

Abingdon Quaker Meeting Newsletter

July 2022 (online version)

No. 394

Meetings for Worship

In Person

Sundays 3rd, 17th, 24th & 31st July 10:15am in the Northcourt Centre

Thursday 7th July 7:30pm in the Garden Room, St Ethelwold's

Sunday 10th July 10:30am in St Ethelwold's Garden (Garden Room if wet)

Note the start time. Please bring warm clothing and/or wet weather gear, depending on the forecast.

On Zoom

Thursday 21st July 7:30pm (log in from 7:00pm)

Meeting ID: 899 4318 5568 Passcode: ALQME

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943185568?pwd=ZDhNWEZlY0FZaXdCemdKdnd3MWpHUT09>

Advance Notice: Return to Meetings at the Abbey Centre

From Sunday 7th August all Sunday Meetings for Worship will once again be held in the Abbey Centre (off Audlett Drive), starting at 10:15am. There will be a more detailed message from our Clerk and Assistant Clerk in the August newsletter.



'I ... said unto them that the ground was as holy as any other, and that Christ did meet upon a mountain, and by the seaside' (George Fox, 1689) – and, he might have added, 'in a garden'. We thank the Fellowship of St Ethelwold for graciously permitting us use of their garden, making it possible for us to meet at a time during the pandemic when indoor places of worship were closed.

Abingdon Quaker Matters

July Appeal: Helen & Douglas House

From Chris Sewell

Our appeal this month was proposed by Adrienne Fraser. Helen & Douglas House provides hospice care for babies and children in Oxfordshire and surrounding counties. It was the world's first children's hospice caring for babies and children up to the age of 18.



The death of a child is every parent's worst nightmare, but nobody ever thinks it will happen to them. Hearing the unimaginable news that your child is terminally ill can feel as though your whole world is falling apart. Helen & Douglas House helps local families cope with the challenges of looking after a terminally ill baby or child who will die prematurely. At the toughest time of their lives, Helen & Douglas House gives families the time and space to enjoy the precious moments they have left with each other. In the midst of exhaustion and grief, staff help them cope with their child's final days. When a child dies, they are there to support the whole family at this really tragic time. Parents, brothers, sisters, and grandparents are all part of the Helen & Douglas House family.

Helen & Douglas House needs to raise £3.6 million each year in order to care for local terminally ill children at the hospice and at home. Their service provides round-the-clock care in a warm, loving environment. They are a comforting cocoon filled with laughter, a peaceful place where families can create happy memories in their last days, weeks, months or years together.

You can donate in these ways:

- Online at <https://www.helenanddouglas.org.uk>
- By cash, after Meeting for Worship on the first and third Sundays of July.
- By credit card over the phone. Call 01865 799 150 Monday to Friday 9am–5pm.
- By cheque payable to Helen & Douglas House. Send your donation to Fundraising, Helen & Douglas House, 14a Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RW. Alternatively, you can hand in your cheque at the charity's Abingdon shop: 18, High Street.

If you're having a clear-out at home, you can donate items for Helen & Douglas House to sell at its Abingdon shop.

Thank you.

Helen & Douglas House is a Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales under Company Number 4120488. Registered Charity Number: 1085951.

Summer Outings

This year's summer outing will visit Chris and Kate Sewell's home in Wheatley on the afternoon of Sunday 18th September. Despite its lateness the date still falls within summer, as the equinox (the start of astronomical autumn) comes at the end of that week. Further information will follow in due course.

The Meeting's children will enjoy their outing somewhat earlier, on the afternoon of Sunday 17th July. For further information, please send an email to children@abingdonquakers.org.uk

Around the Area and Region

All-Age Area Meeting

Saturday 9th July 10:30am, Faringdon Meeting House, 4 Lechlade Road, SN7 8AL

The area meeting for worship for Church affairs on Saturday 9th July will be a special one focusing on young Friends, families and children. It will be held at Faringdon Meeting House, which has a lovely garden and a room to escape to if it rains. There will be outdoor games and an opportunity to picnic together (please bring your own). All suggestions for children's activities are most welcome.



The organisers would like to have some advance information about the number of children they can expect, so if you think you may be coming with children please let Alan, Rosie or Judy know.

Built in the 1670s, Faringdon is the oldest Meeting House in Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and is a Grade II listed building. You can learn more about its history at <https://www.faringdon-quakers.org.uk> and <https://www.faringdon.org/friends-meeting-house.html>

An Opportunity to Discuss the New OSAM Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

Thursday 7th July, 7pm, online

Katherine Gee, the Area Meeting's Safeguarding Co-ordinator, has been organising a series of Zoom meetings to provide an opportunity for Friends to discuss the new policy and procedures. Previous meetings have been directed towards specific roles within OSAM; the meeting on 7th July is for members and attenders in general of Abingdon, Burford, Charlbury, and Faringdon LMs (there is another meeting on 14th July for the other four LMs).

