

# The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting  
March 2020 Number 274



*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)

Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life. Do you encourage in yourself and in others a habit of dependence on God's guidance for each day? Hold yourself and others in the Light, knowing that all are cherished by God.

Quaker Faith and Practice, 1.02.03

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

Welcome to this busy edition of the Friendly Link. It must be Spring as our pages reflect a hive of activity! The Young People in particular could enjoy a packed diary over the next few weeks.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the March edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday March 29th. 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>Welcomers' Rota</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Children's Meeting Rota</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Notices</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Children and Young People's Events</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Central England Area Events</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>National Events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Reflection</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Woodbrooke Course Corner</b>	<b>13</b>

## Quaker Diary

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

Saturday 7th March: Area Meeting 14:00-17:00 at Hall Green QMH

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

Sunday 29th March: Soup and a roll at 12:00 noon followed by a talk about Helping Hands by Lianne Kirkman (CEO).

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

Saturday 25th April: Kindlers Event 10:30-16:00

Sunday 26th April: Soup and a roll at 12:00 noon followed by a talk and discussion about Workcare, led by Rev Matt Jeffrey

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Meeting for Warwick Futures 13:30 - 16:00

## 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 notice board or see below!

March	1	John Harding and Sarah Thompson
March	8	Jane Beale and Alan Sanger
March	15	Diana Biddlestone and John Sheldon
March	22	Helen or Rob Hooper and Paula Button
March	29	Helen or Rob Hooper and Kris Turner
April	5	Amy Rugg and Alice Yaxley

## Children's Meeting Rota

Date	Topic	Topic Leader	Supporter
1 March	Room for More: Diversity JITS Nov 18 Issue 118	Meg Harper	Gill Smith
8 March	Dementia Explored JITS July 18 Issue 116	Ruth Gaston	Paula Button
15 March	Lucy Pettifer to lead a Bible story for the younger children	Sarah Fishpool	<a href="#">Opportunity</a>
22 March	Edith Yaxley to lead a Bible story for the younger children	Annie Pettifer	Jane Beale
29 March	Glitter tattoo and face-paint practice for Peace Festival 2020 (there will be extra children due to Warwick Sleepover event and there may be a discussion on how to take Peacebuilding on at school and in our family life)	Ruth Gaston	John Harding
5 April	Golden Time (Easter Holidays)	N/A	Jane Holt

The topic leader has the 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

### **Garden Work**

Friends will be aware that the hard landscaping of the garden is now well under way but we still need funds to complete the job. As part of the final push would Friends please consider making a donation either direct to the treasurer or via the special garden fund bowl on the table, or devise or suggest other ways of raising funds? The Leap Day event will hopefully be very helpful in raising money for the playhouse. Additional features which are needed to finish the job are the summerhouse, patio furniture, signage, re-planting etc. All contributions, large or small, will be very welcome. Very Many thanks!

*Garden committee: Marilyn Biles, Mel Dearing, Paul Rutter, John Sheldon (convenor), Gill Smith, Kris Turner*

### **Kenilworth Meeting *fourth Thursday in the month, 14:00***

Some of you may know that since October 2019 we now have a meeting for worship in Kenilworth. At the moment this is held in people's homes, usually on the fourth Thursday in the month at 2pm. Please contact Wendy Edwards with any queries.

*Wendy Edwards*

### **Helping Hands talk *Sunday 29th March after soup and a roll***

Lianne Kirkman from Helping Hands, a local charity that helps vulnerable people in Warwick, Leamington and Kenilworth, will give a talk about 5 key projects on the 29th March after soup and a roll (further information attached for email recipients, available in print at Meeting for hard copy recipients, or visit <https://www.helpinghandscharity.org.uk/>). At Meeting for Business in April it will be decided if a box for donated items (clothing and toiletries) can be placed alongside the Foodbank box in the Common Room.

*Gill de Calvo*

### **Kindlers event *Saturday 25th April 10:30-16:00***

On Saturday 25th April we are holding a day at Warwick Meeting in conjunction with the Kindlers to explore together Vocal Ministry, which is such an important component of Quaker Meeting for Worship. We would love you to come along to listen to other Friends' experiences and share your own so that together we can remind ourselves what it's about and renew our understanding of it.

The day will be facilitated by two members of the Kindlers team, Margaret Calvert and Lynda Williams. There will be time to look at different aspects of Vocal Ministry in various ways, working together in pairs, smaller and larger groups so we get to hear from all those present. There will also be "light & lovely" moments for more relaxing times!

