



# Faringdon Quaker Meeting

NEWSLETTER 144 June to July 2026

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## Meeting Affairs

- Shared lunch: Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> June
- Business Meeting for Worship: Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July

## Area Meeting for Church Affairs

Burford QMH, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of July (after lunch event to be confirmed)

## Prayer for Peace

- Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June – Coffee from 10:00, worship at 10:30
- Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> of July – Same times as above

## Open Forum

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

As we listen to one another, we discover new stories and new facets of each other's lives.

Would it be good to sit down together to find out more of our varied views on life in a safe space?

## Readings for Meeting for Worship

### June

- 7<sup>th</sup> - Emma
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Paul
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Val
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Gill and Trish

### July

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Mark
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Jenny
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Geoff
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Paul

## Monthly Collections

- **June- Build it International**

[Donate | Tackling unemployment & poverty | Zambia, Africa](#)



Build it International is a non-profit development organisation that tackles youth unemployment and poverty in Zambia by combining vocational skills training with sustainable community construction. Founded in 2007, the charity empowers disadvantaged young men and women by equipping them with practical construction

trades—such as bricklaying, plastering, and tiling—alongside vital life skills and formal work placements. Rather than practicing in isolation, trainees gain hands-on experience by building essential public infrastructure, including schools, health clinics, and sanitation blocks, directly within underserved areas. By utilizing locally sourced materials and eco-friendly technologies, the organisation ensures its architectural projects are sustainable and tailored to community needs. Additionally, Build It International drives sector-wide change through advocacy initiatives, with a special emphasis on promoting gender inclusion and safe work environments for women entering the construction industry.

- **July- Vale Community Impact – Wantage Advice Centre**



[Support your community | VCI Donation](#)

Chris says,

Vale Community Impact Formerly known as Wantage Independent Advice Centre, VCI is a local charity which offers three vital services to communities across the district. Based in Wantage, VCI has a small team of part-time staff and over a hundred volunteers. Free, confidential and informed help is given to clients with a range of challenges, from managing debt to claiming benefits and protecting employee rights. Another important aspect of VCI's work is providing transport to medical and other appointments, especially to the hospitals in Oxford, Abingdon and Swindon. Volunteer drivers take clients either in the driver's own car, or in VCI's own newly-acquired wheelchair accessible vehicle. The final strand of the work undertaken by VCI is the good neighbour scheme whereby suitably vetted volunteers offer companionship to lonely, struggling individuals in their own home. A community-based offshoot of this is

the pop-up cafe, held once a month at a succession of village halls across the locality. VCI is dependent on grants and donations to continue its excellent work.

A registered charity, 1161144, it was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2008.

Contact Details [www.vci.org](http://www.vci.org) [help@vci.org.uk](mailto:help@vci.org.uk) Tel: 01235 765348

Any donations can be either made directly, or through the Sunday collections during July. Bank Name: Unity Trust                      Account Name: WIAC t/a Vale Community  
Impact                      Sort Code: 60-83-01                      Account Number: 2035979

Thank you

## Forthcoming Events

### Faringdon Peace Group

Wednesday 10th June at 7.30pm Speaker: Kate Hudson, Gen Sec. of CND in person at the Friends Meeting House

Saturday 1st July Annual Peace Party

A bring and share lunch plus music and other delights. From 12 midday in the garden of 19 Coxwell Road, Faringdon

## Recent Gatherings

Faringdon Meeting hosted OSAM area meeting on Saturday 14 March

A well-attended meeting with plenty of cakes as usual from Faringdon friends.

Jenny Braithwaite wrote and read

### Yearly Report from Faringdon Meeting for Area Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2026

Faringdon Meeting has continued enthusiastically throughout the year, with several new ventures started. whilst deepening our spiritual life within Meeting. We feel that our best means of Outreach is to ensure that everyone in Faringdon at least knows where we are. Our premises are now used by a group of Asylum seekers for English lessons several mornings a week, a group of Muslims for Friday worship, a couple of U3A groups, and we maintain our longstanding arrangement with Faringdon Peace Group. In September we held a sale of books and plants for 'Lend with Care', which raised money to make small loans to people in developing countries, who use the money to start their own small business. Several of these loans have now been repaid, and the money loaned to further recipients. As a meeting, we decided in December that, with no children of our own in the Meeting, we would sponsor a child through 'Compassion UK', The child

selected is a 3-year-old from the Philippines. This represents a significant commitment as sponsorship will continue up to the age of 18. We continue with our monthly Peace Demo in the Market Place, followed by Prayers for Peace in the Meeting House. We do this in conjunction with Faringdon Peace group, and the attraction for several non-Quakers when they come is that we serve oodles of coffee throughout the morning. Numbers attending have varied, depending to some extent on the weather. We are an active member of Churches Together in Faringdon, although we do sometimes feel sidelined by the other churches. We continue our fairly infrequent joint activities with Burford and Charlbury Meetings, and this continues to enable us to get to know others in an informal and pleasurable way. A new adventure! An informal gathering once a month after Meeting for Worship. As well as listening to one another we discover new stories and new facets of each other's lives. This is a space to sit down to find out more about both our varied views on life, and also what unites us as a Meeting.

