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The Parrot

EVERY STAGE OF OUR LIVES OFFERS FRESH OPPORTUNITIES. RESPONDING TO DIVINE GUIDANCE, TRY TO DISCERN THE RIGHT TIME TO UNDERTAKE OR RELINQUISH RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT UNDUE PRIDE OR GUILT. ATTEND TO WHAT LOVE REQUIRES OF YOU, WHICH MAY NOT BE GREAT BUSYNESS..

ADVICES & QUERIES 28



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By Friends @ Westminster Meeting, March 2026

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Westminster Meets:

Sunday: 11:00-12:00; Wednesday: 18:15-19:00;
1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: 13:00-13:30

[Westminster Quaker Meeting House, 52 St Martin's Ln,
London WC2N 4EA.](#)

Online Worship

Online, via Zoom. Either in Blended Meetings (alongside
Friends in the meeting house) or Parallel (online).

Our recurring Zoom link is [here](#).

Greetings from the co-editors:

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the Parrot. Thank you for all your contributions we enjoyed reading them. We are aware of the huge impact on Westminster Meeting of the death of our Friend Jo Poole.

Jo was a force of nature in our Meeting and in the last 9 years despite her being seriously injured in a car accident – she attended Meeting for Worship both online and in person.

Before her injuries Jo made her living as the award winning 'Dress Doctor' she created new items by recycling fabric. In this issue we have shared some images and descriptions by Friends of the beautiful things Jo made for them.

**Jo Poole's Memorial Meeting will be held
March 26 at Westminster Meeting House
- arrive at 13:30 for 14:00.**

Please notify clerks if you plan to join.

The next edition of the Parrot will be in early April so please send all contributions by April 1. Please send articles of up to 500 words with a Quaker theme. We are also keen to have photo essays and are especially interested in receiving articles from members of Children's Meeting.

We plan for there to be a dedicated Children's Meeting page edited by Children's Meeting members.

For the April Edition of 'The Parrot' we invite members of Children's Meeting to design a new logo for the Parrot.

Please email all submissions to

WestminsterParrot@outlook.com

Pennie Quinton & Daniel Clarke Flynn

YOUNG ADULT SUMMER GATHERING AT JORDANS

Dear Friends,

We're writing to share news of an upcoming international gathering of Young Adult Friends, to be held at Jordans Friends Meeting House, near Beaconsfield, UK, from 12–16 August 2026. This follows gatherings held in 2024 and 2025, whose epistles can be found [here](#).

In the midst of a difficult time and a hurting world, we sense that there is life and light in earnestly seeking guidance from a power beyond ourselves. At our gathering last year, we experienced this power as an Inward Voice of Love, and often felt Christ's presence in and among us. In coming together, we found the sensitivity to listen together to the Divine Voice, and the trust and the strength to follow the Companion who is with us always. We invite you to join us in this experience, as we are gathered by the Spirit.

You can fill out this [form](#) to express your interest in joining us, and we will share more information and how to register in the coming months. We hope you will consider whether the Spirit is laying this on your heart.

We need your help to make this gathering possible! We plan to make use of the youth hostel near Jordans but need funding for that, as well as for meals and travel bursaries for Friends coming from further away.

Please consider whether you or your meeting can [support us](#).

Please share this with any young adult Friends who might feel a nudge to join us.

In the Love that draws us together,

The gathering planning committee

SAVE THE DATE
*Young Adult Friends
Gathering*
**AT JORDANS FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
NEAR BEACONSFIELD, UK
12TH–16TH AUGUST 2026**
*A time to listen to the
Inward Voice of Love*



**FIND MORE INFO AT
WWW.YAFGATHERING.ORG**



Why I am a Quaker

From the moment I first walked into this Quaker meeting in 2008, having seen an advert in a newspaper that said “Thou Shalt decide for yourself”, I knew I was home.

As an attender, and during the years when I wasn't a member, I never doubted that I was a Quaker.

