

Newsletter No 115

ACOMB QUAKER MEETING

April 2018



The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

Gerard Manley Hopkins
(1844 - 1889)





The three very local Friends who made it to the Wednesday midweek meeting on a snowy 28th February found deep inner silence as they worshipped in the library and with outer ears listened to the joyful sound of numerous children sledding.

Ruth McCarthy

Quakers in Yorkshire Book of Members & Attenders

The Meeting has bought copies of the 2018 edition, which is published every three years. They will be "on the table" for the next few weeks – price £5. *Heather S*

From Quakevine:

Data Protection regulations: the bitesize version

David Roberts, as clerk of our Area Meeting trustees, offers here the first of a series of 'bitesize regulations' – a user-friendly guide to keeping up with what is required of us so that we keep abreast of changes in law.

If you are emailing out a document to a group of Friends:

- ◇ Enter just one name (probably your own) in the first address line .. or leave it blank
- ◇ Then click to open up the other address lines [**CC** – copy to; and **BCC** - blind copy to].
- ◇ Now put into **BCC** line either the email group name or all the individual names of the Friends you want to receive the message.

That way you are hiding and therefore protecting the email addresses of all the Friends concerned.

YORK WOMEN'S CONFERENCE 2018

April 21, 2018 @ 9:45 am at Priory St Centre

Cost: £20 standard, £10 low income. Women only event.

A one day conference to mark and celebrate the centenary of (some) women getting the right to vote in 1918. **100 years of progress?** A programme of panels and workshops, drama and film. A day to inform, educate and inspire!

www.yorkhumanrights.org/event/york-womens-conference-2018/

Swarthmore Lecture 2018: 'Changing ourselves, changing the world'



The 2018 Swarthmore Lecture will be given by **Chris Alton** who is a life-long Quaker, artist and activist. Through his lecture **'Changing ourselves, changing the world'** Chris will share how he seeks to challenge people and create change through his art and how art can be an act of witness.

Chris will address the challenges we face in a changing and increasingly violent and fractured world, while considering how he as an artist and we as Friends might respond creatively, and offer subversive alternatives.

Terry Oakley, clerk of the Swarthmore Lecture Committee said, "The committee is really excited that Chris will be giving this year's lecture and sharing with Quakers how he witnesses to his faith through his art. Chris gives testimony to his Quakerism through his art, which speaks an important message to the Quaker community and beyond".

The lecture presentation at **7pm on 5 May at Friends House** in London will make use of a variety of media, including music, video and visuals, as well as words. A book to accompany the lecture will be produced and available later in the year.

Suggestions for stilling before Meeting

This verse was used in a Children's Meeting:

Still, still, very still

For a moment deep and still

Keep our minds and bodies still

Still, still, very still

Now I'm ready for listening, God

Now I'm ready for hearing.

Holly

Fundraising Meal for Sasha's Namibia expedition

Please come and support this special Shared Meal at the **Acomb Meeting House on Friday 13 April.**



We will gather from 18.00 for a **18.30** start. Please bring contributions of food towards the meal and it would be really helpful if you could let Debbie Wright know whether you are bringing a **sweet**, a **savoury** or a **salad**.

Offers of help with preparation, serving and clearing up will also be very welcome! Please also bring donation of **£5** (or more) as Sasha still has to raise around £700.

If you can't come to the meal, you can still donate online at Sasha's "go fund me" page:

www.gofundme.com/sashas-namibia-fund

All contributions gratefully received!

St. Columba's crafting group, **Crafts with a Cause**, will host **Interchurch Month**. We invite members of York churches to join us on **April 4, 11** (decorating vases), **18 and 25** (making tissue paper flowers to put in the vases). Those who participate can take home vases to decorate the worship space or give as gifts. This group meets every **Wednesday** from 1-3 pm in the Main Hall at **St. Columba's URC**, 32 Priory Street, YO1 6EX

SHARED LUNCHES

The first in the new round of Shared Lunches will be on April 15. The topic will be the respective roles and responsibilities of Elders and Overseers. Agenda for this meeting on the day.

Dates for April 2018

Everyone is welcome at everything.

**If no venue is given, events take place at
Acomb Meeting House.**

Regular Events

Every Sunday: 10.30-11.30 Meeting for Worship (MfW) and Children's Meeting (followed by refreshments)

Every Wednesday: 11.30-12.00 MfW (+ refreshments)

1st Sunday: 09.45 Upholding Meeting before MfW
(Debbie Wright)

2nd & 4th Sunday: 12.00-12.30 'Afterword' after MfW

3rd Sunday: 12.00-13.30 Shared Lunch after MfW

Shared Lunches

April 15	Roles and responsibilities of Elders & Overseers.
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Special Monthly Collections

April	Learn Bag	<i>Helen Snelson</i>
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THANK YOU!!

