



# Faringdon Quaker Meeting

NEWSLETTER 142 February to March 2026

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## Meeting Affairs

- Shared lunch: Sunday, 1 February
- Business Meeting for Worship: Sunday, 1 March

## Area Meeting for Church Affairs

- Charlbury Friends Meeting House: Saturday, 14 March, 10:30am  
Refreshments provided; please bring your own lunch.

## Prayer for Peace

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February -Coffee from 10, worship at 10:30

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March as above

## News appointments

Our Friends, Val Jones and Simon Clark are standing down from their roles on the Spiritual and Pastoral Care group.

These persons have been appointed:

Andrea Hughes, as a member of the Spiritual and Pastoral care team

Sue Douglas, as a member of the Spiritual and Pastoral care team

Ruth Scholes, as our safeguarding representative

We bring forward the names of Paul Freke as our area meeting nomination representative

## Study Group

To be arranged suggestions to the Spiritual and Pastoral Group.

### An invitation from Paul

I would like us to start a new adventure!

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?

Maybe once a month or bimonthly?

### In Friendship

Paul

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## Recent gatherings

As is the new "tradition" a shortened meeting for worship was held on Christmas day

The first Prayers for Peace this year took place on Saturday, 31 January. Our meeting was joined by peace protestors, resulting in at least 22 participants in our vigil—possibly the largest attendance in modern times, not counting area meetings.

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## Future Events

### Our friend Liz Rothschild performs

"Outside the Box- a Live Show about Death. Last ever live performances at the Burton Taylor Studio in 2026. Oxford Playhouse- March 18th -20th, 7.30pm."

## Readings for Meeting for Worship

### February

- 1st February – Shirley
- 8th February – Mark
- 15th February – Andrea
- 22nd February – Sue

### March

- 1st March – Emma
- 8th March – Simon
- 15th March – Val
- 22nd March – Gill & Trish
- 29th March – Paul

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## From Three Men in a Boat, by Jerome k. Jerome

Let your boat of life be light, packed with only what you need- a homely home and simple pleasures, one or two friends, worth the name, someone to love and someone to love you, a cat , a dog, and a pipe or two, enough to eat and enough to wear, and a little more than enough to drink ; for thirst is a dangerous thing.

You will find the boat easier to pull then, and ...you will have time to think as well to work. Time to drink in life's sunshine – time to listen to Aeolian music that the wind of God draws from the human heartstrings around us.

Thank you for this reading, Eddy.

We all wish you well in your new life downstream in Oxford

## Mark writes about the meetings commitment to Compassion UK

Click to find out more [About Compassion](#)

As a Meeting we decided in September that, with no children of our own in the Meeting, it would be a very good idea to sponsor a child with Compassion UK. This represents a significant commitment up until the age of 18 but this ensured we could do what we felt as a Meeting we wanted to do in respect of children and young people. Were the

Meeting ever to be laid down, a trust fund would be established to ensure the commitment was maintained.

Compassion UK, a Christian charity established in 1952 to work with churches in deprived areas of the world to help release children from poverty, were chosen partly because of their Christian background but also because of their long history in supporting children in a variety of developing country backgrounds.

The child they chose for us is Kylie, a 3-year-old only child in the Philippines, who - Kim her mother tells us - currently really likes singing and spaghetti! There have been a number of natural disasters hit the Philippines recently, but we have been assured by Compassion UK that Kylie and Kim have not been impacted by them. Mark has written two letters now, and has had an additional reply – just in. Kiley's Mum has written again to say that, in addition to all the things she was doing in the first letter, she is also now: getting up at 6am, playing pretend cooking with her Mum and enjoys Sundays best of all, because she gets the chance to play with her friends!

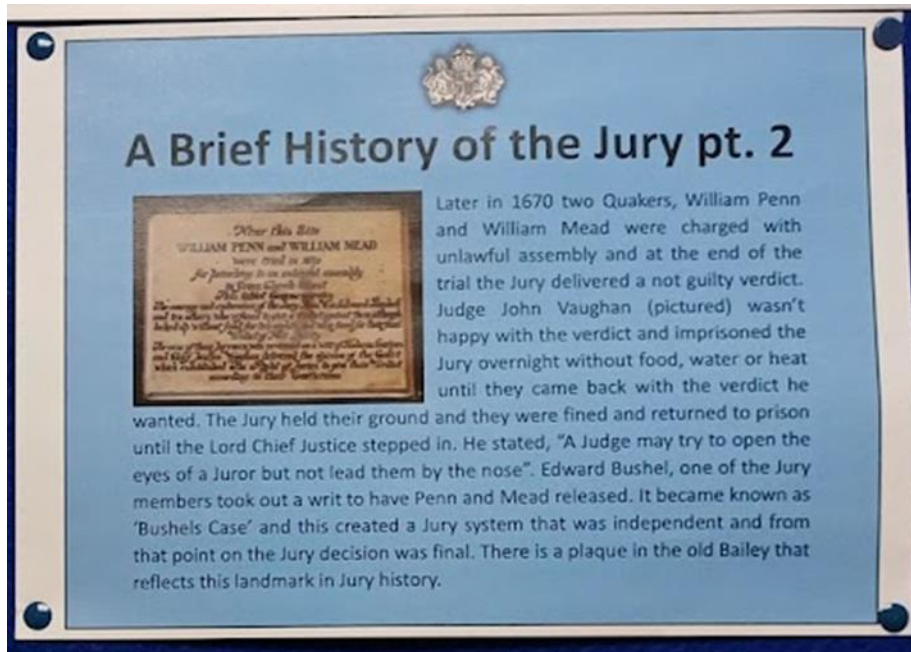
## Chris shares her experience of being a Juror

