



# Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

December 2020

[www.brightonquakers.net](http://www.brightonquakers.net)

Issue 313

## We are re-opening for Meetings for Worship (MfW)

A working group of Elders, Overseers, Finance & Property, and Welcomers has met, and agreed the Guidance below for resuming Meeting for Worship at the Meeting House. We can have limited numbers attending in person and others online via Zoom. We would like to start this new procedure in the New Year, on **Sunday January 3, 2021**.

We are going to need more people to take the role of Welcomer, as some of the existing volunteers might not be able to continue while COVID restrictions are in place. If you are prepared to help in this way - and the more who do, the better for everybody! - please contact Sian Jasper, details are in the Contact Book or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

### Guidance Document for attending Meeting for Worship in person and online - (Blended Meeting)

This document has been created by representatives of our Finance and Property Committee, Elders, Overseers, and Welcomers, in conjunction with Terry, as Warden and Covid Coordinator. It is in keeping with current government and BYM guidance. Please assist us by reading and following the guidance below.



1. **Safety** - Attend only if you are confident you are not suffering from Covid, or have not been in contact with someone who has in the last 14 days. If you have any symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has had the virus DO NOT ATTEND in person. Anyone with a cough or a temperature may not be allowed in. Friends are asked to consider their own health and whether they feel it is safe for them to attend in person, especially if you belong to a vulnerable group. You are of course welcome to attend online (see below).
2. **Hygiene** - Please wash your hands before coming to meeting; use the hand sanitizer provided; be careful to contain and take away any used hankies or tissues; wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after using the toilet. The hand sanitizer in the entrance lobby is foot-operated.

**3. Face coverings** - Friends are advised that the wearing of face coverings is **mandatory** at all times in the Meeting House, unless a person is exempt for health reasons.

**4. Numbers** for attenders in person will be restricted to 30, at least initially. If all goes well we may revise this at a later date.

**5. Online Participation** - In order to facilitate the participation of those attending online, the chairs will be arranged in a horseshoe shape, facing the large screen (see photo above), with the microphone on the table. Friends who Minister in the Meeting Room will be asked to go up to the table and speak into the microphone, so that they can be heard by those participating online, as well as by those present in the Meeting Room. (This system has already been shown to work well in the funeral and the Memorial Meeting that have been held in our Meeting House since September).

**6. Rooms** - Only the Meeting Room will be open. All other rooms or areas, bar the toilets, will be out of bounds, including the library and kitchen.

**7. Social Distancing** - We will be observing two metres social distancing within the Meeting House, and any queue into the Meeting House. We have also introduced a one-way system in and out of the building. Of our two front doors, the one on the right is now for entrance and the one on the left, now brought back into use, is for exit. These are signed. The back door will be latched and so not openable from the outside. Friends are asked not to use the side door out of the Meeting Room, unless you are mobility-impaired and need to use the disabled toilet.

**8. Attendance** - If you wish to **attend in person**, email the office [admin@brightonquakers.net](mailto:admin@brightonquakers.net) by 5.30 pm on the Friday before the Sunday. The Welcomer will have a list of who has booked a place, and ***if your name is not on that list you will not be admitted***. We will treat all those who come in person as 'singles', but if you want to come with a spouse or other person, let us know when you tell us you are coming and we will arrange chairs in a pair for you. We will not arrange for 'social bubbles'.

**For online attendance**, this will continue as before. Christine Habgood will continue to co-ordinate a rota of people to host the Meetings, and the invitation will be sent out some weeks ahead.

**9. Children** - We have decided, with regret, not to allow children to attend in person, as we cannot make provision for them under current conditions. They can of course attend online with their parents/carers. Helen Ledger is co-ordinating online Children's Meeting, with Mike Coote and Christine Habgood. This has been very successful, and popular with our children. Contact one of the above-named adults for further information.

**10. Reading Material** - All leaflets and magazines have been removed, and the library is closed. If you want to borrow a book or other reading material, please liaise with our librarian, Helen Ledger. If you want access to Quaker Faith and Practice, Advices and Queries and /or a Bible, please bring these with you.

**11. Arriving** - Those attending the meeting in person are asked to arrive no earlier than 10.15 (parking arrangements will be as normal). Please do not to congregate outside but go straight in via the front door. Wheelchair access will be by the side door as usual. If there is any queue to enter, please keep to two metres distance. There will be a Door Keeper/Welcomer standing in the lobby by the door into the Meeting Room. They will welcome you but not shake your hand. We will have your contact details from your email. The Door Keeper/Welcomer will direct people straight into the main Meeting Room.

