

Journeys in the Spirit

inward outward upward downward

Issue 41

July 2010

Children



Pilgrimage

“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 fifteenth in the series exploring our Quaker stories May 2009 - September 2010

Getting ready

Pilgrimages are journeys; they are special journeys, to special places. Where you are going and often how your travel is important. Many people go on walking pilgrimages (for example to Canterbury or Santiago de Compostela or Quaker 1652 Country). This issue focuses on pilgrimage, both for Quakers and for other faiths. It can be used whether or not you are visiting the places mentioned (the additional sheets give pictures and descriptions of the places).

1652 was an amazing year. It is often thought of as the year that the Quaker movement began – although some say it was a few years earlier than this. In some ways it doesn’t matter exactly when it started. Either way there were some amazing and important events for Quakers that happened in that year. This issue explores some of those events and the places where they happened. These are places in North West England, an area that is often called ‘the birthplace of Quakerism’. See Sheet 41 A for a picture of the Quaker Tapestry Panel C9 Pilgrimage.

Quakers generally say that no places are more ‘holy’ or more important than any others. Quakers don’t have any especially important churches or temples. Quakers also think that Meeting for Worship can take place anywhere. However thinking about some places and going to them can help us to think about what happened there and what that means to us as Quakers today.

Visiting 1652 country

‘1652 country’ is an area of North West England, including parts of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria.

You could go there on a Pilgrimage as a meeting. You could do it over a long weekend or maybe in half-term holiday.

The Quaker **1652 Committee** can help you organise your pilgrimage. Contact:

www.quaker.org.uk/1652-committee and

www.quaker.org.uk/files/The-1652-country-Planning-your-Pilgrimage-booklet.pdf

Gather

Begin with a time of quiet. Explain that you're going to be talking about special journeys. Suggest that everyone present (children and adults) shares their name and what special thing they would take on a journey if they were going on one.



Engage

Special Journeys to Special Places

Explain that Pilgrimages are a journey but they are not a journey like going to the shops or going to school. They are special journeys to special places. Ask people to think of a journey that is special to them. It might be a journey that they've been on lots of times like going to the park or it might be a journey that they have been on only once like visiting a foreign country. Ask people to think about the journey they have chosen, what makes it special for them? Where was the journey to? Who did they or do they go with? How did or do they travel?

Have a range of maps including the local area, the United Kingdom and a world atlas. If they want to, and if they can, ask children to show others in the group where they went on their special journey. Younger children may need help with this. They could draw or write about their special journey.

A special Quaker journey:

Pendle Hill – a journey begins

Show the Pendle Hill picture - *Sheet 41.A*. Read the description. Say something like: *'George was just a young man, not much more than a teenager. He was confused, God was speaking to him but he wasn't sure what to do. He had been travelling with other people and wanted a bit of space and quiet. He saw Pendle Hill and thought it was the perfect place to get away from everything. As you can see from the picture it is quite a big hill. When he was on top he sat and thought and prayed and thought. He saw a vision of "a great people to be gathered". This didn't mean he could actually see them, but he had a picture in his mind – of something that could happen. He understood that God was telling him that it was his job to gather these people and tell them what God had told him.'*

Firbank Fell – a place to gather

Show the Firbank Fell panel of the Quaker Tapestry and the picture of Quaker young people on *Sheet 41.B*. Then say something like: *'Although George had been speaking to lots of people he had only found a few people who would listen. A short while after he climbed Pendle Hill he found people who might listen - over a thousand people gathered on Firbank Fell – people who were looking for something different to the church with a priest telling what to believe and do. Two men, called Frances (Howgill) and John (Audland), asked George to speak to the group. There was a church nearby but George chose to stand on the side of the hill and talk to people - he said that the cathedrals, churches, temples were no more holy than fields and hills, no place was any more special than any other – that God was everywhere. Quakers still think this today.'*

Swarthmoor Hall – a place of safety

Show the picture of Swarthmoor Hall (*Sheet 41.C*) and read the description on the sheet.

