

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
February 2018, Number 252



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

The spiritual welfare of a meeting is greatly helped if its social life is vigorous,
and its members take a warm personal interest in one another's welfare.

1925, Quaker Faith and Practice, 10:17

Welcome to the March edition of *The Friendly Link*

This edition of the Friendly Link sees a new section, the community message board. I hope everyone will feel able to use this space to share significant news (such as the birth of a grandchild, moving house and so on), ask for help ("Does anyone have a paint stripper?", "Can someone walk my dog?") or offer help ("Always happy to cat sit. "). I will also be using this section for messages from individuals - there are a number this month. The notices section I hope to use for messages from committees - so please let me know when you are writing in an official capacity. Please do let me know how you find the new section.

Your contributions are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the April edition of The Friendly Link will be Sunday March 25th. Please send your contributions to: - editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

Sunday 4th March: Business Meeting. 12:00 noon

Saturday 10th March: Morning walk around Lowsonford, 4 - 5 miles, meet at 10.30.

Saturday 17th March: Area Meeting at Coventry FMH at 14:00 - 17:00

Sunday 18th March: All Age Singing 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Saturday 24th March: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 25th March: Deadline for contributions to the March Edition of the Friendly Link.

Sunday 25th March: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Sunday 1st April: Business Meeting. 12:00 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

Welcomers' Rota

If you would like to know who is welcoming, you can either visit the website (www.warwickquakers.org.uk), check the business minutes or see below!

March 04	Marian Millington, Rob Hooper
March 11	Anna Edelsten, Dave Rawcliffe
March 18	Helen Pemberton, Annie Pettifer and Lucy
March 25	Marilyn and Phil Biles
April 01	Marian and John Sheldon

Business Meeting Reports

Those reports that are due over the next few months are highlighted in bold.

January	Overseers
February	Elders
March	Café
	Treasurer
April	Fund-raising committee
May	Social Committee
June	Nominations
July	Web Manager
September	Friendly link
October	CYPC
November	Premises & Finance
	Library

Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: Daughters of Eve: Strong Women of the Bible. CYPC will leave 2 copies of this book in the Children's Library. It is a fabulous book so you may want to buy your own second hand or new copy.

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
04 Mar	Journeys in the Light: The Fugitive	Meg Harper	Ann James
11 Mar	The Jews in Egypt - Miriam; for older Children (older children)	Annie Pettifer	Wendy Edwards
	Activity time for younger children	Leader needed	John Harding
18 Mar	The Land of Midian - Zipporah	Leader needed	Jane Beale
25 Mar	Passover and Exodus - Miriam and Moses	Ann James	Marian Millington
01 Apr	All Age Worship		

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.

Golden (Unstructured)Time: Golden time is the topic during children's holidays and busy times; when we expect very few and possibly even no children will be attending. At these times we will only provide one DBS checked adult and parents will be expected to stay with their children. Golden time is a time when there is a chance for the children to spend time in more unstructured or self chosen activities. We encourage games, craft, painting or if the leader wishes to run a topic of their own we are grateful. We have games, toys, art materials and books available for the children, parents and leader to make use of. The children may also bring games, books, sewing or other activities they might like to share or lead but it would be helpful if their parent could let the leader know if they plan to bring something the evening before.

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

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

John Sheldon, Annie Pettifer

Appointments for 2018

Clerk: Meg Harper

Assistant clerk: Diana Biddlestone

Treasurer: Sarah Thompson

Assistant treasurer: Alan Sanger

Assistant treasurer (accounts): Marilyn Biles

Examiner of Accounts: Anne Ullathorne

Elders: Jane Holt, Rob Hooper and Paula Button

Overseers: Jane Beale, Helen Pemberton, Ann James, Marilyn Biles

Premises and finance: Paul Rutter (to 12/19), Stephen Holt (to 12/18), Mel Dearing (to 2020). Ex officio: Treasurer. In attendance: Warden

Fund-raising group: Sunita Evans, Marian Millington, John Sheldon, Ex officio: Treasurer

Library committee: Stella Rutter, David Hardiman

CYPC: Annie Pettifer, Meg Harper, Ruth Gaston, John Sheldon (rota only). An elder and overseer will try to attend each meeting of this committee.

Nominations committee: Roger Chapman, Jane Beale, Wendy Edwards

Peace Festival: John Harding, Ruth Gaston

Web manager and Meeting Information Manager: Dave Rawcliffe

Café committee: Marilyn Biles, Dave Rawcliffe, Sarah Thompson. Paul Lively, cafe manager, is ex officio and up to four community reps co-opted by the committee.

