

# The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting  
December & January 2018, Number 262



*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)

Perhaps the most neglected of all the advices is that we should live adventurously. If there is one wish I would pray the Spirit to put into our Christmas stockings, it is warmth, openness, passion, a bit of emotion that doesn't mind making a fool of itself occasionally.

Gerald Priestland, 1977, Quaker Faith and Practice, 12.25

## **Welcome to the December and January edition of *The Friendly Link***

This is an especially packed edition, with a multitude of notices and an exciting diary ahead - such as a peaceful New Year's walk on the 5th January after the bustle of Christmas, and the Firebird performance after soup and a roll on the 27th January.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the February edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday January 27th. Please send your contributions to: [editor@warwickquakers.org.uk](mailto:editor@warwickquakers.org.uk).

*Anna Edelsten*

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Quaker Diary</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Welcomers' Rota</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Business Meeting Reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Children's Meeting Rota</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notices</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Community Message Board</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Children and Young People's Events</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Central England Area Events</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>National Events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Woodbrooke Course Corner</b>	<b>12</b>

## Quaker Diary

Saturday 1st December: Area Meeting at Bull St Quaker Meeting House, 14:00-17:00

Sunday 2nd December: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Saturday 15th December: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 16th December: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Sunday 23rd December: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Saturday 5th January: New Year walk followed bring and share tea and cake; 13:00 at John Harding's house

Saturday 19th January: Area Meeting at Edgbaston Quaker Meeting House, 14:00-17:00.

Sunday 20th January: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Saturday 26th January: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 27th January: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Sunday 27th January: The Firebird performed by Multi-Story Theatre, 12:45 - 13:45

Sunday 3rd February: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

## 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!

December 9	Mel Dearing and Jane Holt
December 16	Jane Beale and Diana Biddlestone
December 23	Ruth Gaston and Ana, Nesta and Aerwyn Gaston/Caborn
December 30	Paul and Stella Rutter
January 6	Annie Pettifer, Lucy Pettifer and Mair Evans
January 13	Zoe James and Alan Sanger
January 20	Roger Chapman and Julia Scholder
January 27	Ann James and Jane Beale
February 3	Rob Hooper and Karen or David Barber

## Business Meeting Reports

Those reports that are due over the next few months are listed below.

December            Library

## Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: The Jesse Tree an advent activity book by Katie Thompson  
Annie Pettifer has kindly lent her book with ideas for craft around advent, it is in the children's library, please take a look in advance of your session

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
2nd Dec	Toilet twinning	Wendy Edwards	Jane Beale
9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The Jesse Tree: John the Baptist pg 51-52 (Rugby Children's meeting will be visiting)	Annie Pettifer	Ann James
16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	The Jesse Tree: Jesus Saviour of the World pg 53-54	Meg Harper	Anna Edelsten
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	All Age Worship: Children will assemble the Jesse Tree during worship quietly with some lines of ministry	N/A	N/A
30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Christmas Hols)	N/A	Helen Pemberton
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Christmas Hols)	N/A	Stella Rutter

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

### **Soup and a Roll**

The last soup and a roll of 2018 will take place on **December 23rd** after all age worship.

We are now looking for soup makers for next year. Can any volunteers please contact Paula Button. Last Sunday in the month February to July.

*Paula Button*

### **Christmas Lunches**

The Cafe will be serving Christmas lunches from Tuesday 11th to Friday 14th December. Vegetarian as well as turkey options are available. You will need to book (01926 407476) for this week and they will be served at two sittings at 12 noon or 1.30 pm. The cost is £10.95 for 2 courses and £13.95 for 3 courses.

The following week, 17th to 21st, Christmas lunches will be available alongside the usual menu during normal opening hours with no need to book unless it's for a large number.

The Cafe will close after lunch on Friday 21st December and open again on Thursday 3rd January.

We are very grateful to all our volunteers who help Paul to make all this possible.

