

# Forty-Three Newsletter

Number 551

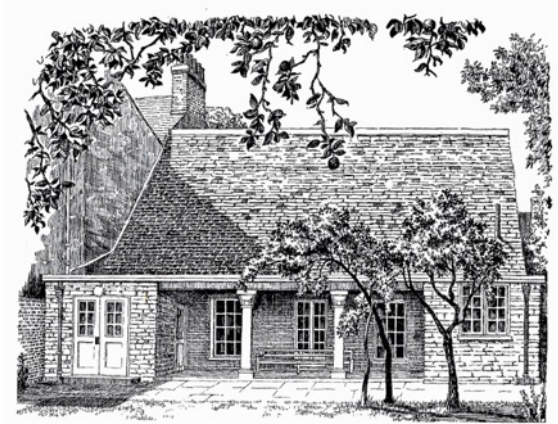
March 2025

## Oxford Friends Meeting

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+44 (0)1865 557373

office@oxfordquakers.org



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## What are you Singing?

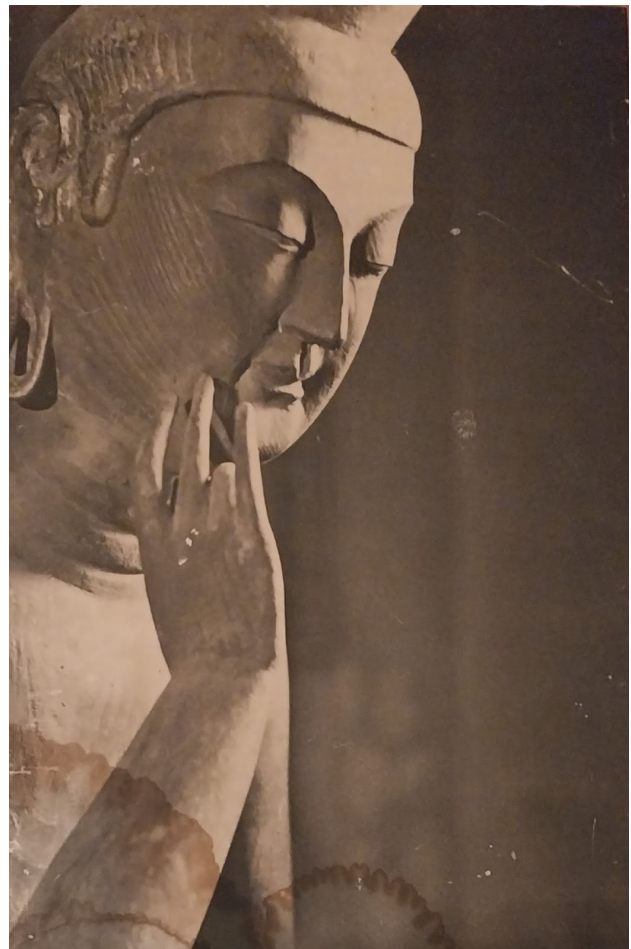
Sandra Figges

As well as singing occasionally in Meeting, I also sing regularly to residents at Fairfield Care Home and to friends who ask me to sing over the phone or zoom. When I sing to anyone for the first time, I inevitably get asked “What are you singing?” And the answer I give is that I don’t know! So here is an attempt to explain at least how this “channelled singing” came about.

Years ago, when I was an undergraduate, I was drawn into evangelical Christianity through college friends, and from there became involved with what became known as the charismatic movement. This involved “speaking in tongues” and sometimes this was in the form of song. Speaking in tongues was understood as participating in the experience of Pentecost when the disciples and friends of Jesus were gathered together, “and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2 v4).

After I left university, I moved away from an evangelical and charismatic theology, and in time joined a community of Catholic religious sisters. Although the community was nourishing in many ways, I found that the practice of moving members around each year in September was very destabilising and I left to live on my own.

Some years later I found myself drawn to Quakers.



An image from Sandra’s father’s study (copyright: Sandra Figges)

In the meantime I had trained as a psychotherapist and then joined a group of practitioners who were interested in integrating Western psychotherapy with Eastern ideas about how energy moves in the body through Chakras and Meridians. This group held training days to develop this new synergy and invited speakers to share their developing experience. One of these was an American Psychotherapist, Howard Brockman, who combined his counselling with shamanic practices.

