

# The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting  
May 2019, Number 266



*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)

For this is the true ground of love and unity, not that such a man walks and does just as I do, but because I feel the same Spirit and life in him, and that he walks in his rank, in his own order, in his proper way and place of subjection to that; and this is far more pleasing to me than if he walked just in that track wherein I walk.

Isaac Pennington, 1660, Quaker Faith and Practice, 27.13

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

Welcome to the May edition of the Link. There are plenty of events taking place in the next few months, locally and in the Area. I hope you are able to participate in some of what is on offer.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the June edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday May 26th. Please send your contributions to: [editor@warwickquakers.org.uk](mailto:editor@warwickquakers.org.uk).

*Anna Edelsten*

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Quaker Diary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Business Meeting Reports</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Welcomers' Rota</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Children's Meeting Rota</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notices</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Children and Young People's Events</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>National Events</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Central England Area Events</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Woodbrooke Course Corner</b>	<b>11</b>

## Quaker Diary

Sunday 5th May: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Saturday 18th May: Area Meeting at 14:00-17:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH

Sunday 12th May: All Age Worship

Saturday 18th May: *The Return of Mary Poppins* at the Talisman Theatre in Kenilworth (contact the Social Committee for more information)

Sunday 19th May: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Saturday 25th May: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 26th May: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

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

## Business Meeting Reports

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

June                      Nominations, Fundraising committee

July                        Web Manager

## 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!

May 5                      Annie Pettifer and Roger Chapman

May 12                     John Sheldon and Karen Barber

May 19                     Jolyon Hall and Marion Doyen

May 26                     ?? and ??

June 2                      Anna Edelston and Rob Hooper

## 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
5 May	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Bank Holiday)	N/A	Ann James
12 May	All Age Worship: Programmed Worship, Sharing Our Stories	Annie Pettifer	N/A
19 May	Chapter 17: The Songs of the Kingdom: the Psalms (Pgs 38-39)	Meg Harper	Ruth Gaston
26 May	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half-Term weekend)	N/A	Zoe James
2 June	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half-Term weekend)	N/A	Paula Button

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

### All Age Worship Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

We will be holding a more planned meeting for worship where the children will be with us for the full hour. Our theme will be **Sharing our Quaker Journey**. We will start with 15 minutes of silence. For the next 25 minutes in a guided but worshipful manner we will reflect on our personal spiritual journey, looking at our inner spiritual life, how this informs our relationship with others, our relationship with the wider world and finally remembering a deep spiritual experience in our lives. We will each make a small box to contain these reflections which we can share with others. This will be followed 20 minutes of silent worship before shaking hands.

We hope this will allow you to arrive on the 12th with hearts and minds prepared to reflect on your spiritual journeys and allow you to reflect more deeply without the distraction of wondering what will happen next and when.

In the children's room there will be parallel meeting run in the usual manner of Friends.

*John Harding, CYPC*

### Quaker Vegan Pop-up Café 19:30 Saturday 8th June

A choice of starters, mains and deserts with still or sparkling water. See attached flier for full menu. Please bring your own drinks if you would like to. The cost per head is £12. Any profits will go to Quaker funds. Places are limited. Please book yours with Dave at [dave@taochirho.com](mailto:dave@taochirho.com) along with your menu choices.

*Meg Harper, Social Committee*

### Leamington Peace Festival 2019 15-16th June

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*

**Warwick Meeting Away Day at St Michael's Centre, Budbrooke on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
9:30-16:30**

In the morning we will be looking together at our Quaker Testimonies - Simplicity, Truth, Equality, Peace & Sustainability. We will discuss what they mean to us and how they play out in our lives. There will be a creche for younger children (under 6's) during this time.

Lunch will be bring and share and a time to chat. It will be followed by a choice of activities including a walk, board games, field games, calligraphy, creative writing, arts & crafts.

We hope that as many of us as possible will come along. There is no charge but we need to know how many to organise for, so please give your name to one of us if you are intending to come.

