

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
March 2019, Number 264



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

Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care. Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you? Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?

Advices and Queries 19, Quaker Faith and Practice, 1.02

Welcome to the March edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to the March edition of the Link. In this edition, I have reflected on the state of the children's meeting rota. For those who do not wish to read the piece, the key point is that there were 21 unfilled slots in 2018 (22% of the total number of volunteering opportunities) compared to none in 2017. Please consider this service for the meeting.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the April edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday March 31st. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

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

Saturday 9th March: Area Meeting at 14:00-17:00 at Bull St

Sunday 10th March: chocolate and cake sale to raise funds for the Fairtrade Foundation.

Sunday 17th March: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Thursday 21st March: Meeting for Healing and Wholeness 19:30-20:30

Saturday 23rd March: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Saturday 30th March: Quakers Sharing Experience 13:00-16:30

Sunday 31st March: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

Sunday 7th April: 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), check the business minutes or see below!

3 rd March	Mel Dearing and Sunita Evans
10 th March	Sarah Thompson and Paula Button
17 th March	Diana Biddlestone and Joanna Hardcastle
24 th March	Helen Pemberton and Jane Beale
31 st March	Rob or Helen Hooper and Stella or Paul Rutter
7 th April	Ruth Gaston and Dave Rawcliffe

Business Meeting Reports

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

April	Nil
May	Elders, Social Committee

Children's Meeting Rota

<p>Theme 1: St Jenni - Animal Crazy: book by Meg Harper</p> <p>Meg has kindly lent several copies of her book, they are in the children's library, please take a look in advance of your session</p>	<p>Theme 2: Bible</p> <p>We have three copies of 'The Lion Encyclopedia of The Bible' which you will need to use as a base for putting your session together, they are in the children's library, please take a look in advance of your session</p>
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Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
3rd Mar	Trying to do the right thing. How do we deal with being told 'No'	Annie Pettifer	Rob Hooper
10 Mar	Is it ever OK to kill animals? Handling our mistakes.	Anna Edelsten	Wendy Edwards
17 Mar	Forgiveness and moral dilemmas	Ruth Gaston	Paula Button
24 Mar <i>Older Children</i>	Chapter 4: What is the Old Testament? (Pgs 12-13)	John Harding	Ali Jeffery
24 Mar <i>Younger Children</i>	Chapter 10: Journey to Egypt: Joseph (Pgs 24-25)	Meg Harper	Can you help here?
31 Mar	Chapter 15: Choosing a King: Samuel and Saul (Pgs 34-35)	Can you help here?	Jane Holt
7 Apr	Chapter 16: The Great King: David (Pgs 36-37)	Helen Pemberton	Annie Pettifer

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 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 or wish to be shown our resources, or a tour of the children's room please contact anyone from CYPC. We are: Annie Pettifer (Convenor), Ruth Gaston, John Harding.

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

Notices

Meeting for Healing and Wholeness 19:30 Thurs 21st March

The next Meeting for Healing at Warwick will be at the Meeting House on Thursday March 21st, starting at 7.30pm. It will last for up to an hour, followed by time for a drink and chat. At a Meeting for Healing we come together for a silent period of remembering, praying for and holding in the Light those known to us who are unwell or struggling in any way. All are very welcome to come along.

Jane Holt, Paula Button, Rob Hooper & Gill Smith

Fairtrade Fortnight 25th Feb to 10th March

The Fairtrade Foundation draws attention to exploitation and unfair practices which mean that farmers in developing countries cannot earn a living income from their products so live in poverty. This year during Fairtrade Fortnight the emphasis is on cocoa farmers, particularly women, in Ghana and Côte D'Ivoire. The Foundation campaigns for fair prices to be paid to these farmers so they can have the basics that we take for granted.

As part of our commitment to becoming an Eco Church, we are highlighting Fairtrade Fortnight at Warwick Meeting. There will be posters around and also cards for us to sign individually and send (freepost) to the Fairtrade Foundation for them to forward to the Prime Minister asking her to ensure that the importance of living incomes for farmers and others are recognised and incorporated into the Government's Business and Human Rights policies.

On Sunday 10th March, after Meeting, we will be having a chocolate and cake sale to raise funds for the Fairtrade Foundation. It would be great if some of us could bring in cakes/ traybakes/cupcakes/biscuits made with as many Fairtrade ingredients as practical. Of course, we would like as many as possible to buy the cakes and chocolate as well!

