

No 157: January 2022
ACOMB QUAKER NEWSLETTER
Religious Society of Friends



Eddi's Service – Rudyard Kipling

Eddi, priest of St. Wilfrid
In his chapel at Manhood End,
Ordered a midnight service
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,
And the night was stormy as well.
Nobody came to service,
Though Eddi rang the bell.

'Wicked weather for walking,'
Said Eddi of Manhood End.
'But I must go on with the service
For such as care to attend.

The altar-lamps were lighted, –
An old marsh-donkey came,
Bold as a guest invited,
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,
The water splashed on the floor,
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock
Pushed in through the open door.

'How do I know what is greatest,
How do I know what is least?
That is My Father's business,'
Said Eddi, Wilfrid's priest.

'But – three are gathered together –
Listen to me and attend.
I bring good news, my brethren!'
Said Eddi of Manhood End.

And he told the Ox of a Manger
And a Stall in Bethlehem,
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,
That rode to Jerusalem.



Picture: Gregory K. Cameron

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,
They listened and never stirred,
While, just as though they were Bishops,
Eddi preached them The Word,

Till the gale blew off on the marshes
And the windows showed the day,
And the Ox and the Ass together
Wheeled and clattered away.

And when the Saxons mocked him,
Said Eddi of Manhood End,
'I dare not shut His chapel
On such as care to attend.'

This is just one of many poems enjoyed at
the December Shared Lunch on Zoom.
I read it at a school Christmas service when
I was 9.

Nick Folkard

Meeting for Worship

Once again, our Meetings are being held online via Zoom. You can check your video & audio setup beforehand by joining a **Zoom test meeting** here: zoom.us/test It will show you what the screen will look like during the meeting and you can try out the microphone and video. You will find the 'chat' button at the bottom of the screen (if using an iPad, the chat button is under the options that come up when you click the three dots at the top of the screen).

Please make a note of the ID and password before you log in.

Acomb Quaker Sunday Meeting

Weekly: 10:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89405199350?>

Meeting ID: **894 0519 9350**

Password: **728967**

Dates

January

Sunday 9	Meeting for Business on Zoom
Saturday 11	Area Meeting 7pm on Zoom
Sunday 30	All-age Worship Zoom planning meeting (see notice below)
Sunday 16	Shared Lunch after MfW (on Zoom)
Sunday 30	All-age Worship (on Zoom)

All-age Worship

The next All-age Worship will be on **30/1/22** and **Lois** will be hosting a Zoom planning meeting at **7:30pm**, on **Thursday 13th January**. Please let her know if you could help with the planning and she will send you a link to the meeting.

Message from our Clerks

Dear Friends,

It was agreed that, due to the rise in Covid infections nationally and in York, Meetings for Worship will not be held in the Meeting House for the time being. We will return to Zoom meetings until the situation has improved. In many ways, it feels a retrograde step, but if we want to keep ourselves and others safe, it seems the best thing to do. The premises group will be meeting in January and will monitor the situation.

Our warm wishes for Christmas and the New Year,

Sally and Maggie

Coming to a decision

Ruth and I have a car which is getting on in years, and may need quite a bit of money spending on it soon. The question arises: how long do we want to keep it on the road, and do we replace it when its end is nigh?

Since we both retired, you could say that our need for a car is much reduced. Yet it is a difficult thing to think of giving up. We live in Acomb, near to shops and the meeting house: most of our day to day life can be managed with short walks. There are buses into town, and we both have bicycles. But our children live away from home, and their lives are still closely connected to ours, as are our siblings'; and when we go on holiday, it's not easy to break the habit of thinking that a car will be necessary. And our household still seems to produce a myriad of things that are just easier to carry around in our car than in any other way.

We've thought about electric cars. But my own thinking is more about the desirability of public transport, which reduces the pressure for space on the roads. There's something about the idea of people travelling together that is attractive, compared with being wrapped up in my own vehicle; though its undeniably true there is also an attraction in being able to jump in a car and go off somewhere at a moment's notice.

