

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
February 2019, Number 263



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

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts.
Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings
us to new life.

Advices and Queries 1, Quaker Faith and Practice, 1.02

Welcome to the February edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome back to the Link! In this edition, there are two book reviews and a reflections piece; a big thank you to those contributors for their wonderful additions. I hope others are inspired to follow suite.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the March edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday February 24th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

Table of Contents

Quaker Diary	3
Welcomers' Rota	3
Business Meeting Reports	3
Children's Meeting Rota	4
Notices	5
Reflections	6
Book Reviews	7
Children and Young People's Events	8
Central England Area Events	9
National Events	10
Woodbrooke Course Corner	10

Quaker Diary

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

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

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

Sunday 24th January: Soup and Roll, 12:00 noon

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

There is no Area Meeting in February.

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!

February 3	Rob Hooper and Karen or David Barber
February 10	Anna Edelsten and John Sheldon
February 17	Marilyn and Phil Biles
February 24	Louisa Radice and Jane Cunningham
March 3	Mel Dearing and Sunita Evans

Business Meeting Reports

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

March	Treasurer, Overseers, Café
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Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: St Jenni - Animal Crazy: book by Meg Harper

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

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
3rd Feb	Praying and Miracles	Helen Pemberton	Marilyn Biles
10th Feb	Friendship and Difficult People	Meg Harper	Paula Button
17th Feb	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half term)	N/A	John Harding
24th Feb	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Half term)	N/A	Jane Beale
3rd Mar	Trying to do the right thing. How do we deal with being told 'No'	Annie Pettifer	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 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 Thursday March 21st

Our next Meeting for Healing at Warwick will be at the Meeting House on Thursday March 21st, starting at 7.30pm. The Meeting for Healing will last for up to an hour, followed by time for a drink and a chat. Please come along if you would like to hold yourself and/or others in the Light, either sharing names and situations aloud, or silently.

Jane Holt, Paula Button, Rob Hooper & Gill Smith

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

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? Facilitated by teams of seasoned Friends, Quakers Sharing Experience has the potential to bring Quaker communities together in mutual understanding. It provides opportunities for sharing, for listening and, above all, for knowing one another in that which is eternal. Please give your name to one of the Elders if you are interested as soon as possible. There is an optional shared lunch at 12:00. For further information please contact Paula Button - 07746 338036.

Jane Holt, Paula Button, Rob Hooper & Gill Smith

Reflections

I was touched when my son sent me this photograph (attached) of a plaque outside his lecture hall at Lancaster university commemorating George Fox. He put a comment on the picture which said “Your Squad mum”, which I really liked.

More importantly I thought it was wonderful that this plaque was placed outside his lecture hall.

But for me living in the north west, passing Swarthmore Hall on a daily basis is what sparked my interest in the Quakers. Who were they? What was their belief system? The more I read the more I knew this is where I belonged. I am still a trainee Quaker being pulled from my lifelong Anglicanism, which is hard at times for me , but I’m learning how to become a Quaker. It’s slow progress but I’m getting there.

I thought I’d share this because I thought it was wonderful that this was on the wall of a university lecture theatre, but living in the north west and becoming curious about George Fox et al resulted in my pursuit of Quakerism.

Jacqueline Cammaerts

Book Reviews

George Fox's 'BOOK OF MIRACLES' with an introduction and notes by Henry J Cadbury.
ISBN 978-1-108-04503-2.

This is not a book of critical analysis nor is it an easy read and the notes provided need to be consulted a lot. Early Friends kept quiet about Fox's Healing Ministry. They were nervous the he would be accused of witchcraft and the bible injunction 'thou shalt not suffer a witch to live' (Exodus 22 verse 18) rang in their ears. Fox didn't limit his cures to Friends, he would try to help almost anyone who asked. About 150 cases of both physical and mental illness are recorded with various degrees of success. Failures are NOT mentioned very often if at all!. The long forward to the book throws some light on the miracles and I found it has some interest as Quaker history, but to me the miracles are not proven.

