

Journeys in the Spirit

inward outward upward downward

Issue 38

April 2010

Children



Luke Cock – the butcher who didn't cheat

“Journeys in the Spirit” offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with children and young people. This children’s work edition of “Journeys in the Spirit” comes out monthly. It offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with children aged 4 –12 years in a Quaker setting. It is offered with the intention of providing an opportunity for exploring, creating and learning in an atmosphere of worship in partnership on our shared journey in the spirit.

Included are sections on: **getting ready**, for those co-ordinating the programme; **gather**, meeting, centering, focusing; **engage**, beginning to think about the theme; **respond**, activities linked to the theme; **reflect**, ending appropriately; and **review**, evaluating what has happened. To offer a balanced session you should aim to do something from each section. Some of the activities are included on additional sheets. Timings or ages are not stated, as this will depend on the group and how the guidance and activities are used.

Underpinning each issue is the idea that there are four directions to our spiritual journey. **Inwards** to ourselves; **outwards** to others; **upwards** (or even further inwards) towards the deeper mystery; **downwards** to the world we live in.



The twelfth in the series exploring our Quaker stories May 2009 - September 2010

Getting ready

“We’se all be ruined: what, is thee ganging stark mad to follow t’silly Quakers?”

These are the words of the wife of Luke Cock in the late seventeenth century not long after Quakers began. Luke was a butcher. He was born in 1657. He was not from a Quaker family; he wasn’t a merchant, a landowner or middle class. He was a noted singer of irreverent songs (*see sidebar for a link to a website of downloadable Yorkshire songs*). He was a Quaker by conviction – not an easy thing in the late 1600’s. On his faith journey he described four challenges – he talked of these as coming from his Guide. This Guide first asked Luke to stop cheating; then it asked him to talk truthfully (plainly); then it asked him to stop paying money or giving things to the Church that he didn’t belong to and then, finally, his Guide asked Luke to let God be his helper, like a Hand guiding him always. *Read Luke’s sermon – Quaker Faith and Practice details in sidebar.*

These were tough leadings to follow. Each could have brought ruin, ridicule, despair or even madness. He never pretended it was easy – in his sermon, when he was 64, he said he asked his Guide for some rest at the roadside on his journey. Maybe he can help us when we are in the thick of the ordinary struggle.

Whilst Luke was a convinced Quaker his faith and imagery were rooted in Christianity. He talked of following the ‘weeping cross’. ‘Weeping crosses’ were also real objects or places of prayer and penitence (*see picture on page 3*). We may need to set aside or dig beneath our own ‘Notions’ about or experience of the Christian Church to hear and share with children something of Luke’s Quaker faith and practice. The wider church is near Easter - there is a chance here to explore what it might mean – for ourselves and others.

Underpinning references and resources

Quaker Faith and Practice 20.22 – Luke Cock’s sermon

Yorkshire folk song: www.yorkshirefolksong.net/song_database/all.aspx

Our intention is to assist children on their spiritual journey – this can mean encouraging thinking and discerning of a questioning, philosophical kind in areas where we may not always feel comfortable.

Gather

A two names game

Depending on the number of people in your group, sit, or stand in a circle, triangle or pair. After a few moments quiet and stillness play a game. Have a bean bag or a soft ball ready – be aware of those who may need help catching or throwing. Say that in a moment you are going to gently throw or roll the ball or bag to someone and she or he has to say their name and something that they like to do. That person then throws or rolls the ball or bag to someone else who repeats the activity. This goes on until everybody has had a go. Now repeat the activity but this time invite everybody to say a name that they would like to have – it can link to a person or to something in nature; anything can be chosen. On *Sheet 38.A* there is a badge activity as a follow on to this Gather exercise.



When we say our name we are telling the truth – when we say a name we would like to have we are saying something else true about ourselves. Say something like, 'We are going to hear about a man called Luke Cock. He found it hard to tell the truth. He lived a long time ago when Quakers first started. He wasn't famous. He was a butcher. He sold meat for people to eat. Before he was a Quaker he cheated and told lies about the meat he sold to people. He wanted to be different and not tell lies but it was very hard. His wife was also scared because when he lied he got more money – if he stopped lying maybe they would be poor? Let's find out some more about him.'