Jane Holt and Wendy Edwards

Reflection

Faith in Action: how are we doing as a community?

As Friendly Link editor, I have quietly observed the perilous state of the children's meeting rota for some months now. This month, I have been inspired to speak by an article in The Friend "Speaking truth to each other" (26 Jan, Vol 177 no. 4, p10-11) by Sue Glover Frykman. At this point I should declare that I have a vested interest: I am one of the parents who regularly volunteers on the rota. However, you should also be aware that I am *no longer* on the children's committee; I laid down that role in January 2018. This is an entirely personal reflection.

So, let's start by seeing what the published rotas in the Friendly Link looked like in 2017 and 2018:

	2017	2018
Number of sessions	60	55
Older children's / young people's sessions	9	6
Golden Time	8 (13%)	13 (24%)
Unfilled slots	0	21

There are more sessions than there are weeks, as separate sessions were planned for the older children and young people. Two DBS checked adults are needed for each topic session.

It is striking that 21 slots (22% of all slots available) were unfilled in 2018, compared to none in 2017.¹ This was an unexpected finding, and the situation is worse than it looks. The number of golden time sessions has risen, partly in response to the problems with filling the rota, as golden time needs only one person to volunteer in advance (the other slot is filled by an attending DBS checked parent on the day). This meant that *5 fewer volunteers were needed in 2018 than 2017*, but we were still faced with 21 more unfilled slots.²

The next question to ask is why the rota is in such a perilous state? In 2017, 21 people volunteered and in 2018, 15 people volunteered. This explains the problems with filling the rota in 2018 and onwards. I am aware, for different reasons, that two of the current volunteers are / will shortly be unable to serve in this way, although some new volunteers have come forward. Going forwards, this means that fewer people will be covering the children's rota. My thanks go to everyone on the rota, but particularly to those who have contributed regularly. Thank you for your commitment, I have sat through many of your excellent sessions in the past; I know that you put a lot of time and thought into planning the sessions.

However, this does leave us with some uncomfortable facts: there are fewer people actively supporting the rota in 2017 than 2018, and, in addition, Annie, Ruth and I covered 55% and 58% of all children's meetings, including golden time, in 2017 and 2018 respectively.³

And here I have to make a confession - I'm tired of filling the gaps in the rota, which I have done quietly for years. I'm also concerned how much is required of Ruth and Annie. Golden time doesn't relieve the situation, it simply asks more of us.

The children's group is growing: we have had the pleasure of welcoming four new children under five recently, and can realistically expect another three over the next year. The children are a blessing; meetings with no children yearn for them. However they are also a responsibility, and their spiritual nurturing is our shared responsibility (see A&Q 19). Furthermore, the parents need time in meeting for their own spiritual growth. Volunteering provides us with much needed support.

So what is needed if we are to offer a children's meeting every week? Assuming three all age worship meetings, 10 golden times (I propose with two named adults to take the burden off parents) and 10 young people's groups, totals 59 sessions. With 20 adults on the rota each one of whom commits to volunteer *only once every two months* we can cover the rota. That's *six sessions per year each* folks - Ruth alone covered 12 slots in 2017, and that's without including her contribution to golden time.

Any time you can give would be appreciated.

Anna Edelsten

Special notes on the handling of data:

1. Some slots were unfilled at first printing in 2017, but were filled by the relevant (next) month and counted as filled; the data has been treated similarly for both years.
2. There were gaps in the data for 2017: the data for 4 topic sessions and 6 golden time sessions was entirely missing, constituting 12% of the total number of volunteers needed. If these sessions had the same vacancy rate as those of 2017, then 2.4 slots would be unfilled.
3. Not including golden time, we covered 26% and 20% of the available slots in 2017 and 2018 respectively; including golden time these figures were 33% and 35% respectively. To put this another way, we covered 55% and 58% of all children's meetings in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

Community



Severn Street and Priory First Day schools blog

Severn Street and Priory First Day schools were the first such schools in Birmingham to provide reading, writing and Bible classes to working class men and women. A blog about the Jubilee Exhibition to mark 50 years since their opening is available on <https://theironroom.wordpress.com/2019/02/04/severn-street-priory-first-day-schools-jubilee-exhibition/>

Anna Edelsten and Roger Chapman

Children and Young People's Events

Youth Club, Saturday 2nd March, 18:00-20:00 at Cotteridge Meeting House

Helen Waters and Isaac Peat (or Barnaby Waters) are running the youth club this Saturday! If you are in year 6 or above please do come. The sessions will be a mixture of crafts, games, social time over hot chocolate and biscuits, and some focused activities. Meals are not provided but the young people are welcome to bring food with them.

Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting

This is for 0 - 11 year olds (those born before September 2007), taking place at Friends House during Yearly Meeting in London 25 - 27 May. There are sessions on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, including the Swarthmoor lecture. Children will be separated into up to four age groups, depending on the age split of bookings. Each age group will follow a structured programme that explores some of the YM topics, as well as including fun and community building activities. All children must have a responsible adult present in Friends House. Bookings for the Children's Programme close on 22 March. For further details and to book go to [Yearly Meeting page](#) on BYM website.

Young People's Programme (YPP) at Yearly Meeting

YPP is a residential event for 11 - 15 year olds (those born between 1.9.03 and 31.8.07), taking place at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon. YPP runs from Friday evening to Monday afternoon. Participants will join the final YM session on Monday afternoon at Friends House where the event will finish. YPP helps young Friends to engage with YM topics, explore their faith and practice, whilst including space for building community and taking part in fun activities. Bookings for YPP close on 22 March. For further details and to book go to [Yearly Meeting page](#).

(<http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/children-and-young-people-1>)

Friends Summer School 28th July to 3rd August at Drax, near Selby, West Yorkshire

The Friends Summer School is a residential Quaker event for young people from the North West of England and North Wales. Summer School offers sports, discussions, creative workshops, worship, co-operative activities, music, drama... and more. The age range is 11-17, but this includes anyone who is 10 and going to be 11 before the 1st of September. Most young people that come have some Quaker family connection or are friends with Quakers, but as long as you want to be part of a "Quaker community," you're welcome to come along! The cost has not been finalised but is likely to be around £225 for the week plus £25 for travel on the coach. See <https://friendssummerschool.wordpress.com/> for more information.

Junior Gathering 17-24 August at Leighton Park School; Theme: Modern Equality

Junior Gathering (formerly Southern Summer School) is a week long Quaker gathering for young people aged 11 to 14. It is an exciting and busy week packed with activities and a chance to meet new people and have fun. Junior Gathering is a chance for young people to make friends and be together in a Quaker environment. Young people who do Quaker stuff all the time are welcome, and for those who don't go to meeting regularly this can be a tremendous opportunity to spend time with kids who share Quaker values and have Friendly fun. It is a safe and happy week - lots of people in the holiday between primary and secondary school have not been away on their own before, but in JG there are dorm buddies, secret friends and small family-style base-groups and we all look after each other. The cost is £360. See <https://fsse.org.uk/jg/> for more information.

National Events

Faith & Play / Godly Play Workshop 9 March, Jordans Meeting, Beaconsfield

There is an upcoming workshop looking at the Faith & Play stories alongside Godly Play practice. Melinda Wenner Bradley (Youth Engagement Co-ordinator Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) came to the UK last summer and delivered a Faith & Play story to the all age gathering at Yearly Meeting. Since then there has been real interest in these stories. For more information and to book please visit

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/godly-play-faith-play-storytelling-workshop>

Yearly Meeting 2019 24-27 May; Friends House, London

At Yearly Meeting 2019 we will examine our privilege (and assumptions of privilege). Privilege - whether we recognise it or not - fundamentally impacts our ability to act on our urgent Quaker concerns regarding climate justice and sustainability, and inclusion and diversity. For further details and to book please go to:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

Central England Area Events

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

National Quaker Day of Healing Sat 2nd March 11:00-15:00 at Hall Green MH

This is held annually by the Friends' Fellowship of Healing. At a Meeting for Healing, the group comes together for a silent period of remembering, praying for, and 'holding in the Light' those people who are personally known to each participant, and who are ill, possibly disabled, or who may be recently deceased or bereaved. Hall Green Quakers will be holding a continuous Meeting for Worship for Healing from 11am till 3pm. Light refreshments will be served. Please stay as long as you wish or feel free to come and go during the meeting. Hall Green Meeting is at 1 Hamlet Road, Hall Green B28 9BG.

