



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading it



Events for September

Sunday 1 st September	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line
Thurs 5 th Sept	14.00	Social Group	Issy's house
	19.00	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House
Friday 6 th Sept	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Sunday 8 th Sept	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line
Thurs 12 th Sept	1400	Arts Group Get Together to see Gathering Threads Exhibition	Denmans Gardens, Arundel BN18 OSU
		Social Group	Issy's House
Friday 13 th Sept	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Saturday 14 th Sept	09.00 – 17.00	Ride and Stride	Meeting House
Sunday 15 th Sept	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Zoom log-in:
		Third Sunday Talk: Penny Yendell will talk about Managing Change.	
Wed 18 th Sept	18.30	Quaker Way Follow Up	Meeting House
Thursday 19 th Sept	14.00	Social Group	Issy's house
Friday 20 th Sept	10.00	Friendly Café	Meeting House
	14.00- 16.00	Quaker Way Follow Up	Meeting House
Saturday 21 st Sept	10.30	Area Meeting	Ditchling Meeting House
Sunday 22 nd Sept	10.30 am	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Zoom log-in:
Wed 25 th Sept	Evening	Songs for Peace with Local Choirs and Singers	Meeting House
Friday 27 th Sept	10.00	Friendly Cafe	Meeting House
Sat 28 th Sept	10.30	Regional Meeting	Guildford MH and on Zoom
Sunday 29 th Sept	10.30	Meeting for Worship	Meeting House and on-line Meeting House
	12.00	SOGII meeting	

Future Dates

- Remember to go to Quaker.app (formerly known as QNet) for all Future Dates. For those Friends with no computer access, the Pastoral Team will keep you informed. The log-in for Quaker.app is: <https://quaker.app/>

unicef  for every child

This month's charity is UNICEF for the Crisis in Sudan – an often unreported and forgotten War

More than 15 months of continued conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces has created a humanitarian crisis in Sudan. **Half of Sudan's population – more than 24.8 million people, almost 13.6 million of whom are children – are in need of urgent assistance.**

Children have been killed, injured and displaced from home, and the conflict is disrupting critical services on which families depend. Sudan now has the world's largest number of internally displaced people, with **more than 11 million people uprooted by the conflict.**

The situation for children in Sudan was already very fragile. Food security, health, water and education services were stretched. **Now life-saving treatment and other health services are disrupted, and most schools are closed.** The routine immunisation rate has fallen rapidly since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic – one in six children are completely unprotected from preventable diseases.

Despite the challenges, UNICEF and partners have reached:

- 5.2 million children and families with safe drinking water.
- 3.3 million people with critical health supplies.
- Almost 2.8 million children with screening for malnutrition.
- Over 133,600 children receiving life-saving treatment.
- 2.1 million children and caregivers with psychosocial counselling, learning, and protection support.
- 72,800 mothers, children, and families with cash, information, and services to preserve health and resilience.

[Donate to Sudan Appeal for Children in Crisis - UNICEF UK](#)

The Charity for October is UK Harvest

A local Charity that provides a simple but effective process to prevent food waste and food insecurity.



UK Harvest collects food that would have gone to landfill from supermarkets, restaurants, manufacturers and others.



A fleet of refrigerated vans give food to our recipients and Community Food Hubs.



Recipient charities and community food hubs give people in need access to affordable healthy food.

Donate here: [UKHarvest food rescue and education charity](#)

Charity for November is Tools for Self Reliance



Sarah (Randall) tells us about this Charity:

What is this charity? They collect and refurbish unwanted tools that are sent out to several African countries which can be used for building, shoe repairs and carpentry, for example. Some electric sewing machines can be adapted and sent out as well, so people can make clothing for themselves and to sell.

In this way, their projects support people to find meaningful local employment and to secure an income that will support them and their families. Projects also provide vocational training opportunities which will equip them with practical trade skills and knowledge of how to run their own businesses and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

John and I have known about this charity for a long time and take tools along to their local branch at Netley Marsh, near Southampton. It is fascinating to be shown round to see what they can achieve. If you plan to make a trip, please give them a call first on **02380 869697** to make sure someone is there. They also have a network of volunteer collectors across the country who can collect donations.

So what is the money used for? It funds the transport to get the items out to Africa in their large containers. It also finds some projects and in June 2024, TfSR were involved with a Skills Training and Empowerment Project for Inmates (STEP-IN) in Zambian prisons. Most of the 24,000 inmates held in Zambian correctional facilities come from the most marginalised and disadvantaged sectors of society, often with reduced formal education opportunities, low literacy and numeracy levels. One of the proven methods to reduce reoffending is through holistic projects such as this. Not only will this project address the skill attainment of prisoners, but it will also focus on rehabilitation, family reunification, and assistive housing upon release.

Donate here: [Donate - Tools For Self Reliance \(tfsr.org\)](https://tfsr.org)



News from the Arts Group

Our next get-together is going to be an outing to see the Exhibition by the Chichester Stitchmakers Group called Gathering Threads. Stitchmakers is a group of 12 friends who have worked together on their creative ideas for many years and give themselves creative stitch challenges and critiques of each other's work.

It sounds a lovely Exhibition. Let's meet in the café at Denmans Gardens on Thursday morning 12th September at 10.30 for a coffee and chat and then see the Exhibition which has free entry.

Everyone welcome.



Janet (Beckett)

Three Months in East Jerusalem



As part of the Festival of Chichester a talk was arranged entitled The Reality of Living in Jerusalem in 2024. It was by Nick Papadopoulos who spent Spring 2024 as an ecumenical accompanier in Palestine and Israel and shared his experiences.

