

Vibrancy in Meetings Update - July 2017

I'm ten months into my staff post as "Local Development Worker" (part-time within the "Vibrancy in Meetings Pilot Programme"). It is now almost a third of the way through its life. It is designed to do something new – exploring whether having locally-based staff can help meetings to thrive as communities, with a vital Quaker ministry, becoming stronger, more connected, more confident, more engaged, and more sustainable. These are some of the ways I've been working:

- **Listening.** I have been doing a lot of this. It has helped me understand more about the meetings across the region; it has also helped Friends to talk things through.
- **Signposting.** I've got to know a lot about the work and support available and have put Friends (often role holders) in touch with other Friends and with staff.
- **Facilitation.** I have helped individual Friends explore leadings around witness, and meetings to clarify how they might start a discernment about future directions
- **Accompanying.** Several meetings are looking at "premises options" and I have started to work alongside them to provide advice and support on the journey. Major pieces of inreach-outreach also come into this category.
- **Feeding back.** I pass observations and comments to those who plan and provide support to meetings so they can understand what meetings would find helpful.



I come where I am invited, to support your meeting in the things which it would like to do. Recently a lot of focus has been on working alongside Devon Friends and Meetings; I'm keen to extend more of my work into Cornwall in forthcoming months. If you aren't sure what the programme is about, whether it is relevant to you and your meeting and how it all works – I'm here to talk.

Yearly Meeting Gathering – Warwick

I will be at the first part of Yearly Meeting Gathering, from Saturday 29th July to Wednesday 2nd August. Vibrancy in Meetings team will have a base within the "Woodbrooke tent" and I will be staying in Whitefields (budget accommodation block). I'd appreciate meeting South West Friends whilst I'm there; please do get in touch if you'd like to meet up.

I am also happy to circulate a list of South West Friends at Yearly Gathering, so that Friends from all the Local Meetings can link. If you'd like your name, mobile telephone (and email if used away from home) included in a list, just email me and I'll circulate details on 26th July. Or just find me at Warwick and I'll add you to the list.

Devon & Cornwall Gathering 2018

Plans are in place to organise a regional gathering in 2018. We will be looking at previous gatherings and planning a weekend residential, to bring Friends together in fellowship, learning and community. As "Development Worker" I am going to be coordinating the project but I would really appreciate Friends coming forward to help with planning and at the actual event. Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more.

Encouraging and Supporting Younger Quakers:

There is a lot being discussed around this important topic. Please read the recent mailing from Children and Young People Advocates, who I will be supporting.

Pip's Woodbrooke recommendations for September:

Woodbrooke online course:

"Introduction to Peace Education"

*"A Friendly Introduction to Quaker Theology
The Impact of Diversity of Belief on Quaker Practice"*

*"Deepening the Soul: creating space for deep
listening in our meetings"*.

Woodbrooke on the Road:

"What can we do with what we've got?" is an excellent day helping meetings reflect on spiritual and practical resources and explore new possibilities. The tutor is Simon Best (Woodbrooke's Head of Learning)

"Inspiring Small Meetings", opportunities for growth and identifying new ways of doing things

Many Friends will know that the Woodbrooke on the Road courses (which have the potential to be very much bespoke) can be delivered here in the South West at a mutually convenient date & venue. If there are Local Meetings who are interested in these courses and aren't large enough to host one alone, please ask as I can explore ways of joining meetings up across the South West.

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Further information about the Vibrancy

Programme: https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/vibrancy_in_meetings.html