This event will run from 10.30am till 4pm and will include a Bring & Share lunch. It would be lovely to have a good number of Friends join us to make this a special event for Warwick Quakers. There is a maximum number of 30 places available. If you'd like to come, please let me know at [janeholt57@gmail.com](mailto:janeholt57@gmail.com) or phone me on 01564 779235.

*Jane Holt, Elder*

**Workcare talk *Sunday 26th April after soup and a roll***

After soup and roll Rev Matt Jeffrey will give a talk and lead a discussion on our concern for Workcare, the industrial chaplaincy which covers Coventry and Warwickshire. All welcome!

*John Sheldon*

**Meeting for Warwick Futures *Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 13:30 - 16:00***

We have recently held a couple of Threshing Meetings during which those present explored various options which could be open to us as a Meeting. At the end of the last one it was felt that we needed to hold a kind of Meeting for Clearness to discern what we perceive as our role as Warwick Meeting before then discerning our way forward.

This was taken to Business Meeting in December 2019 and it was agreed that Elders should arrange this, to consider the question:

**“What is our purpose at a time of change?”**

We have invited Helen Rowlands of Cotteridge Meeting, who convened our initial meeting on this subject, to Clerk this Meeting and we are very pleased that she has agreed to do this for us. The Meeting will take place after a Bring & Share lunch on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May in the Meeting House.

We anticipate that the Meeting will take the form of a Meeting for Worship for Business, held in the spirit of worship, so that we can formulate a Minute to take us forward as a Meeting. No previous experience of Business Meetings is needed and we very much hope that as many Warwick Friends as possible will be with us on this occasion so that the outcome can truly reflect our community.

Nearer the time we will be circulating some preparatory material about the holding of Meeting for Worship for Business and also summarising the thoughts and ideas brought up in our previous sessions so that we can all be comfortable with what is happening and also can consider what has been expressed previously as we come together again.

*Jane Holt, Paula Button, Gill Smith & John Sheldon*  
*Elders*

**Piano recital “Dance” *Friday 10 July 19:30 in the Unitarian Chapel***

Friday 10 July 19:30 in the Unitarian Chapel. Fund-raising piano recital by John Sheldon on the theme of “Dance!”. Tickets available nearer the event.

*John Sheldon*

## Children and Young People's Events

**Youth Group, Saturday 29th February 18:00-20:00 at Northfield eco-centre**

The March session will be held at the end of February. The session will be run by staff from the Northfield eco-centre. There is limited parking at the eco-centre. No pets have been invited to this session. All those in year 6 or above please do come. There will be time to socialise with snacks provided. Meals are not provided but the young people are welcome to bring food with them.

**CEQ Link Group Weekend 14:00 Saturday 28th - 11:30 Sunday 29th March, at Warwick Quaker Meeting House.**

This residential event is for the children of members and attenders aged 9 to 16. On the Saturday the young people will have the opportunity to take part in a number of fun, positive activities exploring how to protest peacefully and effectively with a Climate Change theme. Following a meal there will be a night walk in a local woodland, an epilogue and bed. After breakfast on Sunday children will attend Children's Meeting for Worship. On registration a full plan and list of what to bring will be sent by email.

Throughout the event the children will be supervised in line with CEQ Policies by both male and female DBS checked adults. Male and female children will sleep in separate rooms with DBS checked adults staying in a room in between.

We understand that some children may not wish to stay overnight and there is an option to leave at 9pm on the Saturday. Arrival is at 2pm Saturday and the event ends at 11.30am Sunday after Meeting for Worship. The event is FREE.

Central England Quakers would greatly appreciate that all registrations be done online: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/cyp/registration-for-link-group-weekend/>. If this is not possible please make contact as shown below.

Deadline for registration is 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020. There are 20 places so please submit your registration form as soon as you can. All participants are asked to sign a community agreement ahead of the event.

If there are any further questions about the event please call John Harding on 07733047086 or email him on [cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk](mailto:cyp@centralenglandquakers.org.uk)

## **Junior Young Friends 18:00 Fri 3rd - 13:00 Sun 5th April at Selly Oak 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.

Deadline for registration is 23rd March 2020. The participant fee is £20.00. If you do not submit your registration form by this date, we cannot guarantee that you / your child will be able to attend. If the participant is aged 17 or under, the registration form should be completed by a parent/guardian.

Central England Quakers would greatly appreciate that all registrations be done online: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/cyp/registration-for-jyf/>. Further all payments should be made by bank transfer prior to the event. However, we do understand that this may not be possible for all applicants. If this is the case, please email [jyf@centralenglandquakers.org.uk](mailto:jyf@centralenglandquakers.org.uk) to request a paper form which can be returned with a cheque for £20 to the address supplied.

