

# The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting  
April 2019, Number 265



*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)

Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most  
our care to learn it.

William Penn, 1693, Quaker Faith and Practice, 22.01

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

Welcome to the April edition of the Link. This feels like a bumper edition, with notices,  
a reflection and an eco tip. Enjoy!

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for  
the May edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday April 28th. Please send your contributions  
to: [editor@warwickquakers.org.uk](mailto:editor@warwickquakers.org.uk).

*Anna Edelsten*

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## Quaker Diary

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

Wednesday 10th April: Area Meeting at 18:00-21:00 at Hall Green QMH

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

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

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

Sunday 28th April: Preparing for Yearly Meeting, 12:30

Sunday 5th May: 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!

7 <sup>th</sup> April	Ruth Gaston and Dave Rawcliffe
April 14	Mair Evans and Julia Scholder
April 21	Amy and Eddie Rugg and Ann James
April 28	Zoe James and Alan Sanger
May 5	Annie Pettifer and Roger Chapman

## Business Meeting Reports

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

May	Elders, Social Committee
June	Nominations, Fundraising committee

## Children's Meeting Rota

### Theme: Bible

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

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
7 April	Chapter 16: The Great King: David (Pgs 36-37)	Helen Pemberton	Annie Pettifer
14 April	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Easter Hols)	N/A	Jane Beale
21 April	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Easter Hols)	N/A	Sarah Thompson
28 April	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Easter Hols)	N/A	Ruth Gaston
5 May	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Bank Holiday)	N/A	Ann 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 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

### Appeal for welcomers

For some reason I don't understand, it's been difficult to find welcomers this time round. If you could help on May 26 or June 2, could you please contact me? Thank you very much.

*Ann James*

### Warwickshire Historical Society hold talk about the Meeting House - 16th April

There will be three talks by the Warwickshire Historical Society on the 16th April, held at the Meeting House, including one by Mark Booth on 'The Friends' Meeting House Warwick'. Non-Members of the History Society are welcome £3:00 each on the door. Arrive at 19:30 for coffee; the talks start at 20:00.

*Ed Creasy*

### Preparing for Yearly Meeting - session on 28th April after soup & roll

As mentioned in last month's Friendly Link, Yearly Meeting 2019 is taking place 24th - 27th May at Friends House in London, and will be looking at our privilege, assumptions of privilege and how they

impact on our lives. Whether attending in person or upholding Yearly Meeting from elsewhere we are asked to help the discernment by reading the preparation guidance provided on the website at

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym> - go to "Preparation", then to "Owning power and privilege - toolkit for action".

Warwick Elders are holding a session after Soup & Roll on Sunday 28th April at 12.30pm for about an hour for any people who are interested to look at this together and discuss it.

All are welcome - please read through the toolkit beforehand if possible.

If you would like to go to Yearly Meeting you can book via the website (their preferred option) or phone Friends' House on 0207 663 1000.

Bursaries are available towards the cost of attending Yearly Meeting - please speak to an Overseer if this would be helpful for you.

*Jane Holt (Elder)*

### Warwick Meeting Away Day Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June - save the date!

We are preparing for our Away Day at the St Michael's Centre Budbrooke on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 9.30am - 4.30pm.

In the morning we will be looking together at our Quaker Testimonies and how they play out in our lives. There will be a creche for younger children during this time.

Following a bring & share lunch we will then have a choice of activities - look out for more details in the next Friendly Link!

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

### **Social Committee**

We held a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> March and have some good ideas which we hope to share with you this year! Watch out for dates to put in your diary!

There will be a **walk** planned for May / June on a Saturday afternoon. Likely to be around four miles but with a refreshment stop included so we hope you will join us.

Are you interested in trying some vegan food? We have two people who would like to set up a **Pop Up Vegan restaurant** for us all to try.

**Board Games Evening** - we hope to hold this in the Autumn when the nights start drawing in. What are your favourite games?

### **Film Club**

This has been less active recently but we wondered if families (and others) might like to see **The Return of Mary Poppins** at the Talisman Theatre in Kenilworth on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Let one of us know if you might be interested. Or if there are other films you would like to share with Warwick Quakers.

Other possible ideas are:-a summer evening on the river in St Nicholas Park.

:- a craft event - crochet, paper modelling or making mats from material.

:- a pudding party!

Have you got ideas too? Let us know.

**Dates to follow soon.**

*Paula Button, Stella Rutter, Gill Smith and Meg Harper*

### **Leamington Peace Festival 2019**

The Leamington Peace Festival is on the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June this year. As you know we run a stall over the two days and need volunteers. So please contact either John Harding (01564 782207, 07733047086, [hardingthompson@btopenworld.com](mailto:hardingthompson@btopenworld.com) OR Ruth Gaston 02476 305775, 07799543715, [ruthanagaston@googlemail.com](mailto:ruthanagaston@googlemail.com)) if you are available to help. Thank you.



