

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
October 2017, Number 249



Sketch by John Geekie

Meeting for Worship and Children's Meeting is held every Sunday @ 10.30am
at Warwick Friends Meeting House, 39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
All are welcome - for more information, please see our website:
www.warwickquakers.org.uk

I wish I might emphasise how a life becomes simplified when dominated by faithfulness to a few concerns. Too many of us have too many irons in the fire. We get distracted by the intellectual claim to our interest in a thousand and one good things, and before we know it we are pulled and hauled breathlessly along by an over-burdened programme of good committees and good undertakings. I am persuaded that this fevered life of church workers is not wholesome. Undertakings get plastered on from the outside because we can't turn down a friend. Acceptance of service on a weighty committee should really depend upon an answering imperative within us, not merely upon a rational calculation of the factors involved. The concern-orientated life is ordered and organised from within. And we learn to say NO as well as Yes by attending to the guidance of inner responsibility. Quaker simplicity needs to be expressed not merely in dress and architecture and height of tombstones but also in the structure of a relatively simplified and co-ordinated life-programme of social responsibilities.

Thomas R Kelly, 1941, Quaker Faith and Practice, 20:36

Welcome to the October edition of *The Friendly Link*

Contributions to, and feedback about, The Friendly Link continue to be welcome.

The last day for contributions for the November edition of The Friendly Link will be Sunday November 29th. Please send your contributions to: -
editor@warwickquakers.org.uk. Wishing you space and simplicity this month. Thanks.
Ruth

Quaker Diary:

Sunday 1st October: Business Meeting. 12 noon

Tuesday 3rd October: 12.30-1.30 Performance of 'The Bundle' at Warwick FMH, 7pm for 7.30pm start

Thursday 12th October: Area Meeting at Sutton Coldfield FMH, 6.15pm, Tea from 5.30pm

Sunday 15th October: All Age Singing 12 noon - 12.30 pm, bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them.

Saturday 22nd October: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship. 2.00pm outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 29th October: Deadline for contributions to the October Edition of the Friendly Link.

Sunday 29th October: Soup and Roll, 12 noon

Sunday 29th October: Theatre Performance: Pericles, 12.30pm after Soup and Roll

Saturday 11th November: Buffet Lunch and Talk about Syrian Refugees: The Local Picture, 1pm for lunch, followed by talk

Sunday 26th November: Michael Langford gives a 10 minute Talk with opportunity for discussion after Soup and Roll, 12-30-1.30 (Michael is a Theologian and Travelling Minister)

Mid-week Meetings

12.30pm, Wednesdays: Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place, and Leamington

1.15pm, Tuesdays during term-time: Chaplaincy Centre, Univ. of Warwick

Performance of 'The Bundle' Tuesday 3rd October at Warwick FMH 7pm for 7.30 start

As part of Quaker Week, Warwick Meeting are hosting a free performance of 'The Bundle' by Journeyman Theatre. This short play is about the plight of a refugee family in the U.K. Coffee will be served afterwards and followed by a short discussion. There will be a retiring collection. IT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR UNDER 16 YEAR OLDS.

New Additions to the library

'Cadbury's Angels' (Bridge Street to Bourneville); and 'Bourneville: the workers story'. Both by Iris Carrington who is clerk at Ettington Meeting. Also 'Atheism: A Guide for the Perplexed' by Kerry Walters. Thank you to the Friends who have donated the books.

Central England Area Meeting Heritage Survey of local Meeting Houses

We have received some copies of this and they are for sale at £10:00 each. Books on Common Room Table. The entry for Warwick says, among other things: This Meeting House is of EXCEPTIONAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE. The exterior; interior spaces and the simplicity of the historic fittings also have exceptional aesthetic value!

So, dear Friends, I hope you appreciate the old place when you come to Meeting.

Use of Microphone during Meeting for Worship

As an experiment, for the month of October, Friends are asked to use the microphone for ministry and announcements to help all those who experience hearing loss. The microphone will be on the table in the centre. Please take it, or ask for it to be passed to you, switch it on (easy switch on the side) and speak before returning it to the table. This form of amplification is used in a number of meetings and has been found to be helpful, once Friends get used to a different way of doing things. Thankyou!

John Sheldon (who has brought the equipment) on behalf of elders and premises & finance committee.

Social Committee Film, Saturday 4th November at 1.30pm

Join us at Warwick Arts Centre on Saturday 4th November at 1.30pm to see..



1hr 20mins cert PG

Gorgeously animated, this wordless story about a stranded castaway pays tribute to what's most important in life: companionship, love, family, and the stewardship of nature. A lush and luminous visual symphony, which celebrates nature as both a furious, deadly force and a soothing source of love, this arthouse animation deserves to draw a big crowd.