Please use the foot-operated hand sanitizer in the entrance before going into the Meeting. There will be other hand-operated sanitizers available too. If you do get ill after attending a MfW, please let us know at the office email [admin@brightonquakers.net](mailto:admin@brightonquakers.net).

There is to be NO SOCIALISING or CHATTING in the lobby and no physical greeting; social distancing of two metres must always be respected. Coats, etc must be taken into the room by each individual.

At 10.30 the Door Keeper/Welcomer will shut the front door, and remain in the lobby for 15 minutes to manage any late entries or unexpected guests. At 10.45 they will latch the front door and join the Meeting, sitting by the door, as has been our usual practice.

**12. The Meeting** - The Door Keeper/Welcomer will ensure people are safely seated. As people go into the Meeting Room they will be advised to take the furthest away chair or bench unless a person needs a particular type of seating; in this case they are directed to take the furthest away available of these.

Friends are asked not to chat in the Meeting Room prior to 10.30 to allow Friends to settle into the meeting.

Given that most of our Elders are over 70, it is likely the Elder on duty will be present on Zoom but not in person. Meeting will be undertaken as usual and Elders will conclude the meeting. We will not shake hands and people can use the alternative of their choice e.g. touching elbows or Namaste.

News of Friends and Notices will be given after the Meeting has been concluded. Alan and Sim are most likely to be doing this online.

**13. Ending/leaving** - Friends can chat in the garden at a two metre distance after the meeting. There will be no coffee, but Friends are welcome to bring their own drink with them.

Friends will leave **via the front door marked "Exit"** - the right-hand one of the double doors as you leave, the left-hand one as you arrive. The people nearest the doors will leave first and those behind them gradually peel out; the Meeting Room Door Keeper will co-ordinate this.

**14. Toilet Use** - Friends are asked to ensure that social distancing is always maintained, especially if there is a queue forming in the corridor. There should be only one person at a time in the toilets and the doors to the corridor should stay open. Please follow government guidance re handwashing. Soap solution and paper towels are provided.

*Penny Cloutte, Alan Stratford, Jason Evans, & Sian Jasper*

**In worship we enter with reverence into communion with God and respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Come to meeting for worship with heart and mind prepared. Yield yourself and all your outward concerns to God's guidance so that you may find 'the evil weakening in you and the good raised up'.**

*Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 9*

## Inter Faith Contact Group (IFCG)

**IFCG** have two monthly Zoom meetings:

### **Monthly Interfaith Prayers**

We share inspirational poems and spiritual readings - Words of Connection.

The next prayer hour will be on **Thursday December 10 from 7 - 8pm.**

### **Fostering Friendships**

On the third Wednesday of each month members of different faith groups talk about events and festivals in their own faith communities.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday December 16 from 5:00 - 6:00pm.**



All welcome of any faith or none. [www.interfaithcontactgroup.com](http://www.interfaithcontactgroup.com)

Please contact Sheila Boyer at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com) for details of both Zoom meetings.

*Sheila Boyer and Helen Ledger IFCG representatives*

### **Annual Interfaith Service**

This year we were unable to hold our Annual Interfaith Service, but due to its popularity we decided to invite a selection of enthusiastic supporters of the IFCG to make contributions to a film based on the theme of 'Connection'.

Amongst those contributing to our film were the Mayor of Brighton, Caroline Lucas MP, Emily Jeffery of BBC Sussex and members of Brighton Quaker Meeting.

The link to our IFCG Annual Interfaith Service is: <https://youtu.be/vfcFSGfjrhA>

We hope that you enjoy it. It was made for you.

*Rev Anthea Ballam, Chair IFCG*

## Two Pianos Still Seeking New Homes

Jo Headley who lives in Brighton but worships with Worthing Friends is still seeking new homes for two pianos, one being more of a restoration project. If you are interested please contact me; my details are in the Contact Book.

Alternatively, email [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com). This will be passed on to me.

*Jason Evans*

### **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 Wednesday mornings 10 – 12.

## David's Adventures In Zoomland

I am hosting an hour or so of poetry, songs and stories via Zoom on **Monday December 21 at 6.30pm**. If you have a poem, song or prose you would like to read or have me read, please contact me by email by December 13 with ZOOMLAND as the subject. My details are in the Contact Book, or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

Our Clerk will be sending out the link closer to the time.