Westminster Meeting on Wednesday evenings is where I am both anchored and uplifted. I arrive as I am, sit in the stillness, and feel both held and quietly stirred.

The Friends I meet here inspire me, challenge me, and gently unsettle me, in the best ways possible.

I thank you for that, because you help shape not just how I think, but how I live.

Being a Quaker gives me a way of being faithful that doesn't depend on having the right answers.

It invites me into a spirituality rooted in attention to the Inner Light, to one another, and to the demands of love, peace, equality, simplicity, truth and justice in the world.

Silence is one of my greatest teachers. But it's not only silence - it's stillness. Stillness allows truth to surface without being forced. It invites transformation rather than performance. In meeting for worship, I am reminded again and again that faith isn't something I make happen; it arrives in the stillness and in the waiting, when I open myself to it.

Quakerism also teaches me that faith is communal. We discern as one, listening to each other and to the Light. Community, testimony, and practice are inseparable.

This tradition asks not only, “What do I believe?” but, “How does my life show it?” It's about doing, rather than talking endlessly about doing letting our testimonies show by example how we live, how we love, and how we respond.

I strive each day to live adventurously and let my life speak.

This understanding shapes my vocation. Being a Quaker gives language, space, and encouragement to my calling as a hospital chaplain - a ministry rooted in presence, listening, equality, and compassion. Being on the Equipping for Ministry course, for which this Meeting has so generously supported me, deepens this calling. It helps me integrate prayer, reflection, action, and accountability in ways that feel both demanding and life-giving.

Becoming a member didn't make me a Quaker. It marked my commitment to a community and a way that has always sustained me. It feels like a settling into responsibility as much as belonging - a public yes to being shaped and held accountable, as I walk cheerfully with Friends over the world, answering that of God in every one.

So why am I a Quaker and what does it mean in my life?

It means I belong to a community that holds stillness and action together.

It means my vocation is nurtured, not separated from my spirituality.

It means testimony is something I practise, not just admire.

And it means I have a home where faith is lived, not performed.

Thank you, Friends, for your witness, your challenge, and your companionship on the way.

Max Bailey is a member of Westminster Meeting, he serves as a hospital chaplain and is a participant in the Equipping for Ministry programme.



Quaker Earthcare Gathering, 24 to 27 October, 2025, The Hayes, Derbyshire

© Pennie Quinton

EPISTLE AGREED AS A MINUTE IN THE CONCLUDING SESSION ON 27 OCTOBER 2025

We are 114 Friends of all ages from Britain and continental Europe, gathered to explore how our Quaker faith and communities can help us to meet the Earth crisis with hope, strength, and compassion. Our time together has been deeply rooted in worship, and has included a children's programme, a Quaker Quest session, workshops, discussions, practical activities, music, art and much more.

As we meet, Hurricane Melissa approaches Jamaica. Climate catastrophe is forecast to cause billions of human deaths this century amid ecological collapse and ongoing mass extinction.

Our residential is part of a year-long extended gathering process, braiding streams in our Quaker Earthcare engagement, especially the Living Witness worshipping community and the Quaker Support for Climate Action community. We have been blessed by the contributions of Quakers in Britain staff and committee members as organisers and participants. We have upheld Friends going through the courts for their Earthcare witness.

The extended gathering will continue to the end of 2025 and beyond, with online sessions and networks open to all Friends everywhere.

We are nourished by our deep-rooted corporate testimony on the Earth, by Yearly Meeting commitments over many years and the work of successive committees and groups.

This is our epistle in written form. But we are all epistles from the gathering, through the ministry of our lives, actions

and relationships as well as words. A thread through our gathering has been learning from the work of Vanessa Andreotti and the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures Collective, on practices for "hospicing modernity". The words of poet Deena Metzger resonate with us:

*There are those who want to set fire to our world,
we are in danger,
there is only time to move slowly,
there is no time not to love.*

[These were the words shared in ministry in our meeting and agreed in the minute. Deena Metzger's poem on her website reads "There are those who are trying to set fire to the world"]

In our Quaker Quest session we considered the question:

What has been your journey of relationship and entanglement, of seeking to answer that of God in the other, of being shown our darkness and led to new life? How has it changed you? How does it still challenge you?

