

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
September 2019, Number 269



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

Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

Quaker Faith and Practice, 1.02.32

Welcome to the September edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to the September edition of the Friendly Link. I hope you have all had a good summer. In this edition there is a reflection on the Hiroshima Day Service at Coventry Cathedral, and a variety of activities and events on offer for young people and adults. Enjoy!

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the September edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday September 29th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

Table of Contents

Quaker Diary	3
Welcomers' Rota	3
Children's Meeting Rota	4
Notices	5
Reflection	6
Children and Young People's Events	7
Central England Area Events	8
Woodbrooke Course Corner	10

Quaker Diary

Sunday 1st September: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

Saturday 14th September: Area Meeting, 14:00-17:00 at Hartshill QMH

Sunday 15th September: All Age Singing, 12:00-12:30. Please bring copies of 'Singing in the Spirit' if you have them. All welcome.

Saturday 21st September: Warwick Meeting Looking Forward 12:30-16:30. Bring and share lunch.

Saturday 21st September: RAF Croughton Meeting for Worship 14:00 outside the main gates. (Please contact Marian Millington for more information.)

Sunday 22nd September: Local Food Fair Bring and Buy Sale after Meeting for Worship

Sunday 29th September: All Age Worship followed by soup and a roll at 12:00 noon

Tuesday 1st October: Rock and a Hard Place Journeyman Theatre 19:30

Friday 4th October: Free filming of War School at 19:30 followed by Q&A with the Director

Sunday 6th October: 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!

September	1	Amy and Eddie Rugg and Jane Holt
September	8	John Sheldon and Roger Chapman
September	15	Paula Button and Mair Evans
September	22	John Sheldon and Rob Hooper
September	29	Annie Pettifer and Anna Edelsten
October	6	Diana Biddlestone and Ann James

Children's Meeting Rota

Theme: Joan of Arc

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
1st Sept	Golden (Unstructured) Time (Summer Holidays)	N/A	Anna Edelsten
8th Sept	How was your summer?	Ruth Gaston	Ann James
15th Sept	Visit to Jail and Old Warwick Courthouse (Heritage open days)	Ruth Gaston	Wendy Edwards
22nd Sept	Joan of Arc -rehearsal for performance	Eddie Rugg + Wendy Edwards	Jane Holt
29th Sept	All Age Worship: Unprogrammed	Ruth Gaston + elder	N/A
6th Oct	Joan of Arc -rehearsal for performance	Eddie Rugg + Volunteer needed	Helen Pemberton
13th Oct	Performance of Joan of Arc (Young people sleepover weekend)	Eddie Rugg + Karen Barber	Jane Beale

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 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

Warwick Meeting - looking forward 12:30-16:30 Saturday 21st September

You are warmly invited to come along and join us as we meet together to think about how we would like Warwick Meeting to evolve and develop in the next few years. This half day event will start with a bring and share lunch 12.30-13.30 and continue until 16.30. Helen Rowlands from Cotteridge Meeting will be facilitating the session for us. The event is very much about and for all of us at Warwick Meeting and we hope that as many Friends as possible will be able to join us to share thoughts and ideas. We are hoping to discern various ways in which our life as a Quaker Meeting can be developed and enriched in ways which will also serve our local community. Children aged 10 and over are welcome to come with parents. Please come along and join us if you can!

Jane Holt, Convenor of Elders

Local Food Fair Bring and Buy Sale Sunday 22nd September after Meeting for Worship

Come to celebrate and share the food we produce locally. Donations of locally produced food needed: jams, chutney, pickles, honey, fresh fruit and vegetables, herbs, flowers, bread, scones, cakes and biscuits. Or just come to buy. Enquiries: see Wendy Edwards, Jane Holt or John Sheldon.