All participants are asked to sign a community agreement, written and agreed by the young people who are planning JYF. The agreement will be finalised by the participants at the weekend, but a draft is available to read ahead of the event.

If there are any further questions about the event (including information about bursary support) please email [jyf@centralenglandquakers.org.uk](mailto:jyf@centralenglandquakers.org.uk) or call Ginnie Wollaston on 07870 204726.

## **Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) 2020: Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency. 1-7 August, University of Bath**

**Children's Programme, 0-11 years:** Children will have opportunities to be creative, have fun, worship together, play games, and hear stories. They will encounter and explore being Quaker in ways that are appropriate yet stretching and challenging for their age. The children are divided into five age groups.

**Young People's Programme, 11-14 years:** The Young People's Programme (YPP) enables young people to have fun while exploring their spirituality, experiencing Quaker practices and reflecting on their Quaker lives. This programme is arranged by a group of young people, with the support of adult volunteers and staff.

**Junior Yearly Meeting, 14-17 years:** JYM is about building relationships and making friends. It is arranged by a group of young people, with the support of adult volunteers and staff. The programme is theme-based and includes worship, visiting speakers, discussions, and attending Yearly Meeting sessions.

For more information and to book 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:

Global Warming Vigil *Wed 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March, 1st April 13:30-13:45*  
*Northeast of St Philip's Cathedral*

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing *Thurs 5th March, 14:00 at Sutton Coldfield QMH*

Creative Day *Sat 7th March, 10:00-16:00 at Northfield QMH*

Quaker insights in the context of ecological crisis. Testimony: doing the truth. *Wed 11th March 10:30-11:30 at Bournville QMH*

### **Alternatives to Violence Project *Wednesday 18th March, 17:30 - 20:00 at The Priory Rooms, Bull St QMH***

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a network of skilled volunteers who run workshops for anyone who wants to find ways of resolving conflict without resorting to violence. We work in the community and in prisons. This taster session is for anyone interested to find out more, and explore a proposal to start up a Midlands AVP group. Refreshments from 17:00 for a 17:30 start. RSVP to the Central England Quakers office: [cegam@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cegam@quaker.org.uk) or 0121 236 2644.

### **Safeguarding Coordinators Meeting (safeguarding children) *Saturday 21st March. 10:00 - 13:00 at Bull Street QMH***

CEQ Safeguarding Officers, Carole Pannell and Sarah Fishpool, invite all Local Meeting Safeguarding Coordinators, Children's Committee clerk and members, elders and overseers to this Meeting & Training Session focused on Safeguarding Children. (This follows the meeting last year focused on safeguarding vulnerable adults). Programme: Safeguarding Children - exploring the CEQ Policy issued in 2018; Safer Recruitment including DBS checks and the Update Service; Lunch & the opportunity to complete DBS checks (from 13:00). To book please contact: Sarah Fishpool [sarahfishpool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarahfishpool@yahoo.co.uk) or Carole Pannell [caroleannpannell@gmail.com](mailto:caroleannpannell@gmail.com). Please let us know your questions and what YOU would like to cover in this meeting!

### **Calling all Area Meeting Singers to *Bournville Meeting House at 14:00-17:00 on Saturday 4 April.***

Another Area Meeting singing workshop led by John Sheldon will take place on the 4th April. This is open to everyone who enjoys singing, whatever your ability, age or faith, including those who simply want to have a good afternoon. No previous singing experience required. You do not have to have been present at previous events. The session will be led by John Sheldon. We shall be using songs from Sing in the Spirit, the Leaveners songbook. Please bring a copy if you have one. To help us assess the number of participants please register your attendance with Tricia Bradbury ([tricia.bradbury42@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.bradbury42@gmail.com) 01562 730381).

*John Sheldon*

**Journey to Justice Exhibition 07/02/2020 - 22/04/2020, Birmingham Central Library**

A multi-media travelling exhibition focused on the US civil rights movement (including Quaker Bayard Rustin) and its links with the UK. Organised by 'Journey to Justice' a human rights education charity.

The exhibition tells the stories of some of the less well-known men, women and children involved in the movement, people of all ages and ethnicities, whose voices are not often heard but without whom it would not have happened - people like 'us'.

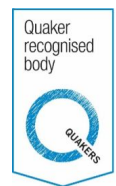
The exhibition examines what leads people to become and stay active in campaigns and what makes a human rights movement succeed. There is also a section telling the story of a local campaign for justice in the West Midlands.