The gathering heard ministry from Friends experiencing "intensive struggle" with the brokenness and cruelty of modernity and its culture of uncaring. We are filled with admiration for those Friends' capacity to sustain themselves and those they love, and still to bring their witness to the world.

We carry fragilities and we are at different stages of grappling with our grief. We need to listen, support and uphold each other.

We feel a strong sense of gratitude to our

children, present and absent, and everything they give us. We have heard that for young people, climate change is not 'change'. They have grown up with heatwaves and floods; "for us it feels normal but it should not be normal". This is not how it is supposed to be, and it is frightening.

We joyfully celebrate the diversity of nature and are grateful for the time we have been able to spend in nature over the course of the gathering.

We have heard about the diversity of our experience and how our lives are entangled with the systems of modernity.

We all take different roles at different times. We can be mystics, activists, builders, upholders, artists, prophets and reconcilers. We are all of us a rainbow and the colours move around. The spirit shows us where we are led.

We must ask ourselves what is mine to do, and what is my capacity? We can recognise all forms of courage – physical, emotional and spiritual. We uphold all Friends' contributions. We need all of it: those who are called to take nonviolent direct climate action; those who hold space for a shift in consciousness; those who lend practical support and spiritual presence to those undertaking climate action; those who show a path forwards through living out their witness through sustainable lifestyles; those who are working to strengthen community resilience; and those who work towards changing the policies and politics that maintain our broken system. We are more than the sum of our parts.

We have heard about the Palestinian concept of sumud or steadfastness: living every day nonviolent resistance in the face of violence. We are asked to consider how we are called to bring travelling minutes back to our local meetings and beyond, to witness to the power of love and truth in the face of the climate crisis.

How does Quakerism need to change in these turbulent and uncertain times? We must live with the bravery of not knowing,

of not having answers, of not having safety. We are like a caravan moving across the desert, with the vanguard leading the way, and the stragglers at the back who are grieving for what we are leaving behind. We need each other.

There are outliers here of all kinds, who may feel lonely. Polarisation happens in our community. Quaker unity is not about consensus. It is about recognizing the diversity as we are called to accompany each other on our spiritual leadings and journeys.

In small groups we have considered how we can walk the talk: in our homes, in our meeting houses, in our property portfolio. How can we reinvigorate and fully resource our 2011 Canterbury Commitment to becoming a low carbon sustainable community? And other Yearly Meeting commitments since? We have heard strong calls for our Yearly Meeting to drive its commitments forward with adequate funding and programmes.

How can we support each other to progress towards sustainable lifestyles? We know that many elements of modern life such as taking flights and eating meat are not compatible with the future we want to see. We need to challenge ourselves and our society with gentle compassion to go further.

We need to ask questions about our corporate structures to understand how our money is being used. Work has been done on this and there is more work to do. We have been challenged to consider our own attitudes to money. If we knew we would lose all our assets in six weeks' time, what would we do? What stops us from doing it now?

We trust that further action, meditation and reflections will flow out of this gathering. We have heard how we can make a difference. Not every hurricane has to make landfall if we can nudge the direction of travel.

**Caro Humphries
Pennie Quinton, clerks**

Why I am a Quaker

I was born in San Francisco, California in May 1939 and grew up with success in a religion that used a limited concept of God. I went to a Jesuit university of that religion that taught me the existence of a judgmental, punishing God as illustrated by Michelangelo in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

I was also required to take military training on how to kill enemies. The Psalms said God would take care of me and crush my enemies. 'We were the 'Chosen People' - God was on our side'.

Today, in contrast, I believe that infinite eternal power greater than all of us puts every human being equally here with a unique role whether I understand it or not. Labelling others as enemies alienates me from the universal humanity and creation that I was born into. Forty-nine years ago, my first 37 years of life came to a crashing end and I fell into a community that practices practical spiritual principles that challenged me with this litmus test, "How well does what I believe and do actually work?"