A number of us gathered in Leamington Spa for a weekend of deepening this experience and planning how to begin to share it with others. I stayed in a local B&B and woke up the next morning with a strong urge to start “singing in tongues” which I had not until then done for years. I had a sense that I was singing for a person unknown to me who was in need.

Later that morning I joined the rest of the group and we started our day with a shamanic practice of “greeting the four directions”. As we did this I found myself again singing in tongues.

Over a period when I was working as a psychotherapist, I often sang in this way to my clients at the end of a session.

When I had to give up my psychotherapy practice because of loss of memory and a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease I was feeling very low. My wife, Jill, saw an advertisement for a course of shamanic singing which she hoped would help to lift my spirits. This was a great gift as the shamanic practitioner strongly encouraged my spontaneous singing and gave me more confidence in using this gift.

Since closing my practice, I have discovered a ministry of singing to individuals and occasionally in Meeting. And I struggle to answer the question “What are you singing?”

## Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration Service

Richard Seebohm

On Sunday 26 January, the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day, the Oxford Council of Christians and Jews held their annual commemoration service in Keble College Chapel.

It was a powerful event, as you will imagine. The Chapel was full, and with the 20-strong Keble Choir there was the Oxfordshire Community Choir from the Jewish community. They both sang with equal facility in Hebrew and Yiddish as well as Latin and English.



Photo taken before the service began (copyright: Richard Seebohm)

We began with a survivor reminiscence, with the need to recall the names of extended families all gone. We heard from poets, and Bible readings were sung.

The address was from Edward Kessler who founded and runs the Woolf Institute, a Cambridge-based charity concerned to build understanding and trust between Christians, Muslims and Jews. Edward Kessler said that at Auschwitz, God was silent and listened – and wept. Kessler observed that power and influence were different; power ended with the death of the despot, but influence grew from the death of the prophet.



As we lit our candles from each other, which we did at the end of the service, the light of the starting one was not diminished. That followed the theme of the day's event: *for a better future*.

The service can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjlFLnSSgfM>

## Anne Watson Talks to Anne Watson About Heaven

### Anne Watson (the maths one)

Anne Watson (the maths one) visited Anne Watson (the ex-GP one) and the conversation turned to the meaning of heaven.



Anne (the GP one). Photo by Anne (the Maths one)

Anne (the GP one) said: "I do believe in heaven. I feel that so many of my friends and family have died, being reunited in some way would be so pleasing. Heaven is a bit of a place and a bit of a state of mind. But here, when alive, we can only reach it in our minds. I have always believed in something called heaven, from when I first learnt the Lord's prayer, which is all we have about it. It

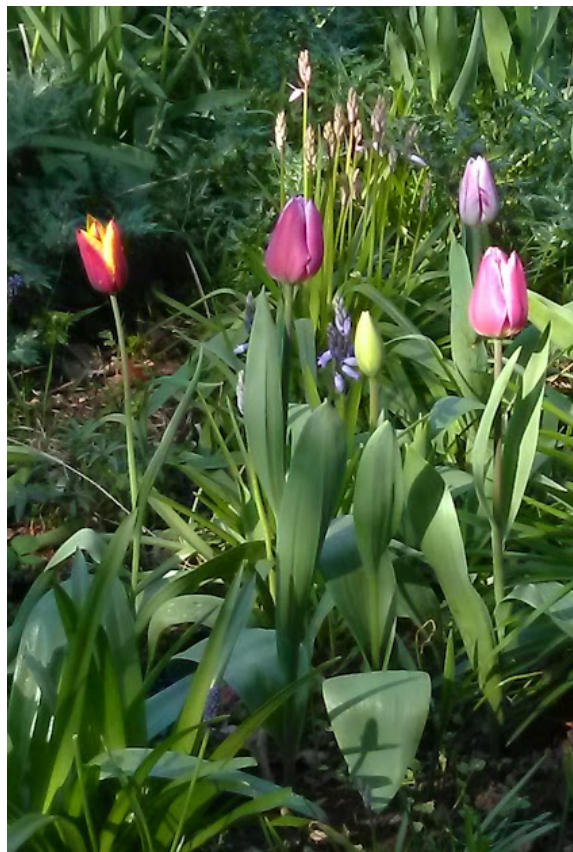
is beyond our understanding. It would be wrong to think of death as, say, a waiting room, but we have to die to find out."