February collection for **Keep Your Pet** **£85**

Please Note a full diary of events for York AM and LMs is available on the York Quakers website:

www.yorkquakers.org.uk/eventscalendar.html

Study Group

Friday 20	19.30 "What is the point of Quakerism?" <i>Nick F</i>
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April

Easter Sunday 1	<u>Upholding Meeting</u> : 09.45 - 10.15 before MfW
Wednesday 4, 11, 18, 25	<u>Crafts with a Cause</u> : 13.00-15.00 St. Columba's URC (see p5)
Saturday 7	<u>All Area Meeting</u> : Elders & Overseers Friargate 10.00 - 15.00
Friday 13	<u>Shared Meal for Sasha</u> : 18.00 (see p5)
Sunday 15	<u>Shared lunch</u> : 12.00 after MfW (opposite & p5)
Friday 20	<u>Study Group</u> : 19.30 (see opposite)
Saturday 21	<u>York Women's Conference</u> : 09.45 Priory St Centre (see p3)
Saturday 28	<u>Kindlers</u> : 10.00-16.30 Friargate (see p12)

May

Friday 4 - Monday 7	<u>Yearly Meeting</u> : Friends House, London Website: quaker.org.uk/events/ym2018
Saturday 5	<u>Swarthmore Lecture 2018</u> : 19.00 Friends House, London (see p4)
Sunday 6	<u>Upholding Meeting</u> : 09.45 - 10.15 before MfW <u>Business Meeting</u> : 12:00 after MfW
Sunday 13	<u>Area Meeting</u> : 13:30 - 16:30 Friargate

If you are welcoming people to the Meeting, please remember to offer them a printed copy of the newsletter. We always have a few spare copies printed for newcomers to gain a flavour of Acomb Meeting.

Ageism?

In a Twitter piece written by **James Woodward**, head of Sarum College, and entitled "**Is the Church Of England (are Quakers) guilty of ageism?**" the following questions were posed.

How might the Churches work together in moving age, older people, and our responsibility to them further up the political agenda? How can those with the power to engage with ageism deal with the impoverishment of living that some older people embrace? We might act as advocates for older people in helping them to negotiate the complex world of health and social services. All Churches should help people to voice their concerns to professionals. We can ask those who set policy how older people might enjoy all the benefits of a modern society. In this way, we can ensure that the needs of older people are moved up the political agenda.

Elisabeth S

March for the NHS

Seventy years after its foundation the NHS is in crisis. Years of austerity and privatisation has brought this precious lifeline and our whole social care system to their knees.

That's why, on **Saturday 7 April**, there will be a march in York to oppose the NHS sell-off and chronic underfunding. It is time to fully renationalise this great public service and save it for future generations.

10.30am – 11.00am Assemble outside York Minster.

11.00am Depart to march around the city centre via St Helen's Square.

12.30pm Rally in St Helen's Square at 12.00pm.

In addition we will be promoting a petition calling for a series of measures to ensure healthcare for the many, not the few, over the next few weeks. [**You can sign online right now!**](#)

Northern Scripture Festival

On **12 May 2018** a celebration of the bible is being held in York at **All Saints School** (lower site).

The aim is to help Christians to know more about the bible, and to encounter it in new and dynamic ways.

Through talks, workshops, exhibitions, and worship, Festival-goers will see the bible in a whole new light.

The Festival is rooted in the Catholic tradition, but is open to all Christians. **Churches Together in York** has been asked to publicise this exciting event. To find out more, visit the website:

www.scripturefestival.org/york-12-may-2018.html

Bookings for York on 12 May are now open
Just £5 per person!

Advices & Queries 5:

Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light. **Remember the importance of the Bible, the writings of Friends and all writings which reveal the ways of God.** As you learn from others, can you in turn give freely from what you have gained? While respecting the experiences and opinions of others, do not be afraid to say what you have found and what you value. Appreciate that doubt and questioning can also lead to spiritual growth and to a greater awareness of the Light that is in us all.



York:
Human
Rights
City

You can explore the full programme of events here:

[http://www.yorkhumanrights.org/
events/](http://www.yorkhumanrights.org/events/)

Acomb Churches Together - Listening

About 40 churchgoers, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist and Quaker participated in the second Lent evening at the Methodist Church, led by James McCarthy as the Quaker representative on Acomb Churches Together. James has a particular interest in the art of listening and encouraged the other churches to adopt the theme for their Lent talks.

