

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
December January 2017/2018, Number 251



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

There is much work to be done which is not paid, but which is vital, desperately undervalued and undertaken to a large extent by women. I refer, of course, to caring for children and/or elderly disabled relatives and homemaking. The work itself is often hard, stressful, mundane and repetitive, unseen and unacknowledged, with low status. We need a transformation of our attitudes to this work, giving it all the esteem it deserves. Experience of running a household teaches innumerable management skills, but these are often not perceived by employers as useful to them. Self-image is extremely poor in this group, not because they do not make a contribution but because their contribution is not appreciated.

Another reason for the low self-image of this group is one of the primary indicators of status in our society - income. Caring for a family is unpaid and therefore low status... We must value the work done by carers in a domestic situation because it is essential to the wellbeing of individuals and the community; bringing up the next generation should never be undervalued...

Related to the unpaid caring work carried out in many families is the voluntary work on which our communities depend which is, by definition, unpaid. Without volunteers many of the statutory services would be overwhelmed...

Voluntary work gives the sense of being able to give something - whether in time, money or expertise - and that is precious to the person doing the giving. The feeling of having contributed, the satisfaction of a job lovingly done, is the reward. We should not regard voluntary work as of less value because it is

unpaid and the rewards intangible, nor should we exploit the goodwill of volunteers...

Whichever sphere of activity we are involved in, we have to be responsive to the Spirit's leadings and try to put into practice our deepest beliefs, for our faith is a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week faith, which is not excluded from our workplace, wherever that may be. Everything in the end can be distilled to relationships - our relationships with each other and the earth. Our work must benefit our relationships rather than damage them, and we must ensure that neither the earth nor other people are exploited. Caring not exploitation, is the key.

Jane Stokes, 1992, Quaker Faith and Practice, 23:64

Welcome to the December/January edition of *The Friendly Link*

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

The last day for contributions for the February edition of The Friendly Link will be Sunday January 28th. Please send your contributions to: - editor@warwickquakers.org.uk. I would like to say an especially big thank you to you all for supporting me in my role and I know you will go on to do the same for the new editor Anna Edelsten next year. With love and appreciation. *Ruth*

Quaker Diary:

Sunday 3rd December: Business Meeting. 12 noon

Thursday 7th December: Area Meeting at Bull St FMH, 6.15pm, Sandwiches from 5.30pm

Sunday 17th December: Soup and a Roll with a Christmas twist of biscuit decorating for children, mince pies followed by carol singing with John Sheldon

Sunday 17th December: All Age Singing 12 noon - 12.30 pm, bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them.

Saturday 16th December: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship. 2.00pm outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Saturday 6th January: Business Meeting. 12 noon

Sunday 20th January: All Age Singing 12 noon - 12.30 pm, bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them.

Saturday 27th January: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship. 2.00pm outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 28th January: Deadline for contributions to the February Edition of the Friendly Link.

Sunday 28th January: Soup and Roll, 12 noon

Sunday 4th February: Business Meeting. 12 noon

Mid-week Meetings

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

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

Please note Welcomers' Rota is now on our new website, please go to: www.warwickquakers.org.uk if you need to check who is down which week, you can also see business minutes and other documents.

December 10 Diana Biddlestone and Paula Button

December 17 Marilyn and Phil Biles

December 24 Anna Edelsten and Roger Chapman

December 31 Jolyon Hall and Ruth Gaston

January 7 2018 Jane Beale and Helen Pemberton

January 14 John Harding and Sarah Thompson

January 21 George Timlin and John Sheldon

January 28 Anna Edelsten and TBC

February 4 TBC

A Meeting on December 25th

The Meeting house will be open on December 25th 10.30 - 11.30 or so for anyone, of any age, wishing to attend.

We plan to read the nativity story in the Gospels together, and share anything that comes in worship. Alternatively, please just come and sit in the Meeting house if you wish. There will not be a separate children's Meeting, but they are very welcome. There will be some refreshments afterwards.

In Friendship,
Annie Pettifer

Quaker Charter for Children:

25 years ago the United Reformed Church produced a charter for children which was modified to create a Quaker version. To celebrate its anniversary it was recently recirculated. We reproduce it here for both adults and children:

1. Children are equal partners with adults in the life of the Meeting.
2. The full diet of Quaker worship is for children as well as adults.
3. Learning is for the whole meeting, adults and children.
4. Fellowship is for all - each belonging meaningfully to the rest.
5. Service is for children to give, as well as adults.
6. Outreach is for all, irrespective of age.
7. The Spirit speaks powerfully through children as well as adults.
8. The discovery and development of gifts in children and adults is a key function of the Meeting.
9. The concept of the priesthood of all believers includes children.
10. As a Meeting we must learn to do only those things in separate age groups, which we cannot in all conscience do together.

Anna Edelsten, CYPC Covenor

Café News: Can You Help A Hungry Person?