Anne (maths): "What carries on? What do people take with them?"

Anne (GP): "What they love, who they love, their hearts. I don't have a clear idea of God. Presumably there is something of God in heaven. Does this make sense? We don't know what it is but we do know that heaven on earth is beautiful and full of love with room for everyone. I don't believe in hell as a place – it is where God is not present. We prepare for heaven by taking opportunities to do good. We have to feel we are getting ready."

Anne (maths): "Do you believe in a judgement?"

Anne (GP): "We have consciences; we know when we have done wrong. We know differences between right and wrong. In this life we only have our consciences – I don't believe in an external judgement. All we really know is that we don't go on for ever. The Lord's prayer is not enough on its own. We have to die to discover a full picture."



Tulips in the light: Sarah Lasenby

## March Appeal

### Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation Uganda

No doubt Oxford Friends are aware of the huge budget cuts which the new US administration has been carrying out. You might not realize that some of these have very painful consequences for people in sub-Saharan Africa.

We recently received an email (see below) from Ruth Ninsiima, director of the FOCAGIFO training centre in Kampala, Uganda, describing the devastating effects which these cuts will have on the lives of millions of Ugandans. Ruth's email makes for very grim reading indeed.

(Please note that the exchange rate of the Ugandan shilling to the UK pound sterling is 4,580 UgSh = £1 Sterling.) Our colleagues and friends at FOCAGIFO - the staff and their families and of course the students - will be severely affected by these savage cuts to FOCAGIFO's budget. We'll have to consider how best we can respond to these daunting challenges; FOCAGIFO will be very grateful for any financial support Friends can offer in this man-made crisis.

#### How to Donate:

Donations to the Hope Institute can be made in two ways, via a bank account managed by Glen and Alison Williams

#### Online banking transfer to:

Account name: G and A Williams Partners.

Account No: 50323628.

Sort Code: 60 – 70 – 03. (Natwest Bank)

#### Cheque payable to:

G and A Williams Partners  
c/- Glen and Alison Williams  
93 Divinity Road  
Oxford OX4 1LN



The Minister for the Presidency, Hon Milly Babalanda visiting a FOCAGIFO Stall (photo copyright: FOCAGIFO)

### An Update on FOCAGIFO from Ruth Ninsiima, Executive Director

*Dear Partners,*

*Greetings from FOCAGIFO! I thought I should give you an update on how Uganda generally and FOCAGIFO specifically are faring amidst the Stop Work Executive Order issued by President Trump on 24th January 2025.*

*So the year began normally with high zeal and enthusiasm but 3 weeks down the road everything took a different turn! It should be noted that 80% of Uganda's HIV and AIDS response is funded by donors - USAID being the largest. The Freeze order has therefore had a major impact already on treatment and prevention. Together with our partners, we are carrying out daily surveys on service delivery. The findings indicate:*

*1. Over 70% percent of HIV service providers have been sent home including doctors, lab technicians, pharmacists and community support workers.*

*2. All prevention and social support activities including education of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) have been put on*



hold and the service providers sent home immediately.

3. Some health centres have already begun charging a fee on access of ARVs that were already in stock but also report impending stock shortages, as they had not secured the medicines for this quarter.

4. There's a lot of anxiety and uncertainty among the service recipients as well as service providers about continuity of services and livelihoods, to mention but a few!

What does this mean for FOCAGIFO?

The state of confusion in which the country is now directly impacts on FOCAGIFO as:

- The leaders are themselves very anxious about the continuity of accessing HIV Treatment and related services like Viral load Testing.

- The one year funding ( UGX 52,000,000) that FOCAGIFO was about to receive from PEPFAR Community Grants to engage communities on HIV stigma is no more a source of hope.