*David Fielder*

## Quakers and Refugees - Then and Now

There was a most moving and inspiring 'conversation' online on November 30, organised by the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) about experiences of the Kinder Transport. This was a scheme in 1938-39 which brought 10,000 mainly Jewish refugee children - 'unaccompanied minors' - from Nazi-ruled Europe into this country. Esther Rantzen talked to David Attenborough, whose parents fostered two Jewish girls from Germany; and Alf Dubs, the Labour Lord, and others, who were themselves Kinder refugees who grew up and made their lives here. Esther saluted not just the courage of the Kinder themselves, and of the foster-parents who took them in, but also the courage of the parents who braced themselves to send them away to a new life in safety. She also underlined the theme of how much these grown-up Kinder have contributed to our society - for example, Alf Dubs has been an influential advocate for the rights of refugees. They all said how grateful they were to be here and safe. At the end Alf Dubs said, *"To take in refugee children is an investment in our future, and in our sense of what is important in life. It signals to the world that we are a decent society"*.

I first heard about the Kinder Transport in school. What I had not known was the huge part played by Quakers. Marigold Bentley, Head of Peace Programmes at Friends House, told us how Quakers worked with Jewish organisations to put pressure on the government to allow the Kinder to come in the first place, when neither the USA nor any other European country would take them in. Quakers were also active in setting up a network of people to support them when they arrived. Two Quakers were particularly important: Philip Noel-Baker, MP; and Bertha Bracey, a lifelong youth worker and organiser. She dedicated her life to helping the people of Germany from the 1920s onwards, and then to supporting refugee children in England after the War. I had known nothing about Bertha but she sounds very impressive!

In the light of our considerations at our Worship Sharing on Sunday afternoon, November 29, I thought - Quakers did all that then, had an important effect nationally - but what are we doing now, as Brighton Quakers? There is still an urgent refugee crisis which challenges us to bear witness to our testimonies on Peace and Equality. There are thousands of unaccompanied minors on their own in refugee camps in Europe. How come Quakers could do all that then, but are not doing anything now? How come we are not speaking truth to power more forcefully, about the Windrush victims or the 'hostile environment' policy, and the other multiple wrongs being committed daily by the Home Office in our name? How come we supported Lyndsey and friends, the Stansted 15, as they faced the

consequences of their action to save asylum-seeking deportees, but have not followed up in any way as a group, collectively, on that issue? The unjust deportations are continuing. Why aren't we making more of a fuss? What are we doing; what could we be doing as a 'Sanctuary' group?

There was talk at our Worship Sharing of restarting a local Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) group, that could work with the Sanctuary group on these issues. Marigold Bentley wrote to me afterwards: "I very much hope all Friends can learn from the remarkable activities of Friends who have gone before us, and in particular how rooted in their Quakerism they were. (Bertha herself was a strong Christian.) If Brighton Meeting would like me to talk to them/you on a Zoom meeting, I'm happy to do so."

Maybe that would be a good place for the new QPSW group to start?

*Penny Cloutte, December 1, 2020*

This new QPSW will meet for the first time via Zoom at 7pm on **Wednesday January 13**. Please contact Gerard Rosenberg if you are interested – details in the Contact Book or write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

Guided by the Light of God within us and recognising that of God in others, we can all learn to value our differences in age, sex, physique, race and culture. This enables mutual respect and self-respect to develop, and it becomes possible for everyone to love one another as God loves us. Throughout our lives, we see ourselves reflected in the facial expressions, verbal comments and body-language of others. We have a responsibility to protect each other's self-respect.

Because of their commitment to social concerns, some Quakers may find it inconceivable that they may lack understanding of issues involving racism. Jesus stressed the unique nature and worth of each individual. It is unreasonable to expect assimilation or to ignore difference, claiming to treat everyone the same. This denies the value of variety, which presents not a problem, but a creative challenge to live adventurously.

Personality, sex, race, culture and experience are God's gifts. We need one another and differences shared become enrichments, not reasons to be afraid, to dominate or condemn. The media have increased our knowledge of the world, but we need greater self-awareness if our actions are to be changed in relation to the information we receive. We need to consider our behaviour carefully, heeding the command of Jesus that we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

*Meg Maslin, 1990, Quaker Faith & Practice 23.33*

## Looking for a sustainable, ethical gift?

The Brighton Quakers' Lendwithcare team has now lent over £9000 in microfinance to support entrepreneurs in poorer countries. If you're looking for a sustainable, ethical gift you could do worse than give a Lendwithcare gift voucher. See <https://lendwithcare.org/gift-vouchers> for details.



