

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
April 2020 Number 275

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

How can we walk with a smile into the dark? We must learn to put our trust in God and the leadings of the Spirit. How many of us are truly led by the Spirit throughout our daily lives? I have turned to God when I have had a difficult decision to make or when I have sought strength to endure the pain in dark times. But I am only slowly learning to dwell in the place where leadings come from. That is a place of love and joy and peace, even in the midst of pain. The more I dwell in that place, the easier it is to smile, because I am no longer afraid.

If we dwell in the presence of God, we shall be led by the spirit. We do well to remember that being led by the spirit depends not so much upon God, who is always there to lead us, as upon our willingness to be led. We need to be willing to be led into the dark as well as through green pastures and by still waters. We do not need to be afraid of the dark, because God is there. The future of this earth need not be in the hands of the world's 'leaders'. The world is in God's hands if we are led by God. Let us be led by the Spirit. Let us walk with a smile into the dark.

Gordon Matthews, 1987, Quaker Faith and Practice, 19.01

Welcome to the April edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to this edition of the Friendly Link. It is a rather sad experience bringing together the Link this month, as the vibrant list of events locally and across the Area meeting have almost all been cancelled - the only exception is Earth Day which is taking place online (see below) and to which children and young people are invited to contribute. Woodbrooke has suspended many of its activities, but is hoping to expand its online courses; Yearly Meeting Gathering is still going ahead (currently!). On a positive note, we are able to meet for worship via zoom, worship, experience community and remain connected. Thank goodness for modern technology and old fashioned telephone calls! And don't forget, for those who live in Warwick, and while we are still able to go for walks, the Meeting House garden is open (but the cafe is closed).

Please do consider contributing to the reflection and community sections - reflections on what you have been reading, poems, prayers, insights, something funny In this edition, John Sheldon has shared his experience of online Meeting for Worship, Paula has contributed the poem she read at the garden fundraising event, I have offered a favourite prayer and Meg has shared an idea about how to help small businesses.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the March edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday April 25th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

All in-person meetings and events organised for April at Warwick Meeting have been cancelled. There is no Area Meeting this April.

We are currently meeting every Sunday at 10:30 for an hour, and every Wednesday at 12:30 for half an hour via Zoom. See notices for full instructions and how to join without an internet connection.

Sunday 3rd May: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom

Welcomers' Rota

Suspended until further notice.

Children's Meeting Rota

Sadly there will be no Children's Meeting in April. We will reassess the situation in late April.

Ruth Gaston, John Harding and Annie Pettifer
CYPC

Notices

The Wheel of Friendship

Because we cannot meet on Sundays, we felt it is important to get the wheel started, earlier than the planned date for replies. We have linked all the friends who have responded, and emailed them to say to whom they are linked. So contact between linked friends can be made immediately, to give and receive support at this difficult time.

We really do hope that those of you who have not replied will contact any Overseer, so that we can finalise the Wheel for EVERYONE who wants to participate. This may take a while, and means that maybe some of the links we have made are temporary.

Wishing our Quaker community every strength in caring for each other.

In Friendship

Overseers : Jane Beale, Marilyn Biles and Ann James

Meeting for Worship via Zoom

If you are unable to join the Meeting via Zoom, please worship at home and join with us in spirit.

Without an internet enabled device:

If you don't have internet access you can join a zoom meeting by phone. You can join a Zoom meeting via teleconferencing/audio conferencing (using a traditional phone). This is useful when:

- you do not have a microphone or speaker on your PC/Mac,
- you do not have a smartphone (iOS or Android), or
- you cannot connect to a network for video and VoIP (computer audio)

Joining a meeting by phone only

1. Dial an in-country number. If you dial a toll number, your carrier rates will apply.

The UK in-country numbers are: +44 203 481 5240, +44 131 460 1196, +44 203 051 2874, +44 203 481 5237

2. You will be prompted to enter the meeting ID - followed by #.

3. If the meeting has not already started and join before host is not enabled, you will be prompted to enter the host key to start the meeting, or to press # to wait if you are a participant.