I have just completed two weeks of jury service and have found plenty to think about following this totally new experience.

There is a lot of time spent waiting, in fact myself and fellow potential jurors did nothing except wait around in the first week. Twelve of us were sworn/affirmed in at the start of the following week, and our case lasted four days. I was interested that the judge advised us to not only listen carefully to **what** was said, but also **how** it was said. He was referring to all the witnesses, but it was also good advice on which to assess the questioning and 'suggesting' that both barristers used, too.

We really had to carefully decide whether witnesses were credible (or not) and reliable (or not). We were encouraged to infer, using common sense, but NOT speculate, and that was also a useful distinction.

One of the first things to catch my eye on the wall outside the jurors' lounge was a brief history of the UK jury service, in particular the description of Bushell's case involving William Penn and William Mead,



Chris Continues

It was so heartening to work with my fellow jurors, all of them complete strangers, and all of whom seemed thoroughly decent, thoughtful and fair-minded folk. I think we did a good job. Long live the jury system in our country!

## Monthly Collections

### February National Friendship Fund

Caradog Jones, founder of National Friendship Fund, was a Quaker and university lecturer who was sentenced to three months hard labour in Newcastle Gaol, as a pacifist and conscientious objector in World War One. He spent three years in solitary confinement, sewing mailbags.

On release he had to rebuild his career as an academic statistician, but he also became a dedicated peace worker and founded the National Friendship Fund in 1956, to help refugees displaced by the Second World War.

He wrote: - '*it would be surprising if friends would ever want to fight each other. A step in the right direction, therefore, would be to foster friendly relations – in place of fear and enmity - between different nations..... Individuals can take the initiative and do in a small way what governments do in a big way .... so together we shall be doing something to promote peace throughout the world.*'

Caradog died in 1974 and assumed in his writing at the time that the number of refugees would gradually diminish but, in fact, half a century later, there are more

refugees worldwide driven by political unrest and climate change, The National Friendship Fund continues his work.

We give grants to individuals/families seeking asylum or recently granted refugee status where a small grant (of up to £250) may enable a significant change in their lives.

Some examples are help with starting training, securing accommodation and avoiding homelessness; basic items to make a living space for themselves.

### **Would you like to contribute to these small positive changes?**

The best way you can support NFF work is through a regular standing order (sorry we're too small to be able to offer direct debits). Or if it's better for you, a one-off donation by bank transfer, cheque or cash is very welcome.

If you are eligible (i.e. a UK taxpayer)

please consider allowing us to collect Gift Aid on your donation.

Talk to us if you are interested and want to find out more first.

e-mail: [national.friendship.fund@gmail.com](mailto:national.friendship.fund@gmail.com)

WhatsApp or SMS: Kit Oi +44 (0) 7712 672719

Simon +44 (0) 7444 795274

### **DONATIONS TO NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FUND**

National Friendship Fund Bank details:

Bank: The Co-operative Bank

Account Name: Nat Friendship Fund

Sort Code: 08-90-73; Account number: 50301762

### **STANDING ORDER**

To set up a standing order you will have to contact your bank, online or by phone or in person. You will have to give them the above account details, specify the amount you wish to give and the frequency of the donation (typically monthly). You may also be able to specify the day of the month you wish the donation to leave your account.

### **ONE-OFF DONATIONS**

One-off donations can be made using the following methods:

**BANK TRANSFER:** Direct bank payments can be made to the National Friendship Fund's bank

account, details as above:

CHEQUE: payable to the National Friendship Fund. Send your cheque to us at: 19 Knowsley Road, Liverpool L19 0PF

We recognise that probably the easiest way for you to make donations is via the JustGiving website, but we are conscious that JustGiving will take 5% of any donations to cover their costs. We will make sure that 0% of your donation will be used to cover administrative costs.

GIFT AID: Boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate

In order to Gift Aid your donation please either write to us at 19 Knowsley Road, Liverpool L19

0PF or email us at [national.friendship.fund@gmail.com](mailto:national.friendship.fund@gmail.com) giving the following information:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ to the National Friendship Fund.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay

any difference.

My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration or change your name or home address or no

longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief

due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask

HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP FUND

Registered Charity 207898

March [Amnesty International to donate simply click on Give](#)

Please speak with the Treasurer if you have suggestions for future collection recipients.

Thank you for all the contributions

Simon Clark

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