**Time of Reflection – Lesley Morrison (Tweeddale LM, Peebles)**

**Are we being good ancestors?**

I’d like to tell you about a very special woman who lived in Peebles and died last year aged 92, Binkie Norris.

Binkie lived her life as a Quaker. In the words of George Fox, founder of the Quakers, she “walked cheerfully and gently over the world”, seeing the good in everyone and everything.

She made everything she wore, she wasted nothing, her garden was loved and beautiful, and her gate and door were always open. She and her late husband Peter were Mr and Ms Community, engaged, connecting, encouraging. In the 1980s they founded the Tweeddale Peace Group, and, this year, we planted a tree to celebrate its 40th birthday and also the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Binkie embodied Quakerism. She lived life to the full, with curiosity, creativity and kindness, and she left a legacy of love and compassion. She was also brave and adventurous. To quote the Quaker book of Advices and Queries:

“Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community?”

We have now come to understand what Binkie and many of her special generation had always known, that life cannot be taken for granted and that we need to work urgently to preserve the earth we love. She knew that peace and our ecological system are interdependent and that we need to find ways of working with those who seem intent on destroying them both.

Peace, climate justice, social justice and racial justice are all interconnected. In my working life I was a GP and heard, on a daily basis, stories of people’s lives which illustrated this. The climate crisis is a health crisis and the duty of health professionals is to make this clear. The duty of all of us, including, and perhaps especially, politicians, is to look at all the many issues facing us today through the lens of the climate crisis.

Climate change is the crucial issue of our time but, rather than be paralysed by the enormity of the task, let’s instead adopt the attitude of Christiana Figueres who led the UN Paris climate talks, “We are privileged to be alive now at this time of climate crisis when we have the opportunity to make a real difference”.

We can all work together in a spirit of hope. The one question we all have to ask ourselves is, “Are we being good ancestors?”