HEREFORD QUAKERS

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Mtg for Worship	*Business Mtg*
Tues 4th	7.30pm	Climate Response Group	*see below*
Thur 6th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	*Picnic lunch*
Sat 8th	10.30 – 4.30pm	Fellowship day at the Pales / young peoples camp	*see Pg3*
Sun 9th	9.45am	Reading	QF&P Chap.29 *Leadings*
Sun 9th	10.30am	Mtg for Worship	
Thurs 13th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	*Picnic lunch*
Thurs 13th	7.30pm	Book Club	*The Hare with Amber Eyes* De Waal
Fri 14th	2pm	Experiment with Light	
Sat 15th	10am – 12.30	Annual Work Day at Mtg Hse	*See pg 3*
Sun 16th	10.30am	Mtg for Worship	
Thurs 20th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	*Picnic Lunch*
Sat 22nd	6.30 – 10pm	Night of the Churches	*see below*
Sun 23rd	9.45am	Reading	Intro. and notes on history of text of QF&P
Sun 23rd	10.30 am	Mtg for Worship	
Thurs 27th	12.30pm	Mtg for Worship	*Picnic lunch*
Fri 28th	2pm	Experiment with Light	
Sun 30th	10.30am	Mtg for Worship	*Childrens Mtg / Shared Lunch/Food Bank*

Unless otherwise stated meetings will be held at Quaker Meeting House, Kings Street, Hereford

Area Meeting Provisional Dates

June 8th Pales Fellowship Day
July 14th Ross
Sept 14th Abergavenny
Nov 9th Hereford

February appeal raised £152 for ***Campaign Against the Arms Trade***

March Appeal raised £158,18 for ***Herefordshire City of Sanctuary***

"All hands on board for the annual Work Day at the Meeting House"

Saturday June 15th. 10.. till 12.30 or thereabouts.

General tidying up of the kitchen & other spring cleaning.
Cleaning up the front passageway.
Some garden work and clearing out the covered space by the shed.
Touching up paintwork and minor maintenance.

All help of whatever kind welcome

Area Meeting

Local Meetings have been asked to consider whether Area Meeting should forward to Meeting for Sufferings a concern from Clun Valley Quakers for Britain Yearly Meeting to prioritise *Climate Breakdown*, and to use their organizational capabilities to lead and coordinate Quaker actions across all Area Meetings.

The issue of climate breakdown is inseparable from issues of justice, equality and peace throughout the world, and we would like to see this recognised in Quaker work on all matters. We would like to see the wording of any minute forwarded to Meeting for Sufferings altered to reflect this. We ask our clerk to forward this minute to Area Meeting clerk.

The Howard League for Penal Reform

The Howard League for Penal Reform of which we as a Meeting are a member, writes: The more members we have, the greater the strength behind our campaigns. The current criminal justice system doesn't work - it is an expensive failure and we need you to help us change it.

Our work includes our vital legal advice line for children in prison, who often have nowhere else to turn, and continued campaigning on important issues such as child arrests, the criminal courts charge, the closure of secure colleges, books for prisoners, justice privatisation and ways to reduce the severe overcrowding in our prisons.

Equality and the Common Good

This concern of Kendal & Sedbergh AM about the governments undermining of the welfare state and the subsequent campaign to lobby MPs by getting those who had suffered to write about their experiences on post cards to be shown to them, was explained in the last issue of this newsletter. It was first introduced at the end of last year and four Hereford Friends engaged with it by approaching various organisations that helped people on benefits and with other social problems: *Food Bank, Shyppe, Credit Union, MIND, Hereford Open Door and Hereford Local Authority Outreach Service.* The initial response from all was positive and enthusiastic on the part of the organisation's staff, but not so from the clientele.

Mandy Lawrence's experience shows the reality of vulnerable peoples reluctance to expose their problems… *Hereford Open Door provides free meal provision; I volunteer here. The team leader was supportive of campaign but advised me to approach the guests directly. In some cases I was not comfortable to do this. Money is a highly sensitive issue, many guests are vulnerable volatile individuals, many with mental health challenges and/or substance struggles etc., and breakfast area is public arena. However I approached 4 people who had told me before about their stresses about benefit payments. All agreed to take part; however*

No. 1. has not been around for several months. He may have moved off?

No 2. We agreed a time and I called to his home and wrote his comments on card. It was difficult as he was in unhappy state, drunk, crying about his loneliness and repeatedly asking for a sexual relationship with me. He's a nice guy and I feel a little bad that I was exploiting his vulnerability

No 3. He gave me his mobile number so we could fix up a session. However his mobile is not taking calls or texts. I called to his flat but he was out. I probably will see him sooner or later and will try and catch him.

