



Faringdon Quaker Meeting

NEWSLETTER 145 August to September 2026

Meeting Affairs

- Shared lunch: Sunday, 2nd of August
- Business Meeting for Worship: Sunday, 6th of September

Area Meeting for Church Affairs

Marlborough QMH, Saturday 12th of September 10:30 to 15:30 (after lunch event to be TBC).

Prayer for Peace

- Saturday, 29th August – Coffee from 10:00, worship at 10:30
- Saturday, 26th of September – Same times as above

Open Forum

Every 3rd Sunday of the month

The Difference between Meeting for Worship and Afterwords.

Andrea Hughes member of the spiritual and pastoral group wrote up the Open Forum discussion on the 19th of July 2026, where the difference between ministry in meeting for worship and afterwords were Friends discussed.

Following Faringdon Meeting for Worship for Business on July 5th, members of the Spiritual & Pastoral Care group were asked to take this forward with the whole Meeting.

In Meetings for Worship, spoken ministry is inspirational and offered to take us higher, in response to prompts which come to us. These can cast aside the personal and become much bigger. Spoken ministry is often tested silently before we feel the time it is right to offer. Words are given. These can speak and be for all but may also reach in a particularly individual way.

WITHIN MEETING FOR WORSHIP

- It is a discipline handed down by our predecessors to protect the fragility of communicating spiritual insights.
- Protects the spiritual growth of all.
- The Beatitudes Matthew (Ch. 5 verses 1-10) was quoted as an inspiration open to all, and for all: the spiritually hungry, the poor in spirit, those of a gentle spirit, the peacemakers, the merciful, the sorrowful, the needy, the persecuted, those who hunger for right to prevail.
- Meetings for Worship are not discourses or discussions.
- Vocal ministry in gathered Meetings for Worship can sometimes echo another's thoughts, prayers or feelings and is much like what Jung named "the universal unconscious."

AFTERWORDS

- These are more of a gentle transition between MfW and coffee.
- Words are more personal and pre - considered.
- The atmosphere could be similar to bringing one another the joy which children can bring.
- Things may be brought from the previous week via current affairs.
- Respectfully interactive, but more informal than MfW.

- Following the sense of the meeting they are shorter, sometimes brief.
- Body language is different: more eye contact, smiles, quiet movements.
- Courteous non combative questions arise.
- Contributions can prepare us for the week or come from previous week.

Andrea Hughes

Readings for Meeting for Worship

August

2 Shirley

9 Chris

16 Andrea

23 Sue

30 Val

September

6 Emma

13 Gill and Trish

20 Ruth

27 Simon

Monthly Collections

August

The Disaster Emergency Committee

The Disasters Emergency Committee is a collaboration of fifteen aid charities which work together to raise funds quickly and efficiently when humanitarian crisis strikes overseas. Formed in 1963, the group includes the British Red Cross, Oxfam, Christian Aid, Age International, Save the Children and Islamic Relief, among others. They give a swift response to natural disasters, suffering resulting from war, and medical emergencies. Aid has been sent to Venezuela, Myanmar, Nepal (earthquake), to Pakistan (floods), to Indonesia (tsunami), to Afghanistan (drought), to Philippines

(typhoon), to Mozambique (cyclone), to Gaza, Lebanon, Ukraine (war), and western Africa (Ebola outbreak) in recent years.

See www.dec.org.uk for more information and to donate directly

September

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children is the first and longest-serving children's charity in UK, being formed as the Foundling Hospital and receiving the Royal Charter in 1739.

Work includes the following:

Reports on childcare costs and availability throughout UK

Free legal services for children and young people in need of support

Advocacy for children and young people in and leaving care.

Best practice support for children's services professionals

Provision of life skills including volunteer reading programmes in schools nationwide

International research on children's rights, including in relation to migration, youth justice, exploitation, and child protection.

See www.coram.org.uk for further information and to donate directly

Please contact Chris our treasurer if you have any suggestions for future collections.

News of Friends

We record the death of Arthur Lockett who died on 2nd of July 2026.

It is with sadness that we record the death of Arthur Lockett aged eighty-two. He had retired to Birmingham and was living in a care home for people with dementia. A member of Faringdon meeting since the 1980's and before a member of Charney Meeting. Arthur served the Meeting as clerk, elder, and treasurer. He was weighty Quaker, who rarely missed a meeting for worship. As a trained psychotherapist he was sensitive to the needs of Friends.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday September 19th 12-4pm at the Meeting House

Faringdon Quakers will be holding a sale of plants, cakes, and second-hand books.

All proceeds will be in aid of Sanctuary Faringdon.

We would very much welcome any donations of books (there is a collecting box in our garden room) or of plants and cakes on the day.

And of course, we would like to see lots of you in the afternoon - tea/coffee/soft drinks available and a warm welcome to all. Please share the invitation with families, neighbours and friends.

Please contact Chris and Simon if you wish to contribute.

