

FRIARGATE NEWS

December 2020

Issue 26

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness



photo: Kate Harper

Bring a candle to Christmas Eve Meeting!

Our 7 pm Christmas Eve Meeting will have to be a little different this year.

We will be using Zoom – but most of us have got quite used to this and hope to be able to capture some of the ‘magic’ of the occasion, even if we are in our own homes. When you log into the Meeting you will arrive muted and there will be music playing. There will be one screen with a lighted candle, we suggest you ‘pin’ this screen (How to do so? see page 3 assistant) and sit with this in the semi-dark.

In the early part of the Meeting there will be musical contributions from two households. As everyone else will be muted we are invited to join in and sing along, or simply sit quietly and listen. There will be silence after each musical ministry. A few minutes after the second contribution we will all light our own candles. We can then unpin the first candle screen and see everyone’s candles.

There will then follow a period of about twenty minutes of unprogrammed silent worship, followed by a final carol.

We hope you will come and try this start to Christmas.

Bronwen Gray

Heart and Mind Prepared

Sarah Allen writes: "Advice 42 is the one which will be read out during Meeting for Worship in December, so here is a chance to think about the words before the occasion. Hopefully, reflecting on it in advance will inspire our thoughts on the message of this apt passage."

Advices and Queries: 42

We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life.

Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.

It's not heavy – it's my world!



During the 2018 Conference in Norway of Quakers from the whole Europe and Middle East Section (EMES), Susanna Mattingley spoke about the Quaker World Office's sustainability programme.

Afterwards our talented European Friend **Erik Dries** was moved to sketch on the general noticeboard his response to the environmental crisis.

Your Zoom assistant for Christmas Eve Meeting

To pin a video screen in zoom: 1. Right-click on or hover your cursor over the video screen you wish to pin, then click the three dots (...) that appear.

2 .From the menu that appears, choose Pin Video.

An Invitation to intervisitation – but don't delay

New Earswick Meeting have arranged for members of the York Interfaith Group to join their Sunday worship on the **29th November**. Anyone in Friargate who would also like to be there is encouraged to **let David Roberts (Clerk) know by email on newearswick@quaker.org.uk by Friday the 27th November** and he will send the joining information. The meeting begins at 10.25 am and lasts for about 55 minutes.

Sometimes

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail,
sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war;
elect an honest man, decide they care
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best efforts do not go
amiss, sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
that seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you. 'Anon'

I asked the Shetland-based poet's permission to use this piece. She replied that she's never really been satisfied with it and would rather I credited it to Anon. So I've acted accordingly (and have turned a blind eye to the old-fashioned sexist language). Ed.

Quaker Worship

"We may become aware as we sit together that we are part of a greater unity, a unity of life perhaps, or a unity of being. Alternatively we may become aware that the ministry that is being spoken in Meeting comes, not just from the person speaking, but from something deep inside them which is also inside us, because what is being said speaks to us directly and exactly. Or we may become aware that the truth we are discerning, through both the ministry and the silent meditation, is part of the ultimate truth we have always been longing for. We may not understand what it is we are experiencing here, but we can be sure we are experiencing something beyond our normal selves and the normal world we inhabit. It may fill us with awe or wonder or gratitude. And if we give ourselves to that feeling and say 'yes' to it, that is surely true worship."

Rex Ambler *The Quaker Way* (2012) *This was quoted during worship in November:*

FRIARGATE NEWS contact details

Next issue's deadline: **Sunday 20 December** Font: **Palatino Linotype 12**

Barbara Windle barbwindle@outlook.com or Julia Terry jhterry10@gmail.com

Robin's Round

I am the proper bird
for this season –
Not blessed St Turkey,
born to be eaten.
I'm man's inedible
Permanent bird.
I dine in his garden.
My spoon is his spade.
I'm the True Token
Of Christ the Child-King:
I nest in man's stable,
I eat at man's table,
Through all his dark winters
I sing. U A Fanthorpe



FRIARGATE'S DECEMBER EVENTS

Meetings for worship there are two time slots each week for worship:
Sunday 10.30 (<https://zoom.us/j/413858597>) & Wednesday 1.15 – 1.45pm

Quiet Time at home 9:00 - 9:15 am daily. Reflect in silence in a virtual group.

Mindful Makers Every Wednesday morning 10.30 – 11.30. See Friargate Extra

Coffee and Chat Every Thursday morning 10.30 – 11.30. See Friargate Extra

Pilgrim Poetry Tuesday 1st & 15th December 5-6 pm *details: Anna Baldwin*

Clifton Group Saturday 5th at 10.30am. Topic: Our Favourite Festive/
Frivolous Christmas Memories. Come with fairy lights, mince pies and crackers!

Friargate Local Meeting Sunday 6th December, after worship

Afterword Sunday 13th after worship for half an hour

Book Group Wednesday 16th at 7.30 pm. Topic: **Christmas Pudding** (Nancy Mitford). Contact Donald Purves or James Barclay for the Link.

Christmas Eve Meeting Friday 7pm. Details on front cover

Attendees Group Sunday 27th December after worship

NOTICE READERS & SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

December 6th David Laverick (see contact details below)

Other Sundays: Ros Batchelor 01904 624216 rosbatchelor@ntlworld.com

Breakfast Meeting: Margaret & David Laverick 798050/ hobgate39@gmail.com

Collections: 6th & 13th York Samaritans: 20th & 27th Peacemakers