



Brighton Friends News

A Monthly Publication of Brighton Quaker Meeting

July 2026

www.brightonquakers.co.uk

Issue 378

Dearest Friends,

This month, a letter that was sent to the newsletter, and with permission by its author, is being shared on P.2.

In its own perfect way, Penny's letter sums up the essence of what being a Quaker is about: to see something that's a little off, (or maybe a lot off!), and to do one's best to bring light to a situation in whatever way one is called to do.

Also, see a message from Finance and Property on two important workshops looking at the future of our Meeting House (P3).

In the same way, this newsletter is full of accounts of Friends doing just that: whether it's being brave enough to go against the status quo as in the situation in Crowborough and support asylum seekers there (P.8), being a part of a learning group exploring questions designed to create greater connection (P.9), gathering for Brighton Pride (P.10) getting ready to walk for peace (P.12) attending and sharing updates about local meetings, as Susan does with us, (P3) and getting to know a Friend a little more with this month's Profile (P.5).

In other words, every month, this newsletter shares all the ways that Friends are picking up their individual spades and actively contributing to *'the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.'*

May each Friend's updates fill you with the light of inspiration.

With love,
The newsletter x



~ A letter ~

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the work you do producing the Newsletter for our Meeting, I appreciate reading it every month. But please can you publish a correction?

On the front page of the June 2026 edition, you state that "Solstice is traditionally the day that we move from the dark towards the light". This is true of **the winter solstice**, which falls in mid-December: the longest night, the shortest day, the point where the earth's movement round the sun begins to change direction and move back towards the sun. From the point of view of humans on earth the sun appears to stand still, hence the name "Solstice", which is derived from the Latin for "Sun" and "Standing still." Traditional pre-Christian ceremonies are not just an excuse to have a party, to feast with your loved ones and light fires to keep warm in the bleak midwinter but perhaps were a way also to encourage the sun or other divine beings to come back again!

The summer solstice is the balancing opposite point, where the earth changes direction again, beginning to move away from the sun, the longest day and the shortest night! It is the time of full blooms, of fruit beginning to ripen, the cereal crops to be gathered in - fullness and joy. A time to celebrate again! You may have noticed that sunset is beginning to come a little earlier each evening since 21st June.

The other important points in the wheel of the year are the Equinoxes, when night and day are equal, the sun rising and setting at about six o'clock. This is the point of balance, a chance to experience how darkness and light work together to support life on earth. They mark the changes of the seasons: in spring we feel that summer will come, the days will lengthen and plant life, and migrating birds return; in autumn we feel how the leaves are beginning to change colour, and the days are shortening, birds begin to leave for warmer shores: winter is coming.

These circles, the earth round the sun and the moon round the earth, remind us that life is a constant process of change; that light and darkness are both an essential part of life, as are birth and death; that the procession of the seasons is older than human memory.

But nowadays we often experience unseasonal weather: stormy cold wet days in August, hot dry days in April. This is climate instability, which I think unsettles us more than we care to acknowledge....

I ask you to print an acknowledgement of wrong information, I realise this email is much too much information for now!



Penny Cloutte

Two Sundays to help decide the future of our Meeting House

Brighton Meeting is losing money. A lot of money, and for quite some time. We shall not be able to keep the Meeting House unless we sort this out. Finance & Property have spent several months now trying to discern what changes need to be made to halt this.

This is a big problem - too big for just Finance & Property Committee. We all need to get involved with working out what we want the solution to look like.



Business Meeting supported this and discerned that we shall hold facilitated workshops after meeting on **Sundays 13th & 20th September**. Ideally, we'd like people to attend both as discernment may take longer than one session. Bring along sandwiches to stave off distracting hunger pangs as we shall start straight after coffee at noon and finish by 3pm at the latest. Materials will be circulated beforehand to ensure we are all well-informed and able to participate fully in this significant process.

As well as being an existential threat to the Meeting House, this is also an exciting opportunity to work out how we can best use our wonderful building. Everyone, whether you are a long-standing Member or a recent newcomer, is asked to **put these two dates in your diary** and commit to shaping the future of Brighton Meeting House.

*Kristin Sjovorr
Convenor of Finance & Property*

Joining a Regional Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

A special Area Meeting (AM) was held on June 20th to update Friends on the work done so far towards a potential transition to a single regional Charitable Incorporated Organisation which will join together six Area Meetings. To see the full power point presentation created by Annie Holliday, Hilary Cooke and Cheryll Pitt, sign in to the Quaker App at **www.quaker.app**. I shall mention a few main points only.