There are some Christmas decorations for sale in the Cafe. The profit from the sales goes towards the thank you lunch for the volunteers which Paul provides after Christmas. The volunteers and Paul also gather for a buffet lunch provided by Phil and me in our flat before Christmas. It's a squash but great fun.

*Marilyn Biles*

### **Tuesday December 25th**

In recent years we have opened the Meeting House for an hour or so on Christmas Day morning for a time of worship. We would like to know whether Friends would like this to happen again this year - if you feel strongly either way, please let us know to help us discern.

*Elders - Paula Button, Jane Holt, Rob Hooper, Gill Smith*

### **The Firebird, Sunday 27th January, 12:45 - 13:45**

Multi Story Theatre will be returning to the Warwick Quaker Centre on Sunday 27th January to perform The Firebird, from 12:45 - 13:45, after soup and roll. Some of you will remember the wonderful performance of Pericles last year by the same company. The Firebird is a play suitable for all ages so we hope many children will come, as well as adults of course.

A taste of the story: “A magical telling of the action-packed Russian adventure. Prince Ivan and his brothers set off in search of the fabled Firebird, which has been stealing golden apples from the royal orchard. Ivan’s brothers soon fall by the wayside, indulging their selfish passions. Ivan, guided by the Wise Woman of the Wild Woods, enlists the help of the Horse with the Silver Mane, a fearsome Wolf and Princess Yelyena the Fair. Together they confront Lodgoth, the wicked Tsar of the Frozen Wastes. They rescue the Firebird and head for home... but the adventure has only just begun.”

Please contact Wendy Edwards for details: [wendy.r.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.r.edwards@gmail.com)

### **Memorial Meeting for George Timlin**

Our Friend George died earlier this year. Following discussion with his closest family, we are pleased to announce that there will be a Memorial Meeting to remember his life held at Warwick Meeting House on **Saturday 9th March 2019**, starting at 2pm and followed by light refreshments.

*Jane Holt & Ann James*

### **Do we want an Active Social Committee?**

Social Committee is looking for help and support from meeting so that we can continue to provide a variety of interesting and fun events for meeting during the year. From January we will be just two and that will limit what we are able to offer. Soup and a roll is supported which is important as a monthly opportunity for us to share time together. But for other activities we hope you can suggest ideas and practical help so that we can continue to have a wide range of experiences together. It is a good committee to be part of. We meet every two months in a very informal way to chat and plan events. But any input from interested individuals would be very welcome. For example, John Harding has offered to host a **New Year walk on Saturday 5th January**. We meet at his house at 1pm for the walk and then return for bring and share tea and cake. A lovely opportunity for fresh air, exercise friendship and cake! Please join us then.

In friendship,

*Paula Button and Stella Rutter*

## **Notices from Elders: SAVE THE DATE**

Elders have been busy thinking of events and activities for the whole of Warwick Meeting in 2019. So we have two SAVE THE DATES for your diary.

### ***Firstly, SATURDAY 30th MARCH.***

We have arranged a half day workshop for a Quakers Sharing Experience originally trialled by Geoffrey Durham. Quakers Sharing Experience is a new kind of half-day workshop, tried and tested in meetings across the UK. It offers us the opportunity to tell our stories and know our fellow Quakers in depth - the kind of depth that can help us learn not only about other people, but about ourselves. Quakers Sharing Experience helps us to listen to one another. What do we think? What do we believe? What is important to us. More details will follow in the New Year but we hope you will take up this opportunity to get to know each other in that which is eternal.

### ***The second SAVE THE DATE is for SATURDAY 22nd JUNE.***

We have booked The St Michaels Retreat Centre at Budbrooke (Hampton Magna) for a whole meeting Away Day. We would like your help and your ideas in planning an interesting and fun day for everyone. Please let one of the Elders or Overseers know as it will be a much more successful day if we can all contribute. Let us hear what you think or what you can offer.