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 07 March 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH

All welcome to join us for our Meetings for Worship, Support and Healing, taking place on the first Thursday of every month. The names of those who are to be prayed for 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.

Workshop on Prayer 16th March, 10:00 - 13:00, Bull St QMH

Deepening our spiritual practice through prayer, meditation, holding in the Light; sharing our practices and learning new techniques. Led by Donald Whitlock (Solihull) and Mig Kerr (Coventry). Refreshments from 9:30 for a 10:00 start; finish at 13:00 then optional Bring & Share lunch. Please register at ceqam@quaker.org.uk by 1st March.

Staying Friends: Julian of Norwich: And All Shall Be Well 20th March, 19:30, Northfield QMH

Staying Friends is a small ecumenical group that meets at Northfield Quaker Meeting House on the third Wednesday of each month. It is a continuation of Becoming Friends and, as a result, has a broad perspective of both Quaker and traditional Christian attitudes. To attract more interested Friends, we have devised a series of topics suggested by current members of the group. Each topic will be introduced by one of our members to be followed by general discussion.

Handling Difficult Conversations Workshop 23rd March, 10:00-16:00, Edgbaston QMH

A one day workshop run by Restoring Relations. Open to all, but registration is essential, and places are limited to 16. The workshop provides many opportunities to work on handling difficult conversations and practise your skills in a safe environment. You focus on what you want to achieve, including: understand approaches for handling difficult conversations, make sense of difficult conversations you have experienced or witnessed, understand and practise approaches for a specific situation, practise the skills that help in a conflict situation, prepare for a potential difficult conversation. The format ensures that: you get out of the day what is important to you, you work in the way that suits your learning style. To register go to: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/handling-difficult-conversations-workshop-tickets-5451816931>

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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

Fri 1 - Sun 3	Being an Inclusive Faith Community
Mon 4 - Wed 6	Being a Quaker Clerk
Mon 4 - Fri 8	Icon Painting as a Spiritual Practice
Fri 8 - Sun 10	An introduction to Nonviolent Communication
Fri 8 - Sun 10	The spiritual grounding of ecumenical & interfaith work
Mon 11 - Wed 13	Exploring Eldership
Mon 11 - Wed 13	Exploring Oversight
Mon 11 - Wed 13	Being a Quaker Trustee
Fri 15 Mar - Sun 17	The search for the Deep Self
Fri 15 Mar - Sun 17	Friendly Introduction to Gender Diversity
Fri 15 Mar - Sun 17	Transforming the World
Fri 22 Mar - Sun 24	Chaplaincy Retreat
Fri 22 Mar - Sun 24	Appreciative Inquiry in Quaker settings
Fri 22 Mar - Sun 24	Reinterpreting the Meaning of the Cross
Wed 27 Mar - Fri 29	Beethoven's 9th Symphony
Fri 29 Mar - Sun 31	Telling our (digital) Quaker stories

April

Mon 1 - Wed 3	Planning a Purposeful Retirement
Thur 4 - Fri 5	Registering Officers Training
Fri 5 - Sun 7	Registering Officers conference - information and booking details will be sent directly to Registering Officers.
Fri 19 - Mon 22	Living Water - an Appleseed Course
Fri 19 - Mon 22	The Drama of the Passion
Mon 29 - Fri 17 May	Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers

Online courses

Mon 4 Mar - Thur 14 Apr: A Quaker Response to Animal Suffering
 Thur 14 Mar - Thur 28 Mar: Writing Brilliant Annual Reports
 Thur 11 Apr - Thur 25 Apr: Clerk to Trustees: training
 Tue 16 Apr - Tue 21 May: Being a Quaker Treasurer

Conferences

Unity, Diversity, Boundaries: *Fri 29 Mar -Sun 31*

This year's Nontheist Friends Conference will explore ideas around the themes of Unity; Diversity; Boundaries. What do we mean by unity? Does this limit or enhance our diversity? What are our boundaries? Stimulated by the diverse interests and backgrounds of the speakers we hope to learn, draw strength from and embrace differing perspectives. As we begin the process of revising 'Quaker Faith & Practice', our Book of Christian Discipline, this is an opportunity to consider how we can contribute. We look forward to a lively and participatory event which is open to all. To book contact Hugh Rock (26 Fairmile, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2LA or hugh_rock@btconnect.com).