The working group chose to split into three groups focussing on different aspects of the possible change. Short term issues (Green). Long term issues (Blue). Financial issues (Red).

From the Green team - Every AM will retain their independence in worship and witness while working to build trust, mutual support and cooperation as a regional charity (CIO).

From the Blue team - Create a legally compliant, financially sustainable CIO which will aim to reduce the duplicated administrative work. There will be 5 phases which could take 60 months - Research and consultation / Proposal development / Implementation planning / Transition and launch / Fully operational.

From the Red team - AMs and LMs can retain their own funds and bank accounts but a new group of regional trustees, composed of two members nominated from within each of the six AMs, will be responsible for policies and major building works. Any building work costing more than a figure to be agreed will require the new trustees to be consulted. A single accounting system for all the AMs will support the submission of a single annual report and accounts to the Charity Commission.

Then we were asked - **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** *Do you personally feel that you have enough information to contribute to a decision? If not, what sort of information do you think you need to get to that point?*

Here are a few of the points raised in the discussion that followed:

- There was strong support for and appreciation given to the members of the working groups for the enormous amount of work that has already been done;
- There was broad support for moving forwards towards joining up;
- Safeguarding needs more thought but it has been suggested that we employ someone to take up that role;
- If we don't take this forward then we will probably need to become a CIO which will be costly. BYM is strongly urging every AM to change. Joining with the other AMs and moving straight into being a CIO will save us money;
- We could afford to get paid professional help for the new trustees;
- We are trying to include Kent in the CIO;
- We are nowhere near the end of the process but it is vital that the ideas are communicated to all members. It was suggested that representatives from the working groups visit the local meetings to explain what is happening;
- In order to develop good relationships between the members of the six AMs it was suggested that an annual residential weekend be organised for business and fun. This was welcomed;
- The feeling of this meeting was that Yes, there is enough information here in order to make a decision;
- It was mentioned that there is a danger that we try to pretend that these structural changes are going to answer all our questions; that this is a long process so it will be costly in terms of time, energy and finances;
- A risk and benefits analysis is already being created.



Susan White

Our meeting communities vary in size and in the circumstances and experience of their members. Sometimes we may need to vary the ways in which we manage our meetings for church affairs in order to make better use of the talents, time and energy of our members.

Quaker Faith & Practice 3.03

Profile of a Friend: Helen Ledger



Hello, can you tell us a bit about yourself and when you first started considering yourself a Quaker? I am a retired public librarian; I specialised in working with children and teenagers and prior to retiring I was a librarian in a large secondary school. I have lived in Brighton since 2015 when I moved here after retiring and a year after my husband died. I have two wonderful children and three delightful grandchildren.

I was brought up in the Methodist Church where my dad and grandfather were both local preachers. I attended church for much of my life and prior to becoming a Quaker I'd been a member of an ecumenical church made up of 4 denominations. It was while I was attending a course at the church in 2012 called Exploring Faith Matters that the Anglican minister leading the group suggested I might like to visit Quakers as he felt I might find in them a place I felt at home. How right he was. I have loved my spiritual journey over the years exploring different pathways but now feel certain I am in my spiritual home. I first attended Farnborough Meeting where I became a member of Quakers in around 2014.

What is it that Quakerism brings to your life? I love the Quaker Testimonies in particular the Peace testimony and see them as a guide to how to try and live my life. I feel they bring a purpose to my life and have often felt led to a course of action because of the testimonies. I like the challenge and guidance the testimonies bring at both a personal and societal level. The friendship, experience and wisdom and sharing of ideas with Friends is both reassuring and very often a great comfort and support to me.

Have there been any aspects of Quakerism that you've struggled with? I am practical and a do-er rather than a scholar and often feel inadequate in my knowledge of Quaker history and Quaker writings.

How much of a part of your life involves activities connected to being a Quaker? A great deal of my life is involved with Quakers I am currently an elder, on the library committee and I am a very active member of the Sanctuary Group where leading the Asylum Seeker and Refugee cooking group takes up much of my time and we give a great deal of support and friendship to the people who attend the group. I am a Quaker rep supporting Brighton Citizens work with refugees. I'm also one of the Quaker reps on the IFCG (Interfaith contact group), an activity I feel is so important and I love the fact the Quakers are so open to and learn from people of all faiths and none.