We'd be interested to hear what others think of our dilemma, if indeed it is a dilemma (if neither of us drove, as two of our daughters don't, the issue would be very different). Burning petrol is a killer when it comes to the planet; we'd rather not do it. I sometimes wonder what the citizens of other places would say – Bangladesh, perhaps, or some of those islands in the Pacific that are slowly being submerged beneath the rising sea. Their answer would probably be simple: stop driving now. We would be interested to hear what you think.

James McCarthy

*When suffering constricts the heart,
awe stretches it back out, making us more
compassionate, more loving, more present.*

Valarie Kaur

Daily meditations

This is where I get my readings from:

"A Pool of Quiet - Meditations for a month" Kitty Grave

Published by Friends Fellowship of Healing Price **£1.20**

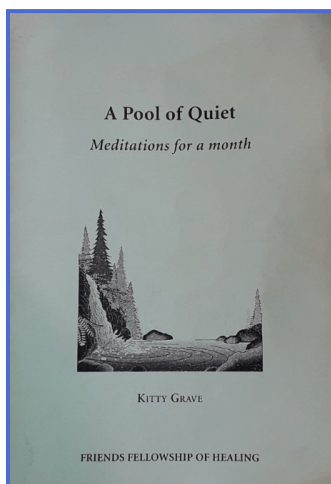
Available from:

Anne Mason annemason1958@gmail.com

Telephone **01425 626 112**

Cheques to be out to **Friends Fellowship of Healing**

Debbie Wright



January Collection: Water Aid

Clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene are basic human rights. They should be a normal part of daily life for everyone, everywhere – but they aren't.



With the help of our amazing supporters, we're working with our partners in some of the toughest places in the world. Together, we've already reached millions of people with **clean water, decent toilets** and **good hygiene**, enabling entire communities to unlock their potential, break free from poverty and change their lives for good.

And while installing taps and toilets is essential to our work, we do so much more. We **convince governments** to change laws, link policy makers with people on the ground, pool knowledge and resources and rally support from people and organisations around the world, making lasting change happen on a massive scale.

Website: www.wateraid.org/uk/

Loretta

Quakers in Yorkshire - Easter Settlement 2022

"Let Your Lives Speak"

For over a hundred years Yorkshire Quakers have come together over the Easter period to spend a few days living in an all age Quaker community. While there have been numerous changes the basic content of the time spent together has remained similar with periods for worship, sessions considering particular topics of interest to Quakers, outdoor walks and social activities. As Local Meetings have tended to reduce in size the Easter Settlement experience has become richer, providing a community dynamic that many individual Quaker Meetings can no longer provide.

More details here: quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/activities/easter-settlement/

Mondegreens

The word Mondegreen, meaning a mishearing of a popular phrase or song lyric, was coined by the writer Sylvia Wright. As a child she had heard the Scottish ballad "The Bonny Earl of Murray" and had believed that one stanza went like this:

*Ye Highlands and Ye Lowlands
Oh where hae you been?
They hae slay the Earl of Murray,
And Lady Mondegreen.*

Poor Lady Mondegreen, thought Sylvia Wright. A tragic heroine dying with her liege; how poetic. When it turned out, some years later, that what they had actually done was slay the Earl of Murray and **laid him on the green**, Wright was so distraught by the sudden disappearance of her heroine that she memorialized her with a neologism.

*** **

I was discussing with a friend the fact that children mishear or misunderstand what they are hearing. Her husband was convinced that Jesus came in an egg because Mary **laid** him in a manger.

Here are some other examples like this: **Pity mice implicitly** (Pity my simplicity) and the Queen has to have plums because we say **Send her victorias**.

Debbie Wright

In a recent MfW, my mind was bouncing all around my head. One of the thoughts that pogoed into it was Thomas Hardy's 'The Darkling Thrush'. Quite apart from the fact that Hardy's poems are truly sublime for me, this one always calms me and it worked its magic on me again.

Written 121 years ago, it still speaks to us today. On its surface level it can be read about the weather and the darkness at this time of year. On another level, it's an extended metaphor about the state of either a troubled mind, or a troubled world. The first two stanzas are full of bleakness. However, the last two show that there is something of God in not only a troubled world, but also in all of us if only we care to look.

