

Brighton Friends



***Welcome
to our
Quaker Meeting***

***Information
2009***

Welcome

If you are new to our Meetings you are very welcome. We are a big Meeting and we aim to make newcomers welcome; but even those of us who have been attending Meeting for years are not always sure who the newcomers are each week! If you would like to speak to a Quaker (Friend) who has been part of Meeting for some time, please do introduce yourself to the person reading the notices, the person by the book trolley or the people at the Welcomers table

This publication gives basic information about how Brighton Quaker Meeting operates.

Meeting for Worship

This is the heart of Quakerism. If you are a newcomer there are leaflets explaining Quaker Worship available from the doorkeepers or inside the Quiet Room.

Times of Meeting for Worship

Meeting Room	Sunday at 10.30am -11.30am 2 nd and 4 th Sunday of the month at 5pm - 5.45pm
Quiet Room	Sunday at 9.30 - 10.15am (Early Meeting)
	Wednesday at 12.30 - 1.00pm (Midweek Meeting)
	Friday 8 - 8.30am (enter by back door for this Meeting)

Open Meeting

This is held in the Quiet Room after Meeting for Worship on Sundays at 12 noon (except for some first Sundays of the month when we have our Meeting for Worship for Business). All are welcome. Open Meeting is a chance to talk about Meeting for Worship, ask questions, share insights or generally discuss ideas in an open and relaxed environment for about half an hour. Childcare is provided on the third Sunday of the month for Open Meeting.

Children's Meeting

Children attend the main Meeting for the first 15 minutes, and then have their own Meeting. Parents are responsible for their children again at the end of Meeting. There are leaflets available about Children's Meeting, please ask the doorkeeper.

The contact for Children's Meeting is Elspeth Furini

The members of the Children's committee are Trevor Jones, Vivienne Ross, Jane Rosenberg (children's Overseers), Elspeth Furini, Alice Tuckett and Caroline Kendall. The Children's advocate is Jason Evans.

Please speak to one of these Friends if you wish to discuss any matters about Children's Meeting.

Elders and Overseers

As Quakers, we do not have designated priests, as we believe in the ability of all to have direct access to the Divine. However, there are certain aspects of ministry that we need to ensure are nurtured and for which we all carry responsibility. These include pastoral care and the spiritual welfare of the Meeting. Everyone who attends Meeting is part of this ministry, and Friends are appointed to facilitate this process. These are the Elders (spiritual welfare) and Overseers (pastoral care). The ministry of Elders and Overseers is described in Quaker Faith and Practice Chapter 12, and these Friends are appointed for three-year terms.

The current Overseers are – Barbara Barber, Jason Evans, Mary McCullough, Dave Hamilton, Chris East, Magda Cross, Sian Jasper, Elaine MacDonald, and Lucianna Whittaker

The Elders are Harvey Gillman, Mary Meeks (convenor), Eleanor Gregory, Caroline Kendall, Terry Byrne, Vivienne Ross, Zing Rock and Ben Whittaker.

If you have anything discuss, relating to spiritual or pastoral care you wish to please contact one of these Friends.

Local Meeting for Worship for Business (BM)

This is our Quaker Meeting for Worship for Business for Brighton Meeting and takes place on the first Sunday of most months at 12 noon. We aim in our BM to discern the Will of God in the matter under consideration. If you are a newcomer or an Attender and would like to come to BM please speak to the Clerk. Childcare will be provided for the first hour.

The Clerk for BM is on a rota of Friends each month. The name of the Clerk for the month is announced in the newsletter each month, along with contact details. If you have items for BM, please contact the Clerk of the month at least a week beforehand.

Area Meeting for Worship for Business (AM)

Brighton Meeting is part of the Sussex West Area Meeting, whose business Meeting is held bi-monthly, usually during the week following BM, but the day and the venue vary.

Details of the next Area Meeting will be in the newsletter.

Quaker Faith and Practice 1.14 & 1.15

1.14 Are your meetings for church affairs held in a spirit of worship and in dependence on the guidance of God? Remember that we do not seek a majority or even consensus. As we wait patiently for divine guidance our experience is that the right way will open and we shall be lead to unity.

1.15 Do you take part as often as you can in meetings for church affairs? Are you familiar enough with our church governance to contribute to its disciplined processes? Do you consider difficult questions with an informed mind as well as a generous and loving spirit? Are you prepared to let your insights and personal wishes take their place alongside those of others or to be set aside as the meeting seeks the right way forward? If you cannot attend, uphold the meeting prayerfully.