Social committee: Paula Button, John Harding, Stella Rutter

Welcomers' rota: Ann James, Wendy Edwards

Safeguarding co-ordinators: Diana Biddlestone, John Harding

QPSW link: David Hardiman

Friendly Link editor: Anna Edelsten

Data protection: Paul Rutter

Contact for University of Warwick: Rob Hooper

“What I believe” column co-ordinator: Paula Button

Warwick Hospital chaplain: John Sheldon

Funeral Advisors: Wendy Edwards & John Sheldon

Notices

Social Committee Walk Saturday 10th March 10:30

Meet at 10.30am in the car park of the Fleur de Lys pub Lapworth St, Lowsonford, Henley-in-Arden B95 5HJ. The walk will be about 5.5 miles and about 2.5 to 3 hours long. The first mile and quarter will be along the towpath so friends wishing for a shorter walk could join us for the first bit then turn back and start an early lunch at the Pub! However, be aware, in March even the towpath could be a bit muddy. Attractive rolling countryside, good views over Henley, the wild garlic may well be out but sadly not the Bluebells. For the lunch menu at the Fleur de Lys it's www.fleurdelys-lowsonford.com.

John Harding

Party for the Garden Saturday 24th March 15:00

Come to a party to celebrate Spring, in the Meeting House on Saturday 24 March at 3pm. More details will follow but Marilyn Biles will co-ordinate food and John Sheldon will co-ordinate games and party pieces so please contact them if you have ideas.

John Sheldon

Community Message Board



Free Parking in Warwick

I was talking to a long-standing Friend who was unaware of this so I thought a note here might help about the car parks normally used by County Council staff. The Barrack St car park is free all day Sunday. This is near the top, NW corner of the market square and so is an easy walk to the Meeting House. The Cape Road car park is free all day Saturday and Sunday though is a bit further away and involves a bit of a pull up the hill to the town centre.

John Sheldon

Radical Spirituality: the early history of the Quakers

I thought friends might be interested to know that there is a free online course with Futurelearn.com called “Radical Spirituality: the early history of the Quakers” (see <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers>). The tutor is Ben Pink Dandelion and it was developed by Lancaster University. The course starts 30th April and runs for 3 weeks for approximately 3 hours per week.

Marilyn Biles

Records of Central England Area Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

The catalogue for our records is now online and can be viewed at the link given below. This is for our Area from 1564 to 2017. Note that this is only a catalogue and not a digital version of minutes etc. You will need to visit the archive at the Library of Birmingham to see the records. The catalogue indicates which are “Open” and the library website gives information on how to arrange to be given access to the records. For closed records you will need a “letter of permission” from The Keeper of the Records who is currently Wendy Burnett.

<http://calmview.birmingham.gov.uk/CalmView/>

To browse within SF:

If you go to the Advanced Search page (don't use the Quick Search as it will bring up SF across all of our collections) and type SF into the Ref No field, it will bring up the collection level record. If you click on SF in the Ref No field, you will get an overall description of the collection. From this page, if you click on SF in the Ref No field, you get a break down of the collection into sub-collections of QM/AM/LM records. You can keep clicking on the + sign and each series/sub-series level in the catalogue structure (or tree) will open up, until there are no more + signs and you have reached item level which will be a volume, file, bundle of papers etc. To find out more information about the contents of a sub-collection/series/sub-series/item, you can click on the title when it is underlined in blue and there will be further description of that group of records/item.

Roger Chapman

Yearly Meeting 2018 *4-7 May at Friends House in London*

Yearly Meeting is when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, make decisions and spend time as a community. Yearly Meetings are also occasions in which we can learn, practise, improve, and take back to our local meetings ways of conducting business which are rooted in Quaker tradition and our own experience yet also meet contemporary challenges. The purposes and functions of Yearly Meeting are described in Quaker faith & practice 6.02-6.11, which also gives the background to the business agenda.

Those in formal membership of one of the area meetings within Britain Yearly Meeting are encouraged to attend and take part in the deliberations. Attenders who want to attend sessions can do so with the permission of the Yearly Meeting Clerk. They should ask an elder at their local meeting to write a letter of support to the Yearly Meeting Clerks via Friends House.

