

Abingdon Quaker Meeting Newsletter

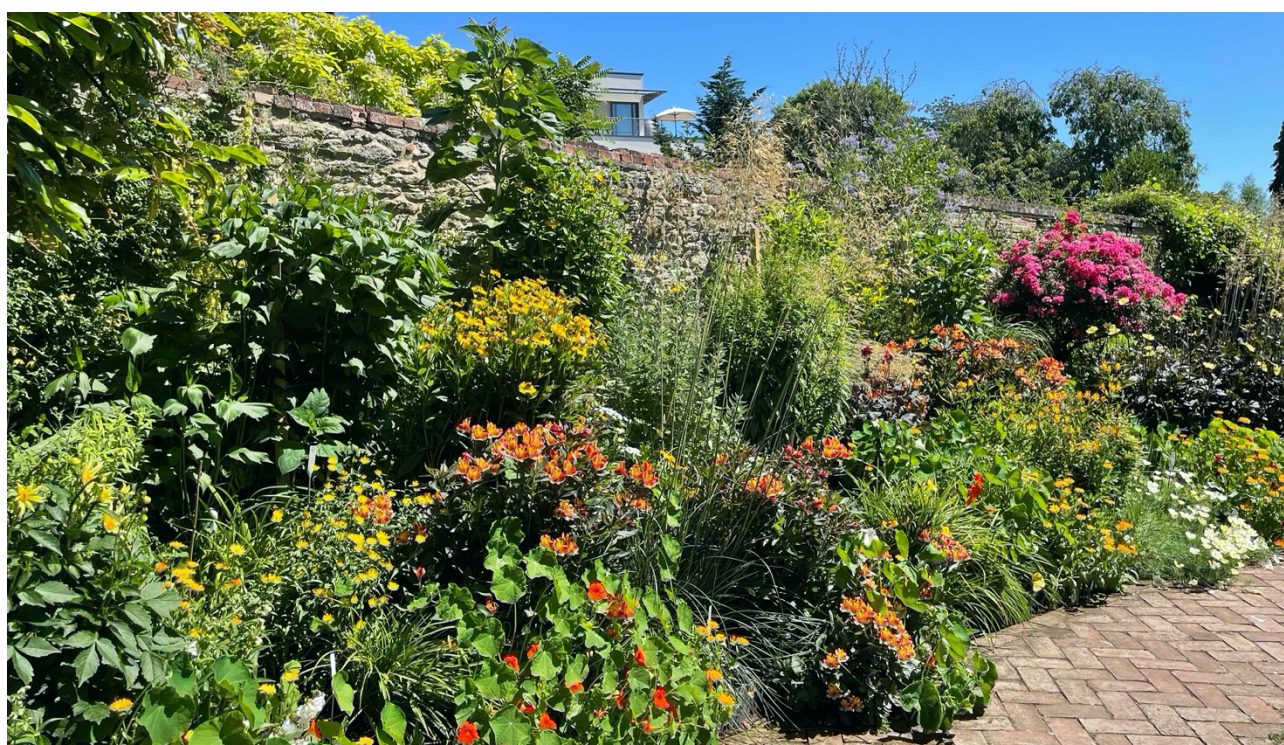
August 2022 (online version)

No. 395

Meetings for Worship

Every Sunday 10:15am at the Abingdon Community Support Service (Abbey Centre), Crabtree Place, off Audlett Drive.

Thursday 4th August 7:30pm in the Garden Room, St Ethelwold's, 30 East St Helen Street.



Floral glory at St Ethelwold's at our final outdoor meeting in the garden on 10th July.

Abingdon Quaker Matters

Meeting for Worship: Return to The Abbey Centre

From our Clerk, Alan Pearmain:

The Northcourt Centre has been very good to us, and we have been able to hold Meeting for Worship there while the Abbey Centre was closed to all but their vulnerable clients. The Abbey Centre now seems to be known as Abingdon Community Support Service. They are able to have us back and we will meet there every Sunday at 10:15am beginning on 7th August.

The main change from how we used the Centre before is that there is a barrier to the car park opposite that needs a card for access. We will have someone operating the barrier before

Meeting, but ask you to **arrive by 10.10** so that we can centre down for Meeting at 10.15. The barrier rises automatically when you leave the carpark. We also need to let you into the building as the front door is kept locked.

We will meet in the hall as this gives us room to space seats apart and has doors onto the garden area so that we can have good ventilation. We will see if it is possible to have our Meeting for Worship in the garden once a month when the weather is fine.