Please note BM and AM minutes are always available, all sorts of matters are discussed at these meetings, decisions and plans made; if you want to be part of all this, please read the minutes, or better still, come to BM and AM

* BM was formerly named Preparative Meeting - PM

Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW)

QPSW in Brighton supports three particular projects, in addition to Peace work undertaken by individual Friends. These are firstly “Seeds and Pennies”, a project organised by Joyce Laver Preddy, helping orphaned children, and childless widows in Uganda support each other, secondly the “Tubas Friendship Alliance”, which is a city-wide friendship project between Brighton and Hove, and Tubas, a town in the Jordan Valley, and thirdly the anti-slavery campaign. If you would like to know more, please speak to Joyce, to Robert and Susan Daines, who are leading the Quaker support for the Tubas project, or to Terry Byrne who is leading Quaker support for anti-slavery campaign. The appeal each month takes place on the second Sunday; we have concentrated on appeals for projects in which Friends have a particular interest. There is often a talk associated with the appeal, usually after Meeting on appeal Sunday, and often with a shared lunch. Angela Bagawi co-ordinates appeals, please speak to her if you would like to know more.

Contact Circles (aka local groups/pastoral circles)

If you are new to Meeting, contact circles are a good way to meet others in smaller, geographically based groups.

There are, at present two of these groups active and you are welcome to join either group. The groups usually involve shared food, good conversation and fellowship.

Please feel free to contact the named people below to attend –

North Brighton Circle

Contact Robert and Susan Daines to meet on second Friday of the month.

Hove Circle

Contact Alison Woods to meet on first or second Friday of the month.

East Brighton Circle

This circle meets on an occasional basis only. The contact for social activities is Kate Bujama, and Tony Tree organises the door keeping, tea and coffee rota for East Brighton

All three contact circles organise the rota for door keeping, tea and coffee in turn and try to be aware of any Friends in their geographical area in need of support, and to offer this as needed.

Community Night

This usually takes place on the 4th Friday of every month (occasionally it may be a different Friday if there are other Meeting House bookings, but the date will always be in the newsletter)

Friends have the use of the whole building from 6pm.

Friends who wish may use the Quiet Room for quiet reflection.

The first part of the evening from 7 - 8.15pm is a bring and share supper. Please bring food to share. If you would like to come just for the supper that is fine, you are very welcome.

After supper, we will have a shared activity. We aim to finish at 9.30pm. This venture gives us a forum to get to know each other better and to welcome newcomers. Another advantage of using our Quaker "home" for this event is that the Meeting House is accessible to all, which can be a problem in Friends' homes. Friends may come and go during the evening or come for part of the evening, and children are welcome.

Details of what is happening on each community night will be in the Brighton Newsletter; there are a wide variety of activities.

The Quiet Room

In addition to Meetings for Worship, the Quiet Room can be booked for Quaker business.

Contact Warden Terry Byrne

770258 or admin@brightonquakers.net to book this room.

At all other times the Quiet Room is available for anyone who wants a quiet space.

Library

The library is situated in the small lobby between the two entrance doors. We carry a selection of Quaker books, as well as books from other faiths and books that Friends have found enlightening from whatever tradition. All are welcome to borrow books, please sign your name in the book kept in the library for this purpose. There is a small selection of books for sale on the book trolley. If you would like guidance about books, please speak to the Friend by the book trolley.

Spiritual Friendship / BeFriending

If you would like to explore the possibility of becoming a Member of the Religious Society of Friends in a completely open and non-threatening way, and with no necessary prior obligation that you will join, then we have a scheme of BeFriending or Spiritual Friendship that will enable you to do this. Please ask one of the Overseers. The scheme involves you and the Overseers agreeing jointly on two Members you feel comfortable with, who will then agree to meet with you on a regular basis to explore together the spiritual life and what it means to be a Quaker. If, at some point in this process (it can be as short or long as you wish), you decide you feel called to become a Member, your BeFrienders will guide you through our very simple process. You may decide that you do not wish to join at present, and that is fine. It is also possible to request Spiritual Friendship without wanting explore Membership-please ask an Overseer.

Disability Working Group (DWG)

This group is looking at unmet need in Meeting. Do you have any physical or mental health problems that interfere with your life at Quaker Meetings? If so, the D.W.G. would like to hear from you. You don't have to be disabled to contact us as we are set up to try to meet any of the health needs that you may have. Difficulties could include, for example, problems with getting to the Meeting House or accessing parts of it once there, feeling overwhelmed by the number of people who attend Meeting for Worship, problems reading the Quaker literature or hearing ministry during Meetings.

We can only help if we know what your needs are so please do contact us and tell us.

Spiritual Healing

Susan Daines is a trained Quaker Healer and our contact for the Friends Fellowship of Healing.

