

Lewes Quaker Meeting Newsletter

February 2024



“... We need to see ourselves as God’s plumbers, working on tanks and channels for the living water that can quicken the daily life of men, women and children ... Jesus taught us about patterns of living that make for wholeness And all the patterns that Jesus showed us of ... channels of caring and service challenge the patterns of Mammon that offer quicker and more showy results, but that end in the debris of a possessive society that allows the living water to run away into the sand. Good plumbers build to last; they don’t fall

for fashions that rust and fade and crack. Seventeenth-century Friends were good plumbers. In and out of ... jail, ... court, counting house and farmstead [they] challenged the conventions of the day - in politics, in commerce, in the law, in the established church, ... in attitudes to war, poverty and crime. In face of the ... institutions of their day they found living answers about the ways in which men and women might go about their business of living together.”

- from *Quaker Faith & Practice* 23.07; Roger Wilson, 1976

Sunday morning Meetings for Worship

10:30 a.m. start. A blended meeting, in person at the Meeting House and on Zoom. The Zoom link is available from the clerks on request; it is the same week to week.

Tea and coffee is once again available after meeting for worship, as Friends begin to re-occupy the whole of the meeting house.

Wednesday lunchtime Meetings for Worship

Starting 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the meeting house, from Wednesday, 7 February. All are welcome to attend. Tea and coffee available afterward, from the kitchen hatch. Welcome back, Friends!

Children’s Meeting

... is held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, starting at 10:30 a.m. Children and young people join Friends in the main meeting for worship for the last few minutes of meeting for worship.

If you have questions, or you would like to bring your children to meeting for the first time, please contact Sara, our children’s worker, at saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk

Please see Pages 3 - 4 for an update on children’s and young people’s meetings at Lewes.

Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs (Business Meeting):

Sunday, 4th February - 12:30 p.m. at the meeting house. Please bring your own lunch, although tea and coffee will be available. The agenda will include updates from the project development group and business plan working group. ~ Business meetings are usually held on the first Sunday each month, at 12:30 p.m. after meeting for worship. All Friends are welcome, but attenders should speak to a clerk beforehand if they plan to attend.



Lewes Friends gather at The Depot on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for coffee and a chat. No need to book; just turn up and join in

fellowship with Friends.

Vigil on Wednesdays - Peace for Palestine

A vigil to witness for peace in Palestine and Israel is held each Wednesday from 6 - 7 p.m. on Cliffe Bridge.

Come join with others in a silent vigil to express your care and concern for all people caught up in this conflict. This event is non-political. Bring a candle to light, if you wish.



Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Centre, hosts a number of **online meetings for worship** each week. These are freely available for anyone to join. For a link and details, see [Worship - Woodbrooke](#) . All are welcome.

Discussion Groups

Following a successful trial last year, we plan to meet for Quaker-related discussions from 12.15 - 1.15 p.m. on the third Sunday of alternate months, starting 18 February in the meeting house.

Suggested topics include continuous revelation, Quaker testimonies and each of the Advices and Queries. We will decide the topic nearer the time, or on the day should the spirit lead us!

These meetings are open to all. Come to contribute or just listen, we will be pleased to see you. We will review how it is going in six months.

Upcoming dates for your diary are:

18 February
21 April
16 June

Hope to see you there, Friends.

Theresa and Chris,
on behalf of Pastoral Care & Eldership Team [PaCET]

Area Meeting will be held on **Sunday, 10th March, at Eastbourne Meeting House, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.** It will include a study session on “The Pros and Cons of Merging SEAQM Trustees with those of other Area Meetings.” All Friends are welcome to attend. An agenda and Zoom link will be circulated in advance.

In December, Lewes Meeting raised £ 353 for Quaker Social Action, a good cause chosen by Wallands Circle.

And, due to “match funding”, the first week’s collection of £195 was doubled, meaning that in total QSA received **£548** as a result of our December appeal.

Many thanks for your generosity, Friends.

Christ Church Thinktank will be held on **21st February**, 7:30 - 9:00 pm, where our Friend Bob Harwood will speak on **“Climate Change: How do we achieve Net Zero?”**

There is widespread agreement that the planet is warming as a result of the release of greenhouse gases. Bob’s talk will emphasise that the science is simple and incontrovertible. But the mindset needed for resolution of the problem receives less attention, even though calls for action have been made by many.

Bob has degrees in mathematics and meteorology from Imperial College, worked in the atmospheric physics department at Oxford, and in 1976 was appointed Professor of Atmospheric Science at the University of Edinburgh, where he led the UK’s contribution to the Microwave Sounder Instrument on NASA’s Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite & Earth Observing System.

Thinktanks are held at Christ Church, and streamed live by Zoom. Please email David Smith if you wish to attend, and for a Zoom link: j.d.smith@sussex.ac.uk



Lewes Friends Reading Group will meet again on Wednesday, 28 February, to discuss The Fear Index by Robert Harris. The reading group usually meets on the

fourth Wednesday of each month in each other’s homes, although might make a meet at the meeting house in future. All are welcome to attend; please speak to Jane Goyder or email janegoyder@msn.com for more details.

In February, Friars Circle will promote the **Good Cause**. The rota for the following months is:

- March - *Needlemakers*
- April - *Wallands*
- May - *Cliffe*

The Good Cause for February is Medical Aid for Palestinians, chosen by Friars Circle.