- The local organisations that have been supporting OVC education and sponsoring some children at FOCAGIFO have sent us regrets for this term and this year.

- The Community-led Monitoring funds that FOCAGIFO has been receiving from PEPFAR (as a member of the Steering Committee) through the ICWEA are no more.

- The engagement of Rev Canon Gideon Byamugisha and / or FOCAGIFO as a faith-based HIV & AIDS Consultant by different organisations is nowhere near our doors. We have already lost the UgSh 215,000,000 consultancy FOCAGIFO had signed with

UNESCO to conduct a national survey on Sexuality Education in Faith Based Secondary schools.

Generally, it is a state of confusion! It is like another COVID-19 pandemic is hitting!

What has been done?

FOCAGIFO has actively joined the rest of the Partners to advocate for continuity of services by the Government of Uganda

- Yesterday we engaged with the Parliamentary HIV Committee to discuss the immediate and future impact of this order. We are tasking our Government with fully taking up treatment and prevention services.

- We have conducted and participated in press conferences to let the rest of the country, especially the leaders, understand that there is a crisis.

- We have committed to continue standing together with the AIDS service organisations in all other activities aimed at engaging our Government.

Where is the Hope Institute in all this?

Meanwhile, amidst all the anxiety and uncertainty, we have opened for the first term of study at the Hope Institute and the students are coming in one by one - although still very few at the moment. We are therefore likely to have many fewer students this year, because all local sponsoring organisations have called a halt to funding.

- We have downsized the FOCAGIFO Hope Institute management team from six to three administrators.

*- We have also downsized the courses from eight to five, and we are only hoping that the ones that have remained can attract enough students to survive this year!*

*- Given the specialized services that the Technical Training Instructors offer it is still difficult to reduce their numbers in the remaining courses, but we have tasked them with developing plans for small businesses that their departments can undertake to contribute to their own sustainability. However, funding for these business plans itself is nowhere!*

*That is the general situation here that I thought I should share with you for your prayer reference and more technical support as we sail through this human inflicted pandemic!*

*We remain grateful for your standing with us over the years and in all situations. We are hopeful that this too will pass and life will continue!!*

*Respectfully,*

*Ruth Ninsiima  
Executive Director, FOCAGIFO*

## **AFSC's Reaction to USAid Cuts**

**Michael Merryman-Lotze**

Friends might also like to see the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) reaction to President Trump's plan to strangle USAid.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in Washington has to be more measured in order to retain its political access.

*Editors Note – the following article was originally published 7 Feb 2025 at <https://afsc.org/news/shutting-down-usaid-makes-us-less-safe>*

## *Shutting down USAID makes the U.S. less safe*

AFSC does not accept U.S. government funding, but the Trump administration's plan to dismantle USAID will have a devastating impact on our partners around the world as well as the humanitarian community as a whole.

Within days of taking office, the Trump administration ordered a freeze of all foreign assistance, except military aid and special highly militarized emergency aid that goes to Israel and Egypt. On Feb. 3 the administration ordered the closure of the Washington D.C. headquarters of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and is now moving to permanently shutter the agency. Vital and lifesaving work around the world has ground to a halt.

The impact has been immediate and severe: soup kitchens closing in Sudan, health clinics shuttering in Haiti, and essential programs halting across Latin America, the Middle East, and more.

None of this is in the interest of the United States.



Michael Merryman-Lotze, American Friends Service Committee



USAID was established 60 years ago to further U.S. interests through foreign aid. Since then, the independent agency has worked around the world to promote economic growth and encourage stability while advancing the national security, political, and economic interests of the United States. Foreign aid is a tool that has saved countless lives, helped prevent and resolve conflict, and created partnerships. All of this helps increase international stability—at a relatively minor cost to the U.S.

While this “soft power” approach is far better than weapons and wars, it is not without problems. U.S. foreign assistance is also a clear tool for extending U.S. foreign policy and influence. It is used to maintain a position of global dominance in a world where the U.S. is competing with key rivals, including China and Russia.

