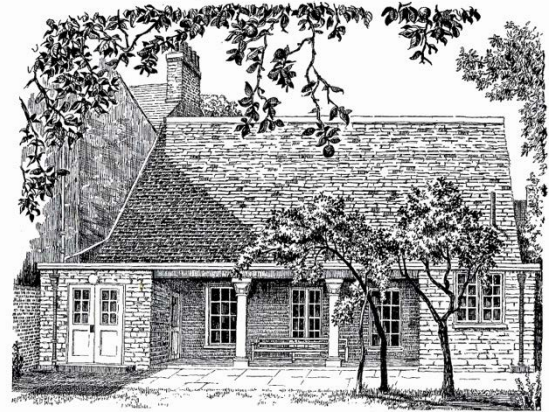


Forty-Three Newsletter

Number 529

May 2023



Oxford Friends Meeting

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Friends' Fellowship of Healing

Yvonne Dixon

The Friends' Fellowship of Healing (FFH) meetings used to take place once a month after the Wednesday midweek Meeting for Worship.

My prison chaplaincy work in the past prevented me from attending these meetings but I had hoped to attend them after laying down that work and was sad to see that they no longer seemed to be taking place once meetings gradually started in person again after the disruption caused by COVID-19.

After testing a discernment about the possibility of reviving these meetings and receiving encouragement from Friends at a Meeting for Clearness and at our April business meeting, I now feel a leading to revive something similar. I have been a member of



Photo by J Henderson

Try the new Audio Narration version of Forty-Three by [Clicking Here.](#)

the FFH for about 15 years and have always enjoyed their magazine *Towards Wholeness*.

I have been trying to form a picture of what the meetings used to be like and have had enjoyable conversations with people about this form of ministry and the healing groups that have existed and still exist within this Area Meeting and others. I realised that there could be some doubt about whether such a meeting would overlap with the work of the Pastoral Care Group (PCG) and have been able to clarify this as I am concerned not to duplicate or compete with what the PCG does.

I envisage something along the lines of a reading from *Towards Wholeness* or some other passage on healing and then a period of silence followed by prayers for healing, focusing the Light on individuals or

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situations brought to the group by individuals requesting what is often referred to as absent healing or distant healing. I am clear that this would not be a therapy group for people wanting to talk about their problems or health conditions, and I would not be venturing to offer hands-on healing, for which a special training at the Quaker Retreat Centre Claridge House is required.

I am aware that issues of confidentiality, safeguarding and oversight are important. Ideally it would be good to have a regular group of people so that it need not always be me leading the group, and it would probably be helpful to have a regular time and place.

I now plan to hold this space once a month, whether or not many or indeed any people attend, and just see if it grows organically. Our first meeting will be at 1.30pm on Wednesday 3rd May and then every first Wednesday of each month. I am grateful to all the Friends who offered me guidance and encouragement as part of this process.


Artweeks Exhibition at the Meeting House

Rebecca Howard

Last year I thought it would be a good idea to have a group Artweeks exhibition at the Meeting House and put out a call for interested Friends to get in touch.

Over a short period of time, a group coalesced, comprising Rebecca Howard, Juliet Henderson, Karima Brooke, Carol Lange, Trio Watson, Anthea Richards and Anthea Clarke.

It so happened that we were all women, so we decided to make a feature of that even though it hadn't been a deliberate plan.



Seven Quaker Women
Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Textiles
Oxford Quaker Meeting House
43 St. Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW
20th - 29th May
Times vary, check website

Our ages range from 40 upwards, and we have a diverse range of artistic media, including painting, printmaking, textiles and 3D work. What unites us is our Quaker spirituality, which informs our artistic practice in different ways.

We are looking forward to a week which will enable us to combine showing our artwork and doing some light touch outreach for the Meeting. We are also looking forward to seeing each other's artwork in the real world instead of on a screen.

All the information about opening times will be available on the Artweeks website, in the Artweeks catalogue and, nearer the time, in the Notices.

Come and see!

Redressing Inequalities

Carol Saker

I was one of the 60 Friends attending the blended meeting at Jordans Meeting House on 25th March, organised as a regional day gathering.