Wendy Edwards

Rock and a hard place 19:30 Tuesday 1st October

During this year's Quaker Week we are hosting a performance of Journeymen Theatre's new play "Rock and a hard place". 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. It also looks at the impact of funding cuts on the refuge system and on support available for victims and is an appeal to all of us to recognise and highlight this major issue in our own communities. Suitable for those aged 17+. Running time 65 minutes (no interval). Donations on the night are welcomed and all proceeds will go to support local women's refuges. It would help us to have an idea of numbers in advance for seating etc - please email me at elders@warwickquakers.org.uk to let us know you'd like to come. We are hoping for a good turnout to support both Journeymen Theatre and our local women's refuges - please come, and invite friends along too!

Jane Holt

War School: Free Film at Meeting House 19:30 Friday 4th October

This film has been made in partnership with Friends House to draw attention to the infiltration of education by the military. It is not suitable for children. It is an hour and a half long and the director Mic Dixon is attending to lead a Q and A session afterwards. Free entry; donations to cover costs welcome. Do come and invite others too.

Ann James

Reflection

Coventry Cathedral Hiroshima Day Service 6th August 2019

Rob and I attended this moving service, held in the main body of the cathedral, next to the Chapel of Unity. I had forgotten how impressive and vast the cathedral is in itself. Then, before the service started, there was a startlingly loud and stirring Japanese drum performance which echoed strongly through the cathedral and which you could feel in your guts. This was repeated, interspersed with readings from a shocking account of the bomb dropping, written by a Hiroshima victim.

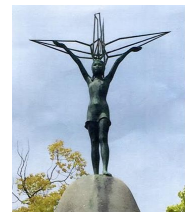
Then, at 6.00 pm, the Cathedral's "peace bell" was rung, loudly and suddenly, and we were invited to light candles in the Chapel of Unity.

The service itself lasted an hour, and it was heartening to see a lot more people than we'd seen there a few years ago, including many students from Cardinal Wiseman school, representing the Coventry Schools Justice and Peace Forum. There were also members of Coventry Meeting, who had helped in the organisation.

I was particularly impressed by a letter that was read out by the Japanese ambassador from the mayor of Hiroshima, urging us, amongst other things, to resist the spread of nationalistic ideas that stand in the way of peace.

Equally moving and inspiring was the "Reflection", given this year by Paul Parker from Friends House. He based his talk on the commandment of Jesus to love one another. He referred to a statement from the Society of Friends in the 1950s against the possession or use of nuclear weapons, and he emphasised the twin dangers to our world, now, of the climate emergency and the nuclear threat. With the recent US withdrawal from the treaty drawn up in the 1980s to ban intermediate range nuclear weapons, and nations seeking to re-arm, there is increased danger of a new arms race, and nuclear accidents or war. He returned to the theme that love, and all that goes with a loving attitude towards others, is ever more vital, and the only way humanity can find a way to survive.

We made paper cranes, in memory of Sadako Sasaki, a girl from Hiroshima, who, dying of leukaemia as a result of the atomic bomb, tried to fold 1,000 cranes, as according to legend, this will protect you from illness. She managed 644; her friends completed the number after her death and raised funds to erect a statue of her, holding a golden crane, a powerful symbol of hope for peace.



The Japanese ambassador, when we spoke to him afterwards, said he was very thankful and moved that Coventry has continued to mark Hiroshima Day in this way every year.

We feel that this is an event well worth supporting in future years.

Helen Hooper

Children and Young People's Events

Youth Group, Saturday 7th September, 18:00-20:00 at Cotteridge Meeting House

Stuart Morton will be leading a session about the work of Ekta Parishad in India, supported by Helen Waters. These sessions are for those in year 6 and above. These 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.

Junior Young Friends, 27th-29th September at Cotteridge Meeting House

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.

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 September. The nearest train station is King's Norton, a 4 minute walk away.

The participant fee for Junior Young Friends is £20.00 per participant, per event. This is to cover venue hire, food and other expenses. Please make this payment before the event.

If there are any further questions about the event (including information about bursary support) please call Ginnie Wollaston on 07870204726 or John Harding on 07733047086 or email them on cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk

Deadline for registration is 24th September 2019. If you do not submit your registration form by this date, we cannot guarantee that you / your child will be able to attend. Go to <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/events/junior-young-friends-sept-2019/> to register.

