free if we can get her to Ethiopia before Christmas. Hadija, her mum, and their young volunteer Swahili/English translator must arrive in Ethiopia by December. They all need to stay 6 months until Hadija's legs and feet are right. Then she will need check-ups and replacement leg-supports all through her growing years.

She has just had lots of medical tests in Dar es Salaam to prove that she is fit enough to cope with all this, and she is! As you can see from this photo with her mum in Dar they are a loving family and Hadija is a spirited and determined child.

Money given to TLC to feed our children cannot be used to send Hadija to Ethiopia. But we all – especially Hadija and her mum – think she should go. So we need to raise the money specifically for Hadija's flight with Mum and the young volunteer translator, plus passports and visas.

TLC is raising funds for the journey to and from Ethiopia, for their accommodation and food there for 6 months, and for all the future check-ups and replacement leg-supports Hadija will need as she grows.

If you can help, here are our bank account details: Tabora League for Children, Account no. 63693430, Sort Code: 20-97-48. Or you can donate to Paypal, via our website (<http://tlctanzania.org/index.html>). Please email us (tlctanzania@gmail.com) to confirm that your donation is for **Hadija**. If you are a UK taxpayer and can Gift Aid your donation and have not already sent us a form please email us and we will send you one or you can download one at (<http://tlctanzania.org/Helping/Helping.html>). You can also donate at the Virgin Giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/TLCHadija>.

Hadija is just the kind of girl to make the most of this opportunity and her mum will be with her every step of the way. They have never been out of Tanzania and the treatment is intense and scary but they are willing to go for it and are hoping and praying that funds will come. Please help make it possible. Please pass this information to anyone else who might want to help. For more information contact Margaret Paton margpaton@gmail.com or Beth Tomkinson tomkinson205@gmail.com

Margaret Paton
(Tabora League for Children - UK Charity No 1141239)





Help with Hosting OSAM

Oxford and Swindon Area Meeting (OSAM) will be held at Oxford Meeting House on Saturday 13 January, when the 'Bread and Roses' committee will serve a mainly warm lunch to 40-50 members, who come from the various Quaker Meetings around the Oxford area. We would be grateful if you could please help by bringing a dish of savoury food, a dessert, or cake for the afternoon. If you wish to make a contribution, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Ursula Kneisel 01865 744540

Project Shoebox Oxford – Can You Help?

Project Shoebox Oxford is a community giving project that started in 2014. We collect unused and unwanted toiletries and non-perishable foods, and pack them as gift boxes / food hampers for women and their families who are in Oxfordshire domestic abuse refuges, homeless shelters, or who are refugees. The project is run locally in Oxfordshire by volunteers, and is overseen and regulated by Bromley Women's Aid (Registered Charity No. 1068007).

At this time of year, we ask the local community for donations. We of course welcome completed shoeboxes and food packs, but donations of single items are also very welcome – even a bottle of shampoo or packet of tea bags will really help us (and empty shoeboxes are always useful if you have any lying around!). As these items will be given out as gifts, we ask that everything is new and unused, please. In order to protect the women receiving a gift, we kindly ask that you don't

include anything sharp (including razors, scissors, mirrors, and tweezers) or medicines. It's lovely if you can cover the lids of any shoeboxes in some wrapping paper, but please don't seal the box as it will need to be checked prior to distribution.

Items can be dropped at the Porters Lodge of Hertford College (Catte Street) any time from 1 to 30 November. The lists below offer guidance about what we like to include in the various boxes and packs that we distribute.

Box for a woman:

Shampoo and conditioner; soap; shower gel; toothbrush and toothpaste; body lotion; deodorant; face flannel; hairbrush and comb; greetings card (if you'd like to put one in); face wash/toner/moisturiser; make-up remover or wipes; sanitary towels or tampons; cosmetics (e.g. nail products or make-up); hair product (e.g. spray, mousse, hair bands); you could also include things that are just nice to have (e.g. scarves, tights, socks, jewellery, slippers, sweets).

Box for a girl (up to age 11) or a teen girl (age 12+):
As above, but: no need for make-up remover for a girl; no sanitary products for a girl; sanitary towels rather than tampons for a teen girl. Any cosmetics should be age appropriate.

Box for a boy (up to age 11) or a teen boy (age 12+):

Shampoo and conditioner (2 in 1 is fine); soap; shower gel with masculine scent; toothbrush and toothpaste; deodorant with masculine scent; face flannel; comb; face wash for teen boy boxes (e.g. Clearasil); hair product (e.g. gel); shaving foam for teen boy boxes, but no razors please; other nice things like sweets, socks, etc.



Winter Beginnings Retreat Day



Saturday 9th December

12-4.30pm

Oxford Quaker Meeting House

43 St Giles OX1 3LW

Entering sleep mode

Winter beginnings retreat day



We'll reflect on slowing down, hibernating, and what dormancy might mean to us. We'll have things to wonder at, things to read, Poems to listen to and share, a peaceful garden in which to walk and observe, a fire to warm us, and time and space to reflect.

Tea, coffee and a lovely lunch are provided.
Booking essential as places are limited.

Donations are welcome – in advance or on the day
All proceeds to OXFAP – Oxford Friends Action on Poverty.

To book contact the office: office@oxfordquakers.org 01865 557373

Volunteering for the Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS)

OWNS will open on 1 January 2018 and run for three months. Each night a different church will open on a weekly rota. Homeless men and women will be received with a welcome, a bed, and breakfast before they leave.