Contact:

John Harding

Buffet and Talk: "Syrian Refugees, The Local Picture" Saturday 11th November, 1pm

On Saturday November 11th at 1pm you are invited to a buffet lunch provided by the cafe, followed by a talk by Penny Harpin entitled "Syrian Refugees, The Local Picture" about the work in which she is involved helping refugees in our area.

This will be an opportunity to help boost the cafe as well as learning about a local concern.

Tickets for the lunch (£10) will be available from Marilyn Biles or from the cafe from October 8th. Please purchase in advance so we know how many to cater for. There will also be a collection so we can make a donation towards the work.

Talk on Sunita's recent visit to Bo, Sierre Leone; tbc, Warwick FMH

Everyone is welcome to come and hear Sunita Evans talk about her recent trip to Bo, Sierra Leone, and her experiences of teaching there

Time tbc...look out for it in notices over the next weeks.

Sunday 29th October after Soup and Roll, Pericles, theatre company performance

Pericles - All At Sea



Sunday 29th October 12.30pm
Warwick Quaker Centre
39 High Street

Warwick CV34 4AX

A stirring tale of survival against the odds inspired by Shakespeare's fantastical story of shipwreck, loss, love and redemption.

The production is one hour long and is recommended for age 14+.

Free performance followed by a collection. For enquiries and to reserve tickets contact Wendy.

A pair of story-tellers evoke, in this ancient tale, a world in which a young girl is sold to a brothel; in which conflict and famine are devastating parts of Syria, Lebanon and Turkey; in which a fisherwoman finds bodies tangled in her nets; and in which the kindness of strangers saves those in peril on the Mediterranean Sea.

'The Curse of the Peace Testimony'

What follows can be said about virtually every Quaker Meeting in this country, because no human community is without problems, so it's not about having problems but how we deal with them.

Part of the problem in Quaker Meetings is the 'Curse of the Peace Testimony'. That statement may draw a gasp from some Friends or maybe a wry smile from others of you.

The Peace Testimony itself, dating from the 1660s, of course, is not a curse, but, when it is used as a weapon it is possible for it to quickly become one.

It can be used to deny dissent and bury its existence. This is because Friends are a peace movement and feel that we must not be seen to have disagreements, or be angry, especially with each other.

There are, sadly, many Quaker Meetings which have festering dissent under their carpets. 'Oh', Friends cry, or whisper, 'we can't discuss that, it will divide the Meeting'.

In the book 'A Different Drum' (by Scott Peck) the author suggests that all human communities go through stages.

They begin with the 'polite stage'. In our Meetings this might be what the enquirer encounters. They may find this very attractive and continue through attendership and into membership. But at that point the new member may very well discover to their amazement that we are not all as lovely as we seemed.

Picture this. The new member is appointed to a committee and will quickly discover the next stage which Peck characterised as 'chaos'.

This may not, but could be, organisational chaos but the sort of chaos in which we experience people behaving unexpectedly, irrationally or even destructively.

For no apparent reason one of the committee stalls or covertly sabotages a plan set up and agreed by the whole committee. What matters most is what happens next.

The group can retreat back into the 'polite' stage, maybe pretending that none of them really wanted to proceed with the plan anyway. It will do this if it fears conflict. But they can move into the openness and vulnerability stage.

Here, two things happen. The group refuses to return to the polite stage or abandon the source of conflict. Instead it does what the Peace Testimony really requires. This is to acknowledge that there is conflict and, by being open to one another, (and thus risking hurt), works its way through to a fully acceptable conclusion; however long that takes.

But this cannot be done without the support of the Spirit.

It has to be done in a spirit of worship, possibly over a protracted time and a series of meetings of various kinds. It carries the risk that some will be hurt, but if the Peace Testimony is at work that hurt will not have a destructive outcome. At the end of the process the group/Meeting will have moved through openness and vulnerability into true community.

If this is true for groups it is true for the inner life of every individual. For it is all too easy to 'clobber' parts of ourselves because we fear them, and thus fail to move forward towards full personal integration.

Reports due in Business Meeting in next quarter in bold:

2017	main BM	
January	No BM	Overseers
February	Elders	
March	Treasurer	Café
April	Fund-raising committee	
May	Social Committee	
June	Nominations	
July	Web Manager	
September	Friendly link	
October	CYPC	
November	Premises & Finance	Library

Woodbrooke Course Corner

Wed 1 – Fri 3 Nov **‘The Faith of’ or ‘Faith in Jesus’: What are the Issues?** Led by Tutor Timothy Ashworth

For generations, people have been urged to ‘have the faith in Jesus’, a phrase drawn from Paul the apostle. But his words can be translated in another way. It brings a substantial change in meaning if Paul is actually encouraging people to have ‘the faith of Jesus’. This development of the past thirty years continues to attract scholarly interest. WE shall primarily explore the scholarship but also address the consequences of looking at faith from this intriguingly different point of view.