The theme for the day was “*Acknowledging the impact of the slave trade, colonialism and economic exploitation on the lives of many today; what should and can, we do?*” Several from Oxford attended.

The topic built on the ongoing concern of Friends at Yearly Meeting 2022 and the work of the Quaker Africa Interest Group (QAIG) regarding this subject, which was also considered within Oxford meeting and Area Meeting earlier in 2021 - all emanating out of the 2020 Black Lives Matter movement.

Taking our cue from the QAIG and the African Quaker leaders who addressed us on March 25th, a few Oxford Meeting Friends are proposing to look at some of the issues arising from the Jordans regional day.

One of these speakers was the Swarthmore lecturer of 2016, Esther Mombo, who gave us a fine text as a starting point: “*...and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*” (Micah 6, 8).

Please contact me as soon as you can if you wish to join in, even if you were not at the Jordans day. There is already a small group which was set up at the April Business meeting. During May we will try to meet and see how to proceed - as an action group partnering with our Kenyan fellow Quakers over practical education or climate change work, or as a study and worship group - or both. The emphasis will be Restorative Justice not Reparations.

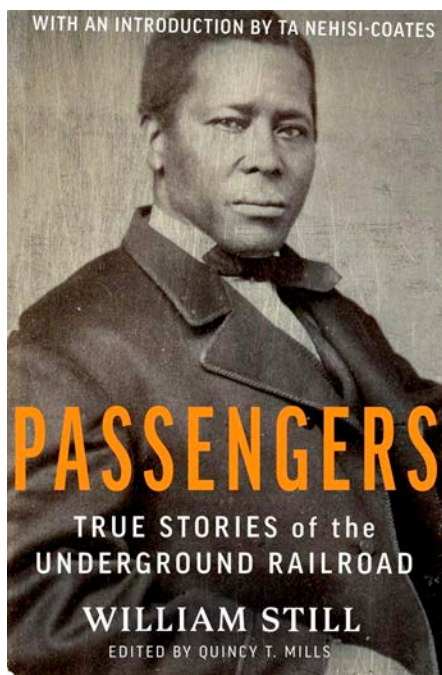


Photo by J Henderson

Book Review: *Passengers: True Stories of the Underground Railroad* by William Still (edited by Quincy T. Mills)

Jean Moir

William Still (1821 – 1902) was a leading light in the Underground Railroad which helped runaway slaves reach the Northern States safely and find work and lodgings. He kept records of the reports from agents of the Railroad and letters of thanks from the freed slaves.



These show the terrible conditions of slavery – not only the relentless drudgery, poor rations, and accommodation, but rape and beatings, sometimes to the death and often causing permanent injury or ill-health. Parents and children, husbands and wives were split up and sold to different slave-owners, and some never met again, despite their best efforts.

Agents and fleeing slaves showed great courage and ingenuity. Sometimes women dressed as men, and vice versa. One barked ferociously and frightened off people who came too near his hiding place. Some endured days in boxes with a little food and

small airholes. Sympathetic sea or river captains hid slaves in their ships.

One man rode across the Potomac in the freezing cold at night. Some hid out in forests – with bears, or swamps – with malaria and other diseases. Their stories make inspirational reading.

William Still and his wife were obviously very popular with the correspondents and seem to have kept an open, welcoming house.

It is not clear whether any of the correspondents are Friends, but some use the “thou” form. One agent takes the alias of “William Penn”. One specific Quaker is mentioned – Abigail Goodman.

There were one or two ‘bad eggs’. One man who “looked like a Quaker” betrayed them, and so did the wife of one Quaker man. But most are positive and highly regarded.

These included Lucretia Mott. She was an influential abolitionist and feminist. She said, “I feel bound to plead their [*slaves*]’ cause in season and out of season and to endeavour to put myself in their souls’ stead and to aid in all my power in every right effort for their immediate emancipation”. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Law, she and her husband opened their home to users of the Underground Railroad. She also campaigned for the franchise for freedmen and accompanied freed slaves to trials.

