

Reflecting on a Book – suggested titles

Title and brief description

Answering that of God: Discovering spirit within

What do we mean when, as Quakers, we speak of 'that of God'? And what would be the implications if we held an awareness of the Divine in everyone all of the time? *Answering That of God* is an invitation and a challenge to explore these questions.

A Place called community

"God comes to us in the midst of human need, and the most pressing needs of our time demand community in response." Drawing on his experiences of living in community at Pendle Hill and elsewhere, Parker Palmer describes what community means to him.

A Testament of devotion

Plainspoken and deeply inspirational, it gathers together five compelling essays that urge us to centre our lives on God's presence, to find quiet and stillness within modern life, and to discover the deeply satisfying and lasting peace of the inner spiritual journey.

Celebrating the Quaker way and Living the Quaker way

These pocket-sized books celebrate the Quaker way and affirm the wonderful riches of the Quaker tradition in Britain, and the Quaker "Liberal tradition" more widely. They are devotional books for Quakers.

Celebration of discipline

The book explores the 'classic disciplines' of Christian faith: the inward disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, and study; the outward disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission and service and the corporate disciplines of confession, worship, guidance and celebration.

Conversation with Christ: Quaker meditations on the Gospel of John

The Gospel of John speaks to the Quaker concern for a here-and-now experience of eternal reality in Christ. The book explores this theme through thirteen conversations from the Fourth Gospel in which the history and mystery of Jesus are revealed.

Community and growth

Vanier takes an in-depth look at community life and living through his experiences with the L'Arche community in France in this classic text.

Costing not less than everything

It is no longer possible to ignore that this planet is a finite resource. We are bound together with each other and the fragile natural environment. Addressing the evolutionary basis of cooperation as well as the spiritual dimension, Pam argues for the possibility as well as the necessity of community.

Author

Peter Parr

Parker J Palmer

Thomas Kelly

Ben Pink Dandelion

Richard Foster

Douglas Gwyn

Jean Vanier

Pam Lunn

Publication information

The Kindlers, 2012

Pendle Hill Pamphlet 212, 1977

HarperOne, 1996 (originally published 1941)

Quaker Books, 2010 &
Quaker Books, 2012

Hodder & Stoughton, 2008

Quaker Press of FGC, 2011

Paulist Press, 1979, 1989

Quaker Books, 2011

<p><i>Decision making and spiritual discernment: The sacred art of finding your way</i> Nancy Bieber presents three essential aspects of Spirit-led decision-making: Willingness – being open to God's wisdom and love; Attentiveness – noticing what is true, discerning the path right for us; Responsiveness – taking steps forward as the way becomes clear.</p>	Nancy L Bieber	Skylight Paths, 2011
<p><i>Engaging scripture: Reading the Bible with early Friends</i> Early Friends read scripture in a way that nourished them inwardly yet also propelled them into the world with a zeal to reform it. With early Friends as companions we can discover the power of scripture to take us into the presence of God as they did.</p>	Michael Birkel	Friends United Press, 2005
<p><i>Faith in action: Quaker social testimony</i> How do we live out our testimonies in our lives, develop a culture of mutual accountability, and share the lessons from our own journeys? This book offers a glimpse of other people's experience of the living truth.</p>	Jonathan Dale and others	Quaker Books, 2007
<p><i>Fingerprints of fire, footprints of peace: A spiritual manifesto from a Jesus perspective</i> Noel Moules offers a compelling vision of identity, community, life and faith from a Jesus perspective. A bold and colourful manifesto exploring creativity, wisdom, spiritual growth, truth, ecology, values, justice, faith-dialogue and activism, all wrapped in the encompassing vision of shalom.</p>	Noel Moules	Circle Books, 2012
<p><i>God of surprises</i> This book suggests ways of finding the treasure in what we may consider an unlikely field – ourselves. Through many practical suggestions, including Ignatian exercises and Jungian exploration, Hughes guides us along the inner journey which reveals a God we may not have expected to find.</p>	Gerard W Hughes	Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd, 3 rd Edition, 2008
<p><i>Good Friends</i> Aimed at ages 8–12, this novel presents historical Quakers in the context of a children's meeting. Quakers profiled include George Fox and Margaret Fell, Mary Hughes, John Woolman, James Nayler, friends who helped slaves and quite a few more.</p>	Judith Baresel	Quaker Books, 2002
<p><i>Ground and spring: Foundations of Quaker discipleship</i> Starting with how we experience and think about God, Beth explores how we can think and worship today in integrity to our inner selves and to our knowledge of the world. We need a solid foundation to ground us as we reach for the ideals, the actions which will make peace and justice real.</p>	Beth Allen	Quaker Books, 2007
<p><i>Holiness: The soul of Quakerism</i> It explores how Quaker spirituality was shaped in its inception by the experience of union with God, otherwise known in Christian tradition as 'perfection' and examines selected figures from Quaker history who represent different emphases of holiness in the context of their time and culture.</p>	Carole Spencer	Paternoster, 2007
<p><i>Jesus, the teacher within</i> This book takes as its starting point a question that Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do you say I am?' Freeman explores this question in the light of the historical reality of Jesus, the experiential reading of the Scriptures, personal conversion and the inner journey.</p>	Laurence Freeman	Canterbury Press, 2010