Engage

A simple story about Luke. On *Sheet 38.A* there is a story about Luke. When you talk about the things that his Guide asked him to do, say each one a bit louder so that it sounds like they became more difficult each time. The idea of a Guide or voice may be less problematic for children than you might think. At the bottom of *Sheet 38.A* there are some wondering questions to encourage conversation and reflection. You can add in some of the other details from Luke's sermon if you are working with older children. See sidebar on Page 1.



Luke talked about his Guide taking him, in his mind or imagination, to a crossroads. Here there were four paths for him to go down – one at a time – each one harder than the other.

References

Quaker Faith and Practice 10.01: Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.
Isaac Penington 1667

Quaker Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries 1.02.11:

Be honest with yourself. What unpalatable truths might you be evading? When you recognise your shortcomings, do not let that discourage you. In worship together we can find the assurance of God's love and the strength to go on with renewed courage.

Bible:

Paul's Letter to the Philippians Ch.2 v.1-4.

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Respond

After telling the simple story about Luke (see Engage) go onto any of the following ideas:



The story of Jesus and the tax collector – Zaccheus. The tax collector cheated – this is a story about his acceptance and change.

If you have attended a Godly Play workshop you can borrow this set from the Quaker Life Children and Young People's Team in Friends House. Go to www.quaker.org.uk/cyp and click on Resources and then Godly Play.

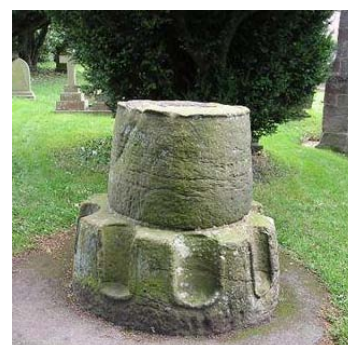
For information about booking a workshop use the same internet address as above and click on Training Opportunities; alternatively get in touch with the Children and Young People's Team using the contact details on the back page of this issue.

The Bible:

See **Luke** 2:1-7, **Matthew** 8:23-27 and **Matthew** 27:32-38. for the Bible stories linked to those of the three trees.

- **If you had a Guide what would it be like?** Start by saying something like, 'Luke told us about something, like a voice inside that he listened to. I wonder, if you had a Guide or a voice like that what might it be like? If it had a shape what shape might it be? If it had colour what colour might it be? If it had a name what name might it have? What is it like?' Just listen with no assumption that anybody or everybody will speak. Have an array of good quality art materials that children can go on to use if they would like to. Just say, after any conversation, that the materials are there to be used to do whatever they chose.
- **Who tells lies?** Simply ask a question like, 'I wonder, what it is like when somebody tells you a lie?' You might also ask, 'I wonder, what is it like to tell a lie? – I wonder has anybody ever done that.' (Say that people don't have to say if they don't want to). You could give an example for yourself to help things along. Have ready some blown up round balloons and black, thick ended felt pens. Talk a bit about what different faces you might have if you lied or were lied to – what might it feel like? Ask everybody, maybe with some help if younger, to carefully draw one face on side of the balloon and one on the other. Show each other what has been done.
- **Luke's butchers shop - a little play.** On *Sheet 38.B* there is a script for a role play about Luke, his wife and his shop. Younger children can be helped by older ones and you can have lots of customers – just vary the meat that is bought.
- **The 'Weeping cross'.** Easter is the toughest of stories. Luke knew it and felt it. For Luke and many Quakers Easter was real – they suffered greatly for being Quakers at that time. The killing of Jesus by the Romans was horrible. For all of Jesus' friends and some of the Romans it was also very, very, very sad. Because it was so sad people would go to special crosses like the one in the picture here – the cross is gone from the top, it is very old. People would bring their sad stories or their problems or talk about things they had done wrong. The holes in the stone at the bottom are where people put their knees, knelt down, when they prayed and brought their sad stories. Perhaps, for Luke, the weeping cross was a picture in his mind that made him think about his problems and sadness and that helped him.

