

Embodying Equality in Business Why? & How?

Quakers and Business Group conference.

**Wednesday 9th November
2016, at Friends House, 173-
177 Euston Road, London,
NW1 2BJ.**

Timings: 9:30a.m. to 10:00a.m.
Registration and Networking.
10:00a.m. Meeting for Worship
(for ten minutes). 4:30 p.m.
Close.

Organised by Q&B member
David Wetton and his team, the
'heartfelt purpose of the
conference is for those attending
to leave with their own personal
intent to embody equality in their
organisations at a deeper, more
profound human level: Feeling
and knowing the difference it will
make for their staff, their
customers and for the wider
community.'

There will be 'expert' speakers
and creative activities during
the day, covering:

Gender Equality

Sexual Orientation Equality

Racial Equality

Religious Equality

You can find out more by visiting

<https://qandb.org/qbc16>

Attendance is priced at £60 for
Q&B members and students,
and £80 for non-members,
which includes refreshments
and lunch.

Bursaries are available.

Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice: Bringing the book to life

Woodbooke and the Book of Discipline
Revision Preparation Group working with
Sussex and Surrey Regional Meeting

Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice Bringing the Book to Life

With Simon Best

Saturday 19 November 2016

Godalming Meeting House

The Mint, Mill Lane, Godalming GU7 1HB

10.45 a.m. Arrivals - 11.00 a.m. Business Meeting

11.30 a.m. Exploring Quaker Faith & Practice

This is an opportunity to explore Quaker Faith & Practice in a stimulating and accessible way. We will look at how and why we use the Book of Discipline as a source of information, guidance and inspiration and explore the nature of this vital text which is created, used, trusted and revised by the British Quaker Community. We will consider questions of authority, tradition and innovation as well as where we are as Friends in Britain today.

Simon Best is Woodbrooke's Head of Learning.

Lewes District Churches Homelink - Offering Hope

From Lewes Local Meeting Newsletter

Homelink welcomed 43 people from across the District to its Annual Meeting in Seaford on 26th May, where members heard that the charity is widening its scope in response to changing times. Friends will be pleased to know that Lewes District Council Housing Department is exploring new ways to provide more people with a suitable home.

Homelink remains financially viable and in good heart, after spending £101,436 on 66 loans to tenants in 2015. The sums needed for the first month's rent and deposit vary from £1,500 to £2,000, a sum few households can raise when unexpectedly facing eviction.

The charity is currently supporting 220 tenancies, with about 80% of tenants repaying interest-free loans each month. Repayments enabled £59k to be recycled into new loans in 2015. Council grants, events, donations and subscriptions, cover remaining loan costs. Financial viability allows for flexibility in offering riskier loans.

Figures for 2015 were slightly down from 2014. However, numbers in 2016 are rising, with the main cause of homelessness now being eviction.

Other trends indicate a doubling in domestic abuse cases, and overcrowding or poor accommodation leading to relationship breakdown.

Due to the acute shortage of accommodation and spiralling fees, effects of the recession on applicants are harrowing.

Anecdotally, a member of Homelink reported an increase in 'revenge evictions' when tenants approach Environmental Health with concerns. A Lewes District Council representative spoke of

the increase in the use of B&B accommodation, due to lack of temporary accommodation; the increase in rough sleeping in Lewes District; 1,500+ people on the council waiting list for housing; and an increase in elderly people in difficulty.

Councils have suffered funding cuts and so Lewes will join Eastbourne to protect services and share expertise. They have a Temporary Accommodation Project by taking 3- year leases on four properties owned by

private sector landlords, thus providing an alternative to B&B.

Homelink would welcome a duty on local councils to prevent homelessness, rather than just deal with its aftermath. In Wales, this new statutory duty has resulted in a 73% drop in statutory homelessness.

Homelink offers help to those with no other recourse, and Lewes meeting as a whole supports this good cause. For more details, visit the website at <http://bit.ly/2dRqW5b>



The Refugee - a sculpture by Diane Ravensburger which is on exhibition in Chichester Cathedral.

Photo: Keith Harcourt. 1/10/2016