

Reflections - Notes from Quaker Children's Meeting January 2008

"Oh still small voice of calm"

Attending meeting for worship at Okehampton Quakers is not always first choice on the list of things to do for the youngest member of our family. Yet, on the second Sunday of each month, if we are not elsewhere, we go and our youngest comes with us, albeit at times reluctantly!

Sharing the ministry and wisdom of silence is a rare moment in our otherwise hectic lives. But it's not something that I should expect our nine-year-old to appreciate easily.

Outside, on one particular occasion, the wind blew wildly as a reminder of the turbulence and noise that can seem to dominate our world and our attentions. In our commercially minded society, we are bombarded with information, much of it seemingly telling us how we should be looking, what we should be owning or where we should be going. Our choice, our purpose and our 'right to silence' is confounded by the roar of 21st century living. Yet inside remains that 'Still, small voice of calm'.

Quakers believe... 'there is that of God in everybody'. Sharing silence and ministry together (and there is generally more of the former than the latter) is a wonderful way of discovering that of God in one another. A desire to be present with one another in the present or presence of God and something we can do regardless of creed or colour.

As for my son? Well, he had an opportunity to share the silence even if his attentions were then drawn towards getting a share in the drinks and biscuits which follow the Quaker Meeting for Worship!

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