

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
October 2018, Number 259



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

One of the unexpected things I have learnt in my life as a Quaker is that religion is basically about relationships between people. This was an unexpected discovery, because I had been brought up to believe that religion was essentially about our relationship with God.

George Gorman, 1982 Quaker Faith and Practice, 10.20

Welcome to the October edition of *The Friendly Link*

This month sees the introduction of three more sections: nominations sought, events beyond area meeting, and a book corner. A decision was made at Business Meeting to inform neighbouring Area meetings with local meetings close to us of our events, and we are now being informed of some of their events, hence the new section. I wondered if a book corner may be welcome, as a lot of us do a lot of reading and it would be good to share experiences. Please use this corner for books that you feel may be of interest to the wider meeting, or that have helped you grow spiritually. As always, these new sections will only be present when there is content!

Your contributions are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the October edition of *The Friendly Link* is Sunday October 28th. Please send your contributions to:
editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.
Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

Sunday 7th October: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Saturday 20th October: Area Meeting at Bull St Quaker Meeting House, 14:00-17:00

Saturday 20th October: Social Committee Walk meet at 10:30 at Lawsonford

Sunday 21st October: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Saturday 27th October: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 28th October: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Sunday 4th November: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Mid-week Meetings

12.30pm, Wednesdays: Jeffries Room, Dormer Conference Centre, Dormer Place

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!

Sunday 7th October Helen Pemberton and Ann James

Sunday 14th October Louisa Radice and John Sheldon

Sunday 21st October Ali Jeffery and Paula Button

Sunday 28th October Helen Pemberton and Marian Millington

Sunday 4th November Jolyon Hall and Clive Dove- Dixon

Business Meeting Reports

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

January	
February	Library (delayed from 2017)
March	Treasurer Overseers Café
April	
May	Elders Social Committee
June	Nominations Fundraising committee
July	Web Manager
August	
September	Friendly Link
October	CYPC
November	Premises and Finance
December	Library

Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: Arts and Crafts with a spiritual dimension

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
7th Oct	Meditative Crochet Crafts	Meg Harper	Marian Millington
14th Oct	Nesta teaches us how to make Friendship Bracelets to raise money for Water Aid	Ruth Gaston	Ann James
21st Oct	All Age Worship	No Adults required	No adults required
28th Oct	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half Term Hols)	N/A	Marilyn Biles
4th Nov	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half Term Hols)	N/A	Rob Hooper

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

Social Committee Walk 10:30 Saturday 20th October Lawsonford

Meet 10.30am at the Fleur de Lys Inn, Lawsonford (Near Henley in Arden) B95 5HJ. 5 miles or just over 3hrs along Stratford upon Avon canal then up to the hills overlooking Henley and back; or a shorter, flatter 3 mile version taking about 1hr 15mins. Possible pub lunch afterwards. If interested please contact John Harding 07733047086.

John Harding

Vocal ministry - a gentle reminder!

From time to time, we hear that Friends have been unable to hear the ministry given during meeting. This can be quite distressing, as one is left not knowing what has been said and is therefore unable to think about it and maybe add one's own contribution to the meeting's ministry.

We ask that Friends stand if they can when giving ministry, and project their voices as best they can - people in every part of the room need to hear what you are saying!

We also remind Friends that the seating under the balcony is not a good place to hear from, so if this is often a problem for you, we suggest you avoid sitting there, and move to a different part of the room.

If you are unable to hear during ministry, we suggest that you silently raise your arm to indicate this - and when giving vocal ministry, could Friends please look out for raised arms and treat it as a signal to speak up.

It is very important to a meeting that the ministry is heard by all present, and we hope that this will reduce problems for everyone.

