



# Faringdon Quaker Meeting

NEWSLETTER 143 April to May 2026

---

Faringdon Quaker Meeting House – Events, Readings, Collections, and Community News

## Meeting Affairs

- Shared lunch: Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> April
- Business Meeting for Worship: Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

## Area Meeting for Church Affairs

Faringdon QMH, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of May 10:30 (after lunch event to be confirmed)

## Prayer for Peace

- Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April – Coffee from 10:00, worship at 10:30
- Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> May – 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

### April

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Bill
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Jenny
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Chris
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Geoff

### May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Shirley
- 10<sup>th</sup> – Mark
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Andrea
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Sue
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Simon

## Monthly Collections

- **April – EAPPI Britain and Ireland**

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is an international programme coordinated by the World Council of Churches. It brings people from around the world to the West Bank to serve for three months as human rights monitors, known as Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs).

EAPPI was founded in response to a call from the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. Since 2002, over 1,500 international volunteers from 22 countries have served as EAs. In the UK and Ireland, it is coordinated by British Quakers on behalf of 16 churches and NGOs, our partners.

To donate, [Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends \(Quakers\) - Donate now](#)

- **May – Christian Aid**

Eradicating poverty

**Everyone is equal in the sight of God**

For 80 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive.

To donate [Christian Aid Week 2026 | Donate](#)

## Forthcoming Events

### Faringdon Peace Group

- Meet our MP Charlie Maynard – Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 19:30 at FMH (Coffee at 9:00)
- Annual Levellers' Day event – Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, Burford

## Recent Gatherings



### Peace Protest and Prayers continue – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Prayer for Peace was attended by ten persons – being joined by Cirencester Friends.

Swindon Friends joined the demonstration!

## Spiritual Nurture Session: Charlbury Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> March

How Punk is our Quakerism? Stuart White led our Spiritual Nurture session on “How Punk is our Quakerism? Reflections on Punk, Politics, and Spirituality”. He explored the history of punk movements from the 1970s to present, and the parallels between Quakerism and punk ethos. Stuart encouraged us to consider how punk can challenge and correct aspects of Quakerism, and how it can support our spiritual lives.

## Drone Wars UK

<https://dronewars.net/>

**The use of Fairford air base in Gloucestershire by United States military forces to conduct strikes against targets in Iran has raised important questions about the UK’s role in the Middle East conflict.** Since 2024, Drone Wars UK has investigated and opposed the use of Fairford for USAF drone operations, joining with CND and Oxfordshire Peace Campaign to challenge illegal military actions against Iran.



Naming the dead of Shajareh Tayyebah School – Fairford, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026

On Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, Fairford Action, supported by Drone Wars UK, CND, and Oxfordshire Peace Campaign, held a short protest at Fairford's gates to remember and name those killed in the US/Israeli war on Iran. The US cruise missile attack on the Shajareh Tayyebah girls' elementary school in Minab on 28 February killed 175 persons, most of whom were schoolchildren.

## Compassion UK

Compassion UK, a Christian charity established in 1952, works with churches in deprived areas to help release children from poverty. They were chosen for their Christian ethos and long history of supporting children in developing countries.

The child chosen for us is Kylie, a 3-year-old in the Philippines. Her mother, Kim, tells us Kylie enjoys singing and spaghetti! Compassion UK assures us that Kylie and Kim have not been affected by recent natural disasters in the Philippines.

Attached is the latest letter from Kylie and her Mum Kim.



Kylie and Kim.pdf

Sorry its in a PDF because Kylie has handwritten her response

Mark says: I have written back, sharing George Fox's Epistle No. 10 (with some translation!) to help Kylie in times of trouble. The advice is to 'sink down in that which is pure and strength and courage' and peace will come. Hopefully the translator will manage :-)

Ha – we'll see what reply I get.

Many Thanks, Mark

## Restarting Faringdon Meeting – Janie recalls

Friends asked me to share what it was like for Quakers to meet again in Faringdon Meeting House after nearly a hundred years. The historical facts are in our booklet, *Quakers in Faringdon*, but these are my personal memories and those of Alex, the only other Friend from that time. (Albert moved to Faringdon later.)

Witney Monthly Meeting wanted to sell the Faringdon site but were prevented by the Charity Commission. Marjorie Stevenson-Jones convinced the meeting to keep the site, hoping to re-establish a meeting. Vale of White Horse Friends had met at Charney Manor on Sundays but needed their own space and fire regulation upgrades. In 1976,

repairs were made and the building used by 'unclubbable' boys, who redecorated the interior. Electric lighting and an outside lavatory were provided.

