



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional Resource 108.A

Gather

John Woolman Quote



The produce of the Earth is a gift from our gracious Creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the Earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.

**John Woolman, 1772, in *Quaker faith & practice 25.01***



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional Resource 108.B

Engage

Audrey Urry



Audrey is 91. As a teenager during the 2nd world war she saw so much suffering; she felt that it was wrong to do dreadful things to people. She thought that we should care for everyone however nasty they seemed to be. She found that Quakers also thought this, so she joined them. She is still a Quaker and a member of Bridport Meeting.

Years later, Audrey found that books about caring for the Earth were being written and groups of people were meeting together to encourage everyone to think seriously about looking after all Creation: the land, the air and the water, all plants and animals, not just people. A group of Quakers, including Audrey, made a group, calling themselves Quaker Green Concern. They met together for weekends at Meeting Houses, where they made their own meals and slept on the floor - some Meeting Houses have more comfortable floors than others they found. They talked about how to be 'green' and discussed with the local Friends what Quakers could do. By 1988 enough Friends had been thinking seriously about

looking after Creation to mean that a session, led by Quaker Green Concern (QGC) was included at Yearly Meeting. Here is the minute from that meeting:

Our planet is seriously ill and we can feel the pain. We have been reminded of the many ways in which the future health of the earth is under threat as a result of our selfishness, ignorance and greed. Our Earth needs attention, respect, love, care and prayer. In comfortable Britain we are largely insulated from the effects of the environmental crisis. It is the poor of the world who suffer first.

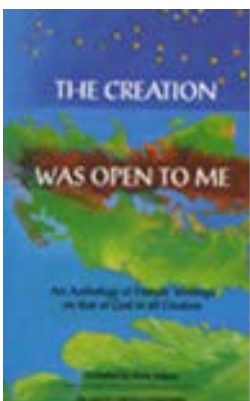
As a Religious Society of Friends we see the stewardship of God's Creation as a major concern. The environmental crisis is at root a spiritual and religious crisis; we are called to look again at the real purpose of being on this earth, which is to till it and keep it so as to reveal the glory of God for generations to come.

It is a stony road ahead but our faith will uphold us; the power to act is God's power which is mediated through each of us as we give and receive support one from another. We can all listen if we will to the sounds of the earth, tuning into it with joy.

## London Yearly Meeting, 1988 in *Quaker faith & practice* 25.02

When a new edition of *Qf&p* came out in 1995 there was, for the first time, a chapter about the Unity of Creation (25). Some of the quotations were from QGC members, including one from a letter Audrey had written:

All species and the Earth itself have interdependent roles within Creation. Humankind is not the species to whom all others are subservient, but one among many. All parts, all issues, are inextricably intertwined. Indeed the web of Creation could be described as of three-ply thread: wherever we touch it we affect justice and peace and the health of all everywhere. So all our testimonies, all our Quaker work, all our Quaker lives are part of one process, of striving towards a flourishing, just and peaceful Creation – the Kingdom of God.



## Audrey Urry, 1994 in *Quaker faith & practice* 25.04

Green Quakers were very pleased. But they thought the chapter was too short; there was lot more that could have been added. So they decided to collect some more Quaker quotations and make an extra chapter, just like the usual *Qf&p* ones. It was called *The Creation was open to me*. There might still be a copy in your Meeting House library which you could show to the children.



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional Resource 108.C

Engage

10 Principles for Simplicity



## 10 principles for simplicity: -

1. Buy things because they are useful, not because everyone else has one.
2. Reject anything that produces an addiction in you.
3. Develop a habit of giving things away.
4. Don't assume that you need the latest new thing or gadget.
5. Learn to enjoy things without owning them.
6. Try to appreciate the Creation more.
7. Be suspicious about 'buy now, pay later' offers.
8. Try to speak plainly and honestly.
9. Avoid things that harm other people.
10. Focus on your main goal.

Adapted from a passage by Richard J. Foster (1979) in *Quaker faith & practice* 25.09