### What is microfinance?



Microfinance refers to financial services for poor and low-income clients. Although most attention has been on the provision of small loans, microfinance in fact also includes the provision of other basic financial services such as savings, money transfer, and insurance for poor people. Improving access to such services allows poor and low-income people to finance income-generating activities, build assets, stabilise consumption, and protect against risks.

Microfinance can play an important role in improving the lives of poor people.

Whilst microfinance has gained some criticism for its effectiveness within communities in poor countries, [Lendwithcare](https://lendwithcare.org) has proved very successful at sharing wealth between rich and poor countries. In the 10 years since its inception, over 60,000 lenders have lent almost £30 million to over 135,000 entrepreneurs.

For more information go to [Lendwithcare](https://lendwithcare.org).... Or talk to me.

*Jason Evans*

## Coronavirus - Staying in Touch with each other

### Message from Overseers

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 Overseers. If finances are a problem we may be able to help as we have access to grants.

**Overseers** - Ann Howard, Jane Rosenberg, Terry Byrne, Chris East, Stella East, Mary McCullough, Alan Stratford, Barbara Barber

[bqoverseers@outlook.com](mailto:bqoverseers@outlook.com)

# UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

## Nuclear weapons declared illegal under international law

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is entering into force as international law after being ratified by the 50th state. This historic step forward for the global community will help to rid the world of weapons of mass death and destruction. The 50th ratification came on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The first order of business at the UN's founding in 1945 was to address the nuclear threat.

So far, the UK government is refusing to engage with the Treaty.



## Quakers in Britain are repeating their call on the government not to boycott the TPNW.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain said, "Love for our neighbour is the very heart of the Christian way of life. How can we love someone, and yet have a nuclear weapon, a horrific instrument of death, primed and ready for launch, pointed towards them at the same time?"

"We have to find a better way. Nuclear weapons make us no safer. This treaty is a start, and Quakers urge the UK government to sign it, and to dismantle our nuclear arsenal."

## What's happening in Brighton and Hove?

Throughout the UK, Peace groups will be celebrating this day, and church bells will be rung. The Brighton branch of WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) will be holding a celebration and awareness raising of the treaty on **Friday January 22** at 12 noon in New Road. WILPF have invited Brighton Quakers to join them in celebrating this, with a large banner in the grounds of the Meeting House and a socially distance presence in the garden. This has been agreed and it would be wonderful to have a good presence on the day, nuclear disarmament being a long-standing Quaker concern. Further details will be in the January newsletter, when it is hoped to have news of a Council motion in support of the treaty.

*Helen Ledger*

**Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?**

*Quaker Faith & Practice Advices and Queries No. 32*

# Get Strong and Support Your Meeting House

## A Pilates Matwork Course

Due to government guidelines John Rignell's classes have been postponed and will happen sometime in 2021. Please watch this space.

## Building the New Economy

Continuing our review of the New Economy Series of Booklets which a Brighton Meeting Reading Group studied during the summer months.

### **Booklet 4** – Money, Banks and Finance

For anyone wishing to learn about Quaker activism in relation to banks I can highly recommend devoting eleven minutes and twenty seconds to watching <https://quakerspeak.com/video/how-a-small-group-of-quaker-activists-took-on-pnc-bank-and-won/>. It is a most inspiring and very well made short film. Who are PNC Bank? I had never heard of them. They are the seventh biggest bank in the US. They are a conglomerate formed in 1983 that includes a bank that was founded by Quakers in the Victorian era. Anyway, a bunch of Quakers meeting in living rooms were inspired to take on PNC in 2010 and after five years persuaded them to stop investing in mountain top removal (MTR) coal mining. Fantastic. I'd not heard of MTR either but apparently it took off in the 1990s and was big in West Virginia.

The inspiring message is that a small group of people can take on large organisations, and the Quaker spirit helps in sustaining the effort needed to get the job done.

The structure of the New Economy reading groups is set out at <https://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/new-economy>. The booklets are well put together for individual reading, but discussion does add depth and insight. If there is interest in a second reading group, winter is here and Zoom remains a good method. Please contact Mike Coote, details in the Contact Book or [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com) for advice.

*Dave Hamilton*

## Clerk's email circulation list

Like all Clerks I am sure, I receive many requests to circulate non-Quaker matters on my Clerks' email circulation list; such things as petitions and other items that Friends feel may be of interest to others. Up to now I have always had a strict rule that I only circulate Quaker items to my general circulation list, one reason being not to overwhelm Friends with too much, but also the matter of GDPR consent.