Link Sleepover Event 12th October, 15:30 at Warwick Meeting House

We are planning to spend some time with our Quaker Friends, playing co-operative games, making pizza and fruit salad, with ice-cream for dinner and watching a film with popcorn. In the morning, if we will spend some time thinking and chatting about friendship. Our children's meeting will have the theme of friendship too.

Link weekends are planned so that Younger Friends feel comfortable exploring friendship and Quaker topics in a structured environment. This event is for those aged 9-16. The young people will be supervised throughout the weekend. There is no cost for this event. The event starts at 15:30 on Saturday, ending at 21:00 for those not sleeping over, or after Sunday Meeting for those sleeping over. Participant numbers will be limited to 20 so please book asap to avoid disappointment. Contact John Harding on 01564 782207 or 07733047086 or hardingthompson@btopenworld.com; or Ruth Gaston on 07799543715 or ruthanagaston@live.co.uk for more information.

Living as a Quaker event 18 - 21 October at East Meon, Hampshire

This is an opportunity for 12 - 15 year olds to come together to explore Quaker identity, values and personal beliefs, and discuss how to talk about being a Quaker. We will host interactive sessions to help you explore your personal beliefs. The centre will run activities including crafts, cooking, campfires and shelter building. It takes place at a sustainability centre in Hampshire on the 18 - 21 October. Please book by 21 September. It costs £125 including accommodation, food, activities and a pick up from Petersfield station. For more details and an online booking form go to <https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/living-as-a-quaker>

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 05 Sept & 3rd Oct, 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH*

Roots of Resistance at No Faith in War *Tuesday 3rd September 09:00-18:30 at the ExCel Centre in London*

Roots of Resistance is a community of Friends building a creative, vibrant and radical Quaker response to the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair.

“Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, the unjust. We will struggle to remove the causes of impasse and confrontation by every means of nonviolent resistance available.” - Quaker Faith & Practice 24.10

Taking place in east London every two years, DSEI is a huge trade show bringing together 1,500 arms companies with representatives from militaries from around the world. Some of the world’s largest companies market tanks, planes, drones, rifles, ammunition, surveillance technology, training and a huge array of other weapons.

Quakers have been involved in action against DSEI for many years. Roots of Resistance is planning to build an unprecedented Quaker presence at the 2019 fair, standing together against DSEI and the global arms trade. The focus for Roots of Resistance will be on the No Faith in War day of action on Tuesday 3rd September, with Meetings for Worship at 9am and 2pm, and protest singing at points throughout the day. People have been preparing a tapestry of mini-banners illustrating our belief in peace and opposition to the arms trade, which will be taken down to the protest.

There is also a briefing session at Friends House on Monday 2nd September 5-8pm (with an open preparation session from 1:30pm.). If you are not able to make it in person, there will be a meeting for worship in solidarity at 2pm at the Peace Hub.

For more information, please visit the Roots of Resistance website (<https://rootsofresistance.org.uk/>), or get in touch with our project Peace Hub.

Meeting for Worship in solidarity with No Faith in War *Tuesday 3rd September 14:00-14:45 at the Peace Hub, Birmingham*

If you are not able to make it down to London to join Quakers and other people of faith in resisting the arms trade, this is a meeting for worship to uphold those who are there and join them in spirit. Quakers from across the country will be worshipping at the same time outside the ExCel centre in London, where the DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) arms fair is being set up. As well as supporting the protesters, this is an opportunity to hold in the light the victims of the arms trade around the world.