References & other resources

Pilgrim

A *wayfarer* - from Provençal *pelegrin*, from Latin *peregrīnus* foreign, from *per* through + *ager* field, land.

[Source: *Wikipedia* online].



If you are visiting Pendle Hill in Lancashire, walk to the top and stop for a meeting for worship, you can share the view that George saw. Think about what he might have seen and thought about.

Quaker Faith and Practice 19.07 – Margaret Fell on hearing George Fox speak in a church or 'steeple house'.

References & other resources

'Schools Journeys' has ideas and activities for working with non-Quaker groups visiting a meeting house. This is available from Quaker Life Outreach on 0207 663 1017 or carmelk@quaker.org.uk

Some sacred places created by some Quaker children at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre:



Respond

Special Journeys to Special Places (I)

In other faiths people often make pilgrimages to sacred places that are important to their faith. See *Sheets 41D & E* for pictures and information about some of these places. Find out about sacred places of other denominations and other faiths in your area. Children's Meeting could write to them and ask if you can visit, you could even invite other churches and faith groups to join you on an interfaith pilgrimage in your local area. At each place of worship ask someone from that faith to talk about the place and their faith. Don't forget to include the Meeting House! Explore ways for children from the different communities to meet, play and share food together.

Special Journeys to Special Places (II)

When George Fox was sat on top of Pendle Hill he had a vision of 'a great people to be gathered'. This started at Firbank Fell but it carries on today – in your meetings. Gathering together with other Quakers is special and important.

Ask children to think of somewhere they would like to have a Meeting for Worship – it might be a garden, or a park or in the countryside. Make it an event for the whole meeting. Like the pilgrims who travel to the places on *Sheets 41D & E* ask children to think of something for people to talk or think about on the journey.

Safe Places

George Fox went to the top of Pendle Hill so he could be on his own and think quietly and listen to God. Ask the children to think about where they go when they want to be on their own and think. It could be up a mountain, in a park, at meeting, in their own bedroom. Give each person a piece of card and give them the chance to create a representation of their own special, quiet place. Have coloured pens, crayons and pencils, feathers, ripped up magazines, coloured paper, card, glitter, PVA glue. Some children may need help with this.

Sacred Spaces

Quakers often say that no place is more sacred than any other but there are still places that Quakers like to go to on pilgrimages. Lots of people and churches have places that are sacred for them. These might be buildings like a cathedral or synagogue, a particular place or country. Canterbury Cathedral is important for Christians, for Muslims Mecca is a very important place of pilgrimage, for Aborigines in Australia Ayers Rock, or Uluru, is a very sacred place in their spirituality. See *Sheets 41D & E*. In this activity people will have the opportunity to create a sacred space. First, talk about the following questions or, if possible, work in small groups using the questions:

- If there is part of the story of early Friends that they think is important or was special to them?
- What is special for them about Quakers and coming to Quaker meeting?
- What makes a place special for them?
- What would they put in their sacred space?

Give them the opportunity to make a 'Sacred Space' for themselves (it might help your thinking that a sacred space is a little like a 'den or a fairy garden) If you have a meeting house garden then this could be done outside otherwise think of ways you could do this inside. You will need craft materials including newspaper tissue paper, string, fabric (various textures and sizes) garden canes, card, boxes, foil, pens, blank white paper or card.

When all the groups have made their sacred spaces invite them to give everyone else a tour and talk about their sacred space.

Reflect

At the end of your time together gather in a circle. Wait in the quiet for a few moments and then say something like: 'Today we have all been on a little journey together – let's just be quiet and still for a moment longer and say thankyou inside ourselves for the friendship of everybody here.'



Review

The review can happen at the time or later – it may be done 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 learn about and reflect, even a little, on something about pilgrimage and important places and events at the time Quakerism started? What is there for you to learn from this session? What might you do differently another time?

Topical activity for 8 – 12 year olds

In Palestine/Israel at the moment it is very common for Palestinian children to be detained by Israeli police or soldiers – often their parents are not allowed to go with them or to say goodbye. Sometimes parents won't even know if their child or teenager has been detained.

