



Faringdon Quaker Meeting

NEWSLETTER 131 April to March 24

Reading dates

April

07 Chris

14 Mark

21 Sue

28 Shirley

May

05 Jenny Smith

12 John

19 Janie

26 Andrea

Collection

*Mar-April EAPPI
(Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
in Palestine & Israel)*

*May-June Christian
Aid*

Shared Lunch

Takes place on the first Sunday of the month, alternating with Meeting for Business.

Next Lunch: the 8th April everyone is welcome.

Meeting for Business for Worship

Sunday 5th May

Study group To be arranged to discuss proposed amendments to marriage declaration

Faringdon Peace group

11th May Big Event Jenny B will have more details nearer the date

New Website for

Area Meeting

[https://
osamquakers.org.uk](https://osamquakers.org.uk)

Area Meeting

11th May Charlbury

Quakerleles.

We want to promote Ukulele playing!!!

Beginners welcome

Wednesday mornings in April at 10.30am.

At the meeting house

Contact Jenny B on jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk

Ian Cave, from Charlbury Meeting gave an excellent presentation of his experiences as an EAPPI for the Faringdon Lenten talks.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) supports ordinary people to live for three months as human rights monitors in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) witness life under military occupation and share the real-life stories of the Palestinians and Israelis they meet. See <https://eyewitnessblogs.com> EAs provide a protective presence, deterring soldier and armed settler violence towards civilians.

They share human rights reports with the UN and other agencies. They engage with and support Palestinian and Israeli peace groups. On their return, EAs share their experiences and advocate for change – an end to the Israeli military occupation and a just and peaceful resolution based on international law. EAPPI UK & Ireland is an international programme run by the World Council of Churches. In the UK and Ireland it is managed by Quakers in Britain

. To find out more about EAPPI, visit the website <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ourwork/eappi>, read the EAPPI blogs <https://www.eyewitnessblogs.com> and sign up to receive the Action Alerts.

Please donate generously via: <https://www.eyewitnessblogs.com/donate/> Or Bank transfer: Britain Yearly Meeting, Coop Bank, 1, Islington High St, London N1 9TR Account number 50234651 Sort Code 08-90-61

If you would like to donate by cheque or CAF voucher, please make payable to Britain Yearly Meeting (write EAPPI on the back) and send to MONTHLY APPEAL MARCH 2024: Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel Gwithian Doswell Anne Watson 8 EAPPI c/o Friends House 173, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Quaker Service (N. Ireland)

We have collected for Quaker Service several times in the past and they have sent us a copy of their annual report for 2022-3. We will bring this to meeting for you to take away as you wish.

Quaker Service is a family welfare charity set up by Quakers. Their ethos is guided by Quaker beliefs and values. They have worked in N. Ireland for many years.

Major services have been –

1. Quaker Cottage: a purpose-built cross community family day care centre in west Belfast providing a range of intensive support services for mothers, children and young people at risk or in need.
2. The Cottage Teenage Project: a complementary and integral part of the services offered at Quaker Cottage engaging young people in gaining valuable life skills, promoting healthy behaviour and developing a sense of purpose, value and wellbeing. This is done through their active participation in group and individual therapy sessions, residential, home visits and day trips.
3. Quaker Connections: a volunteer programme providing befriending services for people in NI prisons who do not receive family visits. We also promote restorative practice.

Because one of the major funding organisations revised the terms on which it offered support, Quaker Service has lost this funding and has had to transfer Quaker Cottage to another charity and to base its work on one of the Quaker meetings in Belfast. It has also involved substantial adjustments to its programmes whilst continuing to meet the ongoing needs in N.Ireland.

John Cottis

Book review slot – Simon

The Slowworms' Song – Andrew Miller

Stephen Rose is an ex-squaddie traumatised by the Troubles who sought refuge in alcohol – he is also a Quaker.

The book is constructed in the form of a memoir from Stephen to his estranged daughter, Maggie. The past is transposed by the current tension related to his imminent appearance at a Truth and Reconciliation committee in Belfast.

The book examines the fragility of the human condition, trauma which pervade the present and the cautious stumbling towards wholeness.

The third” character” in this drama is the Somerset Meeting house.

The meeting house exerts a silent gravitational pull drawing the hurt characters together.

The book has numerous references to Quakers. The title the Slowworm Song is lifted from the Quaker poet – Basil Bunting's narrative poem entitled Brigflatts – the meeting house in Cumbria.

It is prefaced with the Advice and Query, – Take heed to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts.

I am mindful that as I sit in the meeting, I am actively participating in a community that stretches back to the Seventeenth century, a meeting that has been exerting a healing presence for centuries.