

Ludlow Quaker Journal

No. 9, February 2017



In 2014 Friends minuted their wish to dispense with a regular Meeting Newsletter, but to retain an occasional Journal to provide a forum for news, comment and events. The Journal will publish anything that Friends think is of interest; so its range may be very wide. If you find it too long, select only what interests you from the Table of Contents. It will only publish what the editor receives without solicitation, so if you want Friends to know about your interests and concerns, make sure they reach the editor: he will be very pleased to hear from you. Comments and letters to the editor are also welcome.

This issue is shorter than usual – a relief to those of you who find the Journal too long. Do let me encourage you to cherry-pick and skip items which are not of interest. I am very grateful to all those who sent feedback on the last issue (most of it positive!).

Roger B.

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Laudato Si': on care for our common home

Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter. 2015

I was very impressed with this Letter. The Pope has a great grasp of present problems, and writes in detail about the causes, the effects, and what we can do about it. There are 114 pages, divided into six chapters, and each chapter has several sections and up to about 60 detailed paragraphs. He has obviously studied the matter in depth and related it to Christian teachings. He is a deeply spiritual person, at the same time as having a wide view of the whole world. How he found time to write this in his present demanding job one really wonders.

There is much too much to summarise in a short article, but I think I was most impressed with chapters 5 and 6, "Lines of Approach and Action" and "Ecological Education and Spirituality". He emphasises life-style changes in favour of "the common good". Human beings need to change and become aware of our common origin, our mutual belonging and of a future to be shared with everyone. A great cultural, spiritual and educational challenge stands before us and an "ecological conversion" needs to take place. As he believes that God created the world, he has a strong argument for being grateful for it and taking care of it. He writes that each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us, and the entire universe speaks of God's love. We need to cultivate an "ecological citizenship", and he lists many of the practical ways in which we can do this, such as reducing water consumption, recycling, planting trees, using public transport, turning off unnecessary lights. I understand that he himself lives a simple life, not actually in the resplendent Vatican, where I think he has also accommodated some refugees.

I found it interesting to wonder whether being a Christian makes one more concerned about the whole of creation than members of other religions or none. Genesis 1 v.28* has been a stumbling block to many Christians, so I was glad to read the Pope's account in which he points out that Gen.2 v.15** gives a more caring version of our relationship to the earth. Some spiritual movements (such as Druidism and Shamanism) have an even more basic connection to the planet. This presents a challenge to those who call themselves Christian.

I was really delighted to read this Letter, which has some similarities to our Minute 36 of 2011. We may not all believe that God created the world, but we have similar reasons for caring for it and for trying to regard ourselves as part of a global community which includes all living things and the earth itself.

The book is in our Library, so do borrow it.

Anne A.

[*Genesis 1. 28: Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

**Genesis 2.15: The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

Ed.]

Olivier Memorial Peace Lecture 2017



The 2017 Olivier Memorial Peace Lecture will be given by Terry Waite, CBE, on the topic 'Survival in Solitude'. Terry Waite, famously a former representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is also now a member of the Society of Friends.

Ludlow Assembly Rooms, Wednesday 8 November at 7.30 p.m.

Ludlow Local Meeting Website and Facebook Page

Did you know that our Local Meeting website has been amalgamated with the Area Meeting site? – we have a special page of our own there: <http://www.smquakers.org.uk/ludlow-home/> We also have our own Facebook page (Ludlow Quaker Meeting) – the web address given there needs updating!

Quaker Pilgrimage in Cumbria: 'Not in Our Name'

A message from SMAM Clerk and Kendal and Sedbergh Friends

Dear Friends,

You will remember that in 2015 our SMAQM Young Friends produced a document at Quaker Camp in the Elan Valley, which became known as 'Not in Our Name'. Friends in Kendal and Sedbergh Area Meeting have taken this concern forward, facilitated largely by Tim Nicholls.