“Do not assume that vocal ministry is never to be your part. Faithfulness and sincerity in speaking, even very briefly, may open the way to fuller ministry from others. When prompted to speak, wait patiently to know that the leading and the time are right, but do not let a sense of your own unworthiness hold you back. Pray that your ministry may arise from deep experience, and trust that words will be given to you. Try to speak audibly and distinctly, and with sensitivity to the needs of others. Beware of speaking predictably or too often, and of making additions towards the end of a meeting when it was well left before.” (Advices & Queries no 13)

Jane Holt & Gill Smith, Elders

Access to Quaker records in the Library of Birmingham

When we stop needing access to minutes and similar documents we send them to the Bull Street Strong Room. From there they are transferred to the Library of Birmingham. Most records are “closed” for 50 to 100 years but can be accessed if a letter is obtained from the Keeper of Records who is currently Wendy Burnett. More details of the closure rules can be seen in the document circulated with this edition of the Link.

Roger Chapman

GDPR and Warwick Meeting

Most of us are painfully aware that the government’s new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force in May this year. In response Central England Quaker Area meeting and its trustees, which for Warwick Quakers is the legally the responsible body, have agreed a GDPR policy. If you are interested you can find a full copy of the policy on www.centralenglandquakers.org.uk!

But in essence what we say is that we will only hold and use people’s contact information with their consent. Further we will only publish in our local and area meeting directories that contact information they explicitly give us permission to publish.

To put this into practice we will very shortly be sending all our members and attenders a Consent Form so they can tell us the personal data they want us to hold and which details they wish to have published in our directory.

We are asking everyone to return the signed forms by the end of year deadline set by our October business meeting. We will then remove all contact information for which we have not received explicit consent. This does then mean that those people can no longer be contacted by the meeting or indeed receive the Friendly Link!

We very much hope people will return the signed forms promptly as we have given our word that we will no longer hold anybody’s contact information without it!

Dave Rawcliffe

Nominations Sought

Birthday cards for our children

Nominations Committee are looking for someone to take over the role of sending birthday cards to our children. This role might suit someone who likes to work from home, not attending committee meetings. Expenses can be claimed for the cards and postage. The committee believe that a DBS check should be obtained for this post. If you would like to talk about what is required, please contact Helen Pemberton or members of the Nominations Committee: Wendy Edwards, Jane Beale or Roger Chapman.

Roger Chapman

Safeguarding Coordinator

There is an opportunity for someone (in membership) to work with John Harding as Safeguarding Coordinator in 2019, *initially for one year*. The person will need to have a DBS check. The role requires that you have a working knowledge of the AM Safeguarding policy and GDPR, can establish a good relationship with the children and are careful about confidentiality. Training and support is offered by Area Meeting and John can offer guidance with new DBS checking procedure which is becoming easier with new systems. Overseers will also offer support.

Roger Chapman

Opportunity to join the Café Committee

The Café Committee would benefit from an additional Friend in membership to join Marilyn and Dave. The committee consists of up to four Quaker members appointed by the Meeting and four “town” members appointed by the committee, who are volunteers but not Quakers.

The committee normally meets on a weekday afternoon twice a year, in February and October, although a meeting can be called at any time if there is an urgent matter to discuss. The agenda includes a report by the Café manager, Paul Lively, a financial report by the convenor and other items to do with the life of the café.

Serving on the committee provides an opportunity to represent the Quakers in the life of the Café, and also to play a part in providing a valuable service to the community. The Café does not just provide food and drinks for people; it is a hub, a refuge and a resource for many lonely and needy people in the area.

If you are interested, please contact a member of the Nominations Committee: Jane Beale, Wendy or Roger - or talk to Marilyn.

Roger Chapman

Eco tips column

Spend time on a boat

You live off grid which makes you very economical with fuel and water. Also you can't buy lots of "stuff" because there is nowhere to put it.

Marilyn and Phil

Book corner

God, Words & Us Edited by Helen Rowlands 2017

This slim volume proved an interesting read. I particularly enjoyed the chapter on "reframing the issues" in which theism and nontheism were approached from a standpoint of truth and integrity to one's experiences, and in which a four-fold model for describing spiritual experiences was described. The model could be useful as a reflective tool at an individual, Meeting or Society level.