Mon 6 – Wed 8 Nov **Deepening Discernment** Tutors: Joycelin Dawes and Gill Pennington

Discernment is the heart of being spirit-led. How do we understand this today? Participants’ own discernment experiences, both personal and group, will contribute material that, with tutor input, we will use to test Quaker discernment and a secular model – Theory U. How do we recognise discernment? What is the source or authority at the heart of discernment? How do we ‘communicate’ with and discern its ‘voice’? How do we test and act on it?

Set in the beautiful grounds of the former home of George Cadbury, a peaceful environment awaits you. Please ask overseers if you require financial assistance. Copies of the Woodbrooke Learning Brochure through to March 2018 are now on the information table in the coffee room.

Central England and National Quaker Events

Quaker Questions at Coventry FMH, in September

at *Coventry Quaker Meeting House*, Hill St Coventry CV1 4AN Coventry

In response to requests from several Friends regarding meetings for learning, Coventry [elder](#)/overseers are arranging a series of Sunday evening sessions in the autumn, with the overall title: Quaker Questions:

2. October 15th – Worship

3. November 19th – Witness

The sessions will start at 7pm, with drinks available from 6.30pm, and end around 8.30pm. On each of the evenings two Friends will speak briefly on the topic and there will be time for small group discussions and a question and answer spot. **Please join us on this exploration of the Quaker way and bring along anyone you know who might be interested.**

Spiritual Principles – Daily Practices

Caroline Gibbs - Solihull Meeting invites Friends to a 3 part course beginning Sunday 15th October 2017, 2.30 - 5.30, following a shared lunch on week 1.

Following dates: Sunday 22nd October, Sunday 29th October.

All sessions to be held at Hall Green FMH.

More information from Caroline Gibbs.

There are a lot more events going on in our large Central England Area Meeting, such as Quaker Quests, talks, exhibitions, meditation talk etc., please look at the events listing on our area meeting website: www.centralenglandquakers.org.uk for details.

Young People



Children's Birthdays

Marcus Fox	05.10.2007 Turns ten years old
Stephanie Edelsten	06.10.2005 Turns twelve years old
Nesta Caborn	11.10.2010 Turns seven years old
Bradley Spivey	24.10.2009 Turns nine years old

Children's Events

Sunday 7th October: Veggie Rescue Activity Day for 7-14yr olds at Selly Oak Meeting House 10-4.30pm

Activities will include:

- Learning how to cook a veggie curry or stew and then eat it!
- Creating a veggie sculpture with recycled materials
- Rescuing a veggie plot from potential flooding and extreme weather
- Developing a drama performance with Journeyman Theatre
- Sharing it all with your friends and family over a drink and cake!

Please contact: ginnie.wollaston@gmail.com for an application form

Being a Quaker Parent, Mon 23rd – Weds 25th October (Half-term week)

An opportunity for parents carers and children to explore together some of the blessings and challenges of being part of a Quaker meeting. We will share our experiences and reflect together on what being a Quaker and parent means to us and consider how we and our meetings can nourish and support each other. There will be a full children's programme with fun and creative activities to help them explore what being a Quaker and a child means to them. **Tutors: Alistair Fuller, Kathy Chandler, Helen Chambers, Annie Kemp and others**

Living our Beliefs:

This publication has been compiled over the last couple of years by Graham Ralph working with young people on an editorial board. It contains reflections on a variety of topics, as well as explanations of aspects of Quakerism. It includes lots of contributions from young Quakers. It is available both as a book and on www.yqspace.org.uk where there is additional web only material.

Children's Rota for Children's Meeting

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
1st October	Peace work in the UK (JITS issue 13; Youth JITS 20) https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace	John Harding Hilary Cremin as guest	Zoe James
8th October	Tapestry/photos	Helen Pemberton Pat Slessinger as guest	Stella Rutter
15th October	Palestine for older Children Activity Time for younger children	Wendy Edwards Rob Hooper	Ann James Marilyn Biles
22nd October	Bo in Sierre Leone	Sunita Evans	Ruth Gaston
29th October	Tbc		
5th November	Tbc		

The topic leader has main responsibility for preparing the topic. However we would **encourage the topic leader and supporter to chat a few days beforehand;** great ideas result and the session usually flows so much better.

If you feel led to help with the children's programme, please contact Anna Edelsten, convenor of CYPC.

All helpers need to be cleared by the Disclosure and Barring Service, but this is not a painful process!

John Sheldon, Anna Edelsten