## National Events

**Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) 2020: Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency. *Saturday 1st to Friday 7th August, University of Bath.***

Join us for a week of worship, fun, conversation, sharing, hope, games, learning, building community and above all challenge. Are you ready to live adventurously? We will create the framework, but you will build the Gathering. There will be places for old Friends and new to meet and talk, for arts and craft activities, for physical activities, and for quiet reflection. For more information and to book go to: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym>

**Quaker Camp *Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at White Mark Farm, 82 Hill Road, Watlington, Oxfordshire***



This year camp follows hot on the heels of YMG. The campsite is on the edge of the village of Watlington, beside the Ridgeway Trail, nestling under Watlington Hill (NT) (famous for its chalk “white mark”) and the Chilterns. It is a family run campsite with basic but clean facilities. We will have use of a large rally field with a fire pit. There are lots of opportunities for activities - good walks right from the campsite, bird spotting, stately homes and the attractions of Oxford, Henley, Windsor and London. All welcome: families, walkers, singles, dogs. Adults are £8 and children £4 per night. You can book for as many or few days as you wish. For more information and a booking form email [quaker.campers@gmail.com](mailto:quaker.campers@gmail.com) or speak to me.

*Anna Edelsten*

## Reflection

I thought you may be interested in this extract from Richard Rohr's daily meditations: a study of the transformative power of Quakers!

*In his book The 8 Laws of Change: How to Be an Agent of Personal and Social Transformation, author Stephan A. Schwartz offers life-practices he gathered from observing the Quakers. Their actions—grounded in contemplation—have had a profound impact, helping to abolish slavery, promote gender equity, and reform prisons and other institutions. Schwartz writes:*

How could this small group of people create movements that ultimately involve millions, tens of millions? This is a tiny group whose beingness is so powerful that enough people personally change their choices so that the desired change becomes society's new norm. In studying the histories of these great social transformations, eight laws—I hesitate to call them laws, but because they are constants in each case, I think they have earned the term—begin to emerge. . . . Taken together, they reveal how individual choice linked in consensus becomes the strategy of beingness that creates change. Adherence to these Eight Laws is not the unique domain of Quakers, of course. But in their efforts, it can be clearly seen.

Here are the laws:

First Law. The individuals, individually, and the group, collectively, must share a common intention.

Second Law. The individuals and the group may have goals, but they may not have cherished outcomes.

Third Law. The individuals in the group must accept that their goals may not be reached in their lifetimes and be okay with this.

Fourth Law. The individuals in the group must accept that they may not get either credit or acknowledgment for what they have done and be authentically okay with this.

Fifth Law. Each person in the group, regardless of gender, religion, race, or culture, must enjoy fundamental equality, even as the various roles in the hierarchy of the effort are respected.

Sixth Law. The individuals in the group must foreswear violence in word, act, or thought.

Seventh Law. The individuals in the group and the group itself must make their private selves consistent with their public postures.

Eighth Law. The individuals in the group and the group collectively must always act from the beingness of life-affirming integrity. [2]

*Extract from Richard Rohr's daily meditations; 8th Feb 2020;*  
<https://cac.org/alternative-orthodoxy-weekly-summary-2020-02-08/>

*Anna Edelsten*

## 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.

### March

Mon 2 - Wed 4	Exploring Eldership
Mon 2 - Wed 4	Exploring Oversight
Tue 3 - Thu 5	Challenge & Consolation: Brahms' German Requiem
Fri 6 - Sun 8	Poetry in the Hebrew Bible
Fri 6 - Sun 8	A Timely Retreat
Fri 6 - Sun 8	Making Difficult Decisions in Meetings
Fri 13 - Sun 15	Being a Quaker Trustee
Fri 13 - Sun 15	Exploring Quaker Nominations
Fri 20 - Sun 22	Circle Dance
Fri 20 - Sun 22	Navigating Life Transitions
Fri 20 - Sun 22	Kindful Eating: making peace with food and our bodies
Fri 20 - Mon 23	The Writings of Luke: seeing beyond power and privilege
Fri 27 - Sun 29	Radical Listening
Fri 27 - Sun 29	Resurrection and Renewal: the teachings of Richard Rohr

### April

Fri 10 - Mon 13	Signs of Life: an Appleseed course
Fri 17 - Sun 19	What Do We Mean by 'Christian'?
Fri 17 - Sun 19	Quaker Approaches to Mental Health
Mon 20 - Wed 22	Being a Quaker Clerk

### Online courses

Mon 20 April - Sun 31 May: Taught by the Spirit: Paul's Quaker Gospel

Mon 20 April - Sun 31 May: Leadership Amongst Friends

Tue 21 April - Tue 21 May: Mothers of Israel: the writings of early Quaker women

Fri 24 April - Fri 15 May: Radical Spirituality: the early history of Quakers