

Newsletter No 126

ACOMB QUAKER MEETING

April 2019



Seeing this tree always fills me with hope that we do not need to be defined by negative experiences. When a storm tore off a large branch, leaving this huge scar, I thought the damage might kill the tree and yet it still stands and goes on growing.



Quaker Faith & Practice 12.04: The great aim of a Christian community is to enable its members to know what their gift is and then to enable them to exercise it to the glory of God. This may sometimes involve a prolonged and perhaps painful exercise before some members come to accept that the gift they have to offer is not the one they thought.

New life from old roots, 1965

ACOMB & WESTFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

www.acombwestfieldforum.org.uk

“What makes this a place you want to live, work & volunteer in?”

Join us on 6 April 3.30-5.30pm at **Acomb Explore Library** for our **AGM and community event** and get involved!

We'll be sharing feedback from our community **SWOT** sessions (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats) around Acomb and Westfield at our Annual Meeting. Find out about what local people want - and don't want - in our area.

Chat to other local residents over a cuppa and share your views with our committee members. Tell us what you care about, and what developments and facilities you would like to see in Acomb, so we can develop a joint vision for the future - and make it happen. We now have 112 members who - like you - want local people to be able to shape the way Acomb and Westfield develop in the next few years, and we want as many people as possible to get involved.

The neighbourhood plan we produce together can help to protect the distinctive character of our village centre, and improve the buildings, facilities and green spaces used by our communities.

But to do this, we need to hear from you!

Can't make it? Complete our 1 minute online survey:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T8X7FDM



April Shared Lunch

April Shared Lunch will not be on the 3rd Sunday (as it usually is) because 21 April will be Easter Sunday. Instead it will be on 28 April. It should be an enjoyable and interesting participative session: we will be playing the **Boundaries Game**. This has been developed to help us explore the fact that Quakers have many unwritten and often unspoken 'rules', for example, that speaking more than once in meeting or disagreeing with someone in ministry is not normally acceptable. Unwritten rules can be powerful but we sometimes expect people to absorb them by osmosis – discovering and discussing them can be much more useful!

Everyone is welcome. Do come!

Advance notice

On the evening of Wednesday 5 June there will be a visit to York of **Eden Grace**, the 2019 Swarthmore Lecturer. The Swarthmore Lecture is a public lecture given each year, and live streamed, at Britain Yearly Meeting on a topic that is current for Quakers. Eden is an American Quaker who will be talking about the spiritual basis of our sustainability witness. Friargate Meeting House has been booked for the evening of Wednesday 5 June from 7pm so that Friends from across the Area Meeting can meet her and follow up the lecture with her in person.

Please put the date in your diary now.

Britain Yearly Meeting 2019

This will take place on 24-27 May at Friends House, London. Please ask either of us for a brochure 'Preparing for Yearly Meeting' and consider if you would like to go. Those who have been before include James McCarthy, and I am sure he would be pleased to talk about it.

Sally & Jemma

Wydale Weekend 2019

It's that time again Friends! The Wydale planning group have been busy arranging a facilitator and programme for Acomb Meeting's weekend away at Wydale Hall near Scarborough. The date for the weekend is a little later than we have been able to book in the past - it will be from **Friday October 25 to Sunday October 27 2019**. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

Our facilitator isn't new to the Meeting. **Clíodhna Mulhern** was our facilitator in 2015 and has very unique and thoughtful ways of presenting subjects and encouraging discussion. The theme this year is entitled '**Channelling our energies externally**'. All of us either are, or have been, involved in some form of activism through our jobs and/or in our community. We are increasingly aware of a call to action, 'Speaking Truth to Power' within a Quaker framework. On the weekend we will be considering how to confront ... but in a Quaker way.

Clíodhna has been able to demonstrate putting her Quaker Faith into Action by such activities as confronting the Government and major companies involved in the very worrying practice of fracking. Hopefully she will be able to guide us on tackling the many issues that challenge us without having to forego our Quaker principles.

The cost of the weekend will be **£160 per person**. Children under 18 will be able to attend free of charge. If you would like to attend but feel that the cost will prevent you please contact your Overseer as bursaries are available.

