



Better to light one candle ...

PEACE

HOPE



LOVE

JOY

... than to curse the darkness.

Meeting for Worship

The Meeting House is closed until further notice but **Zoom** Meetings are still being held online. 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 – 12:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87929591508>

Meeting ID: **879 2959 1508**

Password: **120454**

Dates

Sunday 3 January	Zoom Business Meeting after MfW
Saturday 9 January	Zoom Area Meeting hosted by Harrogate at 1330
27 January	Holocaust Memorial Day Civic Event (see p4)
Saturday 6 February	Menwith Hill Worship 2-3pm (see p7)
31 July - 6 August	Yearly Meeting Gathering (see p6)

Woodbrooke Online Meeting for Worship

Join us for online worship at various times throughout the week. We offer 1-hour worship at 11:00 on Thursday and 10:30 on Sunday and 30-minute worship throughout the week. We use Zoom for all our worship.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/online-mfw

Everyone is welcome!

	MORNING	AFTERNOON / EVENING
Monday	09:30	
Tuesday	07:00	19:30
Wednesday	07:00 & 09:30	21:00 Young Adult Epilogue
Thursday	11:00 (1 hr)	19:30
Friday		13:00 & 21:00
Sunday	10:30 (1hr)	19:30



Ursula Watt's funeral.

The burial took place at the Mowthorpe Green Burial Site on Friday December 18th. Happily the weather was mild with a southerly breeze. Heather and I were glad to have an excuse to drive outside the ring road and went on the back roads, via Sheriff Hutton. We got near to Terrington, where the lane goes off to the burial ground, to find that the road was signposted as closed. Undeterred, we carried on to the beginning of Terrington village where we found a very large hole in the road, a set of red and white barriers and the abandoned vehicle of Michael Sturge. We were preparing to walk the remaining way, guessing it to be about half a mile, when I sized up the gap to one side and reckoned I could slip our car through. So, between the barriers, and with one wheel partly up the grass bank I got the car through the gap.

A little later we overtook the athletic figure of Michael (who declined a lift) and then drove confidently past the entrance to the burial ground, which has no signpost. Eventually it dawned on us that we had gone too far and we turned around in a gateway and made it into the tiny car park on the second attempt. The hearse arrived next, sliding and slipping around on the wet grass and the bio degradable coffin was taken up the grass by the undertakers.

We were a small group at the graveside, Ursula's two daughters, one in law, one granddaughter and the three from Acomb Meeting. We held a short Quakerly silence, with several short pieces of spoken ministry, remembering Ursula. It was a lovely open space to say farewell.

John Guest

Monthly collection: AgeUK York

A local charity helping local people

AgeUK York is a local charity supporting the older people of York, their families and carers. Since 1971 they have provided a wide range of services which make a valuable contribution to the lives of older people in York by supporting them, their families and their carers. Your donation will make a massive difference to the lives of many people in need of help. Their services include:

- ◆ Providing information and advice
- ◆ Enabling socialisation
- ◆ After Hospital Support
- ◆ Money and Benefits Advice
- ◆ Help at Home
- ◆ Looking after your pet when you're ill
- ◆ Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney
- ◆ Looking after carers



Website: ageuk.org.uk/york/

Donate at Justgiving here:

justgiving.com/campaign/SupportAgeUKYork

Thank you!

Loretta

York Holocaust Memorial Day Civic Event

January 27, 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm Free - online

Join us for York's annual Holocaust Memorial Day Civic Event, a free online event, reflecting on the national theme for 2021, **Be the Light in the Darkness**.

Hosted by the Lord Mayor of York and the Vice-Chancellor of The University of York, this event will feature short talks by **The Archbishop of York**, Student Rabbi **Gabriel Kanter-Webber** and keynote speaker and author of "When Time Stopped", **Ariana Neumann**.

Through speakers and short films, we will reflect on the depths that humanity can sink to, alongside ways in which individuals and communities have resisted that darkness to be the light before, during and after genocide and persecution.

We can all stand in solidarity. We can choose to be the light in the darkness in many ways and places – at home, in public, and online.

Booking through Eventbrite here:

eventbrite.co.uk/e/york-holocaust-memorial-day-civic-event-online-tickets-131457704533



York:
Human
Rights
City

Our New Website

We now have a new website on **QMN** (Quaker Meetings Network) which you can access here:
acomb.quakermeeting.org

Please bear in mind that the overall layout is dictated by QMN, who provide the website service, so many aspects of the pages are fixed and adding pages is not permitted. The website is really aimed at these two audiences:

- ◇ newcomers seeking to find out more about Quakers in general, and about Acomb Quakers in particular
- ◇ potential room hirers.