Barbara (Hayes) reflects on his talk:

For months the news from Israel Palestine had been of one atrocity after another, leading to protest and polarised opinions across the world, so perhaps there was some nervousness that the Quaker contribution to the Chichester Festival could be a focus for some of those tensions. There was no need to worry. Nick Papadopoulos, among the first EAs to be deployed since the Oct 2023 Hamas attack, gave a clear and measured account of his experience and thoughtfully answered questions. His legal background and experience as Dean of Salisbury probably helped, along with his detailed training for the EA role.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel [EAPPI] was set up by the World Council of Churches in 2002 in response to a call from church leaders in Jerusalem to provide human rights monitors in the region. So far 1,500 volunteers from 22 countries have spent 3 months in Israel Palestine. In the UK the programme is managed by the Quakers.

EAs are not pro Palestinian or pro Israeli but pro Human Rights. Based in East Jerusalem Nick's group met with both Palestinians and Jewish Israelis, including peace activists. He referred to the Oasis of Peace organisation that provided a speaker for us some years ago and which we have supported financially.



After a brief description of the historic and current boundaries, Nick focused on 3 of the situations he witnessed. - young Palestinian men and others refused access to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque, two Palestinian businesses arbitrarily destroyed and finally the impacts of the Gaza war on health care workers. In each case the situation was described and the particular UN Human Right denied was cited. Nick then took questions that ranged from the Balfour Declaration to current experience.

It is dangerous for responses to the current situation to be based solely on strong emotion, so Nick's calm approach was welcome, although drawing a parallel between attendance at the Al Aqsa Mosque and strolling across to Evensong in Salisbury felt a little simplistic. The latter has not been seen as a political act since the 17th century while attendance at the Mosque is still both political and religious for many. Nevertheless, the EAPPI's human rights approach must be the right one.

When Nick asked a Palestinian if the presence of EAs made a difference the reply was 'No, not here, but back in your country.' Nick is open to speak to groups of all sorts if we can provide an introduction.

It was a thoughtful and informative event that more people should hear. To read more about the EAPPI click the link here: [EAPPI | Quakers in Britain](#). £300 was sent from the Local Meeting to EAPPI after this talk.

400TH Anniversary of George Fox Event



More than 45 guests attended a special day at the Meeting House to help celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Quaker founder George Fox.

The guests were taken on a walking tour of local Quaker landmarks in Chichester which illustrated the rich historical links the religious group has with the city.

Among the locations the party were taken to by guide Michael Gilson were:

- The two Quaker schools which were established in 1812, one for girls in the East Walls and for boys on the former House of Fraser department store site.
- The site of the old East Gate jail where many Quakers were incarcerated for their beliefs in the 17th Century
- The house in St John's Street (now Stride & Son Auctioneers) which was home to six times Mayor of Chichester and Quaker William Smith who, in the early 20th century, pioneered new water and drainage systems for the city.
- The East Street home of Quaker James Hack who founded the Chichester Bank in 1809 which eventually merged with another Quaker bank Barclays (still on the site) to become a financial powerhouse.



The Chichester Bank in the late 19th century

- The Little London home of Barton Hack who left Chichester in 1837 and became one of the founders of the Australian city of Adelaide.

Later the group were given talks by Meeting House Elder Maria (Hock) and Cheryll (Pitt) on the life and times of George Fox, who first came to the city to establish a Quaker meeting here in 1655.

Said Maria: *'We were delighted to welcome so many non Quakers along on the day to find out a little bit about our history and our links with this great city. We really wanted to open the doors of our Priory Road building and explain a little bit about ourselves because although we've been here since at least 1655 I'm not sure many know much about who we are and what we believe.'*

It is good to be reminded of our history and the history of this remarkable character:

When Fox first visited the city he had already clashed with government and clerical authorities by insisting that all men were created equal, to the point he refused to remove his hat when facing court, political and even Royal 'superiors'. He was often jailed and Quakers suffered persecution. Quaker activities have encompassed, among others, establishing the first ever anti-slavery organisation in Britain in 1783, promoting non-violence as a path to world peace, campaigning for a sustainable future and climate justice and supporting equality. Many ethical businesses were founded by Quakers and leading reformers, like 19th century prison campaigner Elizabeth Fry.



The Cass Report SOGII Meeting on 29th September 2024

'When words are strange or disturbing to you, try to sense where they come from and what has nourished the lives of others.' Advices and Queries 17.

You will have noticed the recent publication of the Cass report about the provision of gender identity services for children and young people. We will summarise the report to better inform ourselves of its contents and discuss it from our own perspectives.

This meeting will follow 10.30 Meeting for Worship at Chichester Meeting House. We will meet 12.30-14.30 followed by tea. Please bring your own lunch.

HELLO FROM THE CHILDREN'S GROUP



We are all having a break in August, We will hopefully meet again in the Autumn and will share our activities and adventures in the next Newsletter.

Jill, Jenny and Fanny

To end this Newsletter an Autumn poem by William Wordsworth – what wonderful images he conjures up.

The Kitten and Falling Leaves

See the kitten on the wall, sporting with the leaves that fall,
Withered leaves—one—two—and three, from the lofty elder-tree!
Through the calm and frosty air, of this morning bright and fair . . .
—But the kitten, how she starts; Crouches, stretches, paws, and darts!

First at one, and then its fellow, just as light and just as yellow;
There are many now—now one—now they stop and there are none;
What intenseness of desire, in her upward eye of fire!

With a tiger-leap half way, now she meets the coming prey,
Lets it go as fast, and then, has it in her power again:
Now she works with three or four, like an Indian Conjuror;
Quick as he in feats of art, far beyond in joy of heart.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook [Chichester Quakers \(Meeting of The Religious Society of Friends\) | Chichester | Facebook](#)