The application forms will be available on the first Sunday in April. If you would like to join us please let the Planning Group know that you have completed forms by **July 1** and final payment will be due by **July 31**. Please make cheques out to **Acomb Quaker Meeting**. Please give them to **Jim Oag** or put them in an envelope and place in his pigeonhole.

If you have any questions about the weekend please do not

hesitate to get in touch with the planning group who are:
Sally Bourton, Deb Evans, Thomas Hancock and Debbie Wood.
We will keep you updated with our plans as they develop.

Special collections

February: **Naz & Matt foundation** **£100**

Thanks to everyone for their generous donations.

Peter Taylor

Mrs. Danvers's Diary



Since taking up the position of Housekeeper (and a bunch of keys) to the Meeting House, I have had enormous fun being ruthless, especially in the kitchen. Drawers and cupboards have been emptied, cleaned, restocked and labelled. Anyone not putting things back where they found them risks a Paddington stare.

There are a few innovations: a bin next to the real rubbish bin for all things recycleable and, under the front hall table next to the Food Bank collection, a box for lost property. That also carries a fierce warning: anything left in it for more than a month will **GO**. I'd like to have a composting bin in the kitchen, but I fear it would be fraught with problems.



If you notice any domestic needs or shortcomings, please let me know. Drinks and biscuits are bought by Maggie Coxon and Jo Fox, but I'll happily take a message.

So, to complete a trio of literary allusions, I'm off to enjoy the remains of the day.

Your new housekeeper,
Jenny Hartland

Dates for April

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 (see p8)

1st Sunday (even months): 12:00 Upholding Meeting **after** 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 28

"The Boundaries Game" (see p3)

Special Monthly Collections

April

"York Hospital Butterfly Appeal " (see p12)
Holly Alcock

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.

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

April	
Saturday 6	Menwith Hill Worship: 14:00-15:00 <u>Acomb & Westfield Forum:</u> 15:30-17:30 Acomb Explore (see p2)
Sunday 7	Upholding Meeting: 12:00 <u>after</u> MfW (see opposite)
Sunday 21	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 23	St George's Day
Sunday 28	Shared lunch: (see opposite)
May	
Sunday 5	Business Meeting: 12:00 after MfW
Saturday 11	Area Meeting: 13:30 - 16:00 Friargate

Mid-week Meeting for Worship

The mid-week Meeting for Worship will take place at Muriel Acomb's home: **30 Vyner House, Front Street**. Same day and time: **11.30-12 on Wednesdays**. Please note that it would be very helpful if you could be there by 11.25 to make access easy.

If you are not a regular at the mid-week Meeting you might like to let **Heather** know if you are coming to make sure we have enough chairs.

Are you still using Windows 7?

A warning has been issued over a "serious" Windows 7 bug: www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-47494760 Windows 7 users are at risk from a "serious" bug that could let malicious hackers take over their computer, Google has warned. Cyber-thieves are "actively exploiting" the vulnerability by combining it with a separate flaw found in the Chrome browser. Google has issued an update for its Chrome web browser and Microsoft has said it is also working on a fix for the problem in Windows 7.

Study group at Acomb Meeting House

Friday 26 April These meetings are always relaxed and thought-provoking so please join us to share and discuss. The next topic is: **"What is the place of science in the modern world?"** Refreshments will be provided beforehand at each session. Everyone is welcome at 19:00!

"Jesus today -a Quaker perspective" by Michael Wright

George Fox grew up in his local church where his father was churchwarden but in his teens he rejected the establishment of the professional preachers and church systems. He was deeply critical of their ideas and practices. He refused to pay tithes to the parish clergy whom he described as "hireling preachers".

He refused to accept the hierarchical culture of his day with elaborate and rigid distinctions between people of different social classes. He addressed every person with equal regard whether aristocrat, courtier, justice, housewife, tradesman, servant or labourer and in the same direct terms. He spoke plainly to all. He lived simply, and encouraged his followers to do so too. He wanted no double-standards of truth telling, so refused to take any oaths in courts. These actions, and the fact that he welcomed and encouraged female Quakers to preach and share their message, infuriated the establishment of his day.