Unfortunately, when Sally went to collect the key it seems that the area that we use has not been properly cleaned recently. We will have to make representations about this.

We will continue to have a Meeting on the first Thursday of every month at St Ethelwold's at 7:30pm.

Special Appeal

Our August collection was to have been for the Kendal Meeting House appeal, for repairs to the roof. However, Chris Sewell is happy to report that the requisite sum has been reached, and so we no longer need to collect for it. This is wonderful news, as the meeting house is home to the precious Quaker Tapestry, which will now be more securely protected from the elements.

There is therefore no special appeal this month.

Summer Outing: Reminder

This year's summer outing will visit Chris and Kate Sewell's home in Wheatley on the afternoon of Sunday 18th September. Further information will follow in due course. If you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch with Judy Goodall (contact details in our List of Members).

Around the Area and Region

Berks & Oxon Regional Meeting (BORM): Save the Date

The next meeting of BORM will be on Saturday 15th October in Reading. It will be an opportunity for everyone in the region to meet our Local Development Worker, Moya. Moya's work is to support all meetings in the region, including Abingdon. We hope that the meeting will be blended so that people can join in online if they do not wish to travel.

Didcot Quakers

We apologise that the information about Meetings for Worship in Didcot included in the July newsletter was not quite correct. Didcot Quakers welcome you to join their meetings as follows:

- Sundays: 9:30am at a private address. Contact Esther Peacock for details.
- Wednesdays: 12:30–2pm at the Civic Hall.

From the Wider Quaker Community...

Quaker Week 2022

Quaker Week runs from 24th September to 2nd October and will have the theme 'Welcoming Families'. We may wish to consider whether, and how, to be involved in this annual week. Aspects

to explore might include the joys and challenges of becoming a more inclusive all-age Quaker community.

Woodbrooke is currently running weekly sessions on preparing for Quaker Week 2022, which may be of interest to Friends regardless of any activities in which we may engage as a Meeting. For further information, visit <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/preparing-for-quaker-week-2022/> (alternatively, navigate to the course from the Woodbrooke Home page at <https://www.woodbrooke.org>).



All-age fun at Waterperry Gardens in July 2021.

Faith in Action in and around Abingdon

Abingdon Peace Group

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'.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemorations

Saturday 6th August 7:45–8:15am: Hiroshima Day vigil at the War Memorial (timed to end at the time the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on 6 Aug 1945).

Sunday 7th August 11am–12 noon: Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Peace Plaque in Bonn Square, Oxford.

Sunday 7th August from 3:30pm (weather permitting): Abingdon Peace Group bring and share picnic tea by the Japanese flowering cherry tree in the Abbey Meadows, Abingdon (near Abingdon Bridge). Close to the river and beyond the children's play area on the town side.

Tuesday 9th August: anniversary of the dropping of the atom bomb on Nagasaki in 1945.

For a copy of the Abingdon Peace Group newsletter, please email abingdonpeace@gmail.com

Future Events

Wednesday 21st September 7pm. 'On Peace': retired war correspondent Martin Bell in conversation with Ben Griffin of Veterans for Peace. Conway Hall, London WC1R 4RL. Can also be joined online. Book your seat or online access at <https://tinyurl.com/32keh286>

Saturday 1st October: Rally at USAF Croughton as part of 'Keep Space for Peace' week. Annual Oxon Peace Campaign event (APG is a constituent of OPC). Speakers will be Paul Mobbs (Croughtonwatch), Dave Webb (Global Network) and Tom Unterrainer (CND Chair). This major US communication and intelligence base supports space communications, data links, military drone information, bomber guidance, missile defence, diplomatic communications, and command and control functions. It is a key link in the 'chain' controlling US operations across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. More next month.

Saturday 8th October (new date) 3–4pm: Abingdon Peace Group jumble sale. Tatham Room, Northcourt Centre. Please deliver items for sale between 1.30 and 3pm and stay on (or return) to help with the clear-up. Please note different timings from past jumble sales.

Abingdon Carbon Cutters

August events at the Climate Emergency Centre (below the museum):

- **Saturday 6th August 10:30am–12:30pm: Sewing repair café**
- **Saturday 20th August 10:30am–12:30pm: Repair café** for electrical, electronic and mechanical items. Also **bike checks** under the museum arches.

There is no public meeting in August.

