



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

January 2022

www.brightonquakers.net

Issue 326

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

Thank you to readers for your amazing contributions over the past three years. I look forward to an abundance of the same in 2022. Wishing you and yours a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Jackie Robinson, Newsletter Editor

Holocaust 27 January 2022

This year's theme is **Light in the Darkness** and we are all encouraged to light a candle and place it in a window at 8.00pm on **Thursday 27 January** to honour all those who died and those who survived, and to express our commitment to a world without genocide. That evening a candle will be lit in a window at the Meeting House.



In the afternoon in the Meeting Room there will be the opportunity to light a candle, be still, reflect and remember all the people who have died in the genocides around the world. We invite you to come for however long you wish.

Meeting Room will be open **1.30pm to 5.30 pm**. For more information click [here](#).

Everyone is very welcome.

Terry Byrne, Warden

I Wonder

*I live a life of wonder -
A wonderful life.
When things around me are brushed aside
As unimportant,
By those I love,
Then, then,
I live a life of wonder.*

I write the following in the hope that those who read it may have a moment when thinking caps are donned.

My particular cap is a bonnet and therein lies a bee: consider please, the word "Worship", a word that comes up as regularly as our Meetings do, and possibly even more often.

Definition of 'Worship'

- *Love unquestioningly and uncritically or to excess; venerate as an idol.*
- *Show devotion to (a deity).*
- *A feeling of love and profound admiration.*

I wonder whether this helps me? After all, I live a life of wonder.

I have always considered the noun "worship" as being a show of reverence and adoration and have accepted that as a straightforward definition. The verb then is just that in action: to show reverence and adoration.

And so to my wondering:

Upon what/who should I be concentrating in Meeting for Worship? The conclusion could simply be that I should try to concentrate on worshipping the Deity – God. My problems start here: firstly, I am still, even after all these years, unsure as to who or what God is or whether (S)He exists. I do know that there is that of Go(o)d in every one, just as George Fox described. If there is a God (good) within me, I fear the word "worship" does not sit comfortably. I cannot consider worshipping something that exists within me. I tend towards the word "wonder".

Definition of 'Wonder'

- *A feeling of amazement and admiration, caused by something beautiful, remarkable, or unfamiliar.*
- *A person or thing regarded as very good, remarkable or effective.*
- *A desire to know something; feel curious.*
- *Feel doubt.*

It seems to fit in rather well, doesn't it?

I wonder.....could we have a Meeting for Wonder?

Hugh Parrott, October 2021

QPSWE – Faith in action

In turbulent times we might be finding it difficult to know what we can **do** to create the better world that is our vision.

... As Quakers we are impelled by our faith to make our lives an active witness for peace and justice. Our historic testimonies to equality, justice, peace, simplicity and truth challenge us to alleviate suffering and seek positive social change ...

Quaker Faith and Practice 8.11

Quaker Peace and Social Witness Equality is an Area Meeting informal group and we aim to encourage and coordinate our faith in action. This is an update about our planned activities, which are open to all. The steering group is planning activities which we hope will make it easier to take part.

We keep a list of Friends interested in this area of work, and if you would like your name to be added, please contact Mike Coote or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

Climate Justice

QPSWE Gathering Climate Justice Advices & Queries – Sunday 30 January 4-6pm via Zoom

We hope to gather all those Friends interested in Climate Justice to consider some revisions to Advices & Queries which address these current challenges. We hope to discern together whether these proposals are ready to be submitted to the red book revision group.

The second part of the meeting will include a demonstration of [Gather.town](https://gather.town) and/or [Wonder.me](https://wonder.me), alternative online meeting places.

If you wish to join please contact Mike Coote or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

Do our current **Advices and Queries** spell out current dilemmas sufficiently, and in particular do they help us to think about new areas of challenge, particularly how using animal products is contributing strongly to climate change?

How do we make best use of our online possibilities?

We can meet more easily online, enable access for those who are less mobile, and support a lower emission of carbon. But we do lose some of the joy of meeting, and the process of communication can be frustrating. So, we are trying out some new ways to do this.

We have a really good AM intranet <https://quaker.app/>, and this is where we will put all the documents and reference papers you might need to get informed, as well as having forums to exchange views with others. We need to try out how

forums might help us to arrive at a Zoom meeting well informed and having already had some discussion - perhaps to clarify some issues, and perhaps make better use of our Zoom time.