Heritage Open Day at Bournville 14th September, 10:00-16:00 at Bournville QMH

Visit an unusually elaborate Quaker Meeting House and the only one housing an organ. The Quaker Meeting House was built in 1905 and was designed by William Alexander Harvey, an influential architect on the Bournville estate. Especially for our Heritage Open Day there will be an exhibition of old photos of the Meeting House and a display board of Quaker testimonies. The meeting house is one of 15 historic venues in Bournville open for free as part of Heritage Open Days

(<https://www.bvt.org.uk/bournville-heritage-open-day-2019/bournville-heritage-open-day-2019>). Enjoy tours, exhibitions, activities and family fun and experience the stunning architecture and design of this very special community. Many more venues will be open across the city this week, including Bull St Quaker meeting house. If you're a Quaker in Central England, and might be able to help out for an hour or two on the day, please get in touch: bournville@quaker.org.uk

Heritage Open Day at Bull Street Quaker Meeting, 22nd September, 13:00-17:00 at Bull St QMH

Bull Street Quaker Meeting House will be opening for Heritage Open Day - it's an opportunity to see inside this interesting building, and learn about some of the history of Quakers in Birmingham. There has been a Quaker meeting house on this site since 1702. The current building was completed in 1933 and includes the meeting house and the Priors Rooms Conference Centre. Information will be available on the history of the meeting house and also the history of Quakerism. A tour of the building will include the meeting house and reading room. Refreshments available. All welcome.

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.

September

Mon 2 - Wed 4	Managing our Meeting Houses
Mon 2 - Wed 4	Voices of the Earth
Fri 6 - Sun 8	Experiment with Joy
Fri 6 - Sun 8	Take Time: retreat for mental health carers
Fri 6 - Sun 8	Gender and the Divine: learning from feminist religion
Fri 6 - Sun 8	Being a Quaker Clerk
Mon 9	Depicting Religious Characters in 19th Century Fiction
Mon 9 -Thu 12	Faith, Food and Earth Justice
Mon 16 - Wed 18	Creativity and Ministry
Fri 20 - Sun 22	Towards Forgiveness
Sat 21 - Sun 22	A Quiet Day with Experiment with Light
Mon 23 - Wed 25	Walking with a smile into the dark
Wed 25 - Sun 29	Envisioning a World that is Open to All

October

Tue 1 - Thu 3	Quaker Botanists
18 Oct - 20 Oct	Facilitation and Leadership
Sat 19	Quakers and Decision-Making: exploring the issues
Mon 21 - Wed 23	Exploring Eldership
Mon 21 - Wed 23	Exploring Oversight
Fri 25 - Sun 27	Philosophy for Quakers
Sun 27 - Fri 1 Nov	Resting in Presence: an individually guided retreat
Mon 28 - Thu 31	Stepping Out of Bounds: the early Christian breakthrough

Online courses

Mon 2 Sept - Sun 13 Oct: Being a Quaker Clerk

Mon 2 Sept - Sun 13 Oct: Eldership and Oversight

Mon 16 Sept - Sun 27 Oct: A Taste of Life Writing for Transformation

Mon 16 Sept - Sun 27 Oct: European Quaker Voices

Mon 23 Sept - Sun 3 Nov: Meeting for worship for business: an online course

Thu 3 Oct - Thu 7 Nov: Explaining Quaker Theology

Mon 7 Oct - Sun 17 Nov: Being a Quaker Trustee

Tue 22 Oct - Tue 12 Nov: Inhabited by Christ: the theology and spirituality of James Nayler

Tue 22 Oct: Seeking Sanctuary and Stillness

Conference

**Quaker Fellowship for Afterlife Studies (QFAS) and the Friends Fellowship of Healing (FFH)
Conference Fri 13 Sept - Sun 15 Sept 40 places | £245 residential | £170 non-residential**

This joint conference of the Quaker Fellowship for Afterlife Studies (QFAS) and the Friends Fellowship of Healing (FFH) is open to all. For nearly twenty years QFAS has gathered and shared evidence of experiences beyond the body, which goes to the very heart of what it means to be human. FFH was founded in 1935 and is one of the largest interest groups within the Religious Society of Friends in Britain. The conference will explore spiritual and psychic experiences and evidence of healing of the mind and body. We will discuss how we can integrate these experiences into our daily lives, helping us to grow stronger in faith and love. Tutors are members of QFAS and FFH plus visiting speakers.