

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
May 2020 Number 276



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

I was under great temptations sometimes, and my inward sufferings were heavy; but I could find none to open my condition to but the Lord alone, unto whom I cried night and day. And I went back into Nottinghamshire, and there the Lord shewed me that the natures of those things which were hurtful without, were within in the hearts and minds of wicked men... And I cried to the Lord, saying, 'Why should I be thus, seeing I was never addicted to commit those evils?' And the Lord answered that it was needful I should have a sense of all conditions, how else should I speak to all conditions; and in this I saw the infinite love of God. I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. And in that also I saw the infinite love of God; and I had great openings.

Journal 1647, Quaker Faith and Practice, 19.03

Welcome to the May edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to this edition of the Friendly Link. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the reflection and community sections, especially Charlotte Pettifer who has shared her thoughts on lions, John Sheldon who has shared his experience of lockdown, Mary Hawker who has shared quotes from Hafiz, and Karen Barber who has shared a link to the Thomas Oaken tearooms.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the June edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday May 31st. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk.

Anna Edelsten

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Quaker Diary

Meeting for Worship is currently being held at the following times via zoom:

Sunday - 10:30 for an hour

<https://zoom.us/j/404903873?pwd=RTBDdUxuWjhEOTRQeVZ1WDJ4c29Kdz09>

Meeting ID: 404 903 873

Password: 137252

Mid-week - Wednesday @ 12:30 for half an hour

<https://zoom.us/j/581141952?pwd=N1drWCtwaGVUQ1dQeC9rSUpmS0xoQT09>

Meeting ID: 581 141 952

Password: 955319

Kenilworth - every third Thursday @ 2:00pm for half an hour

<https://zoom.us/j/96143019529?pwd=TTh0YUM0d2prci9oWkYyTmZmeEJNQT09>

Meeting ID: 961 4301 9529

Password: 010376

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

Sunday 7th May: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom

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

Welcomers' Rota

Suspended until further notice.

Notices

Food Bank

We are unable as a Quaker group to fill a food bank box at present. But of course food banks are just as much needed as ever. If you would like to send a cheque to the local food bank, make it out to Warwick District Foodbank and post it to:

Warwick District Foodbank, St Mary's Church, St Mary's Road, Leamington Spa, CV31 1JW

Best wishes to everyone at this difficult time

Ann James

War School online

War School will be available on YouTube during May and June. There is a new trailer with a link to the full film here <https://youtu.be/Wj7JD62mVjQ> and the full film is here https://youtu.be/bl5Zc71KV_g

Children and Young People's Events

What's available for our young people?

In May there will still be no Children's Meeting. However, we would like to remind you that for our older children there is The Youth Club being run online by the Waters at Selly Oak. They are aiming to do this every 2 weeks. Contact Ruth Gaston or Annie Pettifer for dates and invites. Alice Yaxley is also doing an online session everyday at about 4pm so please contact her for more information. Ruth Gaston also has some links to other resources online so please contact her if you are interested.

In Friendship

John Harding

National online youth groups for Quaker young people:

In these unusual times a little connection can help. Quakers in Britain, are hosting online youth groups for young Quakers from across England, Scotland and Wales [online youth group](#). Join a weekly group, with a choice of different days 4.30pm to 6.00pm. Fill in the [online form](#) to indicate your interest. Questions? Contact Judea@quaker.org.uk.

Philosophy4Children resources

For P4C sessions, that can be done at home by parents or carers with no previous experience, go to the [Sapere website](#). These include activities to get everyone involved in speaking, listening and working as a community. There are tips and advice to help you create a thoughtful space, build a supportive and challenging community, and develop questioning. Also you can find stimuli for enquiries including stories, images, videos, poems and picture books, as well as some suggested one-hour lesson plans.

Central England Area Events

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

All in-person events are cancelled.

Appeal for Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke's ability to generate income has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 outbreak and we are concerned about the long-term impact on Woodbrooke. All of our commercial and on-site courses are currently suspended and as a charity, we aren't eligible for the majority of the current government support. We would welcome any contributions via donations, grants or low-interest loans. If you can help in any way please get in contact.

To donate and for more information please go to:

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/about/support-us/make-a-donation/#donate-now>

Some reading material online

Access these articles here: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/news/>

“Spiritual direction and Quakers” a reflection by Eleanor Jackson

“A Quaker life through music” a reflection by John Sheldon

From the Archives: ‘An Unchristian Traffik’: the latest in a series of guest posts from the Birmingham and Warwickshire Quakers archive project at the Library of Birmingham. This one focuses on the slave trade.

National Events

Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG) 2020: Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency.

YMG has been postponed until 31st July - 6th August 2021, when it will take place at the University of Bath.

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

Not yet cancelled! We are awaiting guidance from the Camping and Caravanning club.