This is our first attempt so, if you think anything needs to be changed, please email me at the newsletter address. Thank you.

Loretta



Acomb Quaker Meeting

[Homepage](#) [About Quakers](#) [About us](#) [Calendar](#) [Local Quaker History](#) [Room Hire](#) [Contact Us](#)

Quaker Faith & Practice: 21.43 Growing older

A great many men and women [...] have discovered that magnificent opportunities lay all around them. We need not go to the ends of the earth to find them; we need not be young, clever, fit, beautiful, talented, trained, eloquent or very wise. We shall find them among our neighbours as well as among strangers, in our own families as well as in unfamiliar circles – magnificent opportunities to be kind and patient and understanding.

Carr & Acomb Therapy Service

Have you found the past few months particularly difficult?

Carr & Acomb Therapy Service (CATS) offers short and long -term counselling at rates affordable to all. If you would like to find out more please phone or text **07792818187** or email enquire.cats@gmail.co.uk.



Quakers in Yorkshire

MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

16 January 2021 10:00-15:50

Meeting to be held online via Zoom. Friends are asked to register their intention to participate. Please use the following link to register in advance for this meeting:

[zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIlc-6prz4pGtEZ0zdCaMy2B1Qw7r74pA0u](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJIlc-6prz4pGtEZ0zdCaMy2B1Qw7r74pA0u)

For more information please see the **QiY** website:

quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/

Oh No! Are we accidental environmental criminals?

As someone with more than a passing interest in the environment, I have been following John's series on climate change and carbon with interest. The current analysis was of particular interest to me, as we are the owners of an electric vehicle. The debate as to the relative benefits of **EV** (Electric Vehicle) as opposed to **ICEV** (Internal Combustion Engine Vehicle) was something we looked into before making the move from ICEV to EV. Consequently, we were alarmed to read that we may be doing more harm than good.

My first reaction was that did not seem to be so, or at least, not in a simple and straightforward way. I returned to one of the key documents on which I based my decision, which you can read [here](#).

As a result of this reading, I can say that the climate cost of our 30Kw battery is 3 tonnes of carbon. This is roughly equivalent to twice the cost of our projected round trip from Manchester to Boston in the USA. Additionally, the study confirms that our Leaf will have started paying off our carbon debt after two years and cut emissions after 4. So far, so good, so EVs do reduce carbon emissions and air pollution. And we are entitled to a foreign holiday, aren't we?

But some nagging doubts remained after I read the final paragraphs in the article. To be doubly sure I was not deluding myself, I fact checked the Fact Check with Noam Bergman at Sussex University, who is a physicist working in the field. Noam wrote:

"In general, Carbon Brief are pretty good. This looks like an overall reasonable piece as far as it goes, i.e. looking at the comparison of individual EVs compared to ICEVs including electricity production, battery production and inherent uncertainties, etc."

So can Lois and I feel smug and guilt free? Not really. Noam went on to say:

".. this piece is disappointing in its lack of systemic perspective. Two main problems here:

- If lots of people start driving EVs, you not only need to de-carbonize the grid but increase its size for the extra demand for charging all those cars - that's a very big challenge*
- Swapping an ICEV for an EV does reduce emissions but it keeps up demand for travel through private vehicles which is very energy and resource intensive. In other words, optimising the [current] system goes against making bigger changes to [transition to] one which would be more sustainable."*

The problem is then not just the carbon in battery production, it is the huge damage of unregulated lithium extraction and road building as well as our addiction to personal private transportation. Basically, we are benefitting from the privileges the majority of comfortably off people enjoy in the developed world and have come to believe is our right and in which Lois and I are complicit even though we have dropped from two cars to one. The issue is not a debate between ICEVs and EVs in the medium term but the type of society we want to have. If we want to stay green or become greener, the bus, the train, our bicycles and shoes are going to have to be used a lot more and that will affect the choice of where and how we live. So, in the end, are we accidental environmental criminals? I'll leave that for you to decide.

Nick Folkard

I wish to acknowledge the help I received from **Noam Bergman** in preparing this article and recommend the book and the website giving details of Noam's work.

"Transitions in Energy Efficiency and Demand: The Emergence, Diffusion and Impact of Low-Carbon Innovation" Edited By Kirsten E.H. Jenkins, Debbie Hopkins London, Routledge, 2018.

<http://cied.ac.uk/publication/sustainable-travel-visions/>

Can you help?