*John Harding and Ruth Gaston*

## Reflection

### IT ALL DEPENDS ON.....

It has been said that when an enquirer asks 'what do Quakers believe?', the answer is sometimes given 'it depends which Quaker you ask'.

But a church must be something. It needs a message or a practice to propose.

It seems to me that the modern Quaker tradition of religious thought and practice, however tolerant or controversial on its fringes is no longer decisive or coherent to the world.

The certainty of early Friends has been eroded almost to vanishing point.

Yes, we cling to the testimonies, (can you name them?) but do they mean much in our own personal life and witness.

Is it enough to say we welcome everyone to our Meetings and properties?.

Or are we mealy-mouthed and it feels good to say it?.

It may be that kindness is mistaken for weakness.

Can we live adventurously, seeking that of God in everyone, or do we have trouble with the 'god' word anyway?

In 1867 there were 13773 members, not that different to-day, so the Religious Society of Friends is

statistically insignificant in this country. Although some Friends do 'speak truth to power' it is left to the few.

For years there has been 'wailing and gnashing of teeth' in the Society as membership declines but attenders increase. Do we have no message for attenders to convince them to join? Will smiling at the world bring converts?

And if someone steps in the Meeting House for the first time what do they find?

Do we swamp them with literature and information, do we try and find time to talk to them or are we engaged in great busyness among ourselves?.

Yes, there are some faint growing points but has the seed fallen on stony ground or will it flourish

and bring forth abundant harvest?.

So what is it that binds Friends to-gether?

And what can we say about that statement from Ann Wilson?.

'Thou comest to Meeting as thou went from it and goes from it as thou came to it but ART NO BETTER FOR THY COMING. What wilt thou do in the end?. (QF&P 19:60).

*Edward Creasy*

## Eco Tip

### Water shortages

We are of course concerned about the shortage of water worldwide. But recent reports suggest that we will run short of water in this country in 25 years time. The Chief Executive of the Environment Agency has said that by that time the water demand from a rising population will surpass the supply due to climate change. This could be avoided by cutting people's water usage by a third and leakage from water company pipes by 50%, along with new reservoirs, desalination plants and transfers of water across the country.

Action needs to be taken now and we can help individually.

If you look carefully at the bottom of your Severn Trent water bill, you will find your average daily spend, and an average of how many pints of water you use each day. We have been horrified to see that we have been using around 500 PINTS!!

A further suggestion: if it's yellow, let it mellow?

*Rob Hooper*

## Children and Young People's Events

### **Youth Club, Saturday 6th April, 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. This month's session is based on the paper bag game (a role play game devised by Christian Aid looking at life for poor families in India). There will be social time over hot chocolate and biscuits. Meals are not provided but the young people are welcome to bring food with them.

### **Junior Young Friends, 27/04/2019 - 29/04/2019, All Day, Selly Oak QMH**

Junior Young Friends (JYF) is a residential event for young Quakers aged 13 to 17. 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. There is no set arrival time on Friday evening as there are no planned sessions until 9pm. However, there will be a simple meal at about 8pm. The event ends at about 2pm on Sunday 29th April. The participant fee for Junior Young Friends is £20.00 per participant, per event. If there are any further questions about the event (including information about bursary support) please call John Harding on 07733047086 or email him on [cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk](mailto:cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk). Deadline for registration is 21st April 2019. For more information see: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/junior-young-friends-april-2019/>

### **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>)

### **Exploring Worship weekend 5 - 7 July at Woodbrooke, Birmingham**

This event is for children aged 5 to 11 years-old and will use stories, games, songs, craft and worship to explore some big questions: What is God? Where is God? What is worship? What is a Quaker? Children must be accompanied by an adult who could attend *Being a Quaker Parent* which has additional programmes running alongside it (a crèche for 0-4 year olds crèche and a

light touch programme for 12-15 year olds). To book email [enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk) or telephone 0121 472 5171.

For more information go to:

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/item/being-a-quaker-parent-adults-and-exploring-worship-5-11-year-olds/>

### **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.

### **Summer Events for Young Quakers 17-24 August at Leighton Park School.**

**Junior Gathering and Senior Conference** (formerly Southern Summer School) are week long Quaker gatherings for young people aged 11-14 and 15-18. They are exciting and busy weeks packed with activities offering young Quakers the opportunity to spend time with peers in a Quaker space suited to them. Each event has a theme that is explored throughout and alongside runs a series of parallel activities and fun events. The theme for Junior Gathering is Modern Equality, and for Senior Conference, Quakers in the 21st century: what will our chapter be? 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**

### **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/>

### Regular events:

**Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing Thurs 04 April, 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH**

**Staying Friends: The Resurrection: May He Easter In Us Wed 17th April, 19:30, Northfield QMH**

**What does Love require of us? Sat 6th April, 12:00-16:00 at Stourbridge Meeting House.**

You are invited to this participatory workshop framed in worship, led by the Kindlers - Madeleine Prager, Margaret Calvert and Iggy Harling. Open to all; shared lunch. For more information, please contact Fran Wilde.