Anna Edelsten

National Events

Facilitation Skills Day Sat 10 November 10:00-16:30; Friends House, London

This is a one-day event for those with experience of, or interest in, facilitation. There will be a space for sharing skills, stories and challenges with a chance to meet other facilitators. The day will include updates on the how Quaker Life Network facilitators are helping support Quaker meetings. There will be optional workshops on: Conflict, Mental Health, Radical Hospitality and Turning the Tide. Travel costs will be reimbursed. For more information and to book go to <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/facilitation-skills-day-tickets-48277190376>.

Children and Young People's Events

Living as a Quaker Link Weekend 24-25th November, Cotteridge Meeting House

Have you been asked “What do Quakers believe?” or “Why do you call yourself a Quaker?” This can be a bit scary as you may be unsure what you really think and believe. This is a chance for you to explore what living as a Quaker means to you and to discover which Quaker Values and Testimonies matter to you. You won't be doing it on your own but with other young people who are asking themselves the same things. We hope you will be able to answer those questions with much more confidence!

This weekend is aimed at 10-14 year olds. It starts at 10am on the 24th and finishes at 12pm on the 25th. Closing date for applications is 2nd November, but it is limited to 20 spaces so apply soon! For more information please contact John Harding.

Central England Area Events

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

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

Regular events (please see previous newsletters or Central England Area events link above for full details)

- o **Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 04 Oct and 01 Nov 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH**
- o **Creative Day at Northfield Sat 06 Oct and 03 Nov 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH**
- o **Exploring the Quaker Testimonies Wed 10 Oct 10:30 - 11:30 at Bournville QMH**
- o **Becoming Friends**
 - o **The Sacred in the Everyday Tues 16 Oct 18:45-20:45 at Bull St QMH**
 - o **Deep Roots and New Growth Tues 30 Oct 18:45-20:45 at Bull St QMH**

Post-Truth World - Our Quaker Response *Wed 10th Oct, 18:00-20:00 at Bull Street QMH*

Are we living in a post-truth world? Is this something Quakers are being called to act upon? This is a discussion evening arranged by the co-clerks of Area Meeting to give an opportunity to explore this topic before our next Area Meeting (on Sat 20th October). Sandwiches available from 6.00 p.m.

Low Carbon Commitment Forum *Sat 13th Oct, 10:00 - 12:30 at Bull Street QMH*

Quakers in Central England are invited to the October Low Carbon Commitment Forum. The agenda will include: Eco Church activities and progress, Area Meeting environmental policy and Update: Ecumenical study course '*Our Common Home: Caring for God's Creation*'. All members and attenders welcome. For more information, please contact

lowcarbon@centralenglandquakers.org.uk

Talk on Sri Lanka & Reconciliation *Sat 13th Oct, 10:45 - 12:15 at Selly Oak QMH*

The Quaker South Asia Interest Group (QSAIG) invite you to a talk on Postwar Sri Lanka: challenges to reconciliation. Elizabeth Harris (Elizabeth Harris, Honorary Research Fellow at the Edward Cadbury Centre for the Public Understanding of Religion at Birmingham University) will be speaking, Organised by QSAIG as part of their annual general meeting 10.30- 16.00. The talk will be followed by discussion on other Quaker related issues and including a Bring and Share lunch.

Room for More: Quakers at the Tree of Life Festival *Sat 20th Oct, 10:00-18:00 at The Beeches Conference Centre, Bournville, Birmingham*

Solihull Friends have booked a stand all day in the main hall, with Friends handing out information packs and answering questions about Quakers. They are also holding a half-hour workshop at 10:15 am when two or three Friends will share what led to them to join the Quakers and what being Quakers means to them. Tickets to the Festival cost £10, and we believe that people who pay to explore the Meaning of Life may well be interested in what Quakers can say about it!

