

Faith Book is a space on the Othona Website for us to share our reflections on our faith.

We're all muddling along together. What teachings do we hold in our treasure store?

I am a Christian by birth, by upbringing and by personal faith. Christianity holds universal, timeless truths.

- I look back and see gradual changes in my understanding, through experience.
- I've reached a position now that I can set down – but it will probably change.

What are the foundations of my faith – and yours?

- Love God (God **is** good, so love Good.)
- Love your neighbour as yourself.
- Who is my neighbour? What is it to be a good neighbour? The ones who give and receive kindness – and who may be from an entirely alien background or faith – a Samaritan!
- Jesus said: Judge not that ye be not judged, for as you judge others so shall you yourself be judged.
- The Quakers, in "Advices a Queries," advise us to avoid hurtful criticism and not let the strength of our convictions lead us to make unfair or untrue statements or allegations. "Think it possible you may be mistaken."

New truths unfold without our always being aware of it.

- Jesus was trying to get across to his disciples that he must die, and that he had shown them the Father who is in Him, and He in the Father. He said: (John 14, v11-12,) "All these things you will do **and more** because I am going away...and **he (she, we,) will do greater things still** because I am going to the Father." So, there's our challenge and responsibility as Christians – to do greater things still. Christianity is not a static religion but a commitment to seeking God's good way forward, doing great things in our own generation. God is within us, Jesus guides us and the Spirit of God is all around us.

- Thank God, thank goodness for that! There is so much happening now that could not have been imagined in Jesus' time, from Global communications and World tensions and wars, to scientific wonders such as plastic and the Internet - and what in Jesus' name do we do about it all!

So, is Jesus an imaginary friend based on ancient myths?

What better than to have our God-given imagination inspired by teachers such as Jesus, his disciples and successors, and respected people such as Mohammed, Guru Nanek?

Norman Motley was one such inspired teacher, using his Answer-back sessions to address the pain and troubles of his day. He shifted that responsibility onto Othona – are we still inspired?

What words and deeds inspire us now, to do Greater Things for our people, our planet?

And..... “What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare?”