In 1977, Charney Friends tried a monthly week-night Meeting for Worship. I was a new member with a young family, but there was a strong nucleus: Margaret and David Collin, Betty and Dennis Compton, Mary Guillemard, Christine Marns, Margaret and David Sauderson, and Marjorie Stevenson-Jones.

At first, it was chilly and we brought our own garden chairs. The outside lavatory had only a candle in a jar for dark excursions, and inside there were signs of a dartboard. Coffee required a power point at one end; we brought our own mugs. Yet the power in the room was felt by all. By 1979, meetings were held on Sundays, first monthly, then weekly from December. The boys' lease ended, benches were returned, and Oxford gave us chairs. A curtain divided the room for warmth.

By 1981, the meeting was large, including 12 children. Barbara and Philip Humphry moved from Wantage, and children met in their Gloucester Street house. The burial ground was uneven, but Area Meeting volunteers cleared and redecorated. Park School children planted borders, led by Albert Hudspeth. In 1983, an extension provided a children's room, kitchen, and toilets. New members joined, and Christmas parties featured musical instruments and circle dancing.

When many Friends died or moved, it was hard to replace them, as we were little known locally. The next stage came through the Peace Group, which met in the Meeting House from 1980. Now we are thriving again and look forward to many more years in this special place.

### **Janie Cottis**

Thank you to Janie and all who came before, for giving us this special place of worship and community in Faringdon.

## **Armed Conflict or Mutual Survival**

**Militarism and ecological collapse are not separate emergencies—they are intertwined, each feeding the other in a spiral humanity cannot afford to ignore.**

At a time when international cooperation is urgently needed to address the climate crisis, the world is becoming more militarised, confrontational, and war-torn.

Military budgets are soaring, and political leaders increasingly speak lightly of destruction. Global military spending reached a record \$2.718 trillion in 2024, the sharpest annual rise since the Cold War. Amid conflict with Iran, Donald Trump reportedly suggested the US might strike Iran's Kharg Island oil export hub again "just for

fun”. Such language is morally grotesque, reflecting a culture where distant devastation is considered trivial.

War is both a human and environmental catastrophe. The greenhouse gas emissions from the war in Gaza alone rival those of 36 small countries. Militarisation consumes vast resources that could be dedicated to sustainability. Fear, rivalry, and military threat undermine the international cooperation upon which a sustainable world depends. Sustainability and international relations are inseparable.

Even without active conflict, military preparations absorb enormous resources. SIPRI warns that increasing military expenditure diverts funding from crucial social and environmental needs. Every escalation in militarisation is a step away from protecting a liveable future.

The environmental crisis heightens tensions. Droughts, crop failures, water shortages, extreme heat, and rising seas intensify social pressures, likely to breed hostility and violence in a world governed by fear and rivalry. Ecological breakdown feeds conflict, and conflict accelerates ecological breakdown.

Modern life binds humanity together through global interdependence—energy, food, technology, finance, and more. Our weapons threaten those we depend on, just as theirs threaten us.

No nation can stabilise the climate, protect biodiversity, or safeguard resources alone. Only cooperation can achieve sustainability; mutually supportive international relations are essential.

A politics that can joke about bombing for fun is not fit for an age of planetary emergency. The environmental crisis calls for a historic shift in international relations—from rivalry to cooperation, armed threat to mutual support, domination to shared responsibility, and preparation for war to preparation for survival.

What is the moral difference between killing innocents abroad and at home? Why is one strategy, deterrence, or collateral damage, while the other is an atrocity? Distance and nationality do not diminish moral culpability.

Climate change, ecological breakdown, and resource depletion threaten us all, yet the international order is built on armed hostility and strategic competition. This is irrational self-harm, failing to recognise our shared future.

Realism requires acknowledging our intertwined futures and shared security. No nation can be safe on an unsafe planet.

The environmental movement must call for the redirection of resources from arms to mutual cooperation, ecological repair, and shared survival. Our task is to transform

adversaries into partners and rebuild international relations around mutual survival, not destruction.

Some say this is unrealistic. But what is truly unrealistic is believing humanity can survive ecological breakdown while trapped in military confrontation. Rivalry and arms races will only drive global collapse.

We cannot find the cooperation needed to prevent planetary destruction while trying to destroy each other.

**Thank you, Sue, for bringing this article to our attention.**

**Co-authored by Sue's brother, Richard Wilkinson**