Events Beyond Area Meeting

Pericles - All at Sea *Sun 28 Oct, 13:30 at Leicester Quaker Meeting House*

A pair of storytellers 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. Free performance followed by a 'pay-what-you-will' collection. Enquiries and to reserve seats: 07801 235132, annefishenden@gmail.com

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.

October

Mon 8 - Wed 10	o Exploring Nominations
Mon 8 - Wed 10	o Caring for One Another
Mon 8 - Wed 10	o Forced Migration and Human Rights
Mon 8 - Thu 11	o 'Into the Actual Presence of God': the Letter to the Hebrews
Mon 15 - Wed 17	o Early Quaker History: the Everyday Lives of Seventeenth Century Friends
Fri 19 - Sun 21	o Walking With a Smile into the Dark
Fri 19 - Sun 21	o Fire in the Bones: Encountering the Prophet Jeremiah
Mon 22 - Thu 25	o A Spiritual Anthology: a Toolkit for Silence from Quakers and Others
Fri 26 - Sun 28	o Exploring Islamophobia
Mon 29 - Wed 31	o Friends to the End: Accompanying Dying Friends
Mon 29 - Wed 31	o Answering That of God

November

Mon 5 - Wed 7	o Being an Area Meeting Treasurer
Mon 5 - Wed 7	o Restorative Justice
Wed 7 - Fri 9	o Alice: a Light-hearted Introduction to Confidence
Fri 9 - Sun 11	o Shalom: the Peace that Changes Everything
Fri 9 - Sun 11	o Faith in Food
Mon 12-Wed 14	o Silence in Circles: Meditating to Create Mandalas
Mon 12-Wed 14	o Bible Study for Quakers
Wed 14-Fri 16	o Friends with a Dual Religious Identity: the Gifts and Challenges
Mon 19 - Wed 21	o How to Teach and Lead Meditation and Mindfulness
Mon 26 - Wed 28	o Thy Kingdom Come?: The Lord's Prayer for Quakers

Online courses

Mon 1 Oct - Fri 9 Nov: Eldership and Oversight

Mon 1 - Sun 28 Oct: Friends from the Start: Exploring the Early Quaker Story

Mon 22 Oct - Fri 16 Nov: Spiritual Practices for Every Day

Wed 24 Oct - Wed 28 Nov: The Theology of Quaker Testimony

Mon 5 Nov - Sun 16 Dec: Quaker Women and Social Justice: Learning from their Experience

Mon 5 Nov - Sun 16 Dec: Being a Quaker Clerk: an Online Course

Thurs 8 Nov - Thurs 13 Dec: Exploring Quaker Spirituality

Conferences

Quaker Youth Work Conference *Sat 10 Nov*

This is for those involved in running events with young Quakers aged 11+. The day provides a networking opportunity for anyone working with young Quakers, to share and learn together. The day will particularly consider how to best support young people who are exploring their gender diversity, thinking about the practical implications of this for youth events. For more [information and booking details](#). The closing date for bookings is 28 October.

Children & Young People's Work Advocates Conference *Fri 7 - Sun 11 Nov*

An opportunity for area meeting children and young people's work advocates and those who support them to meet, share and learn together. Details about this role can be found at www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/quaker-roles/cyp-work-advocates. Over the weekend we will explore common issues affecting the advocacy of Quaker children and young people's work. On the Saturday we will link up with the Quaker Youth Work conference that takes place at Woodbrooke, to help build relationships and networks.

Area Meeting Clerks Conference *Fri 16 - Sun 18 Nov*

This conference is being jointly organised by Woodbrooke and Quaker Life and will be an opportunity for all serving area meeting clerks to come together for learning and to share experience of current practices. There will be speaker sessions, group discussions and workshops covering a wide range of relevant topics. All area meetings will receive a formal invitation to the conference in early 2018.