**Telling the Truth about God book launch Sat 6th April, 14:00-16:00 at CLC bookshop, 7 Carrs La, Birmingham**

You are invited to the launch of Rhiannon Grant's book about how Quakers talk about God, 'Telling the Truth about God'. Refreshments will be provided, and copies of the book - and others in the 'Quaker Quicks' series will be on sale.

**The Quaker Testimonies: Truth Wed 10th Apr, 10:30-11:30 at Bournville MH**

"Beauty is truth, truth beauty, that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know". How do the poet John Keats's famous words stand up to Quaker scrutiny? These meetings begin with twenty minutes of mostly silent worship, which may be focused on a brief reading concerning the testimony of the day, then a further forty minutes exploring how this can help us in our daily lives. Tea and coffee from 10.15 and again afterwards. Everyone welcome.

**A talk by Linda Rabben on The Quaker Sanctuary Tradition Tues 16th April, 19:30-21:00 at Woodbrooke**

Sanctuary has been part of the Quaker faith and practice since the sect's earliest days. Friends and their organizations have rescued people from persecution and war and provided them with refuge, sometimes at great personal risk. Quakers have been prominent participants in sanctuary movements, such as the Underground Railroad, as well as rescue and relief efforts, such as the Kindertransport, before, during and after wars. Quaker testimonies and writings underlie the practice of sanctuary, which continues today. Linda Rabben attends Adelphi, Maryland, Friends Meeting. Her eighth book, Sanctuary and Asylum: A Social and Political History, was published by University of Washington Press in September 2016. This event is free to attend. She is an associate research professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland.

**Rock and A Hard Place Theatre Performance: Domestic Abuse. Sat 27th April, 19:30-21:00, Stourbridge Town Hall.**

When it comes to domestic abuse, it's more than the blows that do the damage. Kayleigh is a talented teenager whose life should be full of promise. Instead, she finds herself in a cycle of domestic abuse from which there seems not escape until Aunt Jan helps her find a way out, after twenty long years of 'put up and shut up'. Based on a true story, together with the combined true life experiences shared by other women, the play explores the complex nature of domestic abuse, ranging from coercion in its many forms to women's deaths at the hands of abusive partners. Rock and a Hard Place also reveals the impact of funding cuts on the refuge system and on support available for women like Kayleigh and is an appeal to all of us to both recognise and highlight this major human rights issue in our own communities. Written by Lynn Morris and performed by Journeymen Theatre. Commissioned by Gloucestershire Quakers, all profits from this play will be used to support the work of women's refuges both in the Gloucester area and nationally. Age range 17+; tickets £5.

## 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

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

#### May

Fri 3 - Sun 5	A Drop of Stillness
Tue 7 - Thur 9	Spiritual Blogging: continuing the story
Wed 8 - Fri 10	Travelling in the ministry: strengthening our gifts
Wed 8 - Fri 10	Anger Management with Art
Mon 13 - Wed 15	Spiritual Principles: daily practices
Mon 13 - Wed 15	Desert as Sacred Space
Mon 13 - Wed 15	Towards a Quaker Response to Israel and Palestine
Mon 13 - Wed 15	Come Holy Spirit

### Online courses

Thur 11 Apr - Thur 25 Apr: Clerk to Trustees: training

Tue 16 Apr - Tue 21 May: Being a Quaker Treasurer

Mon 29 Apr - Fri 17 May: Radical Spirituality: the Early History of the Quakers

Mon 6 May - Sun 16 June: Eldership and Oversight

Tue 7 May - Tue 28 May: Galatians

### Conferences

#### **Forgiveness - Why Forgive? Fri 10 May - Sun 12 May**

This conference, which is open to all, will explore our understanding of forgiveness from religious, moral and psychological perspectives. Why should we forgive? Who benefits? Is forgiveness a religious/ moral imperative or a practical virtue? How does forgiveness relate to repentance and reconciliation? What are the limits of forgiveness? Why can forgiveness be so difficult to achieve? There will be visiting speakers, small group discussions and free time to socialise and enjoy this wonderful conference venue. Booking form on the QUG website <http://qug.org.uk/> or from Glen Gates ([gleng@qug.org.uk](mailto:gleng@qug.org.uk)). Enquiries, day rate prices and completed booking forms to Glen Gates.