If you prefer to email, please contact Jane on [janeholt57@gmail.com](mailto:janeholt57@gmail.com)

*Paula Button, Jane Holt, Rob Hooper, Gill Smith (Elders)*

**Walk from Hatton Locks 13:45 Saturday 13th July**

On Saturday July at 1.45pm, Rosa and I will be leading a walk of about 4.5 miles from Hatton Locks and finishing at the Hatton Locks café for tea. Please meet shortly before 1.45pm at the car park (small charge) at Hatton Locks, which is down a side road on the left, coming from Warwick, just before the Hatton Arms pub.

Please email [clerk@warwickquakers.org.uk](mailto:clerk@warwickquakers.org.uk) to let me know you're coming or speak to me at meeting. Other dogs are very welcome!

*Meg Harper, Social Committee*

## Community



### **Veggie Supper at Meg Harper's House 19:00 Monday 13th May**

About this time of year, I like to cook a veggie supper for up to 7 Friends and Attenders. As Clerk, it's a good way to get to know people a bit better and, as someone who cooked for six for many years, it's enjoyable to keep my hand in!

If you'd like to join me at my home in Warwick at 7pm on Monday May 13th for a veggie meal and chat, please email me at [megharperbooks@gmail.com](mailto:megharperbooks@gmail.com) or [clerk@warwickquakers.org.uk](mailto:clerk@warwickquakers.org.uk) or let me know at meeting. You don't have to donate anything, but if you'd like to bring something non-alcoholic to drink, you'd be most welcome to do so.

If you've been before, do come again! At present, there are 5 places left.

*Meg Harper*

### **Quaker Camping Sat 27th July to Sat 3rd August at Bank House Farm, Buxton in the Peak District <http://www.bankhousefarmcamping.co.uk/>**

Every year a number of people from our meeting go camping with a group of Quakers from all over the country. This summer camp will be in the Peak District. The activities on offer include, walks and cycle trails (such as the Manifold and Tissington trails), Thor's cave, the Heights of Abraham which includes a hilltop park set on top of a dramatic limestone gorge, the Roaches, stately homes and more! This camp attracts 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. The letter, booking form and community guidelines are attached (I can give you copies if you are not on email).

*Anna Edelsten*

## Reflection

### Thoughts about 'God'

This letter was published in the Friend on May 18th, 2018. Rob and Helen Hooper wish to share it with us:

#### *Life, the Universe and Everything*

If God is ineffable (and most authorities seem to agree on this, if on little else) then one might expect the word to have an infinite variety of meanings. This is actually the case, and I hope that we do not fall into the trap of thinking that, therefore, it is an unhelpful word.

In fact, it is extremely helpful because it saves a lot of wasted time. If I happen to feel that God is very like a tree, while my wife feels that God is very like a bird, then we can communicate by using 'God' to express the ineffable source of our shared sense of awe and wonder about life, the universe and everything. It saves a lot of pointless wrangling over the breakfast table. Humpty Dumpty was on to something.

*T Roger S Wilson*

*Blue Idol Meeting, West Sussex*

## Children and Young People's Events

### **Youth Club, Saturday 4th May, 18:00-20:00 at Selly Oak Meeting House**

The youth club is running again this Saturday! If you are in year 6 or above please do come. This month's session will be run by Helen Waters and Betty Hagglund, the Woodbrooke librarian. The group will go to Woodbrooke to see the old manuscripts they have there. **For this session we will meet at Selly Oak to gather and then walk down to Woodbrooke, young people can be picked up from Woodbrooke.** Meals are not provided but the young people are welcome to bring food with them.

### **Cake and Canoeing in Leamington Spa 14:30-17:00 Sat 1st June, Leam Boat Centre**

Join us for fun in Leamington! For children aged 6 and upwards. Meet at the playground next to the boat centre at 14:30 for cake, followed by a 90 minute guided canoeing session on the river. Email Anna Edelsten [akedelsten@gmail.com](mailto:akedelsten@gmail.com) for more information, to book a place and to find out what to wear!