Thirteen years ago, thanks to my wife Kate McNally's discovery, I discovered Quaker community and became a member two years later.

In contrast to beliefs that alienate us from one another, the introduction to: *Advices and Queries* in *Quaker Faith and Practice* offers me this unifying statement:

'Our diversity invites us both to speak what we know to be true in our lives and to learn from others'.

Today, I find that the freedom of personal choice offered in both of my two main communities coupled with continuously learning from my own experience and that of others, as that statement suggests, better enables me to discover who I am, what I was created for, and what I can do for others and creation to say thanks for this free gift of life that I continue to be given by power greater than me.

Here is some of the perspective that I have gained from membership in Quaker community:

- Simple no-frills silent Meeting for Worship can take place anywhere, anytime.
- Every human being is equally here as a unique, temporary, and necessary spark of Creation
- There is both Light and darkness in me as there is in creation and I always have a choice to follow the Light rather than the darkness within
- Revelation is continuous and can newly arise through anyone, anywhere, anytime.
- Belief is progressive.
- New perspective is built upon *accepting* our entire past experience and *learning from it*.
- Going it alone in spiritual matters is dangerous.

Today I believe that all religions and spiritual practice is based on love that is shared by all. 'The Golden Rule', "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." <https://www.worldfaiths.org/goldenrule>

Both Quakers and my other spiritual program provide me with communities in which I can safely practise spiritual principles today, a safety that Jesus didn't have in his time.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some of my experience. I would love to learn more about yours.

Daniel Clarke Flynn

Westminster Meeting celebrates the creativity of our Friend Jo Poole - who died February 15 2026

I'd just like to say: Jo made the dress I wore to my son's wedding in 2014: pale green silk, with a fascinator to match. We chose the fabric together, then she just went away and made it. It is gorgeous.

Jo was such a talented spirited woman.

She lives in my heart. The only photo I have is with my son, and it doesn't do the dress justice, so better not. Thanks,

Jennifer Kavanagh



© Penny Forsten

Jennifer's green dress, designed and created by Jo Poole complete with fascinator.

Jo Poole's Memorial Meeting will be held at 14:00, March 26, at Westminster Meeting House

Jo was one of my closest friends, and I spent several happy years with her. She was a free spirit - lively, loving, intelligent and fun.

She was creative in many ways: in the clothes she made, the meals she cooked, and quirky creations such as the 'sensory deprivation unit' in her studio (surrounded by boxes and bare wall, this was very successful in getting Bertie off to sleep).

Jo loved colour - in her kookie homemade clothes, and the occasional foray to *Gudrun Sjoden*. Mike celebrated this love with a beautiful, colourful, homemade Valentine to his 'Rainbow Girl' - a perfect description.

The disparity in our ages made our interaction more interesting, and we had many shared interests, such as: Bertie, Tudor history and Quakerism.

Jo made people happy - most importantly Bertie, who got the most terrific, loving send off any child could have.

Janet Philipson



© Gill Lowther

This little chair cover has a special significance, as it was I believe the last thing Jo made. I also like it particularly because it is as you see made from scraps, and for a chair which had been thrown away in the street. I strongly believe that 9 times out of 10, deep inside negative situations a positive can be created. Jo was a supremely creative personality

Gill Lowther.

Spring Clean @ Westminster Meeting

A big shout to Friends for all their hard work making the Meeting House even more beautiful.