Anna Edelsten



Reflections

All shall be well; a lockdown reflection

On 24 March, the day after the lockdown was announced, I went into our garden where the sun was shining and the spring flowers looked lovely. The daffodils reminded me of Sydney Carter's song about Julian of Norwich: *Love, like a yellow daffodil, / is coming through the snow*, and I reflected on Julian and her secluded life as an anchorite in the medieval church. She didn't have an easy time and was often at odds with the church establishment, but her writings show an amazing spirit and the utter conviction that love overcomes all difficulties. So she was able to say in the end that *All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well*.

Our own life of seclusion pales against Julian's but possibly because it isn't easy either, has provided its own opportunities for reflection. I have been aware of the first of our *Advices & Queries* and the concept that God's light shows up the dark spots within us, and that I am not always very good at coming to terms with the darkness within me. Indeed, it seems that in our day we are often reluctant to acknowledge what George Fox would have called sin and wickedness. Rejecting such words, we don't seem to have found suitable equivalent ones for our own time. Does this reflect a failure to acknowledge the dark, or are we altogether more positive in our outlook on life? I don't know.

We were reminded in ministry this morning of George Fox's vision of the ocean of light and love which flows over the ocean of darkness and death, and it does seem to be very important at this time to hold these two concepts in mind, and remind ourselves that the ocean of light *flows over* the ocean of darkness.

I have thought about our testimonies and I am only too aware of falling short in keeping them, but I am also aware of how my ocean of love tries to be faithful to them. I have come to realise again, in loving myself as Jesus would have us do, it is best when I acknowledge my failings as well as my achievements. This act of accepting myself as I am is something that I need to remind myself to do from time to time, but it seems to have been thrown in to strong relief by the tragedies which are happening around us each day, as well as by my own strengths and weaknesses, my darkness and my light. I have come to the conviction at this point in my life that *Love like a yellow daffodil, / is lord of all I know* and a deep sense that at the end of it all that *All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well*.

John Sheldon

Lions



Lions do lots of roaring,
But at least they aren't boring,
Golden coloured with a bushy mane,
They look perfect in a picture frame.

By Charlotte Pettifer

Quotes from Hafiz

“Don't surrender your loneliness so quickly. Let it cut you more deep. Let it ferment and season you as few humans and even divine ingredients can. Something missing in my heart tonight has made my eyes so soft, my voice so tender, my need for God absolutely clear.”

“Everyone is God speaking. Why not be polite and listen to Him?”

Mary Hawker

Community Notice Board



Thomas Oken tea rooms

I wanted to share with the meeting, details of Thomas Oken tea rooms, who are offering delivery services of hot meals, cakes, soup etc, which Friends may be interested in. Their menu changes each week and can be found here: <https://www.okenskitchen.co.uk/meals-to-order.html> They also deliver “care packages” to people who may struggle to get out for essentials - I arranged for one to be delivered to Dorothy P this week along with one of the amazing cream teas.

Best wishes,

Karen Barber

Woodbrooke Course Corner

To find out about courses run at Woodbrooke 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.

Statement by Woodbrooke

The current position regarding courses is as follows:

- the site is closed until 31st May.
- all on-site courses and learning events are suspended until 31st July.
- 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 are on the next page.

Online courses

Mon 27 Apr - Fri 15 May	Radical Spirituality - the early history of the Quakers (free)
Wed 29 Apr 09:30-10:30 and 19:30-20:30	Spiritual Practices for Everyday (by donation)
Wed 29 Apr 14:00-14:45	Meeting for Worship for Dance (free)
Fri 01 May 10:00-12:00	Theology of Meeting for Worship remotely (by donation)
Mon 11 May - Sun 5 Jun	Paradise lost: an introduction (£72)
Session 1- Tue 12 May at 15:00- 16:00 Session 2 - Thurs 14 May at 15:00-16:00	Exploring Quaker Spirituality (by donation)
Wed 13 May 14:00-15:00	Hope as Practice (by donation)
Fri 14 May 10:00-12:00	Theology of Meeting for Worship remotely (by donation)
Tues 18 May 15:30 -17:00	Jesus for Quakers: a persistent question (by donation)
Mon 18 May - Sun 5 July	Poetry for the Soul (£54)
Mon 25 May - Sun 5 July	Bible Study for Quakers (£54)
Tues 26 May 15:00-16:30	Heaven on Earth (by donation)
Wed 27 May 16:00-18:00	Worship, Ministry and Afterwords (by donation)
Mon 1 June - Sun 28 June	Spiritual Practices for Everyday (£36)
Mon 1 June - Mon 13 July	An Introduction to Peace Education (£36)
Mon 1 June - Sun 12 July	Eldership and Oversight Online (£115)
Tue 2 June - Tue 30 June	The Roots of the Quaker Way (£54)
Thurs 4 June - Thurs 16 July	Heaven on Earth (£54)
Mon 8 June - Sun 19 July	Exploring Quaker Chaplaincy (£115)
Mon 15 June - Sun 26 July	Being a Quaker Trustee (£115)