

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
December 2019 and January 2020 Number 272



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

It is by our 'imperfections' that we move towards each other, towards wholeness of relationship. It is our oddities, our grittiness, the occasions when we hurt or are hurt, that challenge us to a deeper knowledge of each other. Our sins have been said to be stepping-stones to God.

Kenneth C Barnes, 1985, Quaker Faith and Practice, 21.07

Welcome to the December and January edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to this winter edition of the Friendly Link in which two reflections on recent events are offered. I have been asked to remind you to let Helen Pemberton know if your contact details have changed recently, and to consider checking your spam folders if you are not receiving Quaker mail (assuming this one gets through!). Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to offer you best wishes for the Christmas period, and 2020!

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the February combined edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday January 26th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

Sunday 15th December: Business Meeting at 12:00 noon

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

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

Sunday 22nd December: All Age Worship followed by soup and a roll at 12:00 noon

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

Saturday 18th January: Area Meeting, 14:00-17:00 at Bull St QMH

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

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

Sunday 26th January: Soup and a roll at 12:00 noon

Sunday 2nd February: 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 notice board or see below!

December	1	Sarah Thompson and John Harding
December	8	Rob and Helen Hooper
December	15	Roger Chapman and Gill de Calvo
December	22	Paula Button and Diana Biddlestone
December	29	Ann James and ?

Children's Meeting Rota

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
1 Dec	Advent Candles- Hope, love, joy and peace	Sarah Fishpool	Helen Pemberton
8 Dec	Confidence and trying WARP 1 p130 & p136	John Harding	Paula Button
15 Dec	Dealing with worry WARP IV p128	Wendy Edwards	Zoe James
22 Dec	All Age Worship		
29 Dec	Golden Time	Ruth Gaston	
5 Jan	Golden Time	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 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 Singing

There will be singing as usual on 15 December, this time spending some time with favourite carols. Unfortunately I am unable to be there but Annie Pettifer has kindly agreed to facilitate the singing. I hope you all have a wonderful time!

John Sheldon

Social committee events

Planned for the next few months are: a walk early in the New Year (details yet to be confirmed) and a White Elephant Evening - Saturday January 11th at 19:00 hosted by Stella. More to follow!

Paula Button

Friends in Tune 14:00-17:00 Saturday 8 February and Saturday 4 April at Bournville Meeting House

Following the very successful and well attended singing day led by Tony Biggin and Alec Davison in the summer, a number of members of the Area Meeting have decided that they would like to continue singing together. As a result two afternoons of singing, open to everyone whatever they feel their abilities are, have been arranged for Saturday 8 February and Saturday 4 April at Bournville Meeting House. Further details are available from Tricia Bradbury (tricia.bradbury42@gmail.com) or myself. You might want to put these dates in your diary. I hope to go and will have seats in my car for anyone wanting a lift.

John Sheldon

Warwick Children's Meeting Refurbishment and Rag Rug Project 2020

CYPC and Warwick children are thrilled to be using their new Children's Room. CYPC met this afternoon (24th November) to plan the last details of furnishings, storage, tables etc.

For the long term we plan to have a community rag rug project to create a hand-made rag rug in a circle design for the Children's room. This will most likely happen every Sunday after soup and roll and we encourage anyone who can help to stay behind and join in once soup has been cleared away; we will work around the large table in the café or in the Children's room as the spirit moves us. Any contributions of un-needed fabric/rags for the rag part will be much appreciated. We will start in January 2020. We would prefer to go for a more soothing spectrum of sensory colours (to help create a calming environment) than bright garish colours so please consider this when donating rags.

Whilst the rag rug is in progress we are sending out a request: **Does anyone have a rug at home that is no longer used that could be donated for temporary use in the Children's room (we would prefer a circle shape but would be grateful for any shape that is available)?** If so please do let Annie, John or Ruth know.

We would like to take the time to say a big thank you to Premises committee and all other members of the community that helped make the new Children's room a reality. We are jumping for joy and know that many children will benefit from the conversion over the years, as will other users renting the space on other days of the week. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kindness and generosity.