While no booking is required, Friends are asked to assist in the practical arrangements for Yearly Meeting by registering their intention to attend. There will be an online form early in 2018. To find out more about Yearly Meeting go to: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

The Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting is open for bookings: From 5 - 7 May, during Yearly Meeting, the Children's Programme is available on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday in the mornings and afternoons. This enables 0 - 11 year olds (born between 1.9.06 and 3.5.18) to participate and share in Yearly Meeting in their own ways. The different age groups will give children age appropriate ways to explore their place in Quakers and the world, make friendships, worship, be creative, have fun and play games. It is an opportunity to be part of making and experiencing a Quaker community. For more information and a link to an online booking form www.quaker.org.uk/events/cp2018.

The Young People's Programme at Yearly Meeting is open for bookings: From 4 - 7 May the Young People's Programme (born between 01/09/2002 and 31/08/2006) provides an opportunity for young Quakers aged 11 - 15 to gather in community with their peers, whilst engaging with Yearly Meeting in age appropriate ways. The event provides space for worship and exploration of concerns that are of importance to Quakers. It will be fun, thought provoking and exciting reflecting the Yearly Meeting topics. It takes place residentially at Feldon Lodge in Hemel Hempstead. For more information and a link to an online booking form www.quaker.org.uk/events/ypp2018.

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) nominations: Places are available for JYM, which takes place for 15 - 18 year olds (born between 1.9.99 and 31.8.02) residentially May 4 - 7 at the same time as Yearly Meeting. Young people can be nominated through their Area Meeting or can apply for a place directly. Full details can be found at www.yospace.org.uk/junior-yearly-meeting-2018.

National Events and Items of Interest

Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) summer school 8 - 20 July in Geneva

This is for 20 - 26 year olds with an interest in international affairs. The summer school aims to provide an introduction to the work of the United Nations. **The deadline for applications is 12 March.** For more information and to request an application pack contact helenb@quaker.org.uk.

Europe and Middle East Young Friends (EMEYF) new digital magazine

A new EMEYF project has seen the creation of *Willy & Penn* a new digital magazine. Subscription is completely free and young adult Quakers are invited to read and write pieces, poetry, prose, pictures, audio, video or anything else. For information about this and to see the new *Willy & Penn* [digital magazine](#).

Young Quakers calendar

A calendar showing information about events in Britain for young Quakers in 2018 is available. This includes contact details for local and regional events. This is online at <http://www.yqspace.org.uk/find-event>.

Central England Area Events

To find out about events taking place in the Area Meeting go to:
<http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/>

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 01 Mar 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield Quaker Meeting House (QMH)

All are welcome to join us on the first Thursday of every month. A small group come together for a silent half-hour of remembering, praying for, and 'holding in the Light' those people who are personally known to each participant, and who are ill, possibly disabled too, and who may be recently deceased or bereaved. The names of those who are ill are listed beforehand, and there is usually a little 'background' provided by the informant. At the end of the silent prayer meeting, all the names are read out by the convenor. The prayer group participants also express their more general concerns about pain & suffering in the wider world; these are similarly listed, and later read out. 'Healing' as such is simply seen as a component of prayer. The prayer group has occasionally received positive feedback from those who have been the subject of prayer, to the extent that they feel 'supported' in their plight.

Creative Day at Northfield Sat 03 Mar 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH

Quakers in Northfield invite you to join their monthly Creative Days. Drop in any time between 10am-4pm on the first Saturday of the Month. There is a bring and share lunch at 1pm. This is a day for anyone to bring along their unfinished project and work on it in the company of others but away from telephones, housework, and the call of the kitchen. Some of us are knitters, beaders, quilters, painters, experimenting with new textile techniques, and some of us enjoy journalling and reading. Musicians, singers and poets are also welcome.

Exploring the Quaker Testimonies Wed 14 Mar 10:30 - 11:30 at Bournville QMH

A monthly discussion group for Quakers to explore and deepen our understanding of the fundamental principles central to Quakerism which we strive to honour in our daily lives. About twenty minutes of mostly silent contemplation, which might be focused on a brief reading concerning the principle of the day, is followed by a further forty minutes exploring how this principle can help us in our daily lives. Tea & coffee available from 10:15 and again after the discussion.

Facing the Hostile Environment Sat 17 Mar 11:00-12:30 at Coventry QMH

Challenging structural injustice in the asylum system: a pre- Area Meeting session from Central England Area Meeting Asylum Group. Come and hear about how asylum-seekers are treated in the UK, and what Quakers are doing about it. Test your knowledge of the current situation and find out about current campaigns. Area Business Meeting follows in the afternoon.