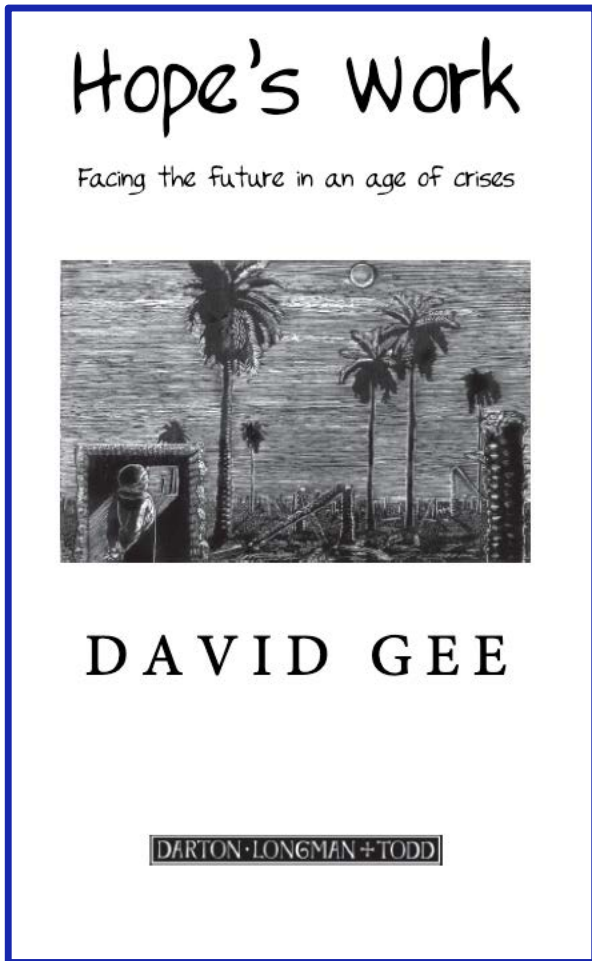
Other Friends are briefly mentioned, and many were staunch abolitionists.

A memorable book.

Hope's Work

David Gee

The Quaker movement has strived from the first to face the world as it is – in care, thoughtfulness, and faith. At times courageous, at others faltering, the intention to be a community of hope still runs like a thread through the Quaker story.



But what can hope mean in our own disturbed age of anxiety and affliction? As an activist, I've been working with these queries for a while now, and in this I'm far from alone. So many of us are feeling pressed to ask what shape hope can possibly take as horizons close in and optimism retreats. Is this also you?

To help explore the practical meanings of hope today, I've been gathering various resources at hopeswork.org. You'll find some queries to dwell on, some

suggestions for cultivating a conscious hopefulness, and a blog taking a creative look at some of the themes. Please have a look round.

I started hopeswork.org after hearing activist friends struggle to hold faith with their work. It led me to wonder why we seldom pause to wonder what hope means for us or to enquire after its health.

Clearly, as the strain builds in our communities and societies, and on the earth, shallower hopes are easily uprooted – they don't survive experience for long. But the very unease of our times can also urge deeper hopes to the surface.

My own journey with these questions has led me in unexpected directions – away from hope as a prediction about tomorrow and towards hope as a clutch of commitments that need making today, and without pushing the doubts away.

For a hope that bets everything on a better tomorrow doesn't bear our predicament well, nor is it adequate, I feel, for a journey in faith. But a hope that invests in the life within us and around us, and finds promise there, still commends itself – today, tomorrow, always.



David Gee is the author of 'Hope's Work: Facing the future in an age of crises' (DLT, 2021) and lives in Oxford.

Report on St Hilda's College Chaplaincy

Background Paper for Meeting for Business for Worship on 3 April 2023

Meryem Kalayci

As my third year as College Chaplain at St Hilda's ends, I take some time to reflect and rest. These past few years were far from ordinary.



South Building at St. Hilda's College, Oxford

In my three years as College Chaplain, I saw my college through lockdown, addressed the invasion of Ukraine, witnessed Elisabeth of Windsor's passing (and the duties that followed as an Oxbridge College Chaplain, I could write a book about!), and I saw my hometown in Turkey under rubble.