If you could sum up what being a Quaker is in general about to someone wanting to learn- what would you say? For me Quakers is about freedom to follow your spiritual path with the guidance and wisdom of current Friends and previous Friends and through Quaker Faith and Practice. Being able to follow where your spirit leads without creeds and the need to repeat words which may not feel to be the truth. It's about being guided in a way of life where peace, justice, truth and the environment are all so important.

Do you have a favourite book or quote that sums up what being a Quaker means to you. I like the words of Parker J Palmer: "Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen for what it intends to do with you."

Carnival against fascism

On Saturday June 13th Brighton became the focus of attention when a racist demonstration, led by various right-wing groups was held in the City. Much to the joy of the people of Brighton and Hove, a very much larger, more joyful Anti Racist street festival with bands, drums, celebrities and chanting drowned out the visiting groups, and went on to prove, very emphatically, that our City will not tolerate the ugly manifestations of racism and extremism in any way.



According to Sussex Police there were an estimated 300 far right protesters and they were met by around 4000 counter-protesters. There were eight arrests in total. The 300 protesters were contained by the police at the station for a long period of time, while much of Queen's Road was turned into street party, despite some scuffles near the station. Fatboy Slim held an impromptu DJ set, calling for "More disco. Less fascism." There were also at least two Samba bands, folk singers. Much of Brighton just get on with their business as usual.



Maybe the best we can do in this sort of situation is use our judgement, search our consciences and decide for ourselves how best to uphold our communities, and what we are as individuals willing to risk to protect our precious Brighton and Hove ethos. Let's continue to do what we can to promote hope not hate.

Interfaith Contact Group committee

We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.

Maya Angelou, poet (1928-2014)

Inspiration

Below are some quotes to inspire you throughout the month of July:

"The Lord said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'"

1 Kings 19:11-12 New International Version.

Contributed by Jason Evans.

"It is not true that we pray so as to move God. It is true that in our praying God is moving us."

From On Being Liked ,by James Alison – from the Brighton Quaker Library.

"It is by our 'imperfections' that we move towards each other, towards wholeness of relationship. It is our oddities, our grittiness... that challenge us to a deeper knowledge of each other..."

Kenneth C Barnes, 1985, Quaker Faith & Practice 21.07.

~ A Celebration ~

On Sunday June 14th there was a party with tea and cakes to celebrate seven special birthdays. We now have six new octogenarians (or will by the end of September) in our Meeting, plus one new nonagenarian, Barbara. There was a chilly breeze outside, so we held it in the Lecture Room.

There were abundant cakes, good company - youngest present was just two weeks old! - and at the end Annie's granddaughter Romilly played the grand piano for us, with skill and presence.



A big thank you to all who contributed, especially those who made cakes, set up and cleared away.

A good time was had by all.

Penny Cloutte

Update regarding the community conflict in Crowborough

At our June Business Meeting, we received a report from David Martin, one of three Friends who live in Crowborough, asking for support from our Meeting with their activities in support of the asylum seekers who live in a converted military camp outside Crowborough. A group called "Crowborough Says No" has for some time been mobilising in the town, encouraging hostility against those living in the camp.

Their activities include marching up the High Street every Sunday morning shouting anti-immigration slogans, and intimidating anybody who offers to help the camp residents. A smaller group of local people including David have set up a group to support the asylum seekers, both by material aid, assistance with language learning, and bearing witness in the High Street. This group has over 1,000 supporters on Facebook but a smaller number of people who turn up with banners to stand in the High St as the marches go by.

At our June Business Meeting we agreed to collect some material aid for the asylum seekers, which has been delivered to Lewes Meeting House and is being distributed. We also agreed that some of us would attend in person to support the group bearing witness in the High Street.

The marches and also the camp itself, have received national media coverage, but there has been very little coverage of the intimidation by the marchers, and of the organisation who seeks to convey a message of welcome.

David's report and the Minutes of our June Business Meeting were circulated to all on our Clerk's Mailing list in June. One Brighton Friend went to Crowborough two weeks to join the Friends, but the march had been cancelled "because it was Fathers' Day." The following week the marchers were back, and they were more aggressive to David's group, calling them "lefty lemons". Sustaining a supportive presence on the Sundays is becoming more challenging.

The narrative which "Crowborough Says No" is promoting is that the asylum seekers, who are single men, are a danger to the women and girls of the town - a claim for which there is no evidence. The marchers are rumoured to be getting support from outside the town. Some of them are dressing up as "militias" and setting up patrols for "security", annoying and intimidating local residents. They fly drones over the camp, and photograph people arriving to visit.