Zoom weblink:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87370014936?pwd=aC9BYUpNMHpzdW4wNzNzNzZqd1hVQT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 873 7001 4936

Passcode: Safe

The policy and procedures document can be accessed via our website at

<https://abingdonquakers.org/safeguarding/>

An Invitation from Didcot Quakers

Esther Peacock, a member of Abingdon Meeting, has set up a Meeting in her home town of Didcot and writes:

We would welcome support for Didcot Meeting.

We meet in the Civic Hall on Sundays from 9.30–10.30 and also on Wednesdays at 12.30pm, hosted by Derek Holland upstairs in the Park Room. You are welcome to bring along your lunch!

We look forward to welcoming you. Any questions – phone Esther on 07517 726903.

From the Wider Quaker Community...

How are Quakers Supporting Climate Action at the UN? – A Recorded Talk

QUNO's Representative for Human Impacts of Climate Change, Lindsey Fielder Cook, gave a presentation on Quaker work at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), hosted by the world Quaker body Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). In her talk, Lindsey explained the work of the IPCC and how Quakers participate in the negotiations.

For a short introductory video on QUNO's work at the IPCC and a recording of Lindsey's full talk, visit the QUNO website: <https://quno.org/timeline/2022/5/quno-joins-talk-how-are-quakers-supporting-climate-action-un> (alternatively, go to <https://quno.org> and type IPCC in the Search box. Scroll down the list of results until you reach 'QNO joins talk on "How are Quakers supporting...?"').

The Burning Case for Climate Reparations

Thursday 7th July 7pm, Friends' House, London

A discussion on how colonialism, free markets and corporate power have created the climate crisis, and where reparations figure in an agenda for climate justice. This event is organised by the COP26 Coalition and is hosted by Friends' House.

Entrance is free, but you need to register on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-burning-case-for-climate-reparations-tickets-368158741707> Alternatively, visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> and search for events containing the text 'climate reparations' taking place in London.

Faith in Action in and around Abingdon

Weekly Vigil against the War in Ukraine

Every Monday 8.15–8.45am until hostilities end, Abingdon War Memorial

Vigil with banners 'No More War' and 'No to Putin's War, No to NATO expansion'.

Abingdon Peace Group

Tuesday 19th July 8pm, online

'The Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): Update and next steps.' Rebecca Johnson is director of Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, as well as a co-founding strategist and organiser of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. She is just back from Vienna where the first Meeting of States Party to this treaty (MSP1) met in June. She will speak to Abingdon Peace Group and friends. Join online from 7:45pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91315134101?pwd=RmxHLzBQaXlHYjFSRm5nREVzYjdSdz09>

Meeting ID: 913 1513 4101 Passcode: 015836

Abingdon Carbon Cutters

Wednesday 20th July 7:30pm, St Ethelwold's House, 30 East St Helen Street

'From Activist to Politician: The Vale Climate Lead on the Vale Climate Action Plan.' Sally Povolotsky, the new Vale Climate Lead, a sustainability engineer and vice-chair of Hendreds

Environment Group, will explore the problems the Vale may have in delivering the climate emergency plan, and what community action groups can do to help. Open to all, £3 donation welcome to cover costs. Coffee, cake and excellent conversation!

Blue Sky Eco Café: ‘Good for the the planet, good for community, good for you’

Tuesday 5th July 12 noon to 1:20pm (last orders), Long Furlong Community Centre.

Come along for a healthy, environmentally friendly lunch.

Saturday 9th July 9:30-11:30am, Long Furlong Community Centre.

A tasty brunch will be on offer.

<https://blueskyecocafe.org.uk/>

Also look out for the Café folk at the Plant to Plate festival ceilidh on Saturday evening (see below).

Plot to Plate Community Festival

Saturday 9th July, 11am–4:30pm and 6pm onwards, Abingdon Abbey buildings

A free drop-in festival. Delicious vegan and vegetarian food, fun activities for families as well as classes, talks and tastings focused on vegetable growing, cooking and eating, among other activities. Book your free seat for the talks (NB the marquee only holds 25!).

Ticketed ceilidh from 6pm: £7.

To register for the talks and/or purchase tickets for the ceilidh, visit the website of the Friends of Abingdon Abbey Buildings Trust: <https://abingdonabbeybuildings.co.uk>

Ukraine and beyond: an Oxford Quaker’s activism about the role of the UN

Friday 15th July, 7pm for 7:30pm Oxford Meeting House, 43 St Giles’

Jane Mactaggart, of Oxford Meeting, has been attending international Meetings for Worship organised by Friends House Moscow (United States branch) regularly six days a week since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Through this worship she became involved with detailed scrutiny and advocacy about the role of the UN in, and beyond, the situation in Ukraine. This work has been sustained in a group using the Quaker methods of worship and business, eldership and Meetings for Clearness. They have sought truth scrupulously.

