

# The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting  
April 2018, Number 254



*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](http://www.warwickquakers.org.uk)

Silent worship and the spoken word are both parts of Quaker ministry. The ministry of silence demands the faithful activity of every member in the meeting. As, together, we enter the depths of a living silence, the stillness of God, we find one another in 'the things that are eternal', upholding and strengthening one another.

1967;1994; Quaker Faith and Practice, 2.01

## **Welcome to the April edition of *The Friendly Link***

This edition of the Friendly Link sees another new section "Reflections". This will provide a space, I hope, for anyone who wants to share something about Quakerism or their spiritual journey, or that simply speaks to them. It may not feature every month. This month I have offered a poem by Irish poet, Derek Fanning.

Parents may not want to consider *the Live Adventurously* opportunity for 8-11 year olds in the "National Events" 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](mailto:editor@warwickquakers.org.uk).  
*Anna Edelsten*

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## Quaker Diary

Sunday 1st April: Business Meeting. 12:00 noon

Sunday 15th April: All Age Singing 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Saturday 19th April: Area Meeting at Selly Oak Meeting House at 18:00 -21:00

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April: Deadline for contributions to the March Edition of the Friendly Link.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May: 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](http://www.warwickquakers.org.uk)), check the business minutes or see below!

01 April	Marian and John Sheldon
08 April	Mel Dearing and Paula Button
15 April	Jane and Steven Holt
22 April	Dave Rawcliffe and Ann James
29 April	Ruth Gaston and Jolyon Hall
06 May	Paul and Stella Rutter

## 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
<b>May</b>	<b>Social Committee</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Nominations</b>
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
1st April	All Age Worship		
8th April	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Easter Hols)	Helper needed	Zoe James
15th April	Women and the Law - The daughters of Zelephhad; for older Children	Anna Edelsten	Ruth Gaston
	Activity Time for younger children	Helper needed	Wendy Edwards
22nd April	A Jew by Choice - Ruth	Annie Pettifer	Marian Millington
29th April	Women & Marriage - Abigail	Helen Pemberton	Marian Millington
6th May	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Britain Yearly Meeting in London)	Helper needed	Zoe James

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*

## Notices

### **Yearly Meeting Preparation: *Sun 22nd Apr after coffee***

If you are hoping to go to Yearly Meeting 2018 in London on the first weekend of May, we are having a short meeting to talk through preparation on Sunday, the 22nd of April after coffee. Please let Paula Button or John Sheldon know if you are interested. It would also be good to arrange a time to get together for a meal in London perhaps.

In friendship,

*Paula and John*

### **EcoChurch Cotteridge discussion: *Sun 29th Apr 12:45 after soup and a roll***

Business Meeting agreed that Warwick Meeting would register with EcoChurch and join other Meetings and Christian communities in a movement to consider how we can all live in a way that uses fewer resources, builds strong loving communities and works towards a more just world.

Cotteridge have been working for a long time to make a strong, low carbon, sustainable Meeting and Chris and Harriet Martin have agreed to come and discuss their journey with us.

Everyone welcome. Please see me if you would like further information.

*Wendy Edwards*

### **Can you welcome at either of these two special events?**

Friends we need welcomers for Gabrielle's Memorial Meeting on Thursday 31 May from 13.30 and for Ruth's wedding on Saturday 7 July from 13.30. Four people are needed at both events. Please contact me if you can help.

*Ann James Tel: 01926 314013*

### **Social Committee Events**

There will be a trip to **Compton Verney** on **Sunday 13th May** to see *Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship; English Artist Designers 1922-1942*. Meet in the car park 12.30 - 1.00. Bring a picnic if it is fine weather. Please let John, Paula or Stella know if you hope to come.

We hope to organise a weekend away at **Ironbridge** to visit The Darby Houses and attend a Meeting for Worship there if there is enough interest. This would be **29th/30th September**. There could be a choice of staying at a Youth Hostel, camping at the local site or visiting just for the day, whatever would suit individuals. Please let John, Paula or Stella know as soon as possible if you are interested.

*Paula Button*

## Community Message Board



### 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*

**Quaker Camping Sat 28th July to Sat 4th August at Cromer Camping, Norfolk**  
[www.cromercamping.com](http://www.cromercamping.com)

Every year a number of people from our meeting go camping with a group of Quakers from all over the country. This summer camp is moving to the seaside! The activities on offer in North Norfolk include miles of sandy beaches, salt marshes and sand dunes, wild life, walks, stately homes and heritage railways. This camp tends to attract two groups of people: families and walkers. So, if you have kids (they don't have to be young!), love walking, love camping or just want to experience living in community, do chat to me.

*Anna Edelsten*

### Appeal for gardening tools

Some of you may be aware that we rent a property in Leamington to a refugee family. The house has a lovely garden, which will need more attention now that Spring is upon us. Does anybody have any spare gardening tools which they no longer have any use for, and which they would be happy to donate to the family? They particularly need a hand trowel, hand fork, secateurs and a long-handled fork. Please contact me. Thank you!