At the University level, those of us with pastoral care duties saw an increased demand for Student Support and Welfare Services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The University Counselling Service at Oxford has reported that 13.5% of the student body are using their services; 24.3% of the student body are now registered with the Disability Advisory Service; and the Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service saw a 21% increase in referrals from the previous year.

As Chaplains we are there for everyone, across a variety of situations including those that we then signpost onto the aforementioned services. As Chaplains we act in the in-between times: before and after meetings, or counselling sessions; immediately after sexual harassment,

and then again after a referral; immediately after loss and then again at the funeral; at times when the world is a bit too much and then again when we cherish it anew.

This is the part of our work that mostly remains hidden because of confidentiality. There is also the part of our work that is visible—organising events, bringing together communities, celebrating religious festivals.

In general terms, I would describe my ministry in the past three years as outward-facing: to bring people 'in'. This had many reasons – me being the first Quaker in post as Chaplain at an Oxbridge college; the situation I was left with at St Hilda's when the previous Chaplain left; the task of building up a multi-faith chaplaincy from scratch.

This has not come without its challenges, Friends, and I feel very tired. It has taken its toll on me. I feel the need for rest and reflection. With less doing and more being. A quietist period. Inward-facing.

Supporting my college community with gentle prayers and nourishing my spirit (and body) along the way. Guided by the inner light, I feel this is the right way forward for my ministry at St Hilda's.



Milham Ford Building by the River Cherwell. Wikipedia.



Monthly Appeal May 2023

Charles Worth

Each year, thousands of people arrive in the UK seeking asylum from war, famine and persecution, or as survivors of modern slavery or trafficking. Having experienced multiple and complex trauma, these people are often in need of therapeutic support to enable them to heal and start to build new lives.

Refugee Resource provides psychological, social and practical support for refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants to help them heal from trauma, bereavement and suffering, and to become valued members of our diverse community. (From their Website)



From the Refugee Resource Website

The staff team has expertise in female genital mutilation (FGM), domestic violence and modern slavery, as well as complex trauma. This expertise is shared among other organisations working with this group, by providing training on

working with clients suffering complex emotional and mental health issues, and supervision services, to enable these agencies to work more compassionately, safely and effectively.

Unlike other agencies, RR does not put a time-limit on their services – they are there for people until they feel ready to move forward to build new lives in the UK.

Refugee Resource works closely with its bigger sister organisation in Oxford, Asylum Welcome. A number of Oxford Friends have worked with RR clients as volunteer mentors.

For further information contact Charles Worth, ccworth@blueyonder.co.uk

How to Donate

Donations can be made:

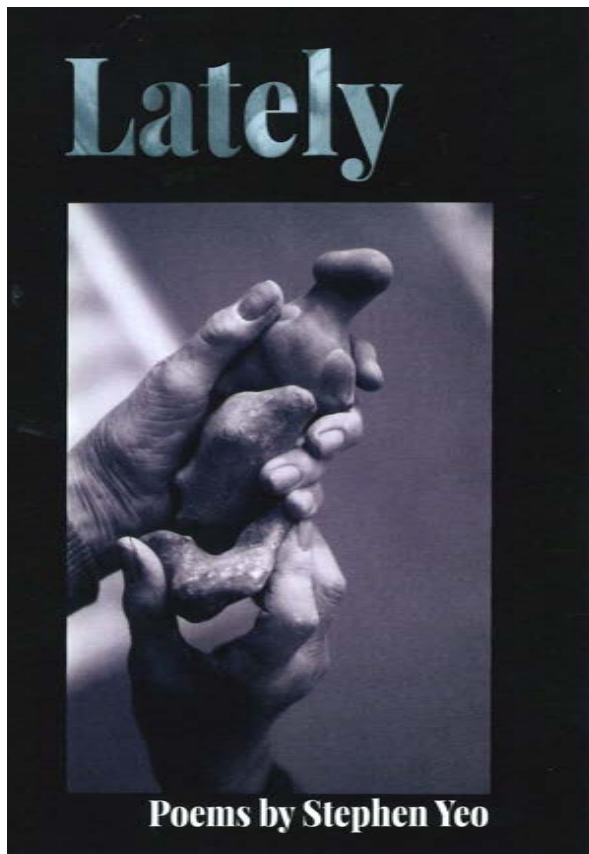
- Via the website at www.refugeeresource.org
- After setting up a regular gift by standing order or donate via bank transfer to:

Account number: 04253100
Sort code: 16-58-10

- By sending a cheque made payable to Refugee Resource to the address below.