You will be prompted to enter your unique participant ID. This only applies if you have joined on the computer or mobile device or are a panelist in a webinar. Press #to skip.

With an internet enabled device:

If you would like to join the online Meeting for Worship and you have a device with:

- internet capabilities (but see section below on how to join via phone)
- microphone and speakers (built in to most devices)
- and a web camera (webcam)..read on.

Zoom can work on a smartphone, i-pad, laptop or desktop computer as long as you have those things. If you don't have a webcam you can hear and contribute, and see others who have a webcam, but you will be shown with your name only.

Instructions for joining:

- Option A: in your web browser, get up the page: <https://zoom.us/j/773130276> for Sunday, or <https://zoom.us/j/616053763> for Wednesday.
 - this should prompt you to download and run zoom - click on run and it should automatically appear in your recently added list on the start menu (as for the windows laptop I did this on) or on the taskbar (as on the Macbook I have also used). It might appear on the downloads bar of your web browser window or in the downloads folder and you may need to click on 'open' to start the launcher.
- Option B: If A doesn't work, get up the page: <https://zoom.us/join> and paste the meeting id 773130276 or 616053763 and click join.
- It is also possible to use zoom through the web browser (though I'm not sure how), but you won't have full functionality using it this way.

The links for midweek and Sunday MfW are as above until further notice. F/friends should look out for an email with new links if Meeting gets its own zoom account.

'How to' video on how to download zoom and join a meeting:
https://www.youtube.com/embed/vFhAEoCF7jg?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

You might find it useful to read [Tips for using Zoom for meetings and conference calls](#) especially:

- 'Using zoom for larger meetings' (about 1/3 of the way down the page)
- 'Using zoom in workshops'

- 'Other tips for using zoom for meetings and conferences' (about 2/3 down the page)

Top tips: consider turning off your microphone before joining so the programme doesn't focus on you due to background noises (you can switch it on again to minister); try to sit where the light is shining on your face rather than behind you so we can see each other; clicking on 'chat' will enable you to see and write messages - especially useful to communicate short ideas without breaking the worship.

The Zoom meeting room is open from 10am, so you can settle into worship when you normally would. You won't disturb anybody by arriving late!

If you are struggling with zoom, Ali is available to help.

Other Meetings for Worship

The following are a list (not exhaustive) of other Meetings for Worship you may wish to access via the internet:

Woodbrooke hosting:

Monday at 09:30 via Zoom

Tuesday at 07:00 via Zoom

Tuesday at 19:30 via Zoom

Wednesday at 07:00 via Zoom

Wednesday at 09:30 via Adobe Connect

Thursday (1 hour) at 11:00 via Zoom

Thursday at 19:30 via Zoom

Friday at 13:00 via Adobe Connect

Friday at 21:00 via Zoom

Sunday (1 hour) at 10:30 via Zoom

Sunday at 19:30 via Zoom

Full instructions are here: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/online-mfw/>

Pendle Hill (Quaker Study Centre in Philadelphia) worship daily

12:30-13:10 our time, it's their morning Meeting.

For more information:

<https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/>

Thank you Alice!

Children and Young People's Events

Online Earth Day 2020 Birmingham 22/04/2020, All Day, via Zoom

Calling out to all creative young people, who would like to be involved in Quakers and EarthDay 2020 celebrations in the Midlands!

Earthday 2020 is happening on April 22nd 2020 and Central England Quakers are creating an opportunity for young people to create a gift for the Earth - in these troubled times! The Earth needs our blessings - so let us create and share our gifts in whatever way possible.

Earthday 2020 is inviting responses from each one of us to respond to Climate Change and we want to offer all young people in the Midlands the chance to express their ideas in a poem, a picture, a photograph, a piece of writing, a song or rap which you can send in.