If there is time, I often send such items to the newsletter but sometimes they come too late. Being in a dilemma about a recent request, I emailed the data protection person at Quaker Life on this matter. Her reply is copied below:

*"You are correct in your current procedure; you would have to get new and separate consent for sending non-Q material. You could add another check-box to the same form you use for consent but you would then end up with two different mailing lists and it could get complicated. I would continue as you are, but perhaps make everyone aware that if they don't get something submitted in time for the newsletter there won't be any other way of sharing".*

Therefore, the Clerk requests that no non-Quaker items are sent for general circulation. They can be sent to the newsletter if in time. Otherwise Friends can circulate from their own email account to others who they think may be interested.

*Sheila Boyer, Co-ordinating Clerk*

## Appeals

In these strange times we cannot put donations in our Appeal Box. Our chosen charities could lose out on much needed donations. If you can, please make your donation through the appeal's website below. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can send via the Meeting Treasurer. Just send cheques or 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.**

## Toilet Twinning – Children's choice of Appeal

In November the Children's Meeting looked at the problems many communities around the world face due to lack of running water, proper sanitation and toilets. We looked at examples of toilet twinning projects in Africa and Nepal and would like to be able to twin the Children's Meeting with a new toilet for a family. The impact of this would be life-changing, helping to prevent diseases, bringing safety, in particular for women and girls, and possibly reducing the daily work load involved in collecting and carrying water long distances. Please go to [Toilet twinning.org](http://Toilet twinning.org) to learn more about what they do.



In 2014 the Main Meeting twinned our two toilets with toilets in Ethiopia and Nepal. You will have seen the pictures of those toilets in the corridors. This month Children's Meeting have a target of £60 to be twinned with a new toilet project.

Please make donations to the Meeting Treasurer rather than direct to the charity. Just send cheques to the Meeting House or 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.

*Helen Ledger*

**The real index of civilization is when  
people are kinder than they need to be.  
Louis de Bernieres, novelist (b. 8 Dec 1954)**

## 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](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)

**Brighton Young Quakers** are a group of 18-30ish year olds who are Quaker, Quaker-ish or Quaker-interested. As we are unable to meet in person we will meet every Tuesday at 18:30 on Zoom, for some worship and a catch up. For details and to obtain the Zoom link, email [brightonyaf@gmail.com](mailto:brightonyaf@gmail.com). You can find the link on our Facebook group or our WhatsApp group, which can be joined via this link: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IqONGmLatpx9pWJtKPdDEa>

*Matt Alton*

### **Being Friends Together**

The East and West groups continue to get together regularly via Zoom. A third Being Friends Together group started recently but it is not too late to be part of the group. Being Friends Together is a good opportunity to get to know Friends better, learn more about Quakerism and share spiritual journeys. If you would like to join please contact the elders via [bjelders@outlook.com](mailto:bjelders@outlook.com)

**Clerk's mailing list** - if you are not on the list and would like to be, please contact Sheila Boyer at [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)

*George Fox wrote to Friends in November 1663, during the time of much persecution:*

Sing and rejoice, ye Children of the Day and of the Light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of Darkness that may be felt: and Truth doth flourish as the rose, and the lilies do grow among the thorns, and the plants atop of the hills, and upon them the lambs doth skip and play. And never heed the tempests nor the storms, floods nor rains, for the Seed Christ is over all and doth reign. And so, be of good faith and valiant for the Truth.

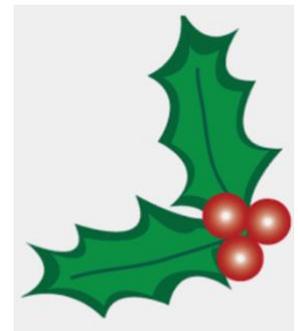
*Quaker Faith & Practice 20.23*

## **Christmas Meetings**

Meetings to be held over Christmas via Zoom

Friday December 25 – 10.30 – 11.30

Sunday December 27 – 10.30 – 11.30



# Brighton Meeting diary

## Meetings for Worship

### Regular Meetings for Worship

Brighton Meeting House is temporarily closed but we have an online Meeting for Worship via Zoom on Sundays - 10.30–11.30 am.

We now hope to be open in the New Year for Sunday Meetings for Worship, blended with the online Meeting. Please see page one.