*Anna Edelsten*

## Reflections

### Spring: 2

a wintry soughing buffeting beating moaning  
wailing wind covers the spring landscape

who would know that the season of rebirth  
had arrived?

the daffodils of course knew

their golden polished burnished thrones  
sway elegantly in the biting keen air  
they know  
for their Creator has commanded them to  
open their shivering petals  
to delight  
to make the heart glad

encircling oaks and beeches and other trees  
seemingly for shelter  
they seem like a sacred hymn  
to the eyes of the quiet meditative  
nature-wanderer

*The Northern Lights* by Derek Fanning

## **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. Bookings closed on 18 March. While most age groups are fully booked, there are a few spaces left for some ages. To enquire about available spaces contact the CYP Administrator [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk) or 020 7663 1013.

**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. The deadline for bookings has now closed. We might still have one or two places remaining. Please contact the CYP Administrator for more information [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk) or 020 7663 1013.

**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. The deadline for bookings has now closed. We might still have one or two places remaining. Please contact the Alex our CYP Administrator for more information [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk) or 020 7663 1013.

## National Events

**Live Adventurously Wed 25 to Fri 27 July at Gilwell Park activity centre, Essex**

This residential event is a fun and exciting opportunity for 8-11 year olds to make friends, explore what it means to be a Quaker and to be a bit adventurous. It costs £80 (including food, activities and travel from Friends House if required).

## Central England Area Events

To find out about events taking place in the Area Meeting go to:

<http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/>

**Outdoor Meeting for Worship at Coventry Mon 02 Apr 10:45 at War Memorial Park, Coventry, CV3 6PT**

Coventry Quakers will be holding an outdoor [Meeting for Worship](#) on the Easter Monday Bank Holiday. Silent worship will be held in the War Memorial Park, within sight of the monument. All welcome.

**Peace Committee Mosaic Poppy Project Tues 03 Apr at Selly QMH**

An opportunity to get creative for peace! Peace Committee invites Friends of all ages and artistic abilities to a creative workshop. Working with Quaker mosaic artist Caroline Jariwala, the vision is to create a white mosaic poppy to commemorate Armistice Day 2018. We will be producing words, images, patterns, poems in black and white (using pens and paper) on the themes of peace, remembrance, armistice for Caroline to use on the mosaic white poppy. We will have lunch together afterwards. Please let us know you are coming, so that we have materials and food for all. Email

[cathykhurana@outlook.com](mailto:cathykhurana@outlook.com)

**Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 05 Apr 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH**

All are welcome to join us on the first Thursday of every month. Please see previous newsletter or Central England Area events link above for full details.

**Creative Day at Northfield Sat 07 Apr 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. Please see previous newsletter or Central England Area events link above for full details.

**Exploring the Quaker Testimonies Wed 11 Apr 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.

**God, Words and Us Sun 15 Apr, 12:00 - 13:00 at Coventry QMH**

Part two 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.

## 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.

April	May
<p>Mon 02 - Wed 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exploring Eldership</li> <li>○ Exploring Oversight</li> </ul>	<p>Wed 9 - Fri 11 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Spirit Dance: A 5rhythms™ Dance Workshop</li> </ul>
<p>Fri 13 - Sun 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What Can You Say? Speaking Up and Speaking Out</li> </ul>	<p>Fri 11 - Sun 13 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A Friendly Introduction to Quaker Values and Ethics in Business</li> <li>○ Managing our Meeting Houses</li> </ul>
<p>Mon 16 - Wed 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Being a Quaker Clerk</li> <li>○ Quaker Funerals: Practical, Pastoral and Spiritual Responsibilities</li> <li>○ Jesus is Risen: What Did it Mean?</li> </ul>	<p>Mon 14 - Wed 16 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Being Peace</li> </ul>
<p>Fri 20 - Sun 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quaker Discipleship: What is it?</li> </ul>	<p>Wed 16 - Fri 18 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Transformative Life Writing Alumni Retreat</li> </ul>
<p>Mon 23 - Wed 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Living at the Edge, Living as a Quaker</li> </ul>	<p>Thu 17 - Sun 20 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction to Life Writing for Transformation</li> </ul>
	<p>Fri 18 - Sun 20 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exploring the Early Quaker Vision</li> </ul>
	<p>Tue 22 - Thu 24 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Discernment in Everyday Life</li> <li>○ Being a Quaker Treasurer</li> </ul>
	<p>Fri 25 - Sun 27 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To Save From Fear: Spiritual Disciplines for Difficult Times</li> <li>○ Sharing our Stories: Gender and Sexual Diversity Retreat</li> </ul>
	<p>Tue 29 - Thu 31 May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Art of Natural Prayer</li> <li>○ A Walk Through the Midlands with George Fox</li> </ul>
	<p>Fri 1 - Sun 3 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Time in a Safe Haven: a Retreat for Spiritual Directors</li> <li>○ Foundations of a True Social Order: Yesterday and Today</li> </ul>

## 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

Mon 7 May - Sun 17 Jun: Being a Quaker Clerk: An Online Course for Clerks Around the World

Mon 7 May - Sun 3 Jun: Let Your Life Preach

Tue 22 May: Seeking Sanctuary and Stillness

## Conferences

**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.