You will have to record it at home, save and upload it either as an mp3 file (for sound) or mp4 file (video), or a word/ pdf document, or jpeg / png / gif files or any other version of work that can be verified by your signature with your age and postcode to let us know that you are Midlands based. Please send your gift to the Earth to: peter@peacehub.org.uk

Please send your contributions by Thursday April 16th 12noon.

These gifts will be uploaded to create an online exhibition which can remain as a legacy for the next couple of months. Please ask your parent/ guardian to sign the attached Media Consent form or sign it yourself if over the age of 18 so that we have your permission to exhibit any material online.

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: cancelled

Meeting for Worship, Support & Healing: cancelled until further notice

Northfields creative Day: cancelled until further notice

Quaker insights in the context of ecological crisis: cancelled

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

This event has been cancelled.

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

The library is currently closed until further notice.

Online Earth Day 2020 Birmingham 22/04/2020, All Day, via Zoom

An interfaith online gathering on climate action, to mark Earth Day 2020, led by Footsteps (Faiths for a Low Carbon Future) in partnership with Central England Quakers, West Midlands Climate Action Network and Jai Jagat 2020UK. Earth Day 2020 is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year! The focus for 2020 is on Climate Change. This day event is for anyone wanting to be involved with Climate Emergency action taking place in Birmingham and West Midlands region.

Due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19, this event will now be taking place online, via Zoom. Please bear with us while we work out the details of how this will work - more information coming soon. This is a free event, registering is not essential, but if you do register (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-earth-day-2020-birmingham-tickets-97997247405>) for the online programme we can send you details of how to join (and how to use Zoom if you are not familiar with it).

More details of the revised online programme will be published on Thurs 2nd April, and will include:

- Interfaith Earth Day reflection (Footsteps)
- Creative responses to the Climate Emergency (Central England Quakers / Jai Jagat)
- Climate Emergency - The Role of Cities speakers and panel discussion (Footsteps / R20)

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 7th to Saturday 15th 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 or speak to me.

Anna Edelsten

Reflections

Online meeting for worship

I had never experienced online worship before - I had never really felt the need I suppose - so I approached our first online worship as a meeting last week with some questions and wonderings in my mind, principally I suppose "Could online worship ever come close to face-to-face worship in its power and effect?"

That really shows that my faith was not being imaginative enough, or to put it a better way, I wasn't being imaginative enough in appreciating the power of my faith. After all, if we can sense the presence of the spirit when we are away from meeting for worship, and there are many times in my life when I, no doubt like you, have had that experience, then why should it not work online just as well?

After I'd clicked the necessary buttons on my computer I realised that my worries were groundless. When I saw my Friends entering this new meeting space, with their homes in the background, I knew it would be ok. I saw the dear familiar faces settling in to worship, some almost immediately with eyes closed, others taking more time as they got used to the new environment and the software. Then, as time passed, the sense of connection with you all, which can be so powerful when we meet in the meeting house, came over me with all the power than it usually does.

It was a real treat - and an unexpected one for me - to see the children come in to the new space shortly after 11.15 and to be aware of the wriggling that was going on and the knees that were being squashed.

But then, we had time afterwards over our virtual coffee (not quite so tasty) to catch up with each other. This was another very precious time as we checked in with each other and asked for news, as we usually do, of absent Friends.

I guess we were only too aware that not everyone could join us for technical and other reasons, but it felt and feels important that those of us who can meet in this way should do so. In difficult times not everyone can keep the faith in worship, so the responsibility falls to those who can, whilst never giving up on the hope that others may join in as time goes by.

Thank you, dear Friends, for your faithfulness and your inspiration. I love you all and trust that you will stay safe and be sustained by your faith at this difficult time.

John

Any Takers for Quakers?

Hello I'm a Quaker - so what's that you say?
Do you eat porridge, and chase war away?
Do you wear grey - hats and bonnets - quite severe?
Or meet all in silence, then finish with a cheer?
Where did you come from? Just who is George Fox?
Was he a real person, imprisoned with bolts and locks?
What is a meeting house, a church or a house?
Why are you so silent, sitting quiet as a mouse?
I guess you are Christians - or is that still so?
Have you changed, let in others - where is that going to go?
Are you all perfect, far better than the rest?
Don't drink, smoke or gamble? I would be impressed.
Please tell me your story, I'd like to know more.
You keep very quiet. Just open that door.