For these reasons, the American Friends Service Committee, where I work, does not take U.S. government funding. As a Quaker organization working for peace and justice, we often find ourselves at odds with the approaches taken by the U.S. government. Refusing U.S. government funding allows us to critique U.S. policy with integrity when needed.

But the Trump administration’s plan to dismantle USAID will have a devastating impact for AFSC’s partners around the world as well as the humanitarian community as a whole.

Civil society organizations in many of the world’s most fragile and conflicted locations rely on U.S. aid to carry out their peacebuilding, humanitarian, and human rights work.

International aid organizations like Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, and more face severe budget cuts, staff layoffs, and the end of work in areas facing crises.

The administration’s decision puts countless lives at risk. If it is not reversed quickly, the impacts could be felt for months, years, even decades.

Despite the administration’s claims, freezing foreign assistance funding is not about saving money. The total U.S. foreign affairs and aid budget is around \$56 billion dollars, a tiny fraction of all U.S. spending.

Even with foreign aid now on the chopping block, Congress is pushing for as much as \$200 billion in additional Pentagon spending. The boost would push the U.S. discretionary military budget to well over \$1 trillion dollars per year. That would give the Pentagon nearly twice as much money as the government invests in all other domestic needs combined—including education, science, the environment, agriculture, infrastructure, and foreign aid.

All this money continues to flow to the Pentagon even after it failed its seventh audit in a row. Meanwhile, peacebuilding, human rights, economic development, and diplomacy are being cut to pay for unneeded weapons systems and line the pockets of military contractors.

Increased Pentagon spending at the expense of foreign aid makes us less safe. In the absence of foreign assistance and diplomatic engagement, the military becomes the only tool left for addressing foreign policy challenges. We cede soft power tools and the ability to influence through economic and governance support to both allies and rivals on the international stage. We give up early warning systems and well-proven tools for stopping conflict before it starts.

The justification for more military spending is the threat of Russia and China and the claim that the U.S. needs to be ready to fight a two-front war against both rivals. But military confrontation as a path forward should be unthinkable. Armed conflict with either Russia or China—both nuclear powers—would result in unimaginable destruction.

Threats and military confrontation will never lead to security. Ending foreign aid while limiting diplomacy cedes the only other tools of influence

that the U.S. has at its disposal. Right now, China is providing billions of dollars in development funding to countries across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East as part of its Belt and Road Initiative. Now all that the U.S. has to offer as a counter to China in these same countries are weapons sales and military support.

We don't just need a resumption of foreign assistance; we need a radical rethinking of how we approach international relations. We won't win friends through violence. The rest of the world will never accept U.S. leadership if they're forced to accept it while staring at the end of a gun.

Instead of cutting foreign aid, the U.S. should increase spending on diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and economic development, funded by cuts to unsustainable military spending. A more peaceful and secure world can be realized through diplomacy, direct engagement, joint ventures, and support for addressing global needs. By lifting up others, we will also lift up ourselves.

This is how the U.S. could create real safety and live up to the values that it says it holds dear.

### **Michael Merryman-Lotze**

Mike Merryman-Lotze serves as AFSC's Just Peace Global Policy Director. As a member of the Global Policy, Strategy, and Advocacy Department, Mike leads AFSC's global peace building policy work, supporting both US and International staff and programs.

## **Quaker Writers Series 2025**

### **Paul Anand and Poetry on Ireland**

**Jimin Kang**

At an intimate gathering of Friends on Friday, January 31, Paul Anand shared a series of poems set in and about life in Ireland, where he is from.

While some of the poems were written in the moment of the depicted scenes or soon after (like

'Blackrock Café', set in a beachside café), others were written with decades of retrospect.

One poem dealt with the resistance and hope of archbishop Oliver Plunkett; another on Paul's grandmother ('My Mother's Mother'); one on the island of Achill off of Ireland's west coast, and another—one that delighted the audience with its pithy humor—on 'Potatoes Four Ways'.

There were several other poems besides.

After each reading, attendant Friends savored the images in the poetry, likening their visual conjurings with the work of Dutch artist Pieter Bruegel the Elder; they also discussed certain word choices and ways in which the poems would change if they took on an abbreviated, more modernist tone instead of its more prose-like structure.

