



Romford Quakers

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QUAKER WEEK



A slightly different format for this edition of the Newsletter.

Sunday 24th is the beginning of Quaker week. The focus this year is on "Welcoming Families".

We are especially lucky at Romford to have families come to Meeting for Worship on Sunday, and to be able to offer a Childrens' Meeting - and receive their ministry - whenever they are present. Indeed the children attended the previous Business Meeting.

There is a quotation from Quaker Faith & Practice that seems appropriate to share:

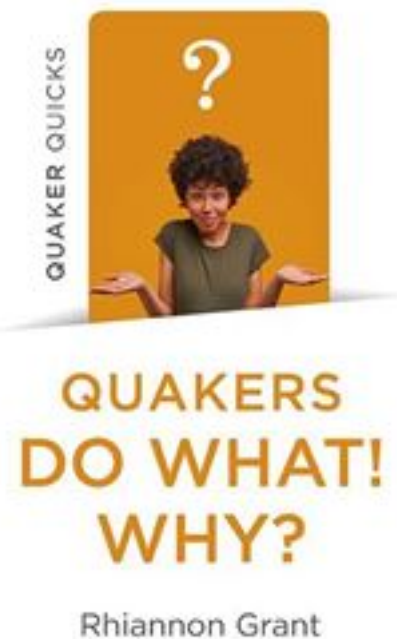
If we take seriously the nurture of our children in the worshipping group, we must start by re-appraising the whole life of the group. What kind of communication exists between us all? Do we know one another as people sharing joys and sorrows? Do we have enough confidence in each other to know that our problems as well as our convictions and uncertainties can be shared with understanding? How is the child and the stranger received amongst us? Do we see our young people as individuals we want to know and care for and do we want to provide opportunities when they can get to know and care for us? Are they encouraged to feel that they have much to give us, that we value them and are the poorer without the insights and questioning they provide? Are we across all the ages a community learning together? Do we consciously look for experiences which can be shared by the whole community? Children and young people need their own peer groups but are encouragingly appreciative of the whole group sharing when they feel an integral part of it and can share in situations which deepen relationships and form lasting friendships. Part of that sharing is learning to know of our past as Quakers and of our Christian roots but even more necessary is the sharing of what we as Quakers believe today and how this should be shaping our lives both individually and corporately. Together we have a task in exploring our faith today with all its implications for action. Peggy McGeoghegan, 1976 Chapter 10.10

QUAKER WEEK

Although we have not been able to prepare an event for Quaker Week 2022, we decided at the last Business Meeting to prepare an outreach event for **Quaker Week 2023**. Meanwhile we shall begin to use social media as a form of outreach - bringing to the public an awareness of who we are, how we try to live, and how they might contact us. The intention is that this will be done through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Rhiannon Grant - author of a number of Quaker Quicks including Quakers Do What! Why? has given Romford LM permission to used her TikTok videos on our social media tagging her original content.

By the way, Rhiannon's book is easy to read and is formed around those questions often asked by non-Quakers and newcomers. It considers how we make decisions, why we don't baptise, and diversity within Quaker groups. It is a perfect read for Quaker Week.



Another way in which we have chosen to engage in social media for the purposes of outreach is to launch a **Romford Quakers Youtube Channel** - our first video went live this week. If you are reading this in the PDF format you can click the image to watch the short video - please consider "liking", "subscribing" and sharing the video on your own social media and among your family and friends - it will help other Friends

we have yet to welcome find us. If you are reading the paper copy here is the link <https://youtu.be/SODLncb2LPU>

If you have ideas or suggestions for an event or events that we might hold, then please let the Clerks know: romfordclerkteam@gmail.com.



NEWS & POETRY

Area Meeting

The next area meeting will be held at Epping Friends Meeting House at 6:30pm on Wednesday 28th of September. BM appointed our Friend's Tony, Mark, and Gavin as representatives. The address is **Friends Meeting House, Hemnall St, Epping CM16 4LL.**

Springclean

The BM agreed to a day (or three) each year in which attenders and members come together to give something back by cleaning the Meeting House. Tony will arrange the dates in consultation.

Quaker Week Resources

can be found here <https://www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-week-2022>

You can find information about Meeting for Worship, how Quaker meetings are a great way for people of all ages to spend time together. There is a Quaker take on parenting and being raised in a Quaker family, as well as details of how to join online Meetings for Worship. There are answers to questions about Quakerism and short courses that you can take online at the Woodbrooke/ <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/>

Poets Corner

Ursula a. Fanthorpe (1929-200). A Quaker.

Collateral damage

The minor diplomat to brings terms for a ceasefire
Enters through a side-door, in the small hours,
Wearing a belted raincoat.

The children have become bold. At the first siren
They cried, and ran for their mothers.
Now they are worldly-wise,

They clamour to watch dogfights above the house,
They prefer under-the-kitchen-table to the shelter,
They play fighting games

Of reading the paper by bomb light,
Pretending to be the enemy. These children
Are no longer safe

They have learned rash and contrary forever.
Come soon,
O minor diplomat in the belted raincoat, come
To capitulate. For the children have ack-ack nerves,

And a land mine has fallen next door.

Under the reservoir, under the wind-figured water,
Are the walls, the church, the houses,
The small human things,

That in drought rise up gaunt and dripping,
It was once Mardale, both is and is not Mardale,
but is still there

Like the diplomat, and the crazy fearless children
Who progress through their proper stages, and the churchbells
With their nightly riddles,

And the diplomat, and the children are still running
Away from the shelter, into the path of the bomb.