Please do sign into the <https://quaker.app/> and if you have difficulties, contact your local intranet administrator. For Brighton: please contact Michael Richardson or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

We plan to experiment with Gather.town and Wonder.me, online meeting places that enable a more informal approach - you can be in charge of who you meet with, and when you want to move on. We hope this will help us to communicate better online, and we'll include joining instructions and help for all meetings.

Activism

QPSWE Gathering Update on Activism Sunday 27 February 4-6pm via Zoom

Update and share ideas and plans on: Climate Justice work, Craftivism; Becoming an Anti Racist Faith Community; Acknowledging and Welcoming Gender Diverse People, Peace, Refugees.

This meeting will be on a new online platform [Gather.Town](https://gather.town).

If you wish to join please contact Mike Coote or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

Advance Notice

Becoming an Anti-Racist Faith Community

How are we helping to make this call from Yearly Meeting Gathering 2021 a reality in our Meetings? What more do we need to do, and what are the steps we can take?

Area Meeting has agreed that we set up a working group to look at these issues, and we aim to hold a second QPSWE Gathering on **Sunday 10 April** on this subject. If you want to join the working group please contact Mike Coote or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

*Mike Coote on behalf of QPSWE arrangements group:
Christopher Bemrose, Helen Ledger, Christine Habgood-Coote,
Colin Holliday, Ann Holliday*

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

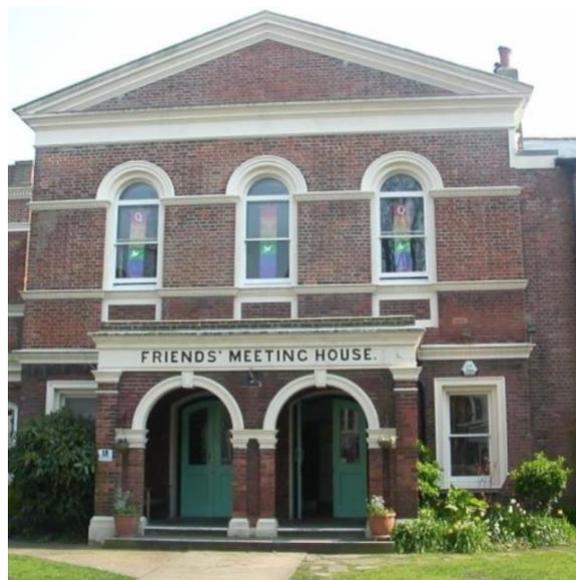
= Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel laureate (1875-1965)

Tuesday at Friends

From **Tuesday 1 February** we are beginning a new season of Tuesday at Friends talks at the Meeting House at 2.30pm – 3.30.

Our much-missed Friend Pat Norman began the talks in 1959 and they were carried on by Alan Cooke until his retirement in 2020.

We have learned from a number of visitors coming into the building that there is still a demand for the talks and so we have decided to restart them after the lockdowns. Over the coming months we will see how it all works out but it may be difficult with the ongoing Covid situation.



Everyone is very welcome to attend; the entrance charge is £2.50. There is no need to book – just turn up. There is an induction loop for the hard of hearing. Tea and cakes will be on sale in the adjoining cafe room after the meetings.

Looking at the programme below, Friends can see that we do not yet have a full list of speakers. Any suggestions for these or for future slots will be much appreciated.

We now have a website with all our details www.tuesdayatfriends.org.uk

*Thank you.
Lisa Compton, Terry Byrne*

PROGRAMME – SPRING SEASON 2022

- February 1 **Why Brighton?** – an illustrated talk by Alan Cooke.
February 8 **TBA**
February 15 **The Crown Jewels** - an illustrated talk by Pat Kingshott
February 22 **Motor Car Manufacturing in Brighton – A Short History**
– an illustrated talk by Duncan Cameron.
- March 1 **Transports of Delight** – an illustrated talk by Ian Gledhill
March 8 **Brighton & Hove's Basement: rocks & soils under the city**
– an illustrated talk by Geoffrey Mead
March 15 **History of Lewes Workhouse** – an illustrated talk by Matthew Homewood.
March 22 **The Changing Fortunes of Kingston Buci** – an illustrated talk by Trevor Povey
March 29 **TBA**
- April 5 **Scandal, Salvation & Suffrage in Surry, Sussex and the South**
- an illustrated talk by Ros Black.

FOOD BANK -- Please Remember -- FOOD BANK --- FOOD BANK

Please make donations to the foodbanks in your supermarkets. Alternatively, you can bring donations to Meeting House on Sunday mornings.

