

The Friendly Link

Newsletter of Warwick Quaker Meeting
September 2020 Number 279



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, 29.01

Welcome to the September edition of *The Friendly Link*

Welcome to this edition of the Friendly Link. Those considering returning to in-person MfW will be interested to read the relevant notice in this edition. In addition, there are two thoughtful pieces from members of our meeting. For those with time, there is a diverse range of courses from Woodbrooke, potentially with something for everyone! Friends with young people in the family between 16 and 35 may wish to share the article from Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Your contributions and feedback are always welcome. The last day for contributions for the combined October edition of The Friendly Link is Sunday September 27th. Please send your contributions to: editor@warwickquakers.org.uk. Anna Edelsten

Table of Contents

Quaker Diary	3
Welcomers' Rota	4
Children and Young People's Meeting Rota	4
Notices	5
Children and Young People's Events	7
Central England Area Events	7
I Believe column	8
Reflections	9
Woodbrooke Course Corner	10

Quaker Diary

Meeting for Worship is now being held in person at Warwick Meeting House (see below for details) at 10:30 for one hour, and on zoom.

Meeting for Worship is 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

Sunday - 18:30 for an hour

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83544122405?pwd=a2MxaHZJY2daQWtudkVnWEJjMVNqZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 4412 2405

Password: 191499

Mid-week - Wednesday at 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 6th September: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom

Saturday 12th September: Area Meeting at 14:00 - 17:00 online

Sunday 4th October: Business Meeting at 12:00 via zoom or at the Meeting House

Link to Area BM Minutes: <https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/area-business-meeting/minutes/>

Welcomers' Rota

Sept 6 th	Kris Turner
Sept 13 th	Annie Pettifer
Sept 20 th	Sarah Thompson
Sept 27 th	Anna Edelsten

Children and Young People's Meeting Rota

Date	Topic	More info	Leader	Supporter
13 th Sept	All Age Worship	Children will gather separately for first half hour and share news and reform relationships then join main MfW.	Anna Edelsten	Ruth Gaston
27 th Sept	How to draw animals	A lot of this session will be catching up. JH has several books which can be photocopied showing how to draw animals step by step from simple shapes to additional detail.	John Harding	Helen Pemberton

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

Reopening Warwick Meeting House

We will be holding “blended” Meetings for Worship (MfW) from Sunday 6th September, with some people attending via a Zoom Meeting and others attending the Meeting House in person. If you would like to come to Meeting in person, please read this first and note the guidelines. We are trying to keep everyone safe!

To hold the Meeting in keeping with government guidelines there will be a number of changes:

- we can only accommodate up to 16 people attending in person
- information signs and a one-way system will be in place to minimise contact and risk
- hand sanitiser will be available - please use it
- all those aged 11 or over should wear a face cover over their mouth and nose when in Meeting apart from when ministering
- toilets will be accessible via the Common Room; afterwards go out through the café and re-enter the Meeting via the side door
- doors and windows will be kept open to provide ventilation
- all gates will be left open during Meeting
- there will be no refreshments served after Meeting - you are welcome to bring a filled water bottle for your own use
- books (the Bible, Quaker Faith & Practice) will not be put out; you may bring your own copy to look at if you wish

Ticketing system

- to prevent too many people turning up, we are using TicketSource (a website often used for theatre tickets) for people to reserve a place
- free tickets will be made available to reserve from the Monday morning before the Sunday concerned
- there will be two types of ticket available to book: individual and family group
- if you are coming as a couple you should book two individual tickets
- a family group ticket will admit 1 adult and up to 2 children. Additional individual tickets should be booked as required if your family group is bigger than this
- tickets can be booked at: ticketsource.co.uk/warwickquakers
- at the end of the booking process it will say that your booking is confirmed. You will also be sent an email to say this. If you don't get an email, the process has not completed successfully and you have not booked, so please try again

Current government guidance is that people aged over 70 and those who are clinically vulnerable (shielded) should stay at home as much as possible and take care to minimise contact with people from other households if they do go out. Please bear in mind that attending a Meeting for Worship (MfW) will involve you being in a room with people from other households for over an hour. For a number of people, MfW via Zoom will remain the better option.

Jane Holt

Convenor of Elders and of the Reopening Warwick MH group

Swarthmore lecture

Elders plan to hold a study group on this year's lecture given by Tom Shakespeare, *Openings to the infinite ocean*, on **Wednesday 23 Sept** at 7pm. This will be held on Zoom (details below) and as well as an introduction to some of the themes of the lecture there will be opportunities to discuss in smaller groups. If possible it would help if you have read the lecture, available through the Woodbrooke website, and/or have watched the lecture (one hour long) also accessible from the Woodbrooke website as well as here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-OJoq0jNAk>

It would help the planning if you can let one of us know if you intend to take part; many thanks!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83782751718?pwd=aUZ4b2VTNTThoSjhFRW5wOEk1OXdxdz09>

Meeting ID: 837 8275 1718

Passcode: 027598

Paula Button, Jane Holt, John Sheldon, Gill Smith

Community cafe

Our cafe is currently open Tue-Thu mornings for the sale of drinks and light refreshments to be consumed in the garden. Paul Lively, the manager, is hoping to extend this from 14 September to five days a week to include light lunches as well.

John Sheldon

Children and Young People's Events

FWCC Online Workshops for Young Quakers (aged 16-35y)

"To all Young Friends everywhere,

We invite you to join Young Friends around the world, and across the Quaker branches, for a series of 5 online workshops over 10 weeks. Join us for one or all five.