Refugee Resource
The Old Music Hall
106-108 Cowley Road
Oxford
OX4 1JE

Tel: 01865 403280
info@refugeeresource.org



Jenny Lewis and Stephen Yeo
 warmly invite you to
 Oxford Quaker Meeting House
 43 St Giles Oxford OX1 3LW
 to launch
 Stephen's first poetry collection:

LATELY

Interleaves poems generated by many things and relations, including love; family, forests, saplings and trees; friendship; travels; *poiesia* as *making* self, and celebrating fellow makers; ye gods and God; names, plants, gardens; places and times we live through and destroy; lists, liturgies and the limits of violent dwindling human power.

Jenny Lewis
 is a poet, translator and mentor of poets locally
 and internationally.

When:
 7 for 7.30pm on Friday May 26th
 2023.

Where:
 Oxford Quaker Meeting House
 43 St. Giles Oxford OX1 3LW.

Refreshments will be served.
 We're looking forward to welcoming you.

FOLIE DE GRANDEUR

from Stephen Yeo to Greta Thunberg

No one
 is too small
 to make
 a difference

No one
 is too big
 not to make
 much difference

Quaker Videos in this Month's Forty-Three



Eve Park
and
Olwyn Lewis-Bowen

Epistle – Junior Yearly Meeting 2023

Eve Park and Olwyn Lewis-Bowen, Clerks of Junior Yearly Meeting, read the letter from Junior Yearly Meeting to "all Friends everywhere".

Quakers in Britain

<https://youtu.be/gzv3zPHaGQU>

4 Minutes



Martin Krafft
Schwenksville, Pennsylvania

Connecting to Quaker Faith Through Film

I think being a good artist, you never know-- whenever you start a project you never know what it's going to turn out as, and if you do know it's going to be bad because you're not engaging in active discovery.

QuakerSpeak

<https://youtu.be/VrTwV8TLhd8>

5 Minutes

Quaker Question and Answer - Charles Worth

Who, what, when, where, and why - are you?

Londoner, son of Anglican priest and ecumenical mother. Teacher, educator, learner. Husband, father, grandfather

Do you have a memory that brings you comfort in times of hardship?

I imagine I'm sitting in a chair in a Yorkshire farmhouse where we have often stayed. I'm looking out of the window at a glorious view right down Wensleydale.

How long, if you are, have you been a Quaker (or attender)?

I first fell among Quakers about fifteen years ago. I'm a late developer.

What brings you joy?

The first brimstone butterfly in the garden. Welcoming refugees.

Do you have a passage from QF&P that you would like to draw Friends attention to?

I love the chapter on Faithful Lives. William Dent, 18.11, was a generous introvert and Lucy Harris, 18.17, an awesome extravert.

What was the last book you read?

Sebastian Barry's latest novel, Old God's Time. Searing memories of the church's abuse of children in Ireland – harrowing but also beautiful.



Charles Worth

What would you say to someone coming to MfW for the first time?

Welcome, friend.

Can you describe what Quakerism is to you?

The marriage of the spiritual and the political feels like home.

If you could do anything, what would you do?

Empower climate activists around the world to succeed in their work of transitioning to just societies and a sustainable planet.

May 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 12.03

With our structure, we risk failures in understanding and transmitting our tradition, and failures in pastoral care. We do not always adequately support one another. When we appoint people to carry out tasks for us, there is a danger of approaching this in too secular a way... We can and must pray for them to receive the necessary gifts and strength from the Spirit.

*London Yearly Meeting
1986*

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

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

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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/>

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