During April in the week before Easter, from 10 - 13 April, Friends will walk from Sedbergh deep in the Pennines to Ulverston on the Cumbrian coast on the way to Barrow in Furness, as a protest, as the attached flyer explains. This is 1652 country – Fox's Pulpit on Firbank Fell lies between Sedbergh and Kendal, and Swarthmoor Hall is at Ulverston – and the area is beautiful if you do not already know it; there will be spring flowers in the woodlands: a wonderful place for an early holiday. Barrow by contrast is one of the homes of BAE Systems.

Friends may like to give support, some by walking, others by donating, by keeping the walkers in their thoughts or in whatever other way Friends may feel is right for them. The leaflet gives contact details for Sally and Andy in Kendal. As Tim explained: all sorts of things are possible – shape your own pilgrimage -- let's be adventurous.



Barrow Pilgrimage

Easter 2017

Monday 10th to Thursday 13th April 2017

Quakers in Kendal and Sedbergh Area Meeting are concerned that recent changes to the welfare state are deeply wounding to the very fabric of our community and are hitting those who are the most vulnerable in our society.

This challenges our belief in equality, peace and social justice.

We welcome you to walk with us:

- *As a sign of our common humanity and our solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable.*
- *To support our belief in an inclusive society in which all are considered of equal worth.*
- *To show support for our welfare system.*
- *To show willingness to pay a level of taxation that will support the care and dignity of all.*

Our journey will take us from Sedbergh via Kendal, Rookhow and Ulverston, with accommodation arranged en route. Our walk will end at Barrow Tax Office with a period of silent witness and a symbolic offering of money for the Welfare State. We will make a collection for this where we walk and stay.

Contact us Sally 07939569559 or Andy on 07815547292 or email justsally1961@gmail.com if you wish to join us for all or part of the walk, or if you can offer space to sleep, or refreshments, or transport for those less able to walk the 15 - 20 miles each day. Leave your phone number if no reply.

INSPIRED BY FAITH:
Taking action *for the Common Good*
on behalf of Quakers in Kendal and Sedbergh Area Meeting

Ludlow Quaker Meeting: Appointments at January 2017

Bold indicates clerk/coordinator

Clerks	Barbara Mark Jane Wrench	Jamie Wrench
Elders	Roger Bartlett Ursula Freeman Margot Sutton	Joy Crouch Gill Payne
Overseers	Anne Adams Roger King Esther Rees	Bridget Cherry Barbara Mark Annie Wood
Treasurer	George Gunn	
Assistant Treasurers	Gill Payne (collections) Isla Rowntree	
Nominations Committee	Clive Prior Esther Rees	Sally Milner A.N.Other
Premises Committee	John Aitken Maureen Furniss Colin Sheward	John Brown
Building Committee	John Brown Paul Weedon Jane Wrench	George Gunn Jamie Wrench
Bookings for Meeting House	Colin Sheward	
Garden Committee	Nic Bowley Phi Evans Dori Ericsson	Joy Crouch Bridget Cherry Sally Milner
Domestic Committee	Jane Bishop Susie Green	June Buckard Jenny Sayer
Children's & Young People's Coordinator	Phi Evans	

Young Friends' birthdays	Helen Green	
Sustainability Committee	Anne Adams Barbara Mark	Susie Green David Milner
<i>Ludlow Town Fairtrade</i>	Esther Rees	
<i>Ludlow 21</i>	Barbara Mark	
Appeals Committee	Clive Prior Annie Wood	Dori Ericsson
Funerals Committee	Daniel McDowell Pamela Thompson John Voysey	Clive Prior
Losengeli Support Committee	John Aitken Clive Prior	Luzili King
Outreach Committee (includes <i>Christian Viewpoint</i>)	John Aitken John Cherry	Murri Smith
<i>Churches Together Around Ludlow</i>	Cynthia Prior Colin Sheward	
<i>Christian Aid</i>	Esther Rees	Julia Reynolds
<i>Quaker Peace & Social Witness</i>	Alice Meager	
Woodbrooke	Esther Rees	
<i>Ludlow Quaker Journal</i> editor	Roger Bartlett	
Librarian	John Cherry	
<i>Quaker News</i> distributors	Jane Bishop	June Buckard
Readings of <i>Advices & Queries</i>	John Nurse	
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	John Nurse	