However, in the meantime, a bag of clothes has been collected from our meeting and has been distributed in the camp. Lewes Meeting has adopted the conflict in the town as a Quaker concern.

In a message of thanks, David reminded us that the Home Office rotates the occupants of the camp every 90 days, so the need for material support is constant. Most of the men arrive with just the clothes they stand up in. At our September Business Meeting having a further collection of clothes and shoes will be on our Agenda.

At our July Business Meeting we agreed to ask Friends with cars to offer lifts to Crowborough, for those who wish to go and support our Friends there. They convene at 9.30 am on Sundays. There are buses to Crowborough but they take about an hour and a half from Brighton (the 29 and 29A) so organising lifts would be very helpful.

For further information about this situation, please contact me or Helen Ledger or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

Penny Cloutte

Swarthmore Lecture: First Meeting for Learning Ignites Debate

The opening question of the first Meeting for Learning of the West Sussex Area Learning Group asked: *'Which part of the body do you identify with?'* based on 1 Corinthians 12 verse 12. It resulted in several interesting responses including 'nose hair' and 'skin'. Nose hair was seen as aiding the sniffing-out of things – perhaps a kind of nasal discernment, while skin wraps around the body while being part of a bigger whole.

This meeting was based around the Swarthmore Lecture which examined the legacy of early Quakerism and its concomitant tensions. Sue Curd gave an informative summary of its themes and Friends were asked to consider the frictions within Quakerism today. The desire to live simply could conflict with Quaker investments; pacifism with military power; while spirituality could be disrupted by daily distractions.

One friend offered a vivid example of how tensions can arise between us in relation to the important issue of climate change. She referenced those Quakers who are advocates of extreme climate action in contrast to those who favour a more familiar approach of lobbying or silent protest.

Finally, Friends were asked to imagine what tomorrow's Quakers might find surprising in Quakerism today or what early Quakers might find strange about our current practices. Diversity in the range of belief within our community would surely surprise our forebears while Friends felt that modern slavery and climate change, to name but two issues mentioned, could be areas where future Friends may wish we had done more.

This lively and wide-ranging discussion is part of a series that aims to build bonds within our community. Area Meeting Learning Group members are Jane Dahill, Ruth Jones, Gerard Rosenberg, Sue Curd, Mary Halpin and Heather Brayshaw (with thanks to Sam Walton for his contributions early in the process).



Gerard Rosenberg

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

George Fox, 1656, Quaker Faith and Practice 1.02

Fundraising For Our Meeting

A sub-group of Finance and Property Committee met in May to consider how to increase income of the Meeting through grant awards and fundraising activities. A number of ideas were put forward, we agreed to host an evening of writing by members of our community, as well as a ceilidh to be our first events. We will, however, need members of the community to get involved. This can be on an event by event basis. This working group is time limited to December 2026.

Anyone interested please contact me, details in the Contact Book, or write to me at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded on to me.

*Michelle Roberts,
Fundraising Convenor*

Join Us at Brighton Trans Pride



Brighton Young Adult Friends have come together in the group's monthly meetings to organise a Quaker group at Brighton Trans Pride on **Saturday 18th July 2026**, to share our pride, allyship, and loving affirmation of our trans and non-binary friends both within and beyond our Quaker community. We warmly

welcome those in our Brighton Meeting and wider Sussex West Area Meeting to join us.

We are still finalising our plans (including timing and location) and we have set up a WhatsApp group to plan this collaboratively. If you would like to be join us at Brighton Trans Pride, please email brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and it will be forwarded on to me – we can then either add you to the WhatsApp group or share our confirmed plans with you closer to the time.

Niamh Carmichael

~ Pride Weekend Coordination ~

Our tradition is that on the Saturday afternoon of Pride weekend we host a garden party in the Meeting House garden, with beverages and baked goods by donation. We also hold a Meeting for Worship in the small garden. There have been musical performances in previous years. This year it is on **Saturday 1st August**.



At Business Meeting in May, we agreed to host this again this year. In order to do so, we need people to be prepared to coordinate before and during the event. We also need people willing to provide eatables and to act as host during the event. Any Friend willing to take part in this event, which is an amazing opportunity for outreach and inreach, please contact us, details in the Contact Book, or write to us at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded on to us.

