



# Faringdon Quaker Meeting

NEWSLETTER 128 OCT—NOV 2023

## READING DATES

### October

01 Chris

08 Mark

15 Shirley

22 Sue

9 Jenny Smith

### November

05 John

12 Janie

19 Paul

26 Val

### December

03 Patricia

10 Arthur

17 Trish

24 Simon

## HAPPY 350th BIRTHDAY - Faringdon !

### Collections

Sept/Oct

### National Friendship Fund

Nov/Dec

### Quaker Social Action

It has been suggested that the Friend who suggests each of these should be invited to write a short piece about it for inclusion in the appropriate newsletter.

## Area Meetings

Regional Meeting  
With Young Friends  
at Oxford meeting  
Hse Saturday 14th  
October core time 11  
- 5 see attachment

### SHARED LUNCH

Shared Lunch takes place on the first Sunday of the month, alternating with Meeting for Business. Next Lunch: the 1st Of October everyone is welcome.

### MEETING FOR BUSINESS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday November 5th at 11.45am. .

### STUDY GROUP

A Friendly Bible study Sunday 16th October following Meeting for worship.

### Faringdon Peace group

Wednesday 4th October at  
7.30pm

AGM at Faringdon Meeting Hse

Wednesday 1st November at  
7.30pm,

The Coming of AI Attack  
Drones.

Speaker Chris Cole

Possibly in person—probably  
Zoom

Remember --Open meeting house weekend  
30th and 1st October to celebrate 350th  
year of Quaker Worship at Faringdon

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Julia Dovey-

Regional development worker for children and young meeting attended the Meeting for Worship on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September. She gave an inspiring address on how to make meetings a welcoming and wonderous space so that children would feel at home. She will continue her support.

### THANK YOU SO MUCH JENNY

A heart felt thank you to Jenny Braithwaite ,the long time Newsletter editor !

Jenny was an excellent editor and she will be a hard act to follow.

### BOOK REVIEW SLOT

---

## BOOK REVIEW

Seventeenth century Quaker mystic, teacher and activist\*  
by Ruth Tod (*Quaker Quicks*)

In this small volume Ruth Tod takes us through the principal features of Isaac Pennington's thoughts and writings in the first two decades of Charles II's reign and the formative years of the Society of Friends in which persecution was harsh and their resolution remarkable.

Pennington's father had been a leading Puritan, had estates in Buckinghamshire, had made money in the city of London, and become Lord Mayor. Though not a regicide, he was imprisoned at the restoration of Charles II and died in the Tower in 1661. So when Isaac associated with the despised Quakers and then became imprisoned for non-payment of tithes it was, as one historian called the times, the world turned upside down. He was throughout supported by his wife, Lady Mary Springett, whom he had met and married when a young man-about-town in London.

Ruth divides her book into two main sections; the first covering his beliefs and teachings; the second, reflections on the themes arising which we are encouraged to examine and consider for ourselves. It might well be recommended for Friends to take as the basis for individual or group or study and review.

*John Cottis*

## Oxford Historic Churches

We make a donation to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust who have assisted us with grants for the meeting house repairs in past years. They arrange an annual lecture on an ecclesiastical theme. This year:

### Blenheim Palace Lecture

Wed 11th October 6.15 to 8.30pm by Prof.

Sir Diarmuid MacCulloch DD, FBA, FRHistS, FSA, whose talk is:

Right in front of your eyes a new view of the Reformation. Tickets £35

Bookings and full details on their website [ohct.org.uk/events/](http://ohct.org.uk/events/) or contact John Cottis for links



## Faringdon Quakers

## Website Developments

A reminder that our meeting's website is at "[faringdon-quakers.org.uk](http://faringdon-quakers.org.uk)". There are copies of the newsletter there and some of the documents for the Area Meeting. John Cottis and Mark Dibben are the contacts and would welcome any questions or suggestions.

A new website for the Area Meeting is being developed, as you may have seen in the latest Area Meeting minutes, and it is hoped it will be opened in October. You may like to look out for this and the name for the site will be "[osamquakers.org.uk](http://osamquakers.org.uk)"

## The new garden room !

A Big Thank you to all — they know who they are, for reinvigorating the garden room into such a welcoming space.



## And Finally !

Dear Friends - here is an excerpt from Richard Rohr's (a contemplative - radical Franciscan priest )

[Centre for contemplation and action](#) which provides daily email readings. You can subscribe by using this link. [Email Sign-Up – Center for Action and Contemplation \(cac.org\)](#)

I have chosen as it provides an outsider's perspective on the extraordinary fact of Quaker worship !

### A Sense of Presence

Minister and author Howard Thurman (1899-1981) stressed the importance of coming face to face with God.

The central fact in religious experience is the awareness of meeting God. The descriptive words are varied: sometimes it is called an encounter; sometimes, a confrontation; and sometimes, a sense of Presence.

In light of this matter he talks about Quakers.

It proved to be a doorway to both action and contemplation. Author Lerita Coleman Brown writes:

For more than four hundred years, a vibrant Quaker commitment to the mystical practice of silence has persisted.... Staunch promoters of the "still small voice," Quakers believe that everyone carries the divine light of God within them and that we are all equal regardless of title or socioeconomic status. They believe that God speaks ceaselessly to us and that quietness and stillness are prerequisites for hearing the soft, gentle, wordless communication of God. Yet for Quakers, being contemplative is not enough; they assume that actions emerging from the silence should facilitate the end of social injustices and the creation of a more benevolent world. As advocates of peace and equality, many Quakers participated in the Underground Railroad, assisting thousands in escaping slavery.

As part of his study of mysticism, Howard Thurman attended Quaker meetings and sat in the silence that characterizes unscripted forms of Quaker worship. In a 1951 sermon on the strength of silence in corporate worship, Thurman speaks of his personal experience of group silence during a traditional Quaker meeting:

*Nobody said a word ... just silence. Silence. Silence. And in that silence I felt as though all of them were on one side and I was on the other side, by myself, with my noise. And every time I would try to get across the barrier, nothing happened. I was just Howard Thurman. And then ... I don't know when it happened, how it happened, I wish I could tell you, but somewhere in that hour I passed over the invisible line, and I became one with all the seekers. I wasn't Howard Thurman anymore; I was, I was a human spirit involved in a creative moment with human spirits, in the presence of God.*

In Friendship - Simon