Annie Pettifer, John Harding and Ruth Gaston, Warwick CYPC

Reflections

QVA Trip to Calais

I was lucky enough to go to Calais with Quaker Voluntary Action recently to work in the Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK). To see 1000 - 1500, usually vegan meals made with fresh ingredients being prepared daily in a professional kitchen in a warehouse was quite an experience. This work is being done entirely by volunteers, mostly young, who are committed to making life better for the refugees who gather around Calais and Dunkerque.



The refugees are from many different countries and most, but not all, aspire to get to the UK, which can be seen from the beach of Calais. Some are economic migrants, others are fleeing persecution. The refugees live in informal camps in tents around Calais and Dunkerque, grouping themselves by ethnic group. They are mainly youngish men as women and children are given temporary accommodation by the French government. Police regularly raid the camps, taking all possessions which are not carried, so the refugees must start again. Refugees are not allowed to work, even as volunteers, so there is an aimless quality to their existence. As the weather gets colder and wetter, life must be miserable.

Apart from RCK, there are other organisations in Calais providing firewood, medical aid, Wifi access, phone charging, clothing, sleeping bags, tents, legal advice and welfare support. Donations are always gratefully received but it is best to look on websites to see current needs.

It was wonderful to be part of this humanitarian aid but I am aware that providing help in this way does not solve the problem. Hopefully governments will realise that creating a hostile environment is not the answer and work towards a political change where refugees are treated in a more humane way.

For further information look at the websites below.

- Refugeecommunitykitchen.com
- Supportrefugees.org.uk
- Helprefugees.org
- Utopia56.com
- Care4calais.org

Wendy Edwards

Remembrance Sunday 10th November 2019 White Poppy Ceremony at the Leamington Spa War Memorial, The Parade



This year Warwick Children's meeting made white felt poppies with the help of Marilyn Biles on the Sunday before Remembrance Sunday. At Remembrance Sunday the children looked at Conscientious Objectors and wrote poems entitled White Poppy. With the help of John Harding's gifts with wood, the children assembled a White Poppy tribute to be placed at the Leamington Spa War Memorial later in the afternoon.

The weather was fine and there was a goodly sized gathering of people including a good number from Warwick meeting. The White Poppy ceremony opened with a short speech from Judy Steele who has been organising the White Poppy Leamington Spa Remembrance Sunday ceremony for five years. Judy was visibly moved to tears to have children for the first time present at the ceremony this year.

I found the event very moving. In between meeting finishing and the white poppy ceremony starting at 2pm, the kids and I enjoyed the fresh air and fun playground just off Mill Rd (on the side of the Jephson Gardens), we managed a quick coffee and ice-cream for the kids at Gallones before arriving at the ceremony. I think the children will be keen to repeat this tradition annually!! Personally it felt right for my family to be here and not hearing the cannon going off to break the minute's silence which I have strong memories of on previous years attending the Warwick War Memorial and the 11 am ceremony was quite a relief. This White Poppy ceremony felt more spacious and accommodating of all aspects of loss of life that war creates.

After Judy's speech Nesta read out one of the children's poems entitled White Poppy. Please do go visit the war memorial when you have a moment and you can read it for yourself; it is set up next to Warwick Quaker Meeting's White Poppy plinth and will be there until late February/early March when I will collect it to recycle again for the following year.

The Peace Pledge Union encourages wearing a white poppy on Remembrance Day to remember all victims of war to challenge militarism and to build a culture of peace. I am gladdened that White Poppies are becoming a much more accepted part of Remembrance Sunday up and down the British Isles (see their website ppu.org.uk for further info).

Ruth Gaston

Children and Young People's Events

Youth Group Christmas Party, Saturday 30th November, 18:00-20:00 at Cotteridge Meeting House

This month we will be having an early Christmas party with cooperative games and a bring and share party tea. Please bring some party food to share.

Junior Young Friends 18:00 Friday 13th Dec to 14:00 Sunday 15th Dec at Bournville QMH

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. Arrivals from 6pm on Friday, the event finishes at 2pm on Sunday.