Michelle Roberts & Rowan

~ July's Appeal ~



Freedom From Torture are a British charity who support refugees and asylum seekers who have been tortured before coming to the UK. They provide clinical services, which directly support men, women and children who have survived physical and psychological torture. These holistic rehabilitation services help survivors of tortures to rebuild their lives.

In 2023, they supported 713 survivors of torture directly. Their top future priority is expanding access to these therapies, standing alongside survivors of torture as they rebuild their lives. Freedom From Torture also campaign for better treatment of all asylum seekers, for instance their recent *Stop the Flights* campaign against the Rwanda refugee expulsion scheme.

They pressure the government to apply the law consistently, which has helped push back against heartless policies like turning back migrant boats in the channel. Freedom From Torture have made significant changes in recent years to make sure that their services are guided by people who have survived torture and now hear the voices of survivors at every level in the organisation. They also support asylum seekers in making asylum claims where the torture they have experienced forms part of their claim for asylum. Further information about why their work is still necessary, when torture is prohibited by international law, is available on their website: www.freedomfromtorture.org

Eleanor Humphrey

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 freedomfromtorture.org

Alternatively, you can send a donation via the Meeting Treasurer. Just send a cheque to Meeting House or do a bank transfer:

Account name: Brighton Quaker Meeting

Sort Code: 08-92-99

Account number: 65009567

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

Request for donations

Current members of our refugee cooking group are from many parts of the world. Please consider donating sanitary products, specifically sanitary pads as culturally these are more acceptable for most of the women. Donations can be left in the box near the automatic door into the Meeting Room. The women cannot afford to buy these necessary items on the weekly £9.00 they receive from the Home Office. Regular donations are particularly welcomed.

*Helen Ledger
Sanctuary Group*

Asylum Seeker and Refugee Cooking Group



The Cooking Group which is run by the Quaker Sanctuary Group has been running for 3 years. We support the residents of the Home Office run hotels in Hove. Sessions are held at the Meeting House and in turn different groups of refugees cook food that is a 'taste of their home country'. The sessions are happy occasions when people from the hotel can meet together, cook together and relax. Our volunteers say how rewarding it is. We currently meet on a

Tuesday morning and need 3 volunteers a week to run the group. The group is entirely financed by Quakers. The menu is planned by the hotel residents and we buy the food.

We need support! Volunteer helpers needed - Could you become a volunteer, usually only once a month, possibly twice, from 10.00a.m. - 2.30p.m.?

Financial support - could you make a one-off or a regular donation towards the cost of the cooking group?

To find out more please contact me or write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

*Helen Ledger
Sanctuary Group*

~ A Quaker Silent Walking Vigil for Peace ~

On Saturday September 19th 2026, from 12p.m. to 4p.m there will be a Quaker silent walking vigil for peace. The walk will be about 1.5 miles long and people are invited to join in for any or all of that. There will be a Meeting for Worship at the start and finish, and possibly somewhere along the route too. You can register now to be a part of it at: www.quakervigilforpeace.org The date has been chosen for its proximity to the United Nations International Day of Peace. Please note that **the route is not yet finalised and details will be confirmed nearer the time.**



Helen Ledger and Susan White

Even a purely moral act that has no hope of any immediate and visible political effect can gradually and indirectly, over time, gain in political significance.

Vaclav Havel, writer, Czech Republic president (1936-2011)

~ Come join Brighton Christian Climate Action ~



Sea Blessing

Sun Aug 16th
at 3 pm

On the
Groyne
by the
Palace Pier

for info
buff@stlukesonline.co.uk
anthony.murley@me.com

You're invited to The Blessing of the Sea

We will be:

- Giving thanks for all that the sea provides for us. (Perhaps bring something that represents this – your sports gear, artwork, etc);
- Celebrating restoration of local marine ecology;
- Saying sorry for all the damage we have done;
- Asking for help in caring better for the oceans and all waters;
- Blessing the sea with a driftwood cross.

Ruth Urbanowicz

~ Community in Action ~

Fourth Sunday Shared Lunch

26th July, 23rd August, 27th September, 25th October, 22nd November.

Join us for regular Friendly lunches at 12.30 - Everyone welcome. Vegetarian soups & bread provided, plus shared dishes. Edible or financial (£2-£3) contributions appreciated.