Quaker Palestine Solidarity

The purpose of Quaker Palestine Solidarity:

Guided by the spirit, to take nonviolent action for peace and justice alongside the Palestinian people;

- To encourage and uphold Quakers and others to bear active witness alongside the Palestinian people;
- To educate ourselves, our Quaker communities and the wider community about the roots of violence and oppression in the Middle East;
- To build on the declaration on the Gaza genocide discerned at BYM 2025;
- We seek to be linked with Quakers and others working for peace and justice;

Quaker Palestine Solidarity are a UK-based group. All profit from all sales on this website will go to: The American Friends Service Committee's projects in Gaza: <https://afsc.org/crisis-gaza> EAPPI UK & Ireland: <https://www.eyewitnessblogs.com/>

Weekly organising meetings for the Quaker rally for peace and justice

These are weekly organising meeting, to make practical arrangements and gather momentum around plans towards a national Quaker peace rally or vigil.

The details of such an event are yet to be finalised, and Quaker Palestine Solidarity are looking for more volunteers, to join a small but dedicated arrangements group, to help make this vision possible.

In January, the Quaker magazine, The Friend published an article setting out the vision and purpose of a National Quaker Peace Rally. [Here is the link.](#)

In previous years, [interfaith peace walks](#) have shown a public display of unity and peace. [Please watch this 3 minute video outlining the vision as it currently stands.](#)

To register and receive the recurring Zoom link details, please click [here](#).

**For more information contact: Steve Day:
Telephone: 07881 104750**



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Apply to be a human-rights monitor in Palestine & Israel

The human rights monitors Britain Yearly Meeting sends are called Ecumenical Accompaniers EAs for short. EAs spend three months in Palestine and Israel monitoring human rights violations and standing in solidarity with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists. When they come home they give talks in their local communities and advocate for an end to the military occupation of Palestine. EAs need to be flexible, hard-working, physically and emotionally robust, open to hearing from different perspectives, and able to represent the programme in a professional manner.

No previous monitoring experience is required. Your expenses will be paid and a living allowance provided. We recruit a year in advance and provide in-depth training and resources to help you to prepare. We are now recruiting for EAs to serve in 2027 (2026 EAs are already appointed).

[Please read the role description and essential info document \(PDF\)](#) to learn more and determine whether the role is right for you. [Visit the volunteer opportunities webpage to apply.](#)

[Sign up for our newsletter](#) for more information and if you'd like to hear about vacancies being announced in future years. EAPPI stands against all forms of discrimination and prejudice, including but not limited to anti-blackness, antisemitism, classism, homophobia, islamophobia, racism and sexism, with an understanding that these are often overlapping. We want to build an inclusive and diverse network of EAs and particularly welcome applications from those usually under-represented as EAs, particularly people from Black communities, People of Colour, and those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Applicants from these groups who meet the minimum requirements for the role are guaranteed an interview.

EAPPI is a church programme but is open to all and there is no requirement to be Christian or involved in a church.

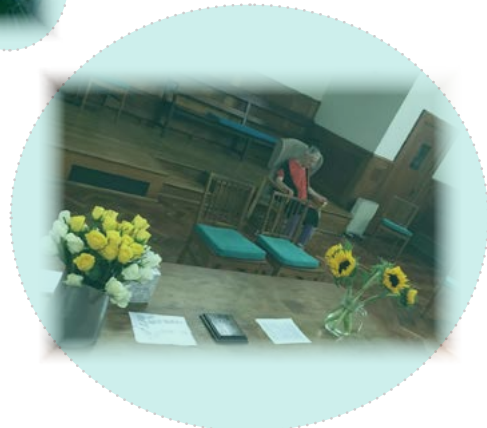
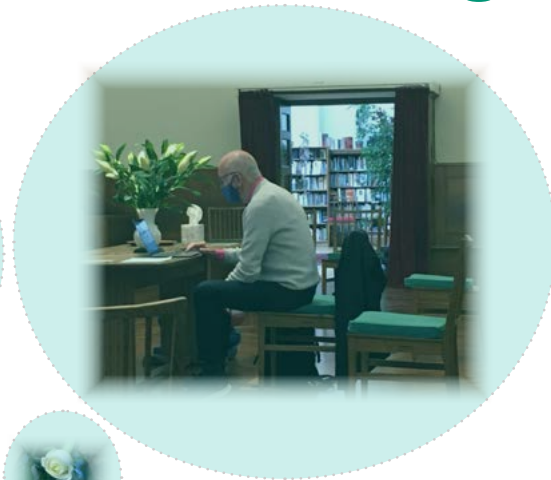
We welcome applications from people of all faiths and none. Please note that we can only recruit EAs who live in the UK or Ireland.