In friendship

*Elders and Overseers*

## **Area Meeting Asylum Group Notices**

The AM asylum group met on 31 October and amongst other things recorded the following:

### **18/18 Activities in Meetings**

a) Walsall: Mary reported that Walsall Meeting covers around half a dozen constituencies. Friends are willing to write to their MPs if they are given support about the content of the letters. Mary is prepared to help with this. She informed us that she has had a response from the Home Office about DLR charges.

b) Cotteridge: Cotteridge Meeting has links to Restore and Brushstrokes. They are also in touch with the Hope Housing facility on Raddlebarn Road where there are ongoing activities in upgrading the accommodation. Cotteridge is offering practical support to the women from Hope Housing.

c) Edgbaston: Edgbaston Friends might be prepared to engage in letter-writing activities. Sue will ask if they would be prepared to host an event with Freed Voices.

d) Selly Oak: Selly Oak has set up a Working Group on this concern and are working on some letter-writing activities.

e) Stourbridge: John Lampen has informed us of a variety of activities, including their decision to become a Meeting of Sanctuary. Among other activities, they have had a meeting with Gulwali Passarley about his experiences as an unaccompanied minor; plans for a discussion evening on “Welcoming the Stranger” with Stourbridge Churches Together; support for individual Friends who are working with asylum-seekers and refugees, and for Journeymen Theatre.

We would like to hear from the other Meetings in our AM.

We will ask for a slot before Area Meeting in March for Meetings to share what they are doing.

If any Friend would like to see the full minutes please ask me and I will happily forwarded them. If you would like to go to the next meeting you would be most welcome (it is an open group); it will be held at Bull St on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

*John Sheldon*

## Community Message Board



### Ettington Farmer refuses to pay tithes

It is 1787, a Quaker farmer in Ettington was visited by four gentlemen to collect part of his harvest as his tithe payment. A receipt was issued, presumably delivered to the Clerk of Ettington Meeting and from there to Warwickshire Monthly Sufferings Meeting. On 12th November 2018 the receipt saw the light of day...perhaps for the first time in 231 years....it had been part of a bundle, one of three, buried somewhere in the Bull Street strong room for many years. Eleanor Woodward, archivist, was handed these bundles and members of the Records Advisory Committee stood around, excitedly, as she gently eased each receipt from its tightly tied bundle.

The part of the harvest confiscated had been valued at £34 which is £5066 today. So presumably his harvest that year was worth about £50,000. Other receipts which we peeped at including one for the confiscation of candles from someone in Coventry and malt from somewhere else. It is not clear whether these Friends were fined or imprisoned. The bundles have now gone to the Library of Birmingham for archiving. The attached photos shows the bundles of receipts. Each wrapper is labelled "a/c [account] of sufferings".

An article, written by Eleanor about tithes in an earlier period can be seen in <https://theironroom.wordpress.com/2015/11/30/persecution-and-prosecution-quaker-sufferings/>

*Roger Chapman*

## Children and Young People's Events

### **Junior Young Friends 14-16 December, All Day at Bourneville QMH**

Junior Young Friends (JYF) is a residential event for young Quakers aged 13 to 18. Over the weekend the young people will have the opportunity to meet other Quakers of their own age (with supervision from responsible adults) to live together as a community and to enjoy shared activities. Registration is essential, the closing date is 7th December 2018. The cost for the weekend is £20.00 per participant. For more information contact [cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk](mailto:cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk)

## 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); dates for January not available at time of going to press.

- o **Creative Day at Northfield Sat 01 Dec 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH**
- o **Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 06 Dec 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH**
- o **Becoming Friends: Speaking of God Tues 11 Dec 18:45-20:45 at Bull St QMH**
- o **Exploring the Quaker Testimonies Wed 12 Dec 10:30 - 11:30 at Bournville QMH**

### **Exploring Issues around Mental Health Sat 01 Dec, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at Bull St QMH**

Alison Mitchell, Mental Health Development Officer from The Retreat York Benevolent Fund will lead and facilitate this event. Alison's role is to give Quakers the information and the inspiration they need to discern their response to issues around mental health in our country today. This event is not therapy! It is for all of us to learn, consider and talk about Mental Health in our Meetings. All are welcome. Lunch will be provided from 12.30 and Friends are welcome to stay for Area Meeting in the afternoon from 2.00 - 5.00pm.