It's a team effort. Help is appreciated:

- Setting up, heating up, and clearing away.
- Making newcomers feel welcome.
- Usually ends with a cup of tea to thank the helpers 🧡🧡

Helen Holtam

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

Young Adult Friends meet together in the Meeting House to chat, worship, discuss and learn on Quaker themes, and enjoy a hearty shared meal. We usually meet on the third Monday of the month, but we're **meeting a week earlier this month on Monday 13th July** at 7pm, and warmly welcome anyone between 18 and a very flexible 40ish years old who's interested in joining. We have an 'information only' WhatsApp group for logistical reminders - if you'd like to be added, please email brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and it will be forwarded on to me.

The dates for the rest of the year, (all Mondays) are: 17th August, 21st September, 19th October, 16th November and 21st December.

Niamh Carmichael

Connecting Friends meet in the Meeting House on the first Monday of the month. It is a time to get to know each other. At present we take one item from Advices & Queries, each read it aloud in turn, and then reflect on it together in silence for about 15 minutes. We then share our reflections, spending about an hour together in our groups. Following this, we meet together as a whole group to share drinks and snacks – everyone is asked to contribute – and we break no later than 9pm. It is important that everyone understands that this is a confidential exercise, not to be shared outside our own group, either in person or on social media. Zoom Friends are invited. The Elders are convening the July Meeting so please contact them at bqpastoralfriends@outlook.com so we can organise a Zoom link and laptop. The next meeting is **Monday 3rd August, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.** Please arrive at the back door. Usually we have the whole building, so we split into small groups (of four or five people in each) and use different rooms.

Dates For Your Diary Brighton Meeting Diary

~ Regular Meetings for Worship ~

Sundays 9.30–10.15a.m. Quiet Room
10.30–11.30a.m. Blended Meeting

If you wish to join via Zoom please contact bgelders@gmail.com

5.00–5.45p.m. in-person Meeting
For more information please contact bgelders@gmail.com

Wednesdays 12.30–1.00p.m. in person only in the Quiet Room

Children's Meeting

Children's Meeting is where Friends who are aged from birth to about 13 learn about Quakers and our way of life. Friends who are aged under 2 should be accompanied by a carer, carers of older children may stay if they wish. It takes place from 10.45a.m. – 11.30a.m. when carers are responsible for their child/ren.

Each week there is a leader who is DBS checked and a helper. There is a need for more helpers to enable the Children's Meeting to happen. We do need a DBS check as well as volunteer registration forms. If you are interested, please contact the one of us, details in the Contact Book, or write to us/at brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com and your email will be forwarded on to us.

*Arlette Bauza-Philips & Michelle Roberts
Children's Meeting Co-convenors*

Workshops and community events

Welcome Meeting

Welcome Meeting is held on the second, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month, at **12 noon**, and is open to everyone – visitors, attenders and members. It is a chance to share how Meeting was for us and to discuss our Quaker faith. Newcomers are particularly welcome - come and chat with some friendly people about your impressions of Meeting or ask questions about Quakerism in an open and informal way.

Meetings for Quaker business

Local Meeting for Worship for Business in 2026

Sunday 2nd August at 12 p.m. in the Meeting Room - blended

Items for MWB must be sent to the Clerk at least one week before the meeting, i.e. **Sunday 26th July**. 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.

Area Meetings for Worship for Business in 2026

Wednesday 15th July 7.00p.m. at Brighton (online only)

Saturday 19th September 10.30a.m. at Worthing and online

Thursday 19th November 7.00p.m. at Littlehampton (online only)

Notices

Notices to be read out after Meeting for Worship should be sent to brightonquakernotices@gmail.com. **The deadline for notices is Friday evening.**

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, along with a profile photograph of yours, if you're comfortable to, to the Editor, Laura Fraser at laura@lfraser.com

The deadline for the **August** newsletter is **Friday 31st July** – always 2 days before Business Meeting. 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.

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of Brighton Quaker Meeting or any other Quaker organization

We are looking into including a notice board section where Friends can share details to do with their work and activities. If you'd like to share something, please do send along to Laura's email above.

To receive the newsletter by email, and to comply with the GDPR law, please write to brightonquakernewsletter@gmail.com.

In our meetings for worship we seek through the stillness to know God's will for ourselves and for the gathered group. Our meetings for church affairs, in which we conduct our business, are also meetings for worship based on silence, and they carry the same expectation that God's guidance can be discerned if we are truly listening together and to each other, and are not blinkered by preconceived opinions. It is this belief that God's will can be recognised through the discipline of silent waiting which distinguishes our decision-making process from the secular idea of consensus. We have a common purpose in seeking God's will through waiting and listening, believing that every activity of life should be subject to divine guidance.

Quaker Faith & Practice 3.02.