'**Defence for Children International**' is an organisation putting pressure on the Israeli to stop doing this. For information and campaigns look at their website at: <http://www.dci-pal.org/english/home.cfm>

On *Sheet 41F* there is a photo of children and young people being detained and the names and addresses of Israeli Government leaders and officials to whom children, families or the Meeting as a whole can write, email or fax to ask for the detentions to stop and for children to be treated properly.

Links to other organisations and resources

www.quaker.org.uk/1652-committee - the committee that organises events in the part of the United Kingdom where Quakers began.

www.quaker.org.uk/ideas - links to a store of ideas and activities for working with children and young people

<https://bookshop.quaker-secure.org.uk/quaker-resources> - a wonderful selection of resources to borrow – especially for Quaker children's work

<http://www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk/> - Swarthmoor Hall website

<http://www.quietgarden.co.uk> - a project encouraging quiet spaces

This issue was written by Simon Best. The editor was Chris Nickolay with the support of Howard Nurden.

The next children's issue of *Journeys in the Spirit*, issue 42 is about Bayard Rustin, American Quaker and campaigner for racial and social justice (available from August 2nd – in time for Black History month in the autumn). Issue 43 is the last in this series – it looks back over the whole series and also asks the question: "What is your journey?". This is available from September 1st. **Series 5** begins with Issue 44 on October 1st. The series is all about Advices and Queries- issue 44 concentrates on Advices and Queries 3 and 7.

An all age activity:

The song, '*One more step along the way I go*' is perfect for an all age meeting on pilgrimage. The words can be found at:

<http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/o/o797.html>

One of the stories of George Fox could be told followed by a reflective activity like 'Sacred Spaces'.

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Children

Sheet 41.A

Engage

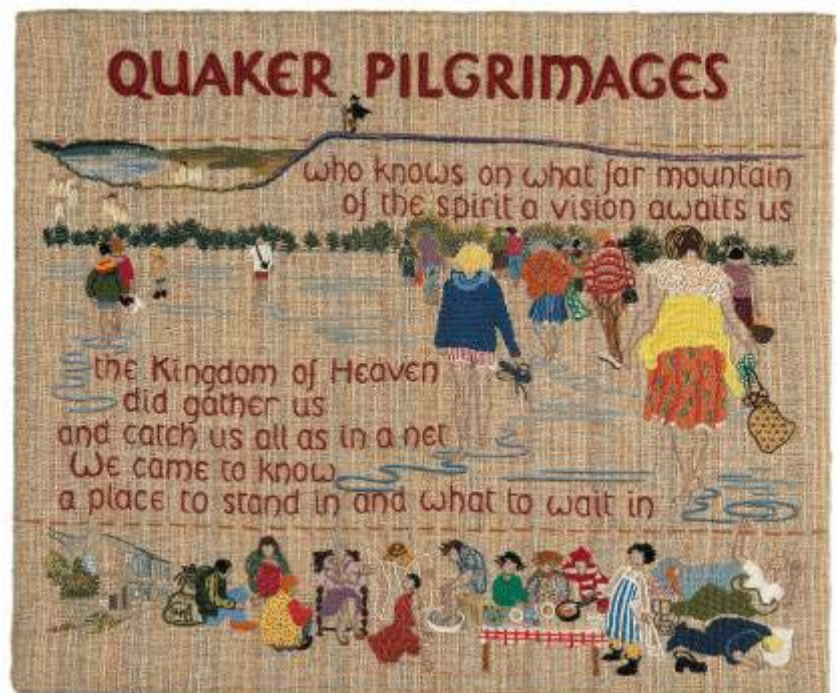
Pendle Hill – a journey begins



Pendle Hill

Pendle Hill (from the Journal of George Fox, Edited by John L. Nickalls) pp. 103-104

“As we went I spied a great hill called Pendle Hill, and I went on top of it with much ado, it was so steep; but I was moved of the Lord to go atop of it; and when I came atop of it I saw Lancashire sea; and there atop of the hill I was moved to sound the day of the Lord; and the Lord let me see atop of the hill he had a great people to be gathered. As I went down, on the hill side I found a spring of water and refreshed myself, for I had eaten little and drunk little for several days.”