We talked in pairs about what it was like to be listened to well and our own skills in this. We looked at the Bible and what it could tell us about listening. The point was made that listening runs through the whole book right from the start.

We discovered that Mary experienced the annunciation in a quiet place with no distraction, that Samuel was quietly going to sleep at night when he heard God calling, that Joseph listened carefully to Pharaoh's dreams and Pharaoh listened carefully to the interpretation, trusted what he heard and took action. The woman at the well had a conversation with Jesus, a stranger, where she felt heard and was able to seize the moment to move on in her life. There are so many wonderful examples involving people listening well to each other and being transformed ...

Towards the end we considered what makes a "listening church" and a number of people talked about their wish for more short periods of quiet in their church services and about the need to be really honest about how they are with their friends there. What would a "listening" Quaker meeting feel like? We ended by saying together a prayer asking God to help us with our listening as we go through daily life.

Afterwards James and I wondered if there should have been more silence to end with but the way the room was set up, with people sat behind tables in groups, did not really lend itself to that but it was a good sharing. I certainly learned a lot and enjoyed meeting other Christians in Acomb.

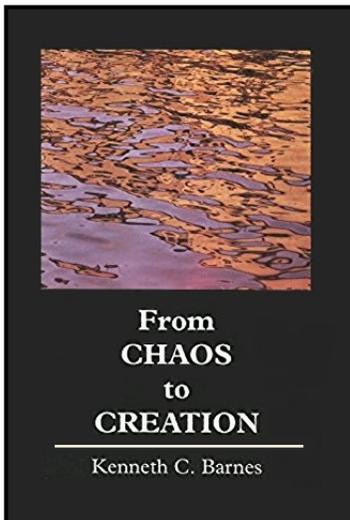
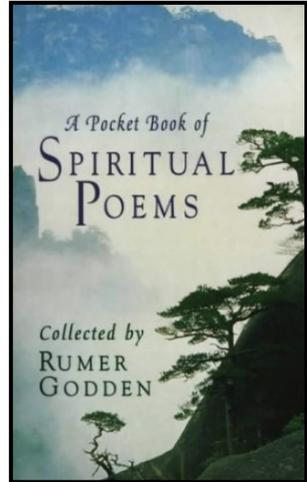
Ruth McCarthy

Library Corner

Hello again. I hope you're enjoying your reading.

I received a donation of two books from an Acomb Friend this month. They're very different, yet similar in some ways. The first is an anthology of poetry, the second a booklet by a man who breathed the essence of Quakerism.

First, the anthology. Mary Brodie has kindly donated a collection of spiritual poems edited by Rumer Godden, author of *Black Narcissus* and *The Diddakoi* amongst other well-received books. The poems, which range widely (from Shakespeare to Charles Causley), had cut deep into her mind and heart. Poetry can help us centre down into the unconscious, where the spirit dwells; from the metaphysical works of John Donne and George Herbert to the love poetry of WB Yeats, poems stir our emotions and we enter an altered state.



This brings me to the other book I've accepted into the library: one by a York Friend, Kenneth C Barnes (1903 –1998), that combines religion and science. Written in 1993, it's a thought-provoking read by a great Quaker thinker: a book for adults, it stretches the mind (the science is a little dated in places, but that isn't a problem in my view).

That's all for now. Happy reading.

Paul O'Kell



THE KINDLERS

Northern Series 2018

JOURNEYING IN THE LIGHT

Workshops based in worship, with time to explore in small groups and for personal reflection.

Venue: **Friargate Meeting House**

April 28: **Prayer - Connecting with the Light**
exploring ways in which we may deepen our inner life

Ann Banks, Ruth McCarthy & Angela Sansam

10am for a drink, 10.30 start, finish at 4.30pm

£10 payable at the door, free drinks available during the day, please bring your own lunch - there will be cake! All are welcome - no pre-booking necessary.

Website: thekindlers.webs.com

Glenthorne Quaker Centre & Guest House, Easedale Rd, Ambleside LA22 9QH info@glenthorne.org Tel:015394 35389

You can browse through all the holidays/courses on our new website (www.glenthorne.org), there will be something that catches your attention!

Please email items for the newsletter to:

[**acombquakernewsletter@gmail.com**](mailto:acombquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

... or give printed copy to **Loretta**

... before the **third** Sunday of the month

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