'Quakers in Conflict' by Larry Ingle, Professor of History at the University of Tennessee.
ISBN 0-87574-926-7.

This is an account of the 'Hicksite' reformation which split American Quakerism in 1827/28. The conflict was not only about doctrine but a struggle for power within Friends. The struggle came alive for me as I read the book. Quakers in the early 1800s had divided reactions to the intrusion into their precious Society of evangelical doctrines then common in all protestant churches. This was the origin of the conflict and the split. Though 'weighty' (powerful?) urban Quakers embraced evangelicalism the traditional mostly rural Friends did not. Regarding it as alien and something which could obliterate the peculiar ways of the Society and finally destroy that 'hedge' against the wicked world.

The author links the Quaker experience and the eternal question, which has the greater authority - the testimony of personal religious experience or the collective weight of the scriptures and church doctrine? Elias Hicks was the catalyst and there was a considerable commotion as American Yearly Meetings struggled with the issue and most of them split, only to reunite in the mid 1900s. The issue contributed to our modern view of individualism - that people should be allowed to believe what they wish.

Reading the book it seems to me that both sides were closer to each other than they acknowledged at the time. It was a struggle without love, over lilliputian issues and at the end both sides held in their lean hands fragments of the precious alabaster vessel that had been shattered.

When I worked in New York I attend Meeting at Westbury on Long Island. There were two Meeting Houses on the property, a 'Hicksite' one which Friends used, and an 'Orthodox' one which was let to the Buddhists (I think), BUT there was only one stable block on the site. The 'Orthodox' and 'Hicksite' horses could share but not Friends. Maybe there is a lesson there?!

Reviewer of both books: Edward Creasy

Children and Young People's Events

Youth Club, first Saturday of the Month, 6-8pm

Helen Waters and Isaac Peat (or Barnaby Waters) will be running a youth club on Feb 2nd, Mar 2nd and April 6th at Cotteridge Meeting House, and May 4th, June 1st and July 6th at Selly Oak Meeting House. The Youth club is geared towards children in year 6 and above (please discuss suitability of younger children attending with Helen). The sessions will be a mixture of crafts, games, social time over hot chocolate and biscuits, and some focused activities. Meals will not be provided at the sessions except for special events like the Christmas party, but the young people are welcome to bring food with them. If you have any queries please contact me.

Ruth Gaston

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>)

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 Central England Area events link above for full details).

- o **Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing *Thurs 07 Feb 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH***
- o **Exploring the Quaker Testimonies**
 - o ***Wed 13 Feb 10:30 - 11:30 at Bournville QMH: Testimony to Equality***

Elders and Overseers Support Group *9th February, 10:00 - 13:00, Bull St QMH*

All Central England Elders, Overseers and Elderseers: please come to a Support Group meeting. Share your issues and ask questions in confidence. Drinks from 9.30am for a 10.00am start. Finish at 1.00pm but stay for free soup and sandwiches lunch (and more networking) if you can. Register with the office: ceqam@quaker.org.uk not later than 1 Feb for catering numbers.

LGBT+ Quaker Get-Together *20th February, 18:30-20:00, Birmingham Peace Hub*

A social get-together for LGBT+ members of the Quaker community in Central England, and allies, this LGBT History Month. We'll have a discussion to explore the acceptance of LGBT+ people within Quakers, and to find out how Ageing Better in Birmingham can support groups and activities to increase connections between people. We hope that this event will be the start of an ongoing conversation: where exactly this goes is up to the people who participate. This event is jointly organised by Ageing Better LGBT Hub (Birmingham LGBT) and Peace Hub (Central England Quakers); anyone is welcome. For more information, please contact office@peacehub.org.uk or 0121 238 2869

Staying Friends: Sacraments and Testimonies - The Grace of God Manifest In & Through *20th February, 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.

National Events

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>

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>

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.

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).

Online courses

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

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

Mon 4 Mar - Thur 14 Apr: A Quaker Response to Animal Suffering

Thur 14 Mar - Thur 28 Mar: Writing Brilliant Annual Reports

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.

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

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