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 email cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk or call Ginnie Wollaston on 07870 204726. Deadline for registration is 6th December 2019. If the participant is aged 17 or under, the registration form should be completed by a parent/guardian. If you do not submit your registration form by this date, we cannot guarantee that you / your child will be able to attend. Register for JYF here: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/cyp/registration-for-jyf/>

European wide youth event, 28 December 2019 to 2 January 2020, Germany

The European and Middle Eastern Section of Quakers (EMES) is organising an event for 16 - 18 year Quakers in Germany from 28 December 2019 to 2 January 2020. They are hoping to have young people there from as many different Yearly Meetings as possible. For more information contact Michael Eccles at emes@fwccemes.org.

Central England Area Events

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

Regular events:

Creative Day *Sat 7 Dec & 4* Jan 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH*

Global Warming Vigil *Wed 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th* Dec; 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th Jan; 5th Feb 13:30-13:45 Northeast of St Philip's Cathedral*

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing *Thurs 5 Dec & 2* Jan 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH*
Quaker insights in the context of ecological crisis.

- Confession: telling it like it is. *Wednesday 11th Dec 10:30-11:30 at Bournville QMH*
- Repentance: choosing a different path *Wednesday 8th Jan 10:30-11:30 at Bournville QMH*

* check these dates before attending!

Christmas Parcel Packing *Fri 6th Dec 18:00-21:00 & Sat 7th Dec 09:00-13:00 at Selly Oak QMH*

All members and attenders are encouraged to come and help pack over 1000 “food parcels” of several different grocery items, which are for people in need known to the probation service. There should also be a few parcels available for refugee / asylum charities known to local Quakers.

The packing sessions are a positive, community-building event (and there will be a break for hot drinks and biscuits to say thank you for your help!) There are packing session on Friday evening and Saturday morning: you are welcome to come to either or both.

#Pray24Brum 2020 *Friday 24th & Saturday 25th January 8am to 8pm, Bull St QMH*

You are invited to join with churches of different Christian traditions from across Birmingham, for 24 hours of prayer, as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this year on the theme of “Seeking that of God in everyone”.

Entering its 6th year, #pray24brum is an established part of our churches together calendar, and offers a wonderful opportunity to begin the year united in prayer and praise with those from diverse Christian traditions from across the city.

Churches, groups of churches, Christian groups and charities will each lead an hour of prayer, inviting others to come and pray with them. ***Central England Quakers will be opening the Saturday, leading the prayer from 8:00-9:00am*** - we invite Quakers to join us then, and also to come at other times to share prayers with people from different Christian traditions.

If you would like to lead an hour of prayer, please [complete the google form](#). For more information, contact stephanie@carrslanelivedcommunity.org.uk

If you are willing and able to [be a steward](#) for an hour or two at the event, please contact the CEQ office with your availability.

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.

December

Fri 6 - Sun 8	Living, Loving and Engaging With the World Together: parents and adult children
Fri 6 - Sun 8	No Sects Please, We're British: understanding diversity amongst British Muslims
Mon 30 - Thu 2 Jan	Dances of Universal Peace

January

Fri 3 - Sun 5	Clearing the Way
Fri 3 - Sun 5	Exploring Eldership
Fri 3 - Sun 5	Exploring Oversight
Fri 17 - Sun 19	National Gathering on Diversity and Inclusion
Fri 24 - Sun 26	Being a Quaker Treasurer
Fri 24 - Sun 26	Being a Quaker Clerk
Mon 27 - Fri 31	Time Set Aside: an individually guided retreat
Fri 31 - Mon 3 Feb	An Introduction to Mindful Self-Compassion

February

Sat 1	Populism and the Far Right
Fri 7 - Sun 9	The Birth of Liberal Quakerism
Fri 7 - Sun 9	Introduction to Experiment with Light
Fri 21 - Sun 23	'Philosophy for Communities' Family Weekend
Tues 25 - Fri 28	The Roots of the Quaker Way: early Friends in their political and religious context
Fri 28 - Sun 1 Mar	Courageous Living in the Midst of Climate Crisis

Online courses

13 Jan - 23 Feb: An introduction to peace education

10 Feb - 22 Mar: Eldership and Oversight

10 Feb - 22 Mar: Being a Quaker Clerk: an online course for clerks around the world

24 Feb - 5 Apr: Inspiring Nonviolence