Early Quakers in their Own Words - Spirituality

I saw [this Woodbrooke course](#) in *Quake!*, the weekly email from Britain Yearly Meeting, and thought it might be of interest to new attenders and enquirers.

Stuart Masters, the tutor, is an excellent teacher.



Online 17 January - 27 February. Cost £72.

Tutor Stuart Masters.

Pastoral Friends are happy to be contacted by anyone wanting some financial assistance to help pay the cost. Please contact bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com

Vivienne Ross

...Peace begins within ourselves. It is to be implemented within the family, in our meetings, in our work and leisure, in our own localities, and internationally. The task will never be done. Peace is a process to engage in, not a goal to be reached.

Sydney Bailey, 1993, Quaker Faith and Practice 24.57

What have the Quakers ever done for us?

Extracts from *A short introduction to Quaker Achievements*

by John Gwatkin (Firs Publishing, 2014)

1693 – WILLIAM PENN – Published a proposal for a “United Nations of Europe” as a means of maintaining peace. He suggested that delegates, proportionate in number to their countries’ population, could settle international disputes by the decision of a secret ballot which would be binding if there was a 2/3 majority. (p10)

1710 – EUROPEAN STATE - JOHN BELLERS went further than Penn and proposed a European State with one government. He argued that the Swiss Cantons, with 3 nationalities, proved this was feasible. He thought that the people would accept this if it produced peace “as war is the greatest misery which attends people --- who have been ruined and destroyed by it”. (This paper has now been acknowledged by the European Union as the first proposal for a United States of Europe). (p10)

1961 – AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL initiated by an article by the Quaker ERIC BAKER. He called for the humane treatment of all political prisoners or amnesty. Quakers were instrumental in the first organization in 1962. He was also a founder of CND. (p22)

This book is available to download free [here](#).

FOOD BANK -- Please Remember -- FOOD BANK --- FOOD BANK

Thought for the year

This year I want to be more like Jesus

- *Hang out with sinners*
- *Upset religious people*
- *Tell stories that make people think*
- *Choose unpopular friends*
- *Be kind, loving, and merciful*
- *Take naps in boats.*

Author unknown

Submitted by Vivienne Ross

Interfaith Contact Group

Monthly Interfaith Prayer Hour

On the last Thursday of the month via Zoom at **7 pm**. We share inspirational poems and spiritual readings - Words of Connection.

27 January at 7 pm

24 February, 31 March

Fostering Friendships

Members of different faith groups talk about events and festivals in their own faith communities.

26 January at 5pm via Zoom – we will be considering Holocaust Memorial Day.



To join the Zoom meetings, please email Sheila Boyer, secretaryifcg@gmail.com. All welcome of any faith or none. www.interfaithcontactgroup.com

Take time to learn about other people's experiences of the Light. Remember the importance of the Bible, the writings of Friends and all writings which reveal the ways of God. As you learn from others, can you in turn give freely from what you have gained? While respecting the experiences and opinions of others, do not be afraid to say what you have found and what you value. Appreciate that doubt and questioning can also lead to spiritual growth and to a greater awareness of the Light that is in us all.

Quaker Faith & Practice, Advices & Queries No.5

Get Strong, Support the Meeting House

Pilates at Meeting House

Weekly drop-in Pilates classes at Meeting House on Wednesday mornings. I now run two classes, for details go to www.exercise-for-all.com. The classes are drop-in, so no long-term commitment is expected and anyone who is Pilates-curious is welcome to come once in order to see if it is for them. I shall also be using Zoom for anyone who does not wish to participate in a face-to-face class.

John Rignell

Coronavirus – Staying in Touch with each other

Message from Pastoral Friends

Following discernment at Brighton Local and Area Meetings, Overseers are now to be known as Pastoral Friends or the Pastoral Team.

During this period of COVID-19 we are trying to keep in touch with each other in our Meeting. Some people may feel more isolated than others. If you do need help or would just like Friends to hold you in the Light, please contact the Pastoral Friends. If finances are a problem, we may be able to help as we have access to grants.