Faringdon Peace Group

- Thurs 6 Aug Hiroshima Day.
- Wed 2 Sept FPG Monthly mtg. Peter Burt from Drone Wars UK. 7.30pm FMH.
- Thur 10 Sep Film. 'National Emergency Briefing' on climate change. At the Corn Exchange. Organised by Katie Foot and All Saints Church. At 4.30pm and again at 7.30pm (NB also a follow up discussion on 19 Sep. see below) All welcome.
- Sat 19 Sep Climate Café (a follow up to the film shown on 10 Sep) 2.0pm - 3.30pm At Barber Rooms in all Saints' Church. All welcome.

Val attended the Annual Folly Fest and reports,

The annual Folly Fest service held in the square on Sunday 12th July. This is a combined event between the churches in Faringdon and is part of the festivities which take part over three days. This is a noisy, busy, lively institution but much loved by the young in the town. It disrupts with road closures, this year on top of road works, but it brings excitement to young people and families.

The Vicar, Maria Jukes led the worship and the curate Szabina preached using the lovely poem by R S Thomas, the pearl of great price, following a short dramatisation bringing home the message to take note of the good things around us.

Emma read the parable of the Sower and musicians from the churches led the hymns. The square was busy and folk lingered to listen while about fifty people formed the

congregation in the hot sunshine. It was a witness to the faith expressed by the places of worship in the town, and it was well judged for the crowded marketplace.



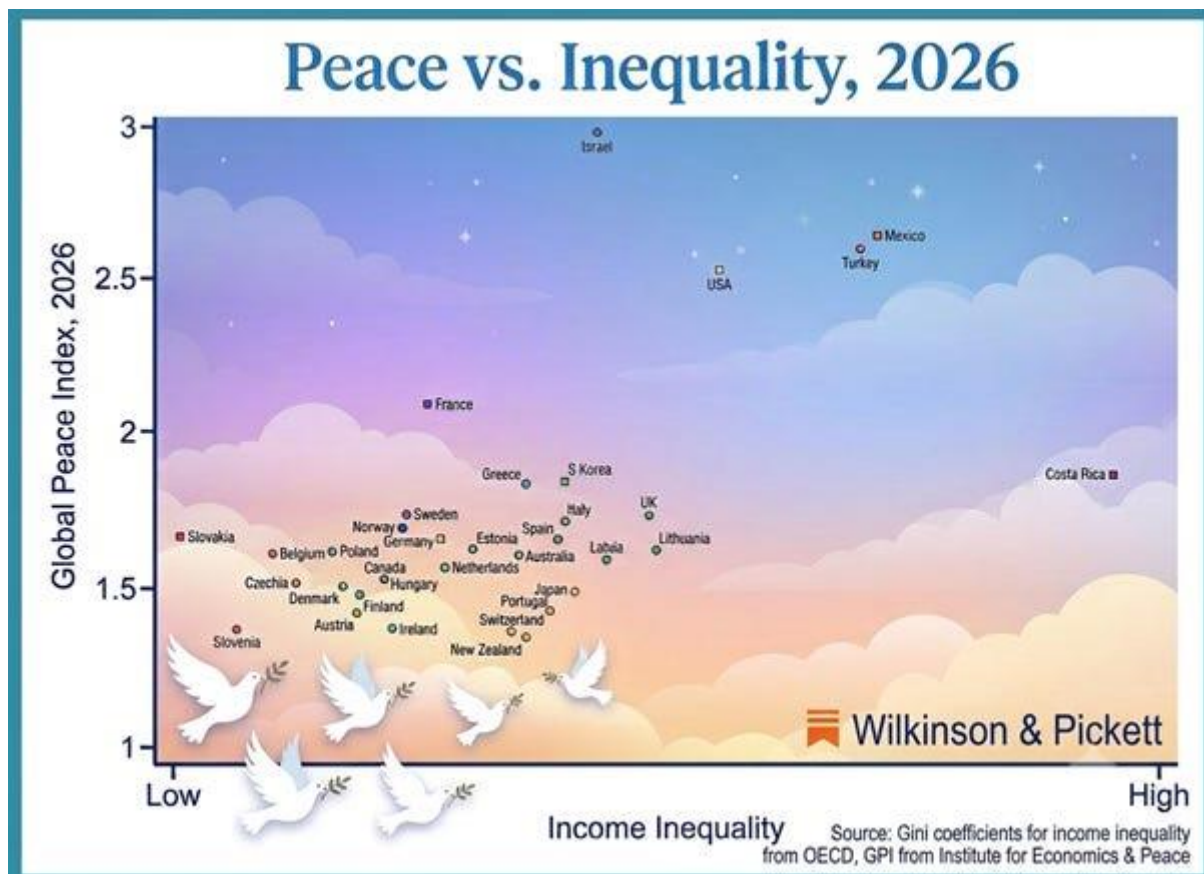
RS Thomas – a pearl of great price taken from the poem The Bright Fields

*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the
pearl of great price, the one field that had
treasure in it. I realise now
that I must give all that I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying.*

*on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once but is the eternity that awaits you.*

by R.S. Thomas

Sue has shared an article which clearly shows the relationship between belligerency and inequality



Inequality is related to worse scores on the Global Peace Index, which combines measures of militarization with measures of domestic and international conflict, and measures of security, human rights and stability. It is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank, with data support from the Economist Intelligence Unit.