No 4. We had a session but he was very anxious about participating and was not able to understand the campaign. I reassured him that it was safe and voluntary but he decided not to take part.

The Campaign goes on….it would be interesting to know how it has been received elsewhere.

Climate Response Group

It was proposed after meeting on Sunday that our local meeting Climate Response Group meet next on **Tuesday 4th June at 7.30** This will probably be the first of a series of regular meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. The aim of the meeting will be to decide what actions we can best take both collectively and as individuals to widen and deepen the response to the current Climate Emergency. This first such meeting will be in time to allow us some input to the Exhibition planned in the Meeting House for Night of the Churches on Saturday 22nd June.

With regard to the letters to Councillors I suggest that our initial letters to our local County Councillor are to make each of them aware of our support for their declaration of a *Climate Emergency* and to ask them to do their best to ensure it results in positive leadership from our Council.

Jane Straker

This Months Appeal

The UK Schools Climate Network in support of Youth Strike 4 Climate

The Climate Crisis is the single biggest challenge humanity has faced in many millennia, and it is but one aspect of a much wider set of problems. Humanity has to change direction or see the probable collapse of our civilization and quite possibly the endgame for our species. We have all the technologies we need in order to move toward a radically more sustainable way of providing for all humanity's needs. What is manifestly lacking is political will, in the UK and in the World. Many environmental groups have been working for years to highlight the issues. In the last year or so, inspired by Greta Thunberg, hundreds of thousands of students in many countries have gone on strike to demand action on climate change. *The UK School Climate Network* are one of the organisations helping organise this within the UK. They will use donations to support young people, for example, in buying train tickets to attend meetings.

Richard Priestley

NIGHT OF THE CHURCHES 2019 SATURDAY 22ND JUNE

From 6.30 pm, after a short gathering for song and prayer in High Town at 6.00pm, eleven city churches and fellowships will be open to everyone, with activities ranging from quiet reflection to drama, bell ringing and Messy Church, and refreshments provided at most venues.
Printed programmes are available to help you plan your evening and find your way around.
At the meeting house we will be inviting people to engage with Quakers' concern for our planet. and contribute ideas to our exhibition; material for this will be gratefully received by Audrey Nunn, Sheila Milne or David Straker by 16th June.
We would also welcome offers of help on the night so that we can devise a rota.

According to its website, Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality. It's primarily for people who don't already belong to another form of church. It meets at a time (and sometimes in a place) that suits people who don't already belong to a church. It typically includes a welcome, a long creative time to explore the biblical theme through getting messy; a short celebration time involving story, prayer, song, games etc.; and a sit-down meal together at tables. All elements are for and should include people of all ages. Messy Church is resourced and supported by the Bible Reading Fellowship.

What is Spirituality? How do we define it?

I've been on a semantic journey searching for the answer to this question which was posed in the last issue and have arrived at a very simple answer. For me Spirituality is ***That of God*** *or* ***God Consciousness*** *Spirituality* is the invisible dimension that pervades the whole of creation, it is within us all and connects us all. In Meeting for Worship, in prayer and meditation we endeavour to connect with this and nurture it and be guided by it.

There seems to be a duality here, we have a physical body and a spiritual one, ideally complementing each other- when this happens is this what is meant by wholeness?
Tagore's devotional poem illustrates this duality for me

A few days after writing this I opened the *Friends Quarterly* in the middle of an article by Harvey Gillman and my eye zoomed in on this paragraph: "*I had to think carefully what I thought spirituality actually was. I came up with a working definition: spirituality is a series of overlapping deepening relationships: self with self, self with the other, self with the community, self with the Earth and the Cosmo, all connected with an energy I am content to call Spirit with a capital S. It struck me that this was part of the search to be a fulfilled human being.*

A few days after reading that I heard an artist on the radio refer to the 'spirituality' of the object he had created. In creating something of beauty are we are putting 'That of God' in it?

What canst thou say?

Pat Gundrey

O, You Who dwell in my heart,
I pray, my heart may blossom.
Let purity manifest -
And let it glow with your Grace.
Inspire me to be disposed and unafraid;
Bless me with an unending, unswerving resolve.

Connect me to the world,
And from the impediments, set me free.
Let your gentle rhythm flow,
through all my endeavours
Let the tranquil harmony of my heart,
Lotus-like flourish at your feet.

O, Lord of my heart,
Let me rejoice in your favours.

Rabindranath Tagore

Deadline for July issue is June 25th
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Camping at the Pales - June 8th

Back by popular demand - camping in the grounds of the Pales

Please ensure that all families and young people in your Meeting know about this opportunity to have fun and laughter with other Young Friends.

Please contact Charlotte Lake if you would like more information.
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