In the past Quakers have knelt in Meetings to pray – it still happens in Meetings today. Lots of people in other faiths kneel down in worship. As a way of connecting with Luke's experience ask children to kneel carefully and quietly – just to try it. Suggest they think of something sad or lovely. After a few minutes everybody sits again. Ask what that was like? How were their knees? How did it feel? What did they think of – if they want to say?
- **The three trees.** A story about three trees as may have been used in parts of the story of Jesus – his birth, the storm on the Sea of Galilee and his death. This could help older children reflect on the story as a whole. *For the story see Sheet 38.D; for activity ideas see Sheet 38.E; for Bible references see the side bar on this page.*



Reflect

Luke's crossroads.

See *Sheet 38.F* for an example of a simple shape that you will need for this part of your session – a crossroads with four directions; you will also need a plain wooden or toy figure. Say something like, 'At the end of our session today let's think a little bit about Luke and the four things he was asked to do. He talked about them like they were four roads.' Placing the figure in the middle, say something like, 'Let's imagine he is here – this road was about not cheating [1]; this road [2] was about telling the truth; this one [3] was about not giving money and things to a church he wasn't in; this one [4] was about letting what he called God be his guide.' As you say this move the figure. Bring him back to the centre. Say something like, 'Just put your hand on your heart or your tummy – that's like your centre, your middle. Now let's just be still for a little bit together.'

Review

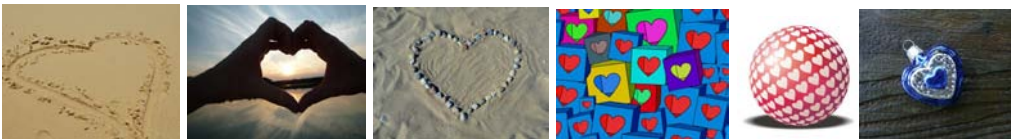
The review can happen at the time or later – it maybe by yourself or with others. Some useful questions for the use of volunteers to look back over and learn from the session include:

Have children been able to participate in their own way? What went well and why? Has each child been able to reflect, even a little, on something about her or his thoughts and feelings about the content of this session? What is there for you to learn from this session? What might you do differently another time?

Topical activity

Britain Yearly Meeting 2010 - celebrating our work

Have prepared some big heart shapes on a mixture of white and coloured paper. Have lots of arts and collage materials including glue and scissors and glue brushes. Have a conversation about the Yearly Meeting in May. Say that one of the things that people of all ages will be doing is celebrating what we love about our Meetings. Ask everybody what they like or love about coming to Meeting. Then lay out the big hearts and say to people that they can decorate the heart to show the things that they or others like or love about their Meeting or being with Quakers. They could be displayed as a celebration of your Meeting.



Links to other organisations and resources

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/ideas> - a place both to find and to share ideas that have worked with children in a Quaker context.

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/quakercentre> - the Quaker Centre has a great selection of borrowable resources to help with all sorts of aspects of Quaker life.

This issue was written by Chris Nickolay and edited by Howard Nurden

The next children's issue of *Journeys in the Spirit*, issue 39, is about the Quaker Tapestry (available from May 3rd); issue 40 is about Luke Howard – he named the clouds (available from June 1st); issue 41 is about Pilgrimage (available from July 1st).

All age worship:

"I thought to have had a watering (unity in the spirit – shared baptism): but ye struggle so I cannot get you together. We mun have no watering tonight, I mun leave you every yan to his own Guide."

These words were part of Luke's sermon in York. It can be helpful at times to remember that finding unity amongst Friends on anything, like all age worship for example, is not always easy.