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Sheet 41.B

Engage

Firbank Fell – a place to gather



'On Firbank Fell'
– a picture of a
Quaker
Pilgrimage 2009



Quaker Tapestry
Panel B1

The Quaker
Tapestry is on view
at Kendal Meeting
House from 29
March – 29 October
2010, Mon – Fri and
occasional
Saturdays, from 10
to 5. For more
information
telephone: 01539
722975 or visit their
website.

www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk

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Sheet 41.C Engage

Swarthmoor Hall – a place of safety

This is a picture of Swarthmoor Hall. It is an old house in the north of England. It is an important place for Quakers. It was the home of Thomas Fell who was a judge and his wife Margaret and their children.

Margaret Fell and some of her daughters met George Fox and listened to what he said. Margaret became a Quaker. Although Thomas didn't become a Quaker he met George and other Quakers and liked what they said and he supported his wife. He often helped them giving them a safe place to stay when they were in trouble for being Quakers.

In those days it wasn't easy being a Quaker. Priests and the church were very powerful – they had a lot of control over society and what people thought. Everyone had to go to church and you could get in trouble if you didn't. You could even be arrested for going to Quaker meeting.

Thomas and Margaret let George and lots of other Quakers stay at Swarthmoor Hall when they travelled around the area or meet up at after travelling to other parts of England. It became a safe place for Quakers.



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Sheet 41.D

Respond Special Journeys to Special Places



Mecca is the city where Islam began. Mohammed was a prophet who started the Muslim religion there. Because of this it is a very important place for all Muslims. The biggest mosque in the world is in Mecca. All Muslims who are able are expected to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca once in their life.



Santiago De Compostella: This is a town in Spain. There is a story that James, who was one of Jesus' disciples, is buried there (Santiago is Spanish for St James). Pilgrims go to Santiago to visit the great church in the main square of Compostela and pay homage to St. James. So many pilgrims have laid their hands on the pillar just inside the doorway of the church that there is a groove in the stone. People still go there, most of them walk for a lot of the journey often walking for a month.

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Sheet 41.E

Respond

Special Journeys to Special Places



Canterbury. Almost 1500 years ago the Pope, in Rome, sent a man called Augustine to convert the English King to Christianity. He set up a church in Canterbury, and it became the first Christian town in Britain.. There is now a big church in Canterbury and it is still one of the most important places for Christians in England.



Uluru: This is a big hill in Australia. It sometimes called Ayers Rock (Ayers Rock is the English name, Uluru is the original name given to it by Australian Aborigines). It is a sacred place to many aboriginal groups. The aborigines believe that all events leave a mark on the land. Their stories say that the world was once a featureless place and none of the places we know existed until *special creator beings*, in the forms of people, plants and animals, travelled widely across the land. Then, in a process of creation and destruction, they formed the landscape as we know it today. Another story says that Uluru was built up in *the creation time* by two boys who played in the mud after rain. Because it is a sacred place Aboriginal Australians, visit but, because it is very special, they don't walk or climb on it.

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Sheet 41.F

Topical activity

Detention of children



A photograph of two Palestinian children under detention. *Thanks to Gerry O'Sullivan an Ecumenical Accompanier in Palestine/Israel and to Quaker Peace and Social Witness for their help with this.*

Contact details of government leaders and officials in Palestine/Israel to whom concerns about the detention and treatment of children can be sent from children, families or the whole Meeting:

Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel,

Office of the Prime Minister, 3, Kaplan Street, PO Box 187, Kiryat Ben-Gurion, Jerusalem, Israel,

Fax: +972- 2-651 2631,

Email: pm_eng@pmo.gov.il

Brigadier General Avihai Mandelblit, Military Judge Advocate General,

6 David Elazar Street, Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel, Fax: +972 3 608 0366, +972 3 569 4526,

Email: arbel@mail.idf.il, avimn@idf.gov.il

Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations Office and Specialized Institutions in Geneva,

Avenue de la Paix 1-3, 1202 Geneva, Fax: +41 22 716 05 55,

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