The current **Pastoral Team** is: Terry Byrne, Steve Brooks, Lisa Compton, Annie Lieberman, Kate Mackrell, Dawn Speck, Alan Stratford. bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com

Community in Action

Coffee Mornings via Zoom on Fridays at **11.00 am**. If you would like to join please email the clerk at brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com

Being Friends Together

Being Friends Together is a good opportunity to get to know Friends better, learn more about Quakerism and share spiritual journeys. Three groups continue to get together regularly via Zoom. If you would like to join please contact the elders via bgelders@outlook.com

Clerk's mailing list: If you would like to receive email information and Quaker news from the clerks, you need to have completed a GDPR Form (re data privacy). These forms are available from the Pastoral Team by contacting: bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com

FOOD BANK -- Please Remember -- FOOD BANK --- FOOD BANK

Please make donations to the foodbanks in your supermarkets. Alternatively, you can bring donations to Meeting House on Sunday mornings.

The Foodbank is back

Fareshare are coming back to Meeting House.

Please bring food donations to Meeting House on Sunday mornings as Fareshare will be coming to collect them.



Terry Byrne, Warden

Appeals

Now that we have blended Meetings some Friends cannot put donations in our Appeal Box at Meeting House. Our chosen charities could lose out on much needed donations. If you can, please make your donation through the appeal's website <https://quno.org/donate>.

Alternatively, you can send via the Meeting Treasurer; just send a cheque. Or do a bank transfer:

Account name: Brighton Quaker Meeting

Sort Code: 08-92-99 Account number: 65009567

Please do let George know which appeal the payment is for.

Quaker United Nations Organisation - QUNO

Our appeal this month is for QUNO, an organisation very dear to my heart because of the



QUNO

Quaker United Nations Office

impact it has had on our family. Our daughter, Jenny, attended the summer school and had a life-changing opportunity to work as a Programme Assistant in Geneva.

QUNO has special status at the UN and its staff work with people in the UN, multilateral organisations, government delegations, and non-governmental organisations, to achieve changes in international standards and practice. Quakers are known for speaking out against injustice and war - issues that are incompatible with our vision of a world in which peace and justice prevail. QUNO's work is rooted in the Quaker testimonies of peace, truth, justice, equality, and simplicity. We understand peace as more than the absence of war and violence, recognizing the need to look for what seeds of war there may be in all our social, political and economic relationships.

QUNO maintains houses in Geneva and New York, to serve as offices and meeting places close to the UN. For nearly fifty years, Quaker Houses have provided a place where UN diplomats, staff, and non-governmental partners can work on difficult issues in a quiet, off-the-record atmosphere out of the public eye. In addition to providing space for informal luncheons with diplomats and UN staff, Quaker Houses are a centre for seminars, workshops, committee meetings, and Quaker hospitality. Friends and Friends' organizations make use of Quaker House facilities as they learn about and participate in UN activities.

Areas of work

These are:

- Peacebuilding and Prevention of Violent Conflict
- Peace and Disarmament
- Human impacts of climate change
- Human Rights and Refugees
- Sustainable and just economic systems
- Publications, newsletters, statements

Opportunities for young people

Summer School – Geneva

Programme Assistants

Both of these were tremendously positive and influential experiences for our daughter and led to her career in working for human rights and combating climate change. She met wonderful people, including Desmond Tutu on the second day of her placement!

So, it's a great organisation, doing essential work and, like many Quaker endeavours, has an influence quite disproportionate to its size. And, like many Quaker organisations, it needs money! Please donate generously either via our treasurer as above or direct to <https://quno.org/donate> .

*Thank you,
Jane Rosenberg*

Brighton Meeting diary

Meetings for Worship

Regular Meeting for Worship

A blended Meeting for Worship is held on **Sundays at 10.30 am**.

If you wish to join the Meeting in the Meeting House you must book your place by phoning the office on 01273 770258 or emailing admin@brightonquakers.net

Masks must be worn in the Meeting House but are not necessary when seated in worship in the Meeting Room. In order to maintain social distancing, the numbers in the Meeting Room are limited to 25.

If you are not on the Clerk's email list and wish to join via Zoom please contact bqelders@outlook.com

A new midweek Meeting for Worship - We now offer a Zoom Meeting for Worship on **Wednesdays, 8.30-9 pm**. Please click [here](#) to join. We hope that Friends will welcome this as a time of quiet reflection in the middle of busy weeks. The meeting is also be open to Friends from other Meetings in the area.

Children's Meetings

The first Children's Meeting of 2022 will be on Zoom on **Sunday 23 January at 10am**. Please contact Helen Ledger, Mike Coote, Christine Habgood or brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link. We hope to arrange some in person meetings as soon as Covid allows.