From January the cafe will be working with the Warwick food bank, so that people collecting food parcels will be offered a voucher to have a free meal and hot drink in our cafe. Universal credit is being introduced in this area then, which on past experience will be a time of great need. If you can help to finance this we would be very grateful. I can accept cash or cheques on a Sunday, money can be handed in to the cafe, or you could transfer money into the cafe CAF bank account, sort code 40 52 40, account number 00021668. Please reference it vouchers. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

The cafe will be serving Christmas lunches from December 12th to 16th, in two sittings at 12 noon or 1.30pm. Two courses are £10.95 and three courses £13. 95. Booking is advisable, call 01926 407476, and we look forward to seeing you.

A Book Film Club.

I would like to offer an evening once a month to share a film of a book. So instead of having to read a book in four weeks we can watch the film of it and discuss this instead! I have several films already but let me know if you have others. I am considering a Monday evening possibly, but this is open to discussion. Please let me know if you are at all interested.

In friendship,
Paula

Please Note New Email Address For Pat Slessenger as follows:

p.slessenger@icloud.com

Reports due in Business Meeting in next quarter in bold:

2017	main BM	
January	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

Fri 5 – Sun 7 Dec ‘**Clearing the Way**’ Led by Jennifer Kavanagh and Penny Fosten
The New Year is a good time to reflect on who we are, what we feel called to do, and what gets in the way. We will explore the nature of the clutter that distracts from our life’s purpose and consider how to create space in our minds and hearts as well as in our living rooms.

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

Exploring Meaning in the Miracles of Jesus

On Behalf of Elders & Overseers Support Group

At Edgbaston Friends Meeting House

Sunday evenings: 7.15 - 9 PM

3rd December (Two Sea Miracles)

(Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 8:18-27; Luke 8:22-25 / Mark 6:47-52; Matthew 14:25-33; John 6:15-21)

10th December Two Resurrections

(Luke 7:11-17 / John 11:38-44)

Facilitated by Hilary Johnson

If you would like preparatory material in advance please email:

hilary.johnson1@blueyonder.co.uk

Christmas Parcel Packing: Friday 8th December 6pm and Saturday 9th December, 9am

You are invited to join our team of volunteers to help pack Christmas food parcels for the families of prisoners and others. Anyone is welcome to help out with the packing sessions, simply turn up on the day.

Christmas can be a difficult time for families of people in prison, asylum seekers & refugees, and other vulnerable people. The Christmas parcels appeal seeks to offer support and friendship at this time by providing food parcels.

Each year an appeal is made to Quakers, Trusts and other churches to contribute funds so that food can be purchased and supplied to those in great need known to the Probation Service (including families of those in prison) plus asylum seekers and refugees.

The packing sessions are a positive, community-building event (and there will be a break for hot drinks and biscuits to say thank you for your help!) There are packing session on Friday

evening and Saturday morning: you are welcome to come to either or both.

Concert at Selly Oak QMH: 2nd December 7.30-10pm

Selly Oak Quakers are hosting a concert performed by students from Birmingham Conservatoire.

This is a fundraising event for Birmingham Mind.

Programme includes:

- Bach – Partita in E major
- Kreisler – Liebeslied
- Elgar – Chanson de Matin
- Williams – Schindler’s List
- Mozart – Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
- Kreisler – Schön Rosmarin
- Massenet – Meditation
- Monti – Czardas

Food Donations Wanted

B30 Foodbank in Birmingham and Peace House Night Shelter in Coventry are both looking for donations of non-perishable food:

“For friends who might pass Cotteridge Church (on the double roundabout) or a collection point: the Trussell Trust B30 Foodbank has very bare shelves. They’re desperate for donations of pasta, rice, longlife milk, tinned tomatoes, beans, fish, meat, rice pudding, custard, toilet rolls, babies’ nappies, sanitary towels, etc. More information on the [Trussell Trust website.](#)”

“The Peace House night shelter needs: sugar, breakfast cereal (particularly cornflakes), rice, jam and toothpaste plus fresh fruit, peanut butter, juice, and snacks people can take away such as crisps or other individually packaged items. Contact Beth Ash, Shelter Co-ordinator shelter@covpeacehouse.org.uk 07443428916 (please text or whatsapp)”

Young People



Children's Events

Children's Rota for Children's Meeting

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
3 rd December	Courageous Companions (North America): Anne Sullivan and Helen Keller	Wendy Edwards	Marilyn Biles
10 th December	The Tennessee Tornado (North America): Wilma Rudolph	Meg Harper	Marian Millington
17 th December	Youth Journey Issue 14: Spirituality Glimpses for older Children Activity Time for younger children	Ruth Gaston	Zoe James Sarah Thompson and Diana Biddlestone
24 th December	All Age Worship		
31 st December	An Asian Activist (Pakistan): Iqbal Masih	Anna Edelsten	Marian Millington
7 th January	From Sorcerer to Saint: Milarepa (Tibet)	Ann James	Marian Millington
14 th January	The Hungering Lion (West Africa) Sundiaia	TBC	
21 st January	A Boy King and a Great Queen (France): Louis IX and Queen Blanche	TBC	
28 th January	Youth Journeys 8: Being a Quaker in the World (older children); Activity Time for younger children	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