CAP Christians Against Poverty

On Saturday 13th August a charity market will be held on Crafts End Green Chilton between 9am and 12 midday to raise funds for CAP. A wide range of savoury pies and tarts, focaccia, tempting cakes, Chelsea buns, fruit tarts, jams, marmalade, chutney and home produce will be on offer to tempt you. There will also be plants, books and jigsaws for sale. Any queries, please contact Judy.

Among Abingdon Friends

Poem of the Month

From the Poetry Group

Given our theme of 'illnesses and remedies' it was appropriate that we gathered in the healthy fresh air of Roger Baker's back garden in July. We welcomed Monica Sheaf to her first meeting and were pleased that Roger Bush was able to join us for the first time in many months.

We have chosen two poems to share with you this time. The first is by our own Iain Strachan, who wrote it at a time when AIDS was still much feared. The second poem, contributed by Sally Reynolds, is a vivid depiction of the agonies endured by people living with Sickle Cell Anaemia.

The Rose Bearer

The sea loves this rose to bits,
red and precious and transiently perfect.
I leave it in the lapping waters
in memory of him I loved.

And as it floats away,
amid shimmering gold pools of slanted sun,
reflected on the calm waves
the memories come blazing back.

Like that first trembling touch
of his uncertain hand upon my face,
the eager imprint of his body on mine,
the place of worship that we made each other.

He became a part of me, and I of him,
and of so many others, all gone the same way.
An unwelcome intruder polluted our love.
Its purity and radiance decayed to gasping death.

I am the rose-bearer.
I have laid each of them to rest here.
I am the last to go.
Who will lay a rose for me?

*I am your rose-bearer
Though I do not share your fate
Though my way of loving differs from yours
I will still feel the same hate.*

*I hear the clucking of sanctimonious tongues,
The mutterings of those who know they're right:
The hell-fire of burning books,
And the icy wind of pages flicked in disgust.*

*Because I wrote these words on your behalf,
I feel the same hammer of blind minds.
Because I spoke up for you,
They will judge me and smear,
As surely as if I, too were queer.*

Ian Strachan (1997; rev. 2022)

Acrostic

Shards of pain coursing through your body –
Inconvenient I'm sorry pain can't tell the time.
Counting the seconds, minutes, hours for pain relief,
Knuckles aching, your fists are clenched so tight.
Lord I pray please guide me through this;
Eyes wild, tears streaming; to have my mother's arms around me.

Compassion – I know they wouldn't treat an animal this way
Empathy, I've yet to see it, isn't pain supposed to be what the client says it is.
Lethargy, I haven't got the strength to cry.
Listen to me please: if I didn't need to be here, I'd be at home.

Susan Crawford

News of Friends in Brief

We were delighted to see **Wendy Regard** back among us on Sunday 24th July after a period of illness. Wendy regretted that she had been unable to reply personally to the many cards, emails

and other messages that she received during this time, and now extends her thanks to Friends through this newsletter.

Philippa Killick has sent us this charming picture of **Otto** meeting his grandparents' dog and looking very enthusiastic about it!



Opening Up at the Abbey Centre: August Rota

7 th	Judy Goodall	Liz Matthews
14 th	Richard Smart	Auriel Lancashire
21 st	Rosie Page	Sally Reynolds
28 th	Chris Sewell	Robert Stocks

August Dates for Your Diary

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

Date	Time	Event details
Sat 6 th	7:45am	Hiroshima Day vigil War memorial
	10:30am	Repair café: sewing Climate Emergency Centre
Sun 7 th	11am	Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bonn Square, Oxford
	3:30pm	Peace picnic Abbey Meadows
Sat 20 th	10:30am	Repair café: electrical etc. items; bike checks Climate Emergency Centre
September		
Sun 4 th	c11:45am	Meeting for Worship for Business Abbey Centre
Sat 10 th	10:30am	Area Meeting and Spiritual Nurture session Marlborough Meeting House

Date	Time	Event details
Sun 18 th	TBA	Annual outing Chris & Kate Sewell's home (address TBA)
October		
Sat 15 th	TBA	BORM Reading Meeting House

Next Month...

The publication date of the newsletter lies between the 28th and the last day of the month. The September issue is due for publication on **Sunday 28th August**. Please send your contributions (in words and/or pictures) to the editors by **Thursday 25th August**. Although we don't set a word limit, we may make judicious edits for length and/or readability.



Night sky with the Milky Way seen from Braunton Burrows, Devon, on 26th July.

Abingdon Local Quaker Meeting

<https://abingdonquakers.org/>

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