Peace Hub Relaunch Sun 18th Mar 14:00-17:00 Peach Hub & Bull St QMH

Three years on from the Official Launch, join Peace Hub's Relaunch Celebration! Our project Peace Hub have refreshed their public space to make it even more welcoming. They warmly invite you to join in. You'll have the chance to see the new layout, enjoy some tea & cake and take part in simple activities to help make peace in our community. Pop in when you get the chance or come for the full afternoon: it's up to you! All welcome! The activities will be accessible to all ages and abilities, and will help you find ways to make peace in your own life and/or community in a way that feel right for you. This event is free, but if you can, please register in advance to help us plan for numbers: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peace-hub-relaunch-tickets-43162993676>

God, Words and Us Sun 25 Mar, 12:00 - 13:00 at Coventry QMH

Part one of two study sessions exploring the book 'God, Words and Us', which looks at the words we use to describe our spiritual experiences. These sessions will be similar to the one offered at Bull Street on February 17th. Join us for the discussion after meeting for worship on Sunday 25th March and Sunday 15th April.

Woodbrooke Course Corner

To find out about courses run at Woodbrooke, either pick up a copy of the *Woodbrooke Learning Brochure* for 2018 from the information table in the coffee room, or go to <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/view-course-search/> for residential courses and <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/online-learning/> for online courses.

Residential courses

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. You may also attend these courses as a non-resident.

March	April
<p>Fri 02 - Sun 04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ From Militarisation to Peace	<p>Mon 02 - Wed 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Exploring Eldership○ Exploring Oversight
<p>Mon 05 - Wed 07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Being a Quaker Trustee○ Metaphysical Poets	<p>Fri 13 - Sun 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What Can You Say? Speaking Up and Speaking Out
<p>Mon 05 - Fri 09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Icon Painting as a Spiritual Practice: from Traditional to Contemporary Icon	<p>Mon 16 - Wed 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Being a Quaker Clerk○ Quaker Funerals: Practical, Pastoral and Spiritual Responsibilities○ Jesus is Risen: What Did it Mean?
<p>Wed 14 - Wed 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Apocalyptic Tradition○ The Art of Grounding Oneself	<p>Fri 20 - Sun 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Quaker Discipleship: What is it?
<p>Fri 16 - Sun 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Changing Face of Faith in Britain. How should Quakers Respond?○ Building a Diverse and Transformative Movement for Change○ Exploring Nominations	<p>Mon 23 - Wed 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Living at the Edge, Living as a Quaker
<p>Fri 30 - Mon 02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wise Hands: an Appleseed Course○ Young Adult Friends Retreat	

Online courses

Mon 2 Apr - Sun 13 May: Eldership and Oversight

Mon 23 Apr - Sun 13 May: Leadership Amongst Friends

Tue 1 May - Tue 5 Jun: The Early Christian Breakthrough

Conferences

Quaker Conference Nontheist Friends Quaker in 2032: What Will our Society Look Like? *Fri 9 - Sun 11 Mar, Woodbrooke £220* Speakers: Linda Murgatroyd, Harvey Gillman and David Boulton

In 2005 Quaker Studies analysed the trends of falling membership of the Society of Friends as dwindling to 0 by 2032, when British Quakerism would become history. We are more optimistic today. But what will our Society look like in 2032? How will it change socially, theologically, and influentially? Our explorations and discussions will be led by three well known speakers covering the diversity and wide spectrum of different views amongst Quakers in Britain today.

Booking should be made via Hugh Rock: 26 Fairmile, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2LA. Tel: 07500 914440 Email: hugh_rock@btconnect.com

Quaker Conference: Quaker Understanding of Truth *Fri 13 - Sun 15 Apr, Woodbrooke £220*

Our annual Quaker Universalist Group conference will look at truth in its many meanings. Truth will be explored in three main areas: in religion; for the individual Quaker, personally and when participating in a meeting for worship; and in the media. We will face the dilemma of all religions claiming to be 'the truth', we will look at what really goes on in our individual or corporate quest for truth, and we will examine how we can disentangle truth from lies in our 'posttruth' media environment. There will be speakers, group and plenary discussion, a survey and free time to socialise and explore this wonderful conference centre.

Booking form on the QUG website <http://qug.org.uk/> or from Glen Gates (gleng@qug.org.uk or 5 School Street, Church Lawford, Rugby, CV23 9EE). Enquiries and completed booking forms to Glen.