The broader discussion also revolved around the experience of workshopping poetry with others, poetry that 'disappears' itself, and the nostalgia that surrounds our memories of place.

It was a wonderful session of big ideas and the many possibilities of poetry in capturing places we hold dear.



Rocky shoreline on Achill Island in Co Mayo, Ireland. © Copyright [Roger D Kidd](#) and licensed for [reuse](#) under this [Creative Commons Licence](#).

There is no recording for this event. To learn more about future Quaker Writers Series events via the mailing list (or to express interest in sharing your writing at a future session!), please let Jimin know via email ([jjiminkang2021@gmail.com](mailto:jjiminkang2021@gmail.com)).



## Being Quaker, Doing Quaker

16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> May at Rookhow, Lake District

What it means to be a Quaker Today

Sue Nicholls

A weekend to explore Quaker spirituality, reflect on our own spiritual journeys, past, present and future, and look at what unites Quakers in their beliefs and action. A 'grounding' weekend to reconnect with our Quaker roots to give energy to move forwards.



Photo Copyright: Sue Nicholls

Facilitated by granddaughter and grandmother duo Nyeri Otero Flanagan and Veronica Grant with Sue Nicholls, Rookhow's Development Manager. Space to stay in the Bunkbarn, yurt or camp. Bring food to share.

Age 18+

Suggested donation £80.

[FIND OUT MORE.](#)



Photo Copyright: Sue Nicholls

## All age meeting for worship

Living Faithful Lives

Our next all-age meeting for worship will be on Sunday 2nd March as part of the 10:30 single meeting for worship. The theme is 'Living Faithful Lives', which links with the Sunflowers Children's Meeting theme for March which is 'Faith'.

Children and adults will worship separately for the first half an hour, and will come together at 11:00 for semi-programmed worship which will include a story, a worship-sharing activity, and a chance to sing together.

All-age meetings for worship are a chance for children and adults to come together to worship jointly. Oxford Meeting has a longstanding custom of holding three all-age meetings for worship every year on the first Sundays of March, October and December. Find out more about all-age meetings for worship in Oxford at:

<https://oxfordquakers.org/cyp/all-age-mfw/>

## Notices

Caitlin Beswick and Anne Watson invite you to a **Friday with Friends** on **March 14th**, at 7 for 7.30, to listen to and talk about, with others, your responses to Advices and Queries number 4: "The Religious Society of Friends is rooted in Christianity and has always found inspiration in the life and teachings of Jesus.

How do you interpret your faith in the light of this heritage?

How does Jesus speak to you today? Are you following Jesus' example of love in action?

Are you learning from his life the reality and cost of obedience to God?

How does his relationship with God challenge and inspire you?"

All welcome, and all views welcome. Refreshments provided.

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On Monday night, **a wallet of cards was stolen** from a member of one of the groups that hires rooms.

The group suspect a person who popped in expressing an interest but then left. The front door and back gate are often not locked on Monday night as there is a lot of coming and going with various groups.

Please take care of your belongings at all times and please feel that you can question people in your sessions who are not known to you. Help to keep everyone and their belongings safe!

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**Volunteering:** Children and Young People's Committee (CYPC) are always in need of adult volunteers to support the children's meetings, 'Tea, Cake and Play' and other events in various roles. Please speak to a member of CYPC to find out more. We will need to organise an Enhanced DBS check and take up references before you can volunteer to work with children.

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**Interfaith Lecture, 13 March - Who are the Quakers and what did they do to end the Slave Trade? 13 March, 7.00pm.**

South East England Faith Forum (SEEFF) would like to invite you to the second of its Elizabeth Jenkerson Memorial Interfaith Lectures. Our March lecture is titled:

'Who are the Quakers and what did they do to end the Slave Trade?'