### **Christmas Parcel Packing Fri 7th Dec 18:00-21:00 and Sat 8th Dec 09:00-13:00, Selly Oak QMH**

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

### **Christmas Day Worship 25th December, 10:30-11:15 at Bourneville QMH**

Join Bournville Quakers for a traditional programme of readings and carols for Christmas Day, to include a period of silent worship, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

## **National Events**

### **The Conversation 7 & 8 December; St Paul's Church, Canterbury**

It is a gathering that curates space for cutting-edge, innovative, even risky conversations about children, young people and the church. It asks the question: How can we change the dominant church culture from 'conquering and keeping' to 'nurturing and releasing' the children and young people in our communities? For more details and booking information go to <https://theconversationuk.org/>

### **All Age Outreach Conference 2019: 15-17 February; High Leigh Conference Centre in Hertfordshire**

This event is aimed at Quakers who are keen to reach out and who want to build dynamic, welcoming Quaker communities. It is for all ages. It intends to help all who participate to make Quakers well known and widely understood. We invite appointed people from Area Meetings and also individual bookings from interested individuals and those involved in Quaker groups or communities. The cost is £245 for adults, and £80 for those under 18. For more information and to book a place go to: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/outreachconference2019>

## 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.

#### December

Thur 20 - Sun 23	A Pre-Christmas Retreat: Woodbrooke and the Community of Interbeing
Thur 20 - Sun 23	Be the Change
Sun 30 - Wed 2 Jan	Dances of Universal Peace: Dancing into the New Year with Faith and Joy

#### January

Fri 11 - Sun 13	Clearing the Way
Fri 18 - Sun 20	Answering that of God in Everyone
Fri 25 - Sun 27	Exploring Oversight
Fri 25 - Sun 27	Exploring Eldership
Fri 25 - Sun 27	Being a Quaker Trustee

#### February

Fri 1 - Sun 3	A Friendly Introduction to Membership
Sun 3 - Fri 8	Resting in Presence: an individually guided retreat
Mon 4 - Wed 6	Changing Shape of Eldership and Oversight
Fri 8 - Sun 10	'Standing in the light and sitting in the dark'
Fri 8 - Sun 10	Exploring Quaker Nominations
Fri 8 - Sun 10	Being a Quaker Clerk
Mon 11 - Fri 15	Time Set Aside: an individually guided retreat
Fri 15 - Sun 17	Exploring the Quaker Practice of Waiting in the Light
Fri 15 - Sun 17	Nurturing our Meetings
Fri 15 - Sun 17	Richard Rohr on Ego, 12 Steps, Mysticism and Growth
Fri 22 - Sun 24	Present Moment, Wonderful Moment
Fri 22 - Sun 24	Critical Whiteness
Mon 25 - Wed 27	T.S. Eliot: the heavy burden of the growing soul
Mon 25 - Wed 27	In Humility of Heart
Mon 25 - Wed 27	Being a Quaker Treasurer
Thur 28 - Sun 3 Mar	Nurturing Authentic Spirituality: a rule to live by

### Online courses

Mon 14 Jan- Sun 24 Mar: Quakerism in 18th and 19th century American literature

Wed 23 Jan - Wed 20 Feb: What to do About Money

Mon 28 Jan - Sun 10 Mar: A Friendly Introduction to the Quaker Way

Mon 28 Jan - Sun 10 Mar: Being a Quaker Clerk: an online course for clerks around the world

Tue 5 Feb - Tue 12 Mar: The Roots of the Quaker Way

Mon 11 Feb - Sun 24 Mar: Deepening the Life of the Spirit