Thank you Jenny

## Chris's trip to Japan



Chris says,

I recently spent a month in Japan, visiting our youngest daughter Eirlys, who works in Nakatsu, a small city on Kyushu in the southwest. What a wonderful country, and so very different in countless ways from UK. I could fill this newsletter just praising the food, but then there is the stunning scenery, ubiquitous Shinto culture and clean, reliable technology and infrastructure. So much to think about and appreciate! One of the most moving experiences was a trip to Nagasaki, with a day at the Peace Park evoking a range of profound emotions with the harrowing personal accounts, graphic descriptions and beautiful memorials relating to the atomic bombing. Both a school and hospital were at the hypocentre, and I particularly remember the burnt bento box of rice from a schoolchild and the shredded trousers of a medical student displayed in the museum. Having been both a doctor and teacher, they still really upset me. Nagasaki is a wonderful city, with a fascinating history predating World War Two. There are amazing gardens and an impressive harbour. I would love to return. There are thousands of shrines in Japan. I knew nothing about Shintoism before stepping into one of many on my trip. For me, it sits comfortably with Quaker beliefs and my appreciation of the natural world. I must mention the people I met – without exception polite, helpful, industrious and friendly. Another strong reason for me to return someday. The whole experience was a glorious mixture of challenges to overcome, unexpected joys, totally different insights and wonderful memories. Do visit Japan if you get the opportunity, and if you go with an open mind and open eyes, your heart will open, too.

Thank you Chris



## A lunchtime stroll

Recently, my office base has moved to Didcot, and we have been instructed to work from there once a fortnight. The office is quite soulless, and I thought this was true to Didcot too, until I went for a walk at lunchtime and came across this haunt of ancient peace.



The ancient yew tree in Didcot is in the churchyard of [All Saints' Church](#) on Lydalls Road. Estimated to be between 1,000 and 1,800 years old, it is one of the oldest living trees in the United Kingdom.

Simon

For those of us who do not live in Faringdon Val and Simon submitted the following article to the Faringdon Advertiser – for the religious slot!

Faringdon Quakers: Prayers for Peace a Quaker Commitment to Peace.

**“We do utterly deny... all outward wars, and strife, and fighting’s with outward weapons, for any end... and this is our testimony to the whole world.”**

This powerful statement is part of the Quakers’ declaration to Charles II in 1660, a foundational moment for the Quaker Peace Testimony. It is recorded in *Quaker faith & practice* 24.04 and continues to guide Quaker beliefs and actions today.

## Peace Amidst Global Conflict

As wars afflict Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the call for peace continues to be of utmost importance. Faringdon Quakers are committed to upholding and sharing their Peace Testimony in the face of ongoing conflict around the world.

### Monthly Meetings for Peace (all are welcome)

Each fourth Saturday of the month, a meeting for peace is held in the Market Square in Faringdon, beginning at 10 am. This gathering is open to everyone, welcoming people of all faiths or none. The witness continues with the walk to the Quaker Meeting House in Lechlade Road where prayers in a meeting for worship for 30 minutes are held.

Coffee and biscuits are provided for attendees, offering warmth and comfort in the cold weather, and a welcoming place to chat in the lovely old walled garden when the sun shines.

### The Peace Testimony

The Peace Testimony stands as perhaps the best-known Quaker testimony. While wars continue in the world, Quakers remain steadfast in their commitment to peace and non-violence.

### Quakers and Conscientious Objection

During the First World War, conscientious objectors, including Quakers, often faced harsh treatment for their refusal to participate in armed conflict. More sympathetic treatment was meted out in the Second World War. In September 1939, two Quakers, Paul Cadbury and Arnold Rowntree who had been ambulance drivers in the First World War sought to provide opportunities for conscientious objectors of all beliefs or none who could undertake civilian service in a military context, firemen, ambulance drivers, mechanics, medics and relief workers.

In 1939, 100,000 Jewish children were transported to safety after Quakers had lobbied the British government to allow them to be rehomed in Britain. This became known as the Kindertransport. Nowadays, Ecumenical Accompaniers have been working in Palestine/ Israel where their presence seems to lower the incidence of settler violence. Sadly, this program has been suspended due to the ongoing hostilities.

This history underscores the enduring nature of the Quaker commitment to peace, even in the face of adversity.

### Continuing the Work for Peace

Today, Quakers work for peace through mediation and conflict resolution, aiming to foster social justice and sustainable development.

Sue has taken a fabulous photograph of a walk in our glorious countryside.



Thank you once again to contributors.

