

Almeley Friends Newsletter

July 2006

Pastoral Care Group

We live in a rationalist society that has shed the security of dogmas it found it could not accept, and now finds itself afraid of its own freedom. Some look for an external authority, as they did of old; but in this situation there are many who cannot just go backwards. They ask for an authority they can accept without the loss of integrity: they ask to be talked to in a language they can understand... With these people our point of departure is not a mighty proclamation of truth, but the humble invitation to sit down together and share what we have found, in the spirit of Woolman setting out on his Indian journey, 'that I might feel and understand their life, and the spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them.' We approach them without pressure to accept a statement, or with proselytising zeal, but with 'love as the first motion.'

Harold Loukes, 1955



Enquirer's Meeting

Motte House was the venue for a recent Enquirer's and Attender's meeting. Having first arranged a perfect English summer evening, Ken Hutchinson's offer of hospitality was taken up by twelve Friends and Attenders who feasted on a shared supper in the garden before retiring indoors for a stimulating and wide ranging discussion. The questions asked - Is our Meeting welcoming enough to enquirers? Could we do better? - were debated lovingly, with great feeling; reaching the conclusion that so far so good, yes, we do have a warm and welcoming meeting but we can always do better.

Elizabeth Fry

Her contribution to nursing

Nothing short of the Holy Spirit can really help forward the cause of righteousness on earth,"

Elizabeth Fry, was one of the chief promoters of prison reform in Europe. Helping to improve the hospital system and treatment of the insane, unwearingly attending to the poor, she was acknowledged as a "minister" by the Society of Friends in 1811, later journeying in Scotland, northern England, Ireland, and much of Europe where she inspected prisons and wrote reports. Her recommendations for Newgate Prison, for instance, included separation of the sexes, classification of criminals, female supervision for women, adequate provision for religious and secular instruction, and useful employment. Even in her lifetime her suggestions were increasingly acted upon throughout most of Europe. Influenced by Elizabeth Fry, Theodor Fliedner, a German pastor, opened an institute at Kaiserwerth, near Dusseldorf, in 1833 where deaconesses were given some training in the care of the sick. Florence Nightingale undertook a period of training there herself. In 1840, at Bishopsgate, Elizabeth Fry established the Institution of Nursing Sisters who would learn their work in a general hospital and then nurse the sick in their own homes. Nurses were carefully selected, did some hospital work (at Guy's) and undertook welfare and nursing work in private houses. The scheme had little impact on nursing as a whole because of a lack of proper training, mixed aims of the institute and the fact that the nursing sisters had to undertake a variety of tasks. However it was an impetus for other organisations, including the Church of England to start 'orders of nursing'. Because of Elizabeth's influence (and that of others) a more professional approach to nursing and nurse education, emerged to match the needs of the new science of medicine. One of Elizabeth's 'sisters' nursed her in her last illness. She died at the age of 65. Her actions spurred by her faith.

On 24 June 1860 the first probationers began their course at the Nightingale Training School at St.Thomas's Hospital. This was, it is often argued, the world's first truly professional nurse training school, with a regular programme of lectures as well as work in the hospital wards. It was founded with money raised as a tribute to the work of Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War.

New library books.

Checkpoints and Chances. *Author: Katharine von Schubert - Eyewitness accounts from an observer in Israel-Palestine - Spine code: Orange circle around white centre*

Silence and Witness. *Author: Michael L. Birkel
An exploration of Quaker Spirituality - Spine code Blue circle*

British Quakerism 1860-1920
A thorough history of Quakerism. Author: Thomas C. Kennedy - Spine code Red circle

No Extraordinary Power *Author: Helen Steven
Do we have access through prayer and action to some kind of extra-ordinary power beyond ourselves?
Spine code Blue dot*

The Journal of George Fox (revised) *John L. Nickalls
Spine code Red circle*

The World in My Heart *Author: Jo Farrow
The author's spiritual journey - Spine code Blue circle*

Our Quaker Heritage *Editor Kenneth H. Southall
Photographs and short histories about old Meeting Houses, Almeley included. - Spine code Red circle*

Godless for God's Sake *Authors 27 Quaker Non-theists
Challenging! - Spine code blue dot*

The Golden Book of Quaker Botanists *Author: Ann Nichols - A fascinating history of Quaker botanists.
Spine code Red circle*

Islam. A Very Short Introduction *Author: Malise Ruthven
- Hard going but informative. - Spine code red oblong*

To Heal a Fractured World *Author Jonathan Sacks
Ethics of responsibility - Spine code White dot*

Man's last and highest parting occurs when, for God's sake, he takes leave of God
Meister Eckhart, 13th century Abbot

If God is All-Good and All-Powerful, evil should not exist. Therefore, either God is All-Good but allows evil because God is not All-Powerful, or God is All-Powerful but allows evil because God is not All-Good.

Epicurus c 250 BCE

80th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION An Invitation Sunday 6th August 2006

Young Jim Waterhouse and his family invites *Ffriends* to to celebrate with them by joining them in OPEN HOUSE at Jim's home of cultural delights, Stretford Cottage, Staunton-on-Wye, from noon until 10pm. Food, conversation and general conviviality; and please do not even think of presents, it's your presence Jim would appreciate.

More details from 01981 500300

Garden Picnic

Anne and Richard Bull invite *Ffriends* to picnic in their garden after Meeting on Sunday 13th August

Broken Bank Cottage, Gladestry, Kington

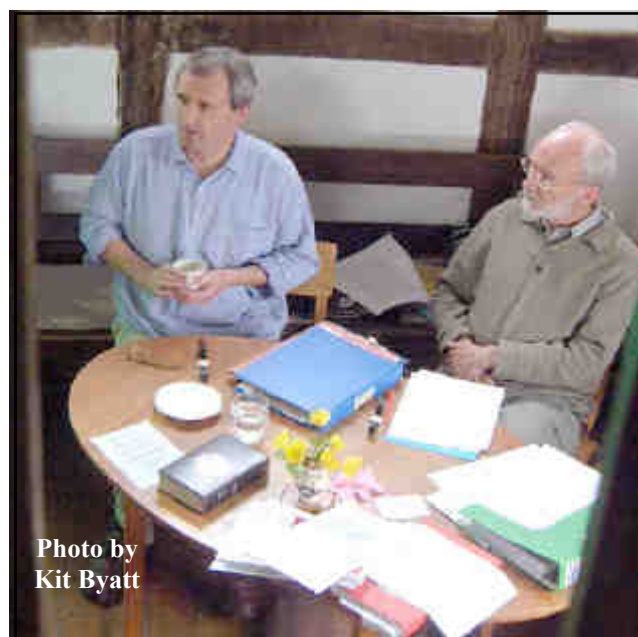


Photo by
Kit Byatt

Michael Goodwin, Head teacher of Sibford School with David Binney at MM in May.

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RE-CYCLED PAPER.**

Items for the Newsletter are always required.
Please give or send to John Tittley.