13 March, 7.00pm

Our speaker is Richard Seebohm who served as the representative in Brussels at the Quaker Council for European Affairs. The lecture will be on zoom, link below - Please feel free to pass it to your contacts. Via Internet Link <http://bit.ly/3JIHTMw>

Via zoom App  
Id: 4927471394  
Passcode: Connect  
Numeric passcode 4292220 (if asked)

## Diary

**All-age meeting for worship. Theme: Living Faithful Lives**

(worship for our whole community, with a semi-programmed element and some singing): Sunday 2nd March, 10:30-11:30, Meeting House.  
<https://oxfordquakers.org/cyp/all-age-mfw/>

**'The Child as our Teacher.'**

The first of three sessions to explore the gifts and challenges of all ages welcome in our meeting. Sunday 2 March, 12:00-1:15, Meeting House, followed by shared lunch. the first of three sessions to explore the challenges and gifts of all age welcome in our Meeting.

**Next Meeting for Worship for Business: 7.30 pm on Thursday 6 March.**

After consulting with parents, the co-clerks have identified the best time to hold the next Meeting for Worship as 7.30 pm on Thursday 6 March. The meeting will be held online on the Afterword Zoom link.

**World Day of Prayer service.**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 12 pm: Oxford local Meeting is hosting this year's World Day of Prayer service. All are welcome, and we hope for a good Quaker presence this year. Any queries please contact Katharine Nicholas on [thekatharinenicholas@gmail.com](mailto:thekatharinenicholas@gmail.com) or 07968 274608.



### **Oxford and Swindon Area Meeting**

8th March 10:30am-3:00pm. (Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs in the morning; spiritual nurture session in the afternoon). Charlbury Friends' Meeting House, Market St, OX7 3PH.

<https://osamquakers.org.uk/about-osam/>

### **Quaker Bible Study**

Wednesday, 12 March, from 7.00 to 9.00 pm in the Long Room and on the Meeting for Worship Zoom link. We will be reading Ephesians 1, from the 7th verse. All are welcome to join us to wait on the Holy Spirit to teach us.

### **Forest Foxes**

(adventure in the woods, around a fire, for friendship and fun for young people age 10-12):

22 March 2025.

Contact [juliad@quaker.org.uk](mailto:juliad@quaker.org.uk) for details

### **Friday with Friends**

(Theme: *Looking towards Britain Yearly Meeting 2025*). 28 March 7:30pm, Garden Room and online.

### **Bring and Share Lunch**

(food and fellowship with Friends from across our community): 30th March, 12:15, Garden Room.

### **Berks & Oxon Regional Meeting**

(Theme: *Reparations: What do love and justice require of British Quakers now? How should we act, and why?*) 5th April, 10:30-16:00. Jordans Friends' Meeting House, Beaconsfield HP9 2SN and online. Contact: [office@jordansquakercentre.org](mailto:office@jordansquakercentre.org).

## **Regular Events**

### **Beansprouts Children's Meeting**

(for children under 4): Every Sunday, 10:30 on first Sunday of the month, 11:00 on other Sundays, Long Room.

<https://oxfordquakers.org/cyp/beansprouts/>

### **Sunflowers Children's Meeting**

(worship for school-age children). The theme for March is **faith**. Every Sunday, 10:30 on first Sunday of the month, 11:00 on other Sundays, Long Room.

<https://oxfordquakers.org/cyp/sunflowers/>

### **Tea Cake and Play**

(weekly morning chat and fun session for babies, toddlers and their grown-ups)

Every Tuesday 10:00-12:00, Meeting

House. [playgroupsupport@oxfordquakers.org](mailto:playgroupsupport@oxfordquakers.org)

<https://oxfordquakers.org/cyp/baby-and-toddler-group/>

## **Looking further ahead**

### **Britain Yearly Meeting**

with a theme of *Peace* (including children's programmes and Junior Yearly Meeting): 23-26 May 2025, Friends House (London), and online.

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

### **Junior Gathering**

(for young people aged 11 to 14) and **Senior Conference** (for young people aged 15-18) are Quaker residential gatherings for young people from across the South of England. 23rd-30th August 2025.

<https://fsse.org.uk>

### **Berks and Oxon Regional Meeting**

Speaker: Ben Pink Dandelion, Honorary Professor of Quaker Studies and Director of the Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies, University of Birmingham.