Peter Taylor

The Darkling Thrush

I leant upon a coppice gate
When Frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate
The weakening eye of day.
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky
Like strings of broken lyres,
And all mankind that haunted nigh
Had sought their household fires.
The land's sharp features seemed to be
The Century's corpse outleant,
His crypt the cloudy canopy,
The wind his death-lament.
The ancient pulse of germ and birth
Was shrunken hard and dry,
And every spirit upon earth
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among
The bleak twigs overhead
In a full-hearted evensong
Of joy illimited;
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,
In blast-beruffled plume,
Had chosen thus to fling his soul
Upon the growing gloom.
So little cause for carolings
Of such ecstatic sound
Was written on terrestrial things
Afar or nigh around,
That I could think there trembled through
His happy good-night air
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware.

Thomas Hardy (December 31 1900)

Short term therapy for Quakers with The Retreat, York

As a response to the current emergency, the **Quaker Mental Health Fund** is linking with The Retreat York to offer support to Quakers struggling because of the pandemic. This support is available without completing an application form - but it is time limited and will not suit everyone.

Many people are experiencing increased problems with their well-being in the current circumstances. The Quaker Mental Health Fund recognise this and want to offer support to Quakers or those with links to Quakers through access to free, confidential therapy. Up to 6 therapy sessions are offered over the phone or via secure online video links, with a qualified therapist from The Retreat York. The Retreat's team can offer support to people who might be struggling with increased anxiety, stress, depression, bereavement, loss or relationship issues. There will be no cost to you - but any donations will be welcomed.

The service is not suitable for people who are under the care of a Community Mental Health Team or who feel they need immediate or urgent treatment in order to keep either themselves, or someone else, safe. If you are aged 18 or over, simply contact **Alison Mitchell** on mhdo@quakermhfund.uk for more information.





Happy Birthday to anyone with a birthday in January



If you would like Friends to hold you in the light on your birthday please send the **DATE** and the **MONTH** to the newsletter address.

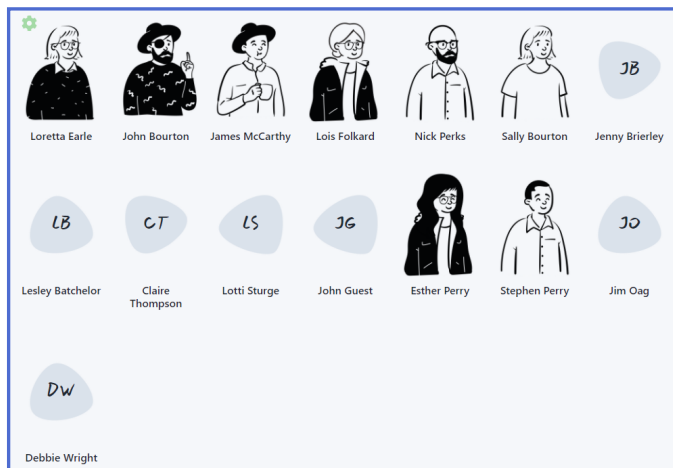
Useful links

- Quaker Faith & Practice** online: qfp.quaker.org.uk/
Quakers in Britain: www.quaker.org.uk/
Quaker Electronic Communication Network: gecn.org.uk/
Northern Friends Peace Board: nfpb.org.uk/
Open to New Light: padlet.com/bdrc/OpenToNewLight

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.

Groucho Marx

Forum



Now we are 15!

If you haven't joined yet, please sign up. If you don't want to create an avatar you can just use your initials.

How can we use the forum to connect Acomb Quakers? Links for Zoom Meetings? Notices? Profiles? Any other suggestions?

Visit the forum here:

quaker.app/acomb/forum/

Last word

As ever, a huge **"Thank you!"** to everyone whose contributions to the newsletter continue to help us all to maintain contact. Please hold everyone in the light until we can meet in person again, especially those who are isolated.

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please use this email address. Deadline is the **3rd Sunday** of each month.

AcombQuakerNewsletter@gmail.com

In Friendship
Loretta