A simple session for all age worship would be to have a child read out the story on *Sheet 38.A*. This could be followed by somebody else, another child perhaps, reading Luke's sermon - *Quaker Faith and Practice 20.22*. The activity, 'If you had a Guide what would it be like' could be done in quiet time followed by silent worship and sharing in 'after-word'.

Published by Children & Young People's Staff Team, Quaker Life

Available free by subscription.

Contact:
Bevelie Shember,
CYP Staff Team,
Friends House,
173 Euston Road,
London NW1 2BJ

Phone:
020 7663 1013

Email:
bevelies@quaker.org.uk

Website:
www.quaker.org.uk/cyp

Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 38.A Gather

A two names game

my name is

OUR NAMES ARE TRUE. OUR NAMES ARE TRUE. OUR NAMES ARE TRUE.

Resources and what to do:

Card, coloured wool, pens and pencils. Have enough of these badge templates on card for everybody. Hole punch each ready for wool to be threaded through. Everybody writes their real name or the one they have chosen – the badges can be decorated. Badges are worn – the story of Luke and telling the truth can be told to adult Meeting.

Engage

A simple story about Luke

Once upon a time there was a man called Luke. He was a butcher. He sold meat to people in his butcher's shop. He often told lies – he made people pay more for the meat that they bought from his shop than it was worth. He cheated and he made extra money.

Now, Luke believed in God. He started to think that he could be a Quaker – he liked the way Quakers worship and got to know God in everybody.

Luke said that inside himself he had a Guide – a bit like a voice that only he could hear. Some of us, Quakers, talk about the Light inside of everybody. Anyway, this Guide or Light kept showing Luke that he could be different and better. This was hard. He was scared. Luke talked about his Guide taking him, in his mind or imagination, to a crossroads. Here there were four paths for him to go down, things for him to do differently, to change – one at a time – each one harder than the other. This Guide first asked Luke to stop cheating; then it asked him to talk truthfully (plainly); then it asked him to stop paying money or giving things to the Church that he didn't belong to and then, finally, his Guide asked Luke to let God be his helper, like a Hand guiding him always.

Poor, poor Luke. He was scared. He kept asking his Guide if he could have a little rest from these big things it asked him to do. Luke was sometimes hurt and scared. He talked about a 'weeping cross' at the crossroads. It all took him a long, long time but he managed to do the things he was asked. He would tell other people what had happened and hope that they could be different and better too. It's a bit like he is talking with us now.

Now ask:

I wonder, which part of this story do you like the most.

I wonder which part of this story do you think is most important.

I wonder if there is any part of this story that might be in you or you might be in.

I wonder if there is any part of the story that you could leave out and still have all the story that you need.

Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 38.B

Respond

Luke's shop – a little play 1

Characters: Luke, Luke's wife, Luke's Guide and some customers.

Resources: A table with 2 chairs behind it; printed and cut out meat shapes on *Sheet 38.C* – you may want to have more than one of each of these; newspaper or plain paper bags for wrapping the 'meat'; lots of 1p, 2p and 10p pieces; a white or plain cloth; a box or tin for money; an empty box.

Setting up: Put out the table and chairs; cover the table with the cloth; lay out the bigger meat pictures on the table – put the smaller pieces in a box or covered up on one of the chairs; lay out pieces of newspaper or paper bags on the other chair. Don't tell the customer characters what is going to happen.

What happens?

Luke and his wife - behind the table – waiting.

First customer: 'Good morning. I'd like a piece of ham please.'

Luke or his wife: Says 'Good morning', in reply and shows one of the pictures of meat saying, 'Is this alright?'

Customer: 'Yes please'.

Luke or his wife: Turn around and put the bigger picture secretly into the empty box and then wrap up a smaller picture of the same thing without the customer seeing. This they give to the customer saying, 'that will be 10p please'. They take the money and the customer leaves and sits elsewhere in the room. Luke and his wife smile and clap their hands and say something like, 'We just tricked that silly customer and got extra money'. Customers look puzzled and sad.