18th October 2025, Swindon Friends' Meeting House.

## News of Friends

### Alex Smith

Please hold in the light our Friend Alex Smith who was admitted to the JR on 30th January having suffered a brain haemorrhage.

Alex is making gentle progress and, as is common in these circumstances, he is at times experiencing headaches, confused thinking, and finding conversation and word-finding a bit of a challenge. Further updates on his progress will be provided via the general circulation email over the next few weeks.

### Nick Mayhew

Anthea Richards and Anne Watson are preparing a Record of Remembrance for Nick Mayhew, and it would be helpful to have input from people who were on committees with him or otherwise recall his service and worship with us. Please send your contributions to [annewatson1089@gmail.com](mailto:annewatson1089@gmail.com).

### Rene Gill

Some Friends may remember Irene Gill, member of Headington Meeting, who has also attended Oxford Meeting in the past. She died peacefully in her sleep, on February 24th, aged 92, and her daughter Jackie was with her. She was a long-term and passionate supporter of CND. For details of the funeral, contact Stewart Jeffrey of Headington Meeting.

### Marieke Clarke

With heavy hearts, we announce Marieke peacefully passed away at John Radcliffe Hospital, surrounded by family, on Thursday, February 20, 2025.

Her life was a testament to simplicity, peace, and kindness. Marieke's adventurous spirit and unwavering commitment to friendships and empowering the less fortunate touched the lives of all who knew her. Her legacy will live on in the love and warmth she shared with others.

A simple funeral will be held at the Westmill Woodland Burial Ground at 11 am on Saturday, March 1, 2025. All are welcome to join in this time of remembrance. There will also be a Quaker memorial meeting in her honour on another date to be determined. May her soul rest in peace, surrounded by the Light.

Sincerely,

Mehpare Atay

## Notices

### Accommodation Needed

Quaker World Relations Committee is looking for Friends who might be able to host two Friends (one from South Africa and one from Kenya) between 9th and 11th May, and/or one other South African Friend between 5th and 11th May.

They will be guests at Yearly Meeting at the invitation of QWRC. They will also be visiting Charney Manor on 14th May. QWRC have therefore suggested Oxford would be a suitable location for hosting for their first few nights; they will be in Abingdon on the 12th/13th with Tim Gee.

I can put one of them up on my sofa or floor with a sleeping bag, but that is not ideal. I spent time with all three at the World Plenary Meeting last August, and can vouch for them being delightful company! Does anyone have a spare bed they would be willing to lend a Friend for 9th-11th May, or better yet 5th-11th? If so please let me know and cc [rebeccap@fwcc.world](mailto:rebeccap@fwcc.world)

In friendship, and thanks in advance for any help, Tas.

**C.G. JUNG** *The Collected Works*. Hardback, good condition. £550 ONO. Contact Anna at [aw9178219@gmail.com](mailto:aw9178219@gmail.com).

## Quaker Videos in this Month's Forty-Three



### From Quaker Faith & Practice 20.10 The Source of our Strength

*The place of prayer is a precious habitation: ... I saw this habitation to be safe, to be inwardly quiet, when there was great stirrings and commotions in the world.*

*John Woolman, 1770*



## December 2024

Many meetings and events are held via Zoom. Link for all Oxford Meetings for Worship:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87383304611?pwd=VkkyYzZweVVRZjRmOE1JVDBFdTdwUT09>

Please contact the Office for more details:

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

### OXFORD MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Meetings for worship are in person. Zoom connections are available only when indicated.

For more information, contact the Office at

[office@oxfordquakers.org](mailto: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 followed by breakfast 07:30-08:00

#### Wednesday:

Meeting for Worship followed by lunch 11:45-12:30

#### Thursday:

Meeting for Worship followed by breakfast 07:30-08:00



All Souls College Photo Wikimedia Commons

**Forty-Three** is available online at

<https://oxfordquaker.com/newsletter/>

and on the Oxford Quakers website,

<https://oxfordquaker.com/>

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

#### Editorial Team

Tasha Alden

Michael Hughey

Jimin Kang

### 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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**Please send newsletter contributions by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, the submission deadline.**

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

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