For EAPPI offices in other countries, please email media@wcc-coe.org.



My husband Mike grew up a Quaker, he does not come to Westminster much, which, he tells me is because getting to meeting on time while failing to grow up, was angst-ridden. Anyhow, when I leave home to attend Sunday meeting, Mike sometimes affects the voice of an elderly Quaker he recalls from his youth. In that voice he says: 'on my way to meeting I saw a flower' and then giggles. Mike has made some excellent birthday cards and creates these as publications produced by 'On my way to meeting Inc'. Flower ministry, it seems, is a thing; and flowers on the table are a beautiful part of Quaker Meetings. At Westminster we have a team of flower arrangers who Gerry Miller calls the 'flower fairies'. So, each Sunday one of the flower fairies organises the flowers for the table. I sprout my fairy wings on the third Sunday of each month, but the other flower fairies, who are Gerry Miller, Jane Reed, Virginia Morck and Georgina Harmsworth, flutter in on other weeks. The intricate forms of the stamens and petals focus my mind during the silence of worship. I look forward to seeing the choice of species in each week's creation. Some are foraged from hedgerows and allotments in the ethos of bringing nature into the Meeting House, while others bring more exotic blooms from florists or supermarkets. Spring is springing and the rain has slowed down so we can finally step out of the Ark. I expect and hope flower ministry will burgeon in the Meeting House. I am sharing here a photo medley of the flowers that have appeared on the table over the years. I can't remember who did what: but I hope you enjoy them and take delight in the spring flowers blooming on the way to meeting.

Flower ministry Westminster Meeting



Pennie Quinton



Visit to Congénies Quaker Centre

The eagle-eyed among you may have spotted that Caroline and I weren't around at the start of February. Or maybe you didn't!

We were away, fulfilling a long-held ambition to stay at the Quaker Centre in Congénies, in the far south of France in what used to be called Languedoc. The opportunity to escape from a drear and dismal London for a few days was an added incentive.

Eschewing travel by aeroplane or car (tough for me, but Caroline insisted) we journeyed by train on a slightly round-about route to Nîmes. Then a bus took us from the station almost to the Centre's door in just over half an hour. There Miranda and Elijah, the Centre's Resident Friends, welcomed us warmly, and told us about life at Congénies.

Friends have had a presence there for over two hundred years...the Meeting House was built in 1822 and has always been in Quaker hands.

It was bought by France Yearly Meeting in 2003 and now serves as a place of worship for the small Quaker community in the area; as a venue for retreats and workshops; or simply for peaceful holidays, which is why we were there.

On the Sunday morning, we joined local Friends in worship and experienced a silence we can only dream about at Westminster, birdsong being the only sound that penetrated the stillness - spring comes early to this part of the world. Friends were kind enough to deliver their ministry slowly and clearly for me to understand, though I didn't have the courage to give any ministry in French myself.

Afterwards we joined them in a shared lunch, with vegetable soup prepared that morning by the RFs, and salad, and bread, and cake.

And we talked about Quakers, and set the world to rights, as one does on such occasions.

Our stay was brief, but we returned to London physically and spiritually refreshed. We

have promised to go back. It's a good place to be, a good place to get away from it all.

And a good place from which to explore the local countryside.

The Centre only offers B&B (they had Marmite!), but you can arrange to use their kitchen to make your own meals. There's a pizzeria in the village, and a wonderful boulangerie/patisserie.

The neighbouring (and larger) village of Calvisson has a number of proper restaurants (one of which is very good indeed). And the town of Nîmes, with its Roman arena, restored temple, aqueduct, ancient springs, gardens, and art galleries, is just a €2 bus ride away.