We will need a rota of trained volunteers to staff the project. The training will take place on three different dates in November (you will only need to attend one session). If you would like to volunteer, or are wondering about it, please contact April at St Michael in the North Gate in Cornmarket or email her parishmanager@smng.org.uk

Box for a baby and new mum (can be packed into a back-pack / changing bag if you like):

Baby shampoo; baby lotion; baby oil; nappy cream; cotton wool; baby wipes; nappy disposal bags; unused dummies; nipple cream; disposable knickers; maternity towels; breast pads; other nice things e.g. baby grow, baby socks, soft toy, pack of disposable nappies. Anything knitted is lovely!

Food packs, with suggested sizes (please make sure that 'best before' dates are as far as possible in the future; if you're donating a complete food pack, it should all fit in a bag for life):

- 40 or 80 tea bags – regular or herbal
- 100g coffee – regular or decaff
- 500g sugar
- 500g breakfast cereal
- 1 litre UHT milk
- 500g dried pasta
- 500ml jar of veg pasta sauce
- Crisp breads or oat biscuits (100g max.)
- 400g tin of tomatoes
- 500g beans or lentils – tinned or dried
- 400g tin of soup
- 500g rice
- 340g jam or marmalade
- 340g peanut butter
- 340g chocolate spread
- 250g tin of meat or fish
- 400g tin of vegetables
- 400g tin of fruit
- Any other nice things! (e.g. tin of biscuits, Christmas items, chocolate)

If you'd like any further information, please see www.shoeboxoxford.uk or email catherine.redford@hertford.ox.ac.uk.

Catherine Redford



David Gill: An Obituary

David Gill, who died on 19 May at the age of 82, attended Sunday Meetings with me for some time near the end of his life. By then he was already far gone in dementia, and didn't really know why he was there, but responded to the peaceful atmosphere.

David was a poet and a teacher and a campaigner for peace and justice all his life. He taught English and German at Bedales School, Nyakasura School in Uganda, Magdalen College School in Oxford, and Bucks College of Higher Education – where he introduced the new subject of “Communication Studies”; but it was for his ability to communicate and inspire his learners that his pupils remembered him long after.

In Slough David took an active part in the race relations movement. We took part in the first Aldermaston March in 1958, and were always active members of CND.

But David's greatest achievement was poetry. I will conclude with one short poem, ‘On Yarnells Hill’:

On Yarnells Hill the morning breeze upsets
The roses' petals on the ordered lawns.
Beneath a quilt of fog the City yawns,
Hung-over students grab their cigarettes.
Up here all's calm. The apples ripen fast.
The hens are laying – unaware of crisis,
The goldfish cram the pools like tinned peach slices:
We have an idyll that can hardly last.

To have is to be threatened. Neighbours talk
Of break-ins. Carbuncle alarms proclaim their fears.
At night the moonlit fox is known to stalk.
At dawn the heron with chop-stick beak appears.
And just below, along the Newbury road,
A nuclear convoy sneaks its deadly load.

Irene Gill



Farewell to Bob Wilkes

On October 3, John Gould and I had the privilege and pleasure of attending the farewell to Bob Wilkes, vicar of St Michael at the North Gate and City Rector. Bob chose a special Choral Evensong at St Michaels as his farewell to city and friends. Those of you who know about music in Oxford will know that was a treat in itself. The music at St Michael's is superb.

Although the church was packed with friends, colleagues, and civic dignitaries it was a low key event in keeping with all that Bob stands for – no robes, chains of office, or processions. Bob read the lessons, the churchwardens spoke about his life, and a small presentation was made. Then over wine and nibbles, served by the young people of the parish, we were all able to say our personal farewells to Bob.

Bob's life before he came to Oxford ten years ago was spent in a variety of demanding parishes including Bootle in Liverpool, and more recently, Afghanistan. He has worked and travelled widely in the Middle East and has a deep commitment to peace and community relations. He volunteers as a chaplain at Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre where his knowledge of the languages and the country of many of the detainees helps form an immediate bond.

As City Rector he has been involved in so much that goes on in the city, from attending council meetings, officiating at the Remembrance Day service, opening the St Giles Fair, organising carols in the Covered Market and so much more. He has a particular concern for the many homeless men and women who throng our city. As he has said, ‘we have to recognise the street is our own parish. We are not just here for our own members’.

So many people of different faiths and none count Bob as a friend and an inspiration. In the row in front of us were two Muslims, an Anglican and a Hindu; in our pew a friend from the Jewish community, we two Quakers and a nonconformist – all united by our affection and respect for a very special man who will be much missed.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2017

All 43 St Giles unless otherwise indicated

Saturday 4	7:30pm	Digging the Dirt Multistory Theatre Co. Free Performance	Wednesday 15	7pm	Premises and Finance Group
Sunday 5	12:30pm	Meeting for Worship for Business	Sunday 19	1pm	Area Meeting Treasurers
Tuesday 7	7pm	First Tuesday Study Group	Monday 20	4-6pm	Poems in the Library
Wednesday 8	7pm	SEE Justice Group	Friday 24	7pm	Elders
Saturday 11	10-4pm	Kindlers Workshop Day	Saturday 25	10-4pm	Regional Meeting Support Committee
Sunday 12	10:30am outside 43 St Giles	Remembrance Day Peace Vigil	Sunday 26	12:15pm	Shared Lunch
Wednesday 15	1:45pm	Friends Fellowship of Healing	Wednesday 29	6pm	Enquirers Meeting

From Quaker Faith and Practice

Do you welcome the diversity of culture, language and expressions of faith of faith in our yearly meeting and the world community of Friends? Seek to increase your understanding and to gain from this rich heritage and wide range of spiritual insights. Uphold your own and other yearly meetings in your prayers.

Advices & Queries, 16



Forty-Three is available online, at 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 and notices are very welcome to appear in the print edition only, and the same applies to calendar items.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

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

Mondays at 7:00 pm Young Adult Friends
(followed by baked potato supper)

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

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