Workshops and community events

Open Meeting

At the moment we do not have Open Meeting in the Quiet Room after a blended Meeting for Worship but those on Zoom have the opportunity to go into 'breakout rooms' with 3 or 4 other people to have an informal chat about the Meeting before going back to the main Meeting for final goodbyes. At Meeting House, after Meeting we can now have tea and coffee and sit in the Lecture Room for a chat.

Meetings for Quaker business

Local Meeting for Worship for Business in 2022

Thursday 3 February at 6.30 pm. via Zoom.

Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday 27 January**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB. Please email brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com, or write to the Clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join MWB for the first time, please contact the Clerk, who will be able to explain the procedures. If you are not comfortable with Zoom please contact the Elders at bgelders@outlook.com.

Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2022

Saturday 15 January at 10.30 via Zoom only.

Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings 2022

To be advised

Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to brightonquakernotices@gmail.com. The deadline for notices is Friday evening. Notices are still read out at the end of the Zoom and Blended Meeting for Worship on Sundays.

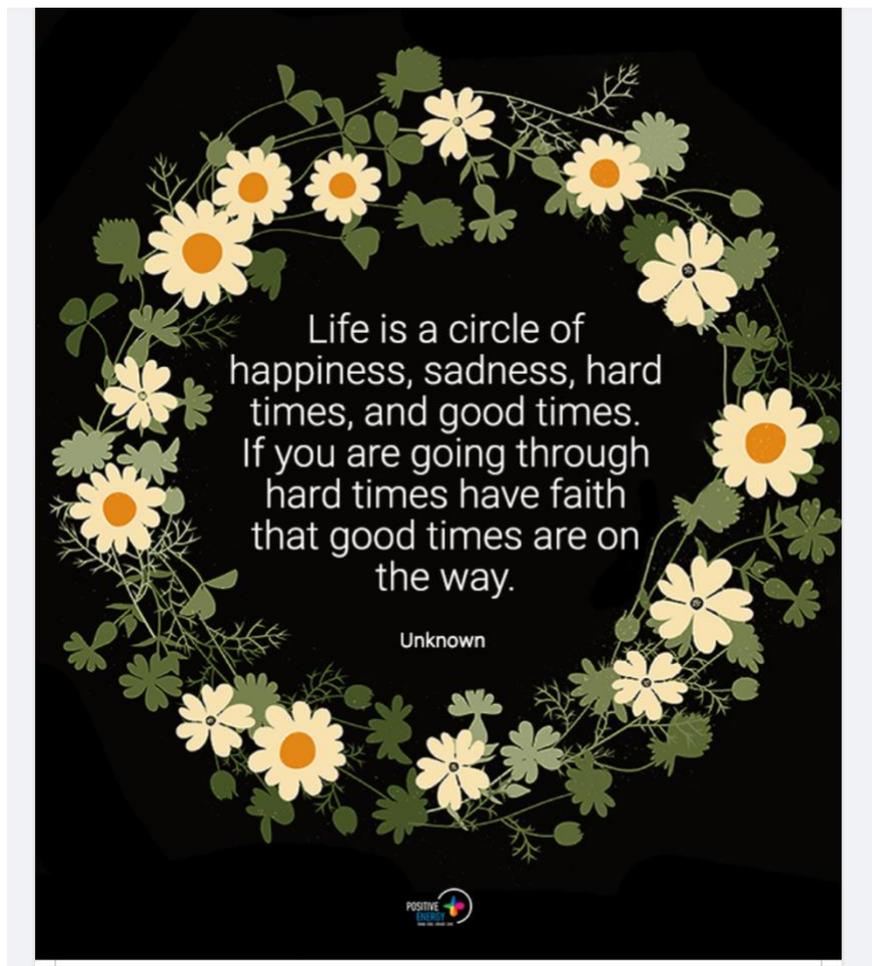
Newsletter Contributions

This newsletter should reflect the diversity of thinking and experience of members and attenders. If this is to be your newsletter, we need your input: thoughts on the meeting, a passage that has inspired you, a book review, a drawing, something to share with others that might help us grow in community and spirit. Please send your contributions to the Editor, Jackie Robinson at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com

The deadline for the **February** newsletter is **Tuesday 1 February**. The editor has the right to edit contributions or hold them over until the next issue, particularly where this is necessary in order to avoid blank pages.

It is the responsibility of contributors to decide how much of their personal details should be shared.

To receive the newsletter by email please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com. This is necessary to comply with GDPR.



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