These sessions will be run by young Quakers for young Quakers through Friends World Committee for Consultation on 5 Saturdays between August 29 and October 24, 2020. In each session we will explore climate action, peace, and justice in relation to one of the five [testimonies](#): Truth, Equality, Peace, Simplicity and Community. There will be a chance to hear from 2 - 3 speakers (who will be Young Friends from across the FWCC sections), to talk in zoom breakout rooms exploring the session's theme, and a chance to gather and reflect on our discussions together.

We recognize that climate action, peace, and justice are core to Quakerism, and many young Friends are actively living out their faith in the world, so we all have so many stories to listen to, to learn from, and to tell. As young Quakers from around the world, we want to create a network of Young Friends that will provide a chance to share our stories and experiences and to hear from and inspire one another."

Go to: <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/an-invitation-to-young-friends-everywhere-from-young-friends-across-the-four-fwcc-sections>

You can register for each workshop individually.

Central England Area Events

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

No listed events except for Area Meeting.

I Believe column

On my desk I have a postcard, bought in France because I liked its sentiment: a quote from Honoré de Balzac “L’amour est comme le vent, nous ne savons pas d’où il vient.”. It seemed poetic, romantic and true.

But as I was watching the birch tree outside my window swaying gracefully in the wind, I thought “But I do know where the wind comes from. Directly from high and low air pressure systems, less directly from the sun heating the sea and land.” Knowing that, of course, is not the same as being able to predict it, especially some distance into the future. Long term weather forecasts! So I started to wonder if I knew where love comes from. There is a certain comfort, in thinking that love will just blow in - a sudden squall or a gentle breeze according to taste, especially (as I was when I bought the postcard) when one is in a period of being alone.

If love is like the wind, what creates the high and low pressures, what drives the weather? As a Quaker I think the second part of that question (the sun!) is answered by the very first of our “Advices and Queries” “Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God”. And I don’t think it is necessary to believe in God to acknowledge the reality of those promptings.

I believe that if, in response to these promptings we are patient, we are kind, that we are not envious or boastful or rude, that we do not insist on our own way, are not irritable or resentful then, just as surely as the sun drives the weather, the winds of love will blow.

“L’amour est comme le vent, nous savons toujours d’où il vient.”

Dave Rawcliffe

Reflections

A Version of the Lord's Prayer

Oh spirit of love both in and
around us

May you be our greatest blessing

May you lead our hearts and minds forward
in everything we do

May each day be full of love for ourselves
and others

Help us forgive ourselves when we stumble

And may we also forgive and help others
in your name

Lead us into kindness and compassion

And keep us free from fear

For love is our hope, our prayer
and our salvation.

Forever and always.

Amen

Paula Button

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.

Online courses

September

7 Sept - 4 Oct £15	Essentials of Quakerism
7 Sept - 18 Oct £25	European Quaker Voices; £25
8 Sept 14:30-16:00 Pay as led	Boldly Revising Quaker Faith & Practice
14 Sept - 18 Oct £54	Being a Quaker Community of Witness and Welcome
14 Sept - 24 Oct £36.00	Deepening Our Commitment - Loving Earth Project
14 Sept - 25 Oct £115.00	Eldership and Oversight online
14 Sept - 25 Oct £36	Quakers Do What! Why?
15 Sept - 6 Oct 19:30 - 19:00 £15.00 - £54.00	Multiple Religious Belonging Tuesday 15 September - Keynote address Tuesday 22 September - Papers and discussion Tuesday 29 September - Papers and discussion Tuesday 6 October - Roundtable discussion
17 Sept - 18 Nov £72	Revisiting Genesis: New Angles on Old Stories
18 Sept 14:00-15:30 £20	Philosophising with Friends 1 - Talking about faith (P4C)
18 Sept - 30 Oct Pay as led	Understanding Racism Book Group: Afua Hirsch
21 Sept - 16 Oct £36	Living the Peace Testimony
21 Sept - 01 Nov £54	What do we Actually Mean by Privilege?

21 Sept - 18 Oct £54	The Rule of Christ: Themes in the Theology of James Nayler
21 Sept - 15 Nov £36	Climate Crisis, Faith and Witness Reading Group
22 Sept - 13 Oct £15.00 per session	Exploring the Swarthmore Lecture: Openings to the Infinite Ocean Tues 22 Sept: Letting your life preach: Quakerism and hope Tues 29 Sept: Faith, hope and love: Biblical sources for hope Tues 6 Oct: We have no time but this present time: finding stories of hope Tues 13 Oct: Optimism of the will: what is required of us?
25 Sept 14:00-15:30 £20	Philosophising with Friends 2 - Principles of Quakerism (P4C)
28 Sept - 8 Nov £54	A Taste of Life Writing for Transformation
29 Sept 10:30-12:00 £20	Poetry 1: Poetry and Spiritual Practice

October

2 Oct 14:00-15:30 £20	Philosophising with Friends 3 - Exploring ministry
9 Oct 14:00-15:30 £20	Philosophising with Friends 4 - Community as a Practice
12 Oct - 21 Nov £72	Ancient Philosophy for Quakers
12 Oct - 22 Nov £115	Being a Quaker Clerk online
17 Oct - 14 Nov £54	The Keithian Controversy: Early Quakers and Jesus
19 Oct - 5 Nov £54	Early Quakers in their Own Words: Spirituality
19 Oct - 21 Nov £86	Introduction to Mindful Self-Compassion
19 Oct - 29 Nov £115	Quaker Nominations online
25 Oct - 31 Oct £36	The Life Stirring Within: a week-long online retreat with Isaac Pennington