Continue with 1 or 2 or several more customers. End with Luke and his wife clearing up the shop and Luke's Guide, whom his wife can't see, coming in and saying: 'Luke listen to me, you must stop cheating and lying'. Luke looks shocked and scared. The Guide walks away.

Everybody takes a bow and then you can start a conversation with questions like: I wonder what Luke felt like when he was cheating? I wonder what the customer might feel like when they found out they were cheated by someone in their village? When Luke stopped cheating how do you think the customers felt? His wife was scared they would be poor – what do you think happened when they stopped cheating – did they become poor? Use questions appropriate to the age of the children.

Journeys in the Spirit



Children
Sheet 38.C

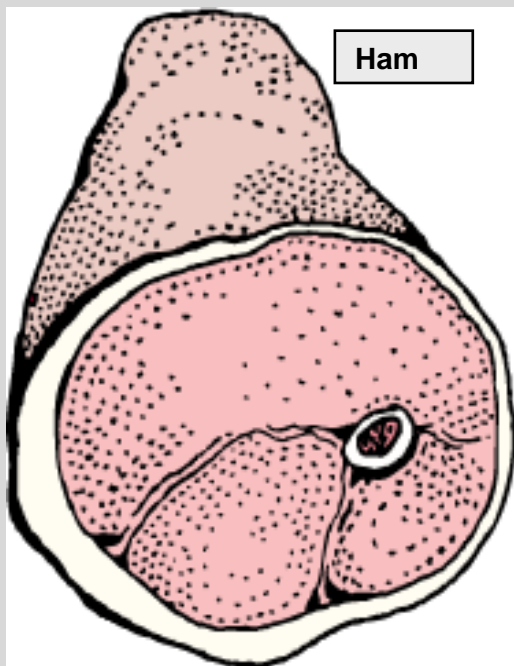
Respond Luke's shop – little play pictures



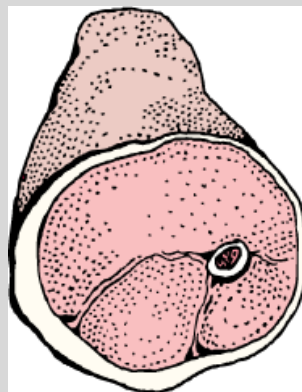
chops



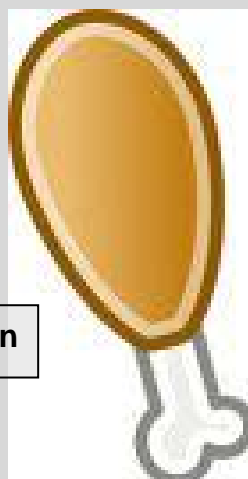
lamb



Ham



sausage



chicken



Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 38.D Respond

The three trees – a story

Once upon a mountain top, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up. The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!" The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be travelling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!" The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said. The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining axe, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for mighty kings!" The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered. With a swoop of his shining axe the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feed box for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, nor with treasure. She was coated with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals. The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty ship was made that day. Instead, the once strong tree was hammered and sawed into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river. Instead she was taken to a little lake. The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" The once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and be near to God..."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feed box. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and the sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveller and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveller fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through the wind and the rain. The tired man woke up. He stood up, stretched out his hand and said, "Peace." The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. And suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the King of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's body to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel. Yet a day or so later – on a Sunday – she knew that something amazing had happened and somehow every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God.

That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

See Sheet 38.E for some suggestions about what to do when the story is told.

Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 38.E

Respond

The three trees – ideas for after the story



If you have told the three trees story there are several things that you can do. Ask the children if they have any thoughts or questions about what they have heard. After this there could be nothing else to do about the story – everybody could go and play some ball games outside, if there is space – there doesn't always have to be an output from children. Alternatively, prior to reading the story you could set out good quality arts and crafts materials and relevant books, including a Bible or two with one that is illustrated. When the story is finished, lay out pictures of trees around the room, and say that everybody is free to use the arts materials in whatever way they choose.



Journeys in the Spirit



Children

Sheet 38.F

Reflect

Luke's crossroads