UPDATE Special Monthly Collections 2019

We have collections planned as shown in the list below but need suggestions for **July** onwards:

May	Carecent	TBC
June	Solace	Heather Swailes

We would welcome your input and support with this. Please send your suggestions to: Clare.Brint@networkrail.co.uk copying in acombquakerclerks@gmail.com.

Please provide the following information:

Name of the charity; contact details for the charity (website for example); month when you could make the appeal

Thank you in advance.

Clare Brint

Quaker Centre of Congenies

We have their programme for events for 2019 - these include a programme of artists, writing and music retreats from May to October.

There is a lot more information on their website:

www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/

Menwith Hill Worship

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 677943)

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

Quaker Faith & Practice 21.11

Those who have difficulty in accepting the idea of a personal shadow as far as they themselves are concerned, whose knowledge of human nature is two-dimensional (that is, without depth), all too easily think that morality attaches to feelings, that hateful, hostile, cruel or greedy feelings are immoral. They do not, perhaps, realise that the feelings that arise in us are neither moral nor immoral, but neutral. The supreme importance of morality is the way we choose to act on our feelings. And we shall not be free to choose if we do not know what they are.

Jack H Wallis, 1988

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"Ask Me"

Some time when the river is ice ask me
mistakes I have made. Ask me whether
what I have done is my life. Others
have come in their slow way into
my thought, and some have tried to help
or to hurt: ask me what difference
their strongest love or hate has made.
I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
at the silent river and wait. We know
the current is there, hidden; and there
are comings and goings from miles away
that hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say.

William Stafford (1914-93)

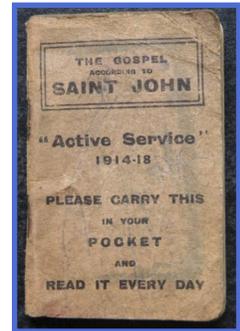
Library Corner

On 11 November last year, at an Armistice service held at Acomb war memorial, I placed the white poppy wreath which Meeting had made to commemorate the end of the Great War. We were represented by James and Ruth McCarthy, Pauline Marshall and myself. It was a moving service. Replicas of St John's Gospel given to soldiers going on active service overseas were offered to those of us present. Some of the originals must have been presented to Quakers who took the King's shilling, plunging London Yearly Meeting into crisis.

There are stories of these little books saving their owners' lives when bullets lodged in them. Tall tales, perhaps – 'Angels of Mons' propaganda – given that most played no such role. Believable because of a desperation to believe. Yet they were undoubtedly a comfort to some of those tormented by fear: the power of the words, even of a book – as a symbol – to cut deep into the unconscious. Carrying one in a breast pocket may not have kept that fear at bay, but may, somehow, have enabled some to endure it.

Interesting that it was a moving little book, rather than indoctrination by the war machine, that sent many men on their way to kill and be killed. And why did so many Quaker men take it to the front whilst bearing arms? A symbol can have different meanings placed on it: some good, some bad; some universal, some cultural, psychological and so forth. It's a replica of a religion I see as born of passivism tainted by the ideology of the "Just War", to comfort the fragile exponents of war who were also its victims. Christians, as well as members of other religions and none, fought on both sides, of course.

You can now borrow a replica copy of St John's Gospel from our library.



Paul O'Kell

April's Special Collection

Help create a new maternity bereavement suite at York Hospital so that families can make memories to last a lifetime.

Every week at York Hospital a family will learn that their baby is unlikely to survive birth. We know there is nothing that can take away the pain for those families following a late pregnancy loss, still birth or death of their baby soon after birth, but we also know how precious those few hours or days can be before they have to say their final goodbyes.

At York Hospital, staff are grateful to have a designated room for parents to use and stay in with their baby. However, it is just a room at present. It's quite small and functional and we know it has the potential to be much better.

£25,021 raised so far!

Your support can help raise £250,000 to create a new maternity bereavement suite which will provide a spacious, comfortable and safe space for parents.

Fundraising Team: Tel: 01904 724521

Email: charity.fundraising@york.nhs.uk

Donate online: www.justgiving.com/campaign/butterflyappeal



Butterfly Appeal



Please email items for the newsletter to:

AcombQuakerNewsletter@gmail.com

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

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

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