If you would like to join online please email [bgelders@outlook.com](mailto:bgelders@outlook.com). If you wish to attend in person please email the office at [admin@brightonquakers.net](mailto:admin@brightonquakers.net).

### Children's Meetings

Next Children's Meeting will be held via Zoom from 10 – 11am on **December 20**. Watch this space for next year's dates.

The Meetings will be led by Mike Coote, Christine Habgood and Helen Ledger.

If you would like to join please contact Helen Ledger or [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com)

## Workshops and community events

### Open Meeting

We can no longer have Open Meeting in the Quiet Room but after Meeting for Worship via Zoom on Sundays, we have the opportunity to go into 'breakout rooms' with 3 or 4 other people to have an informal chat about the Meeting before we go back to the main meeting for final goodbyes. For those attending Meeting House in person in the New Year please see item 13 on page 3 for guidance.

## Meetings for Quaker business

The next MWB is on **Thursday January 7** at 6.30 pm. Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Thursday December 31**. The only exceptions are emergencies that arise during the week before MWB. Please email [brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakerclerk@gmail.com) or write to clerks c/o The Meeting House.

If you are a newcomer or attender and would like to join us, 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](mailto:bgelders@outlook.com)

### Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2021

**January 16** via Zoom

March 20 at Chichester

May 15 at Worthing

July 17 at Ditchling

September 18 at Bognor Regis

November 20 at Brighton

## **Sussex and Surrey Regional Meetings provisional programme for 2021**

**Saturday January 30** - 'Simpler Meetings' 10.30 -12.45 via Zoom

Saturday March 27 - 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers' 10.30 -12.30 via Zoom

Saturday June 26 - 'Reaching Out to Russia' 10.30 – 15.30 at Dorking Quaker Meeting House

Saturday September 25 - 'We are all Quakers: a non-theist, a Christian and a Buddhist-Quaker explore what each can offer Quakerism' 10.30 -15.30 at Eastbourne Quaker Meeting House

Saturday November 27 - 'How do we reach and welcome people to Quakers in the C21st?' 10.30 -15.30 at Woking Friends Meeting House

All members and attenders are very welcome!

We hope to meet in person from June, public health situation permitting.

For more information email: [sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com](mailto:sussexandsurreyrmquakerclerk@outlook.com)

All Local and Area Meetings start at 10.30 for 11.00 and those held in a Meeting House include a bring-and-share lunch.

## **Notices**

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to [brightonquakernotices@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernotices@gmail.com). The deadline for notices is Friday evening. Please note that Notices are still read out at the end of the Zoom and Blended Meeting for Worship on Sundays.

## **Newsletter Contributions**

The editor wants the newsletter to 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](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

The deadline for the **January** newsletter is **Tuesday January 5**. 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 given.

To receive the newsletter by email please write to [brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com)

### **FOOD BANK -- Please Remember -- FOOD BANK --- FOOD BANK**

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# Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

Britain  
Yearly  
Meeting



At the Yearly Meeting held online 15 November 2020

Epistle of Britain Yearly Meeting, held online on Sunday 15 November 2020

To all Friends everywhere

“The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.” (Proverbs 19:21, *NRSV*)

This letter of greeting comes to you in a year when so many plans have been disrupted, along with our ways of working and of meeting. We had planned a week- long gathering for up to 2000 Friends of all ages to worship and build community, and to discern leadings for our yearly meeting on “Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency”. We had hoped to welcome among us many Friends from other yearly meetings. Instead, due to the coronavirus pandemic and continued uncertainty over what would be possible, our Yearly Meeting is short, held by electronic means, and for only necessary business and to worship together.

Nevertheless our greetings to you all are as warm and loving as always. We have been learning again the importance of faithfulness in keeping our meetings and building our Quaker communities, whilst discovering new and unexpected ways to connect and worship together. One hundred years since the first world gathering of Friends came together to affirm a worldwide opposition to war and to building the social conditions for peace, we are thankful to belong to our world family.

The issues of privilege and climate injustice, which have been exercising our yearly meeting, are still urgent. Inequalities have been exacerbated by the pandemic and the response to it. Tackling systemic racism is a spiritual imperative. The impact of changes in the climate grows. Work and learning on these issues continues around our yearly meeting.

In these extraordinary and challenging times, we have seen that it is possible to make changes in our way of life. We have hope. We trust that the leadings of love and truth will come right.

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting,

Clare Scott Booth Clerk

Published by Brighton Quaker Meeting  
[www.brightonquakers.net](http://www.brightonquakers.net)  
Registered as a charity in England: 1147831