<p><i>Journal</i> George Fox's own account of his life and travels in the ministry during the early years of the movement that became the Religious Society of Friends</p>	George Fox	various editions
<p><i>Journal and major essays</i> Woolman is best known for his role in convincing others in the Society of Friends to withdraw from the slave trade and stop holding slaves. A man of conscience and wisdom, he also contributed insights into the nature of war and conflict, wealth and simplicity, right livelihood and spiritual humility.</p>	John Woolman	various editions
<p><i>Journeys in the Light: Quaker stories</i> Stories that speak of Quakers living faithfully from the 17th century to the present day – finding practical ways to defeat slavery, protesting against nuclear weapons, discovering individual journeys to peace, simplicity, truth and equality.</p>	Jan Arriens and Margaret Mence Baker	Peter Daniels Publisher Services, 2007
<p><i>Journey into life: Inheriting the story of early Friends</i> Gerald weaves his own life story into the context of the Quaker tradition. Examining the faith, politics and metaphors of Quaker heritage, he shows how understanding the spiritual awareness of early Friends opens us to a new conviction and truth in the present.</p>	Gerald Hewitson	Quaker Books, 2013
<p><i>Last train from Kummersdorf</i> Set in Germany in 1945, this novel about the Kindertransport tells the story of streetwise Effi and policeman's son Hanno. There are dangerous people on the road, Russian soldiers, German deserters – and Major Otto, who likes to play games with people before he kills them.</p>	Leslie Wilson	Faber & Faber, 2005
<p><i>Let your life speak: Listening for the voice of vocation</i> Telling stories from his own life and the lives of others, Palmer invites us to listen to the inner teacher and follow its leadings toward a sense of meaning and purpose.</p>	Parker J Palmer	Jossey-Bass, 1999
<p><i>Meeting Jesus again for the first time: The historical Jesus and the heart of contemporary faith</i> Drawing on his own journey of faith, Borg illustrates how an understanding of the historical Jesus can lead to a more authentic Christian life – one not rooted in creeds or dogma, but in a life of spiritual challenge, compassion, and community.</p>	Marcus J Borg	HarperSanFrancisco, 1995
<p><i>No shame, no fear</i> Will begins an apprenticeship arranged by his wealthy father while Susanna, a Quaker, leaves her family to become a servant. Their story, set in 1662, speaks of love and the struggle to stay true to what is most important – in spite of parents, society and even the law.</p>	Ann Turnbull	Walker, 2012
<p><i>Peace is every step (or Being peace or The miracle of mindfulness)</i> Nhat Hanh shows how to be aware of relationships with others and of the world around us, its beauty and also its pollution and injustices. Simple mindfulness practices encourage the reader to work for peace in the world as well as sustaining inner peace.</p>	Thich Nhat Hanh	Rider, 1991

Rescuing the Bible from fundamentalism

Spong reveals how literal interpretations of Scripture have been used to justify slavery, deny the rights of gays and lesbians, subordinate women, and justify war. He combines biblical scholarship, modern science, and a love of Scripture to liberate the Bible's message of hope for all people.

Rooted in Christianity, open to new light

Quaker meetings in Britain today encounter unprecedented diversity of belief and religious language. Tim and Alex explore the issues that spiritual diversity raises for Quakers individually and corporately, and the challenges and rewards of being a diverse, inclusive community of faith.

Sacred compass

Offers a fresh and deeper way to live a God-directed life that eschews simple spiritual solutions and takes readers to the deepest, most soulful parts of their being, leading them into a way of moving through life with purpose and promise.