In this *Friday with Friends* meeting Jane will describe how this work started, how it is done, and how it is sustained. It will be a meeting for learning, and also a meeting that will support Jane’s work.

Advance Notice: Hiroshima Commemorations

Saturday 6th August 7:45 – 8:15am at the War Memorial

Silent vigil to mark the anniversary of atom bombing of Hiroshima in 1945.

Sunday 7th August 3:30pm, Abbey Meadows (weather permitting)

Abingdon Peace Group bring-and-share picnic tea 3.30pm. Gather by the Japanese flowering cherry tree on Abbey Meadows, near the Wildflower Maze, beyond the children's play area towards the river.

Around the Abingdon Churches

Salvation Army Jumble Sale

Saturday 16th July 9.30—12.30, 12 West St Helen Street, Abingdon

The proceeds will benefit an orphanage in Uganda that is run by the Salvation Army for children with disabilities.

Silent Reflections

Silent Reflections are held on the last Tuesday of every month (except for December) at St Michael and All Angels Church from 7.30 to 9 pm. Material will be available to support your prayer in the quiet of the sanctuary, and the opportunity is always available to walk the labyrinth (pictured). Entry is through the North door of the church. If you park in Park Road or Crescent, come in to get a parking permit, otherwise the parking is free in the surrounding streets.



Christian Focus Magazine

Abingdon Meeting normally receives a number of copies of this magazine. In the June issue of *CiA News*, the CiA Administrator reports that it is currently uncertain when the next issue of *Christian Focus* will be published, as following the lack of content during the pandemic the editorial team is regrouping and refocusing the way forward.

Among Abingdon Friends

Poem of the Month

From the Poetry Group

Dreams and visions of all sorts were on the menu at our June meeting – even the Lord Chancellor’s ‘Nightmare’ patter song from Gilbert & Sullivan’s *Iolanthe*, read at dizzying speed by Roger Baker. In contrast this poem, chosen by Anita Wickens repays reading at a gentler pace:

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Wendell Berry

News of Friends in Brief

We send love and congratulations to Rosie and John Page, celebrating their Golden Wedding on Friday 1st July.

This gorgeous rose was a gift to Chris and Kate Sewell on their recent Golden Wedding.



Opening Up at the Northcourt Centre: July Rota

3 rd	Judy Goodall	Auriel Lancashire
17 th	Rosie Page	Sally Reynolds
24 th	Liz Matthews	Sally Reynolds
31 st	Auriel Lancashire	Richard Smart

July Dates for Your Diary

This is a summary of the Quaker-related events announced on the preceding pages.

Date	Time	Event details
Sun 3 rd	10:15am	Meeting for Worship followed by Meeting for Worship for Business Northcourt Centre
Thurs 7 th	7–8:30pm	OSAM Safeguarding meeting for members and attenders Zoom
	7:30pm	Outreach Meeting for Worship St Ethelwold's
Sat 9 th	10:30am	All-Age Area Meeting Faringdon Meeting House
Sun 10 th	10:30am	Meeting for Worship St Ethelwold's garden (Garden Room if wet)
Fri 15 th	7pm	Friday with Friends: Jane Mactggart Oxford Meeting House
Sun 17 th	10:15am	Meeting for Worship Northcourt Centre
	Afternoon	Children's Outing
Tues 19 th	8pm	Abingdon Peace Group Zoom
Wed 20 th	7:30pm	Abingdon Carbon Cutters St Ethelwold's House
Thurs 21 st	7:30pm	Meeting for Worship on Zoom
Sun 24 th	10:15am	Meeting for Worship Northcourt Centre
Sun 31 st	10:15am	Meeting for Worship Northcourt Centre

Next Month...

The publication dates of the newsletter have drifted from the last Sunday in the month to closer to the month-end. Since the last Sunday can sometimes be as early as the 25th, we are moving to a publication date between the 28th and the last day of the month. We will always endeavour to ensure that the newsletter reaches you by the start of the next month.

The August issue is due for publication on **Thursday 28th July**. Please send your contributions (in words and/or pictures) to the editors by **Monday 26th July**. Although we don't set a word limit, we may make judicious edits for length and/or readability.



Another view of the garden of St Ethelwold's House in June 2022.

Abingdon Local Quaker Meeting

<https://abingdonquakers.org/>

Clerk: Alan Pearmain – abingdonquakers@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors: Roger Baker & Liz Matthews

newsletter@abingdonquakers.org.uk

Photos and other images in this issue come from the following sources (with thanks): Pages 1 & 7: Chris Sewell; Page 3: Faringdon Quakers at <https://www.faringdon-quakers.org.uk>; Page 6: The Parish of Abingdon-on-Thames at https://abingdonparish.org.uk/P_activities.html; Page 8: Liz Matthews.