Jemma will be stepping back from the role of **Co Clerk** for the next 6 months and I wondered if anyone would be willing to help me during this time. The tasks are not onerous and involve:

- support with our Meeting for Business - helping to prepare the draft agenda, supporting during the Meeting;
- helping occasionally with Notices if I was ill or away, or to take a fuller part in this if preferred
- helping on occasions the correspondence and emails.

Please could you have a think about this and let me know if you are interested. Thank you.

Sally

ADVANCE NOTICE: Yearly Meeting Gathering 2021

31 July - 6 August 2021, University of Bath

Our dedicated website contains the full information about the postponement of Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2020 and the scheduled Yearly Meeting Gathering in 2021.

quaker.org.uk/ym

***** Booking for YMG 2021 will open on January 21, 2021. *****

quaker.org.uk/events/yearly-meeting-gathering-2021

Menwith Hill Worship 2-3pm

RAF Menwith Hill, Birstwith, Harrogate HG3 2RL is a Royal Air Force station which provides communications and intelligence support services to the United Kingdom and the United States. Meeting for Worship outside Menwith Hill takes place on the first Saturday every two months: February, April, June, August, October and December. This action is a York Area Meeting Concern and Harrogate Meeting would appreciate support.

For details/help getting there, contact:

Gilly Charters (07808 863009), *Barbara Penny* (07737 368459) or *Ruth Rymer* (01765 77943)

Do join us, bringing a chair and wear warm clothing!

From **QuakerSpeak**, a weekly Quaker video project by Friends Journal.

Practicing the Spirituality of Lightheartedness

Part of the spirituality of lightheartedness is that it can get us through dark times.

It's definitely one of our Quaker faults that we take ourselves too seriously, and it gets in the way sometimes of us doing good work.



It's really not all on you, and to take yourself too seriously is really an act of arrogance, and we just need to relax and enjoy.

Watch the video here:

quakerspeak.com/video/practicing-the-spirituality-of-lightheartedness/

My summer project



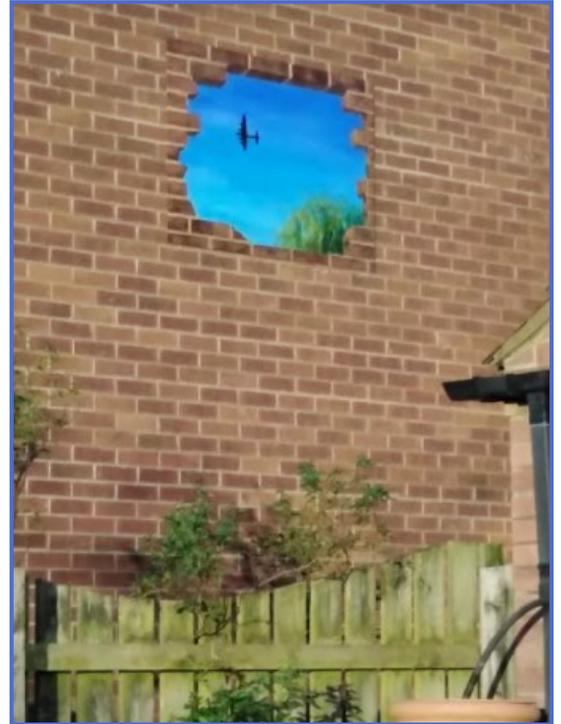
Early in the summer an extension to our neighbour's house began. Although we felt we could not object as our own house has been extended in the past the thought of looking out at a blank brick wall instead of a garden, trees and fields was depressing. So, in order to have something more interesting I asked our neighbours if they would mind putting up a *trompe l'œil* on the wall. Luckily, they thought it was a great idea!

I then emailed my friend Peter Kearney, who has painted many of the *trompe l'œil* in Knaresborough, to see if he would paint one for me. Unfortunately, he refused the commission because he was already working

on one for someone else.

He told me I should paint it myself and he would be prepared to offer advice along the way. So my summer project began.

After discussion with Kristen, we decided on a surreal image of a hole in the wall with a plane seen through it which references his time in the RAF working with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. I already had a photograph of the Lancaster bomber as it flew over the centre of York. The top of the tree is the willow we used to be able to see.



Finally, the outside of their extension is complete, and Kristen & family were able to put the picture up.

Now we have a little bit of permanent summer which is much better than the blank wall.

Lois Folkard

Last word

Once again, a huge **"Thank you!"** to everyone whose contributions to the newsletter are helping us all to maintain contact during lockdown. Please continue to hold everyone in the light until we can meet again. If you would like to share some of **your** news or insights in the next newsletter, please send any contributions to this email address:

AcombQuakerNewsletter@gmail.com

In Friendship
Loretta