It takes most of a day to get to Congénies, five hours on Eurostar/TGV, and then the bus ride. If you are thinking of going, we'd recommend that you take a bike. The local railway line from Nîmes to Sommières was taken up some thirty years ago and has been replaced with a super-smooth cycle track, perfect for getting around.

Here's a link to the Centre's website:

<https://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/en>

Jonathan Lingham

Book Review: *'An Exacting Mistress: The Friends' Ambulance Unit in WWII'*

© Antony Barlow, Quack Books 2021, ISBN: 978-1-912728-35-0.

An 'Exacting Mistress - the Friends' Ambulance Unit in WWII is an impressive coffee-table sized book with 643 fascinating photos and illustrations.

At its heart are the beautiful letters that Antony Barlow's parents, Ralph and Joan Barlow exchanged during the dark years of World War II.

Ralph served in leadership positions of the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) while Joan moved from their marital home in Bourneville to be with her sister and brother-in-law in Wolverhampton, away from Nazi bombing during the Blitz, where she raised their two sons, David and Antony.

How their relationship endured is shown by the correspondence that Ralph and Joan were able to maintain, for the entirety of the war. Sometimes letters and packages took days, weeks, and even months to arrive, leaving both concerned about the well-being of the other.

Antony allows his parents' correspondence to speak offering only brief introductions or explanations where needed. Ralph and Joan's letters give insight into the heroic, and loving behaviour of an exemplary English Quaker couple during the most challenging of times.

Ralph Barlow born in 1910 was the youngest of four children, who all grew up in a house designed by William Harvey, (chosen by George Cadbury as the main architect for his model village 'Bourneville').

The house was named 'Sunnybrae' by Ralph's parents, and was only a few hundred yards from George and Elizabeth Cadbury's family home: Woodbrooke, on the Bristol Road, in Selly Oak, South West of Birmingham.

The Cadburys moved to the Manor House so that Woodbrooke could become a Quaker Settlement which later became Woodbrooke College.

John Henry Barlow who was the first director of Bourneville Village Trust (BVT) was instrumental in helping George Cadbury and John Wilhelm Rowntree to establish Woodbrooke College.

George Cadbury had previously observed John Henry Barlow's social work in Carlisle, and noticed that John Henry had the gifts of leadership and spirituality. George made it clear that John Henry's work at BVT should not preclude his wider work for the Society of Friends. This became apparent when John

Henry was appointed clerk of London Friends' Yearly Meeting, a post he held throughout World War I.

John Henry was instrumental in getting the 'conscience clause' into the 1916 Military Service Act, the legislation which introduced conscription to Britain in World War I.

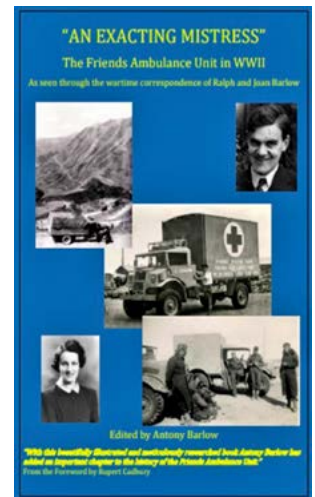
The Conscience Clause was so called because it enabled pacifists to abstain from serving in the armed forces on grounds of conscience and to carry out alternative service. The Friends' War Victims' Relief Committee, which later became the FAU was set up by Quakers to provide young men during World War I - with an alternative form of service.

The FAU was independent of Britain Yearly Meeting, and was staffed primarily by registered Conscientious Objectors. In 1939 the FAU was re-activated under the leadership of Paul S. Cadbury who trained over 1,300 people, both Quakers and non-Quakers, who often served as ambulance drivers and medical orderlies in Britain and abroad.

John Henry's son Ralph Barlow became a Conscientious Objector in 1940. He led the FAU to: South Africa, the Middle East, Ethiopia, India and China, while on service he often contracted serious illnesses: jaundice in Egypt and endemic encephalitis in Ethiopia - a disease from which he never fully recovered. After the war ended in 1945, he followed in his father John Henry's footsteps and was the General Manager of the BVT, until his retirement in 1973.

