

## **Reflections**

### **on the planning for**

### **A Silent Walking Vigil For Peace**

We are now seven months into the planning for *A Silent Walking Vigil For Peace*. An event that began in my mind as *A Quaker Peace Rally* and gradually, almost by some spiritual osmosis has taken on a deeper template; deeper than anything we know what to really name. For those of us involved in its planning, this walking vigil has already reached a collective depth of understanding that is far greater than ourselves. It has brought us together, not merely as 'friends' but as kith and kin. I'm sure it's true not just for me but for many others, however bright a Quaker Light we can evoke for peace in that moment of gathering on the 19 September 2026 at the Victoria Embankment, Whitehall Gardens, it will not eclipse some of those small, precious passing points in time which regularly inhabit our planning. We know something special is happening and I will pick out one example of many.

We were discussing practicalities, when one of the older members of our team, who has spent hours, days on end, week after week, month after month, engaging in the nuts and bolts of our technical arrangements, suddenly stopped. In that pause came a sobbing, for the people of Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, Ukraine, Jerusalem and Somalia, in fact the whole global cost of killing and destruction. And whilst we can't wish our way into peace nor cry our way out of war, we were reminded whatever else we be, this *Walking Vigil* is an act of our humanity. And as we all know well, humanity bleeds and weeps beyond our own; literally we will make this our *Loud Silence* and possibly an elegy for the generations to come after us.

What did you do? We did this. For sure, not only this but on the 19 September 2026 we walked a silent vigil through the streets of London. We're so sorry, as we plan, as we ask others to join us, in these very acts of 'doing' we are aware even Quakers did no way near enough.

**Steve Day (Ashburton Quakers), July 2026**