Well I'll try for some answers, just mine though you see.
For we all are quite different, herd of cats we may be.
We don't eat or make porridge - but chocolate we love.
Commerce, banks or politics, fit like hand in a glove.
We no longer wear grey but are modern and bright.
We do choose peace over war - tea and chat, not a fight.
We like to be silent, feel God with us too.
Yet we stand up and minister, I'd tell you how if I knew.
We laugh very often when meeting is done.
We are really quite jolly - like a joke or a pun.
Yes we started as Christians, and many still are.
But we felt a call to be different, follow our own star.
Yes George Fox was our founder, born 1624.
He heard God speak within him, of his faith he was sure.
People gathered from far and near, he spoke with power and grace.
Travelled all over England, he kept up quite a pace.
Those then in power they feared us, thought trouble we might cause.
So they put us into prisons, though we broke no moral laws.
We often met in houses, so we don't say church.
We all are God's people, don't feel left in the lurch.
The silence it speaks to us, and stillness does too.
We listen together to hear God's word anew.
Some don't like to say God, they use Spirit or Light.
We are happy with all these - We all see with different sight.
We know where we come from, but not where we go.
In hope, love, faith and trust, our patience we show.
We don't do things in a hurry, we can be quite slow.

But we reflect and think deeply and let our faith grow.
No way are we perfect, far from it I'd say.
We're all merely human and often we stray.
But we read Faith and Practice - our bible of sorts.
And follow our testimonies to help guide our thoughts.
Peace, Truth, Integrity, Equality, The Earth
Simplicity, Community - they're all of great worth.
We avoid most excesses, whenever we can.
We help those in need, can come up with a plan.
We help one another. How does that sound to you?
Have I answered your questions? I have tried to be true.

Thank you for your honesty, that's quite a lot to hear.
To reflect on what you've told me would take at least a year.
There is much that sounds of interest and much that sounds quite tough.
But I could always try it and stop if I've had enough.
I like the sound of silence though an hour seems quite long.
George Fox and others were abused even though they did no wrong.
I'm glad it's not so nowadays, that you can live in peace.
Be mindful and be caring, a way to find release.
So let me find a Meeting House and step inside the door.
I'll take my time, move slowly, and gradually learn more.
So thank you for your help my friend - I know you're called ' friends' too.

Paula Button

Prayer

A favourite prayer of mine, from St Richard, Bishop of Chichester (1197-1253)

“O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother
May I know thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
And follow Thee more nearly.”

Anna Edelsten

Community Notice Board

An Idea to Help Small Local Businesses

My London based children have told me that what some people are doing to support their favourite small businesses is to, in effect, buy 'vouchers' to be used in the future. ie. You give your favourite cafe, bistro, bookshop or whatever, however much you want to give them, on the basis that you will claim the equivalent goods or services, when things are back to normal. Hopefully, that will help their current cash flow crisis. I thought it was an idea worth sharing.

In Warwick, I'm sure many of us are concerned about Mog and Pauline at Warwick Books. They offer a great present idea - gift subscriptions. That might be another way of getting money into their empty coffers. Here's the link: www.warwickbooks.net/gift

Meg Harper

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.

Statement by Woodbrooke

The current position regarding courses is as follows:

- the site is closed until 20th April.
- all on-site courses and learning events are suspended until 30th June.
- all Woodbrooke on the road events are suspended until 31st May.
- all other residential on-site activity (conferences and B&B bookings) are suspended until 31st May.

For the full statement see:

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/statement-19-march-2020-covid-19-impact/>

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

Mon 8 June - Sun 19 July: Exploring Quaker Chaplaincy

Mon 15 June - Sun 26 July: Being a Quaker Trustee