### **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 02 May, 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH**

### **Getting Creative to Oppose the Arms Trade Sat 4th May, 10:00-16:30 at Stourbridge QMH**

Stourbridge Quakers are taking part in Roots of Resistance - a Quaker movement to oppose the DSEI arms fair in September. The Stourbridge affinity group are holding an Affinity Workshop Day on 4th May where they'll be getting creative making banners and other props for the protest. Other affinity groups or interested Quakers are welcome to join. Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) is one of the world's largest arms fairs. It takes place in September at the EXCEL centre in London Docklands, East London every two years. *Roots of Resistance* is a community of Friends building a creative, vibrant and radical Quaker response to the DSEI arms fair.

### **Ethical Money Churches Interactive Workshop Sat 11th May, 10:00-12:30 at the Peace Hub**

This workshop provides a chance to explore connections between faith and money. the workshop is led by Colin Darling who is the Ethical Money Church Project Development Manager West Midlands. The following topics will be explored, grounded in a Christian approach to peace & justice: ethical spend, ethical investments, ethical pensions, ethical mortgages, fair tax, debt justice, social enterprise. It can also help your Eco-church score. Attendance is free, but please register to help us plan for numbers. For more information or to register contact Colin Darling: [colin.darling@eccr.org.uk](mailto:colin.darling@eccr.org.uk)

### **Towards a Better Understanding of Israel / Palestine Sun 19th May 11:30-17:00 at Bull St QMH**

This gathering will explore the history of Israel / Palestine since the Balfour Declaration, the work of 'Solutions not Sides', volunteering in Palestine. The speakers are: Michael Kretzmer, Sharon Booth, Lynn and Dave Morri; there will be time for questions and an exchange of views. Registration and refreshments 11:30; bring and share lunch 12:30; gathering 13:15 to 17:00. More info & RSVP: [ceqam@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ceqam@quaker.org.uk) 0121 236 2644

## 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.

#### 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
Thur 16 - Sun 19	Introduction to Life Writing for Transformation
Fri 17 - Sun 19	Becoming a Quaker Diversity Ally
Mon 20 - Fri 24	A Gathering of Fools
Fri 31 - Sun 2 June	Training for Quaker Prison Chaplains
Fri 31 - Sun 2 June	A Changing World: Who am I? What can I do?
Fri 31 - Sun 2 June	Becoming a Band of Everyday Prophets
Fri 31 - Sun 2 June	God in Jewish tradition

#### June

Mon 3 - Wed 5	Look Not Out But Within: a Quaker retreat
Mon 3 - Thur 6	Pattern of Seasons: a handicraft Workshop
Fri 7 - Sun 9	The Beatitude Way - pathway of prophets
Fri 7 - Sun 9	Spiritual Activism
Fri 14 - Sun 16	Leadership Amongst Friends
Fri 14 - Sun 16	Exploring the Development of Early Quaker Theology
Mon 17 - Wed 19	The History of Woodbrooke Gardens in 10 objects
Fri 21 - Sun 23	Quaker Studies Conference
Fri 21 Jun - Sun 23	A Time to Speak Out: a guided Bible study
Sat 22	George Richardson Lecture
Mon 24 Jun	Praying As You Can Not As You Can't
Mon 24 - Wed 26	Eldership and Oversight Together
Mon 24 - Wed 26	Truth is What Works
Fri 28 - Sun 30	Sing in the Spirit: a chant-based retreat
Fri 28 - Sun 30	The Wisdom of the Psalms: spiritual guidance for everyday life
Fri 28 - Sun 30	Confronting Mortality and Grief

### **Online courses**

Mon 6 May - Sun 16 June: Eldership and Oversight

Tue 7 May - Tue 28 May: Galatians

Mon 20 May - Sun 16 June: Let Your Life Preach

Mon 3 June - Sun 14 June: Exploring Quaker Chaplaincy

Mon 3 June - 14 June: Practical Skills in Nonviolence

### **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.