Seekers found: Atonement in early Quaker experience

Gwyn demonstrates the unique charisma of early Friends, their ability to hold opposing forces and ideas in creative tension, thus unleashing great spiritual energy. By comparison modern seekers, including many of today's Friends, are experiencing some of the same stages Gwyn identifies.

Silence and witness: The Quaker tradition

A classic introduction to Quaker spirituality covering its history, significant voices, and its characteristic themes, including silent worship, the way of simplicity, prayer, discernment, and an emphasis on inner growth.

Spiritual intelligence – a new way of being

Draper asks how ordinary people, religious or not, can nudge themselves (or be gently nudged) to live with increasing integrity, wholeness and well-being – to become more spiritually intelligent.

Testimony and tradition: Some aspects of Quaker spirituality

Punshon sees a sharp contrast between testimony and opinion, conviction, belief, faith or surmise. The validity of the testimony has nothing to do with testimony, or the testifier, but everything to do with what is being testified to.

The Art of happiness: A handbook for living

This book focuses on the practical application of the Dalai Lama's spiritual values, covering: happiness; desire and greed; marriage and romance; resolving conflict; facing our suffering; overcoming fear and anxiety; anger and hatred; honesty and self-confidence; finding balance.

The Case for God: What religion really means

Tracing the history of faith, Armstrong shows that the meaning of words such as 'belief' and 'God' has been entirely altered over time. She examines how we can build a faith that speaks to the needs of our contemporary world.

John Selby Spong HarperSanFrancisco, 1993

Timothy Ashworth & Alex Wildwood Pronoun Press, 2009

J Brent Bill Paraclete Press, 2012

Douglas Gwyn Pendle Hill Publications, 2001

Michael Birkel Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd, 2004

Brian Draper Lion Hudson plc, 2009

John Punshon Quaker Books, 1990

HH Dalai Lama Hodder Paperbacks, 1999

Karen Armstrong Vintage, 2012

The Dance

This poem explores our ability to open up to the adventure of living, facing love, sorrow and anger and learning all they have to teach us.

The Naked now: Learning to see as the mystics see

Rohr explores methods for letting go of division and living in the present. Drawing from the Gospels and writings of Christian contemplatives, he shows what it means to be spiritually awake.

The Power we call God: Threshings matter for Quaker visioning

Quaker worship is based on experience but experience is informed by understanding. When that changes, in the struggle to thresh the truth anew, worship changes as does our concept of God.

The Quaker way: A rediscovery

Although it is fairly well known, Quakerism is not well understood, so the purpose of this book is to make it intelligible, to explain how it works as a spiritual practice and why it has adopted the particular practices it has.

The Road less travelled: A new psychology of love, traditional values and spiritual growth

Scott Peck, a psychiatrist, suggests ways in which facing our difficulties – and suffering through the changes – can enable us to reach a higher level of self-understanding.

The Spirit of the Quakers

Geoffrey introduces Quakerism through quotations from writings that cover 350 years, from the beginnings of the movement to the present day. This anthology shares the religious experience of Quakers both in their worship and in the world.

To be broken and tender: A Quaker theology for today

A personal narrative with Quaker history and theological reflection in response to questions and struggles about belief, language, social issues and other deeply-felt concerns. Our willingness to listen, to risk being tender and broken, allows the Light within to move us to places we could not have imagined

Truth of the heart: An anthology of George Fox

With a parallel translation into modern English, this collection of passages from the writings of George Fox makes available his clearest and most profound writings, displaying them in such a way as to show the connections between them and to gain a picture of Fox's whole vision.

Universe as revelation: An ecomystical theology for Friends

The authors have surveyed recent thinking on the spiritual dimension of the environmental crisis and the wholeness of creation, and have worked to find ecomystical perspectives that will serve Quakers and others as we face the destruction or survival of our planet.

Oriah Mountain
Dreamer

Element, 2011

Richard Rohr

Crossroad Publishing Company,
2009

Frank Parkinson

Kindlers, 2011

Rex Ambler

Christian Alternative, 2013

M Scott Peck

Rider, 2008

Geoffrey Durham

Yale University Press, 2010

Margery Post Abbott

Friends Bulletin Corporation,
2010

Rex Ambler

Quaker Books, 2007

Jo Farrow & Alex
Wildwood

Peter Daniels Publisher
Services, 2013