If you would like to know more, please speak to Susan.

The Sussex Healers ' Association (not a Quaker group) runs a weekly drop-in clinic on Wednesdays from 12.30-2.30 pm in the Meeting House Room 2. This is being run on a donations basis (to cover costs) by fully qualified healers of the Sussex Healers' Association.

For further information please contact Christine Oldman.

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Monday Meeting

Meets fortnightly on Mondays. It is composed of three events. It is possible to come to all or just one of them. It is open to all who attend worship in the building.

6.00pm	Meeting for Worship
6.30pm	Refreshment break in the café room. Drinks provided but bring a picnic if you want to eat.
7.00pm	Living Together Workshop

Generally held in the Quiet Room.

The workshop is an opportunity for people to explore their own daily feelings, thoughts and responses to themselves, others and life generally within the context of a Quaker community. It has a simple structure in which we can together learn to listen more skilfully and be open to being heard more fully, with the aim of living more peacefully and truthfully with ourselves and others.

- Advices and Queries 17
- Short creative group activity (10 mins)
- Contribution to our thinking (10 mins)
- Creative listening (20 mins)
- Silent listening in pairs (15 mins)
- Reflection in silence, writing/drawing/thinking (10 mins)
- Opportunity to share (10 mins)

Different people will give the contribution to our thinking each session. Each workshop stands alone.

Book Group

Meets every 4 - 6 weeks at the Meeting House. All welcome.
Contact Sheila Boyer for more details spb42@btinternet.com

Young Friends Group

This group is for Friends in the 18-30something age group.
Please contact Ben and Lucianna Whittaker for details

Welcomers Table

If you are new or fairly new to Meeting, you are very welcome. After the Sunday morning Meeting we do have a Welcomers Table which is over by

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the piano. If you would like to find out more about our Meeting, please go and speak to the Welcomers. They can answer questions, give you a copy of the newsletter and welcome sheet, and take your contact details if you wish to give them. They can also explain more to you about Monday Meeting and Community night, and invite you to come along, although you are most welcome at these events without an invitation.

Brighton and Hove Interfaith Group

If you wish to become a member of the group, it costs £5, and you will receive newsletters and notices of meetings and discussions. Magda Cross represents us on this group, so please see her for further details.

Gay, Lesbian and Diverse Friends (GLAD Friends)

For details of meetings of GLAD Friends.
Contact Trevor Jones

Dogs in Meeting

From time to time, Friends and others, bring dogs to Meeting. We have had several discussions about this at our Meeting for Worship for Business, and have agreed to ask all who attend Meeting not to bring dogs, except for Guide dogs. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss with Elders or Overseers.

Smoking Ban

Since 1st July 2007 there has been a smoking ban in all public places. This includes not only in the Meeting House, but also in the porch.

Phone numbers and contact details

Please note that phone numbers have been omitted from this publication as it is available to the general public. If you attend Quaker Meeting, and would like contact details of Members and Attenders, please speak to the Friend at the book trolley, who will be able to let you have a list of Members for a very small cost.

Information

There is a great deal of information flow in a Meeting of this size and we are attempting to keep the notices read after Meeting for Worship down to a manageable number.

The four places where you will find most information are:

The Newsletter, the Quaker Community notice board (in the long corridor between the Meeting Room and the Lecture Room), the BM minutes and the website.

To share information for the Newsletter, please contact Sheila Boyer– Deadline for the newsletter, which usually appears monthly, is the first Sunday of the month.

If you want to put a notice up on the notice board, please ask Terry Byrne (Warden)

If you would like a notice read after Meeting, please contact John Rignell (To help keep notices to a minimum please only request notices for Quaker events in the near future – all other notices to go in newsletter or on the notice board.

Clerks and those who read notices, like the rest of us, attempt to come to Meeting “with hearts and minds prepared.” BM has agreed that notices are to be passed to Clerks by email, phone or snail mail by Friday evening at the latest. Please keep to this arrangement and respect the need of Clerks to come to Meeting in a tranquil frame of mind. The **only** exception should be last minute acute emergencies arising on Sunday.

Please get in touch with the Information Committee if you’d like to get involved in the further development of this website.

Our email address is admin@brightonquakers.net

Brighton Meeting Online

Brighton Meeting has had a presence on the Internet since 1998.

Our address is www.brightonquakers.net

Amongst the information you’ll find our contact details; a statement of belief; the times of our meetings; links to information about Meeting, hiring rooms in our building, and community connections.

Also, there are links to Quakers in the UK and Quakers worldwide

**This publication is available in large print,
on coloured background or disk. Contact Clerks.**