Ralph Barlow died at Woodbrooke in 1980, shortly after his 70th birthday. Joan Barlow went on to live another 27 years, dying in 2007 aged 93.

Joan was in charge of Woodbrooke Old Scholars and provided hospitality for overseas students at her home in nearby Selly Oak.



Daniel Clarke Flynn

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The Parrot, Westminster Meeting magazine:

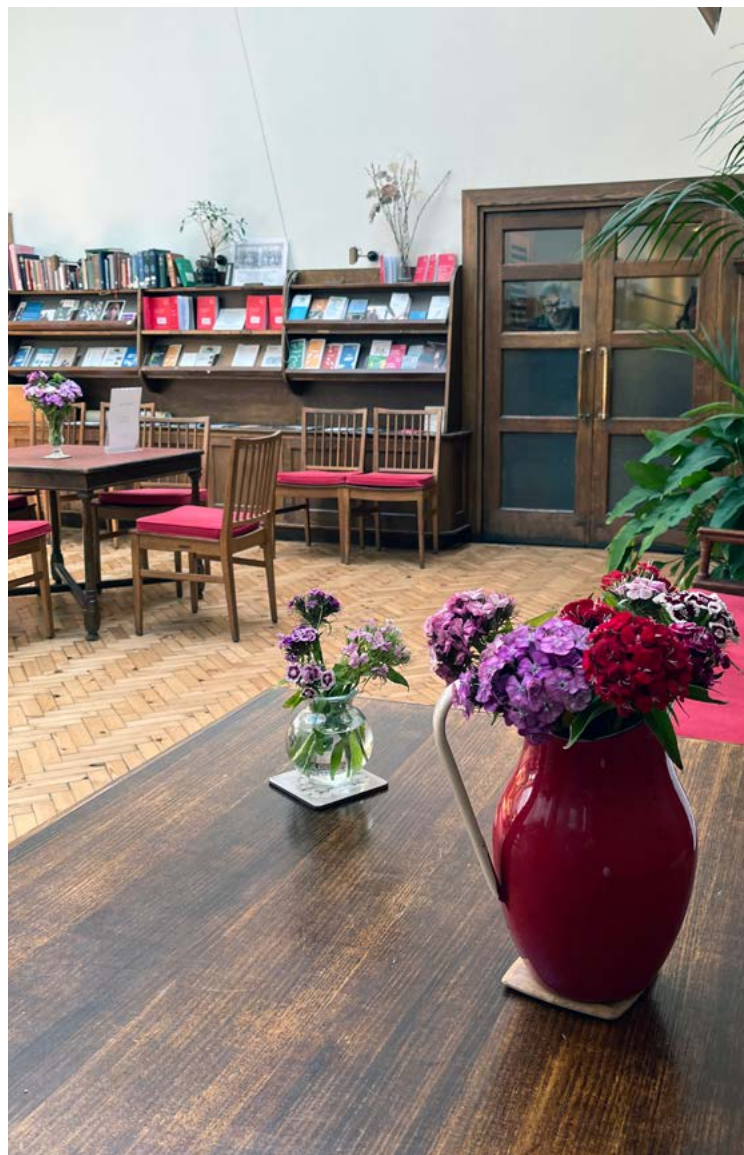
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Safeguarding:

Sheila Taylor (Westminster Local Meeting):

sheilataylor42@gmail.com

Richard Lasson (Area Meeting):

safeguarding@londonwestquakers.org.uk

When We Meet:

Sunday: 11:00-12:00; Wednesday: 18:15-19:00;

1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month: 13:00-13:30

Where We Meet

[Westminster Quaker Meeting House, 52 St Martin's Ln, London WC2N 4EA.](#)

Online Worship

Online, via Zoom. Either in Blended Meetings (alongside Friends in the meeting house) or Parallel (online).

Our recurring Zoom link is [here](#).