Medical Aid for Palestinians [MAP] works for the health and wellbeing of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees, providing medical aid and also developing local capacity to ensure long-term

development of the Palestinian healthcare system.

With tens of thousands of Palestinians injured by Israel’s ongoing bombardment, medical care is more essential than ever, yet hospitals have been forced to close because of ongoing military attacks. Please help Palestinians by emailing your MP to save Gaza’s hospitals. Details can be found online here: [MAP email your MP link here](#)

The situation is so dire, MAP has launched an emergency appeal for growing critical needs in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, resulting from the escalation of violence.

Medical Aid for Palestinians is calling on the international community to take urgent steps to secure a ceasefire. They seek an end to the collective punishment of Gaza’s civilian population and unimpeded safe access for humanitarian supplies and medical teams into and around Gaza.

Friends, please give generously to this worthy cause. Donations can be made after meeting for worship on Sundays in February, or online at: [Donate to MAP emergency fund](#)

Children’s and Young People’s Meetings

Following the recent exploration of how Lewes Meeting wants to look after its children and young people, we are pleased to announce that Sara Todd has been employed to continue

running the twice monthly children's meeting. These meetings happen on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month and are for pre-school and primary age children. Quaker themes and history are gently presented within a caring, fun and creative environment.

If you are interested in your children attending, please contact Sara on Saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk or 07762 889545. Once your children are familiar with the setting, it is hoped you will leave them in the care of Sara and her volunteer helper, and join the main meeting for worship. All those associated with or volunteering at children's meeting are DBS-checked.

In addition to the children's meeting, we are pleased to launch a young people's meeting which we hope will run once a month, starting on 24th March 2024. This group will be more autonomous, with a discussion format, and opportunities to meet adults from our meeting and hear about how Quakers has shaped their lives. Do encourage your secondary age young people to come and help form this group.

For all the adults in Lewes Meeting - we hope that *everyone* will visit a children's or young people's meeting at least once. To do this, we need to ensure that a DBS check is in place. To start this process, please contact me on squirrelnutkin25@gmail.com. Many thanks for your continued support.

Theresa Samms

Lewes Climate Hub: Wellbeing of Body, Mind and Spirit

Lewes Climate Hub is hosting a series of workshops, talks, activities and other events, many free, some low-cost and bookable via EventBrite. All are aimed at helping people feel balanced, energised and inspired for the year ahead.

All events will be held at Lewes Climate Hub at 32 High Street, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. A sample of available sessions is listed below:

3 February, 11 a.m. *Creative wand-making with twigs and found objects* - FREE, suitable for all ages

8 February, 1 p.m. - *Soup and cinema: "My Octopus Teacher"* - FREE

9 February, 1:30 p.m. - *Yoga workshop* - £4 entry fee - book via EventBrite

14 February, 1:30 p.m. - *Climate Café with a talk by Jack Broadley* - FREE

15 February, 1 p.m. - *Soup and cinema: "I Am Greta"* - FREE

More details, including further events, can be found at this link: [How to be a Well Being | Lewes Climate Hub](#). Hope to see some of you there, Friends!

"I beg you, bear with one another in love"

These words are the theme of this year's **World Day of Prayer** service. Each year March 1st is celebrated as the World Day of Prayer; around the world people hold services using a programme arranged by a different country so that for 24 hours our thoughts and prayers are centred around the people of one country.



This year the service has been arranged by the Christian women of Palestine, and although the actual words of the service were prepared before the current violence, they help us to focus on this war-torn community.

In Lewes the service will be held at the Church of **St John the Baptist Southover at 11 a.m. on Friday 1st March**, followed by a ploughman's lunch.

Quakers, including some in our meeting, have been present in Palestine for many years. There is a Quaker school in Ramallah, and we may well have experience and knowledge to share with others.

Christina M Lawson



Continuing Explorers

This group is for anyone new or fairly new to Quakers; it aims to

answer questions and share experiences of Quaker faith and worship. The next meeting will be held on Monday, 19 February, at 13 Tanners Brook, Lewes, to explore Advices & Queries. If you plan to attend, please email John for details: johnashcroft57@gmail.com

Yearly Meeting 2024 will take place at Friends House and online between 26 - 30 July 2024. The long weekend will include a celebration for the 400th Anniversary of George Fox's birth. Friends will also share discernment as an all-age community in exploration sessions, and a chance to engage creatively with the themes of Yearly Meeting.

The theme is ***Integrity and Truth***. With a general election expected in 2024, integrity in media and politics is on the agenda. Sessions will focus on how to find kinder ground on which to listen, disagree, and enable a shared quest for truth.

All members and regular attenders at all Quaker meetings in Britain are welcome to attend. There is no charge for participation but you will need to arrange your own transport and accommodation if you plan to attend in person at Friends House. More details can be found here: [YM 2024 Programme | Quakers in Britain](#) Bookings open on 11th March.



Friends, a member of our meeting is **urgently seeking a reliable second-hand car**. Our Friend is not *au fait* with mechanical matters and would prefer to purchase from

someone they know and trust. Are you planning to sell your car? Do you know someone who is? It can be difficult to find a trustworthy seller, or the time to research everything one needs to know in order to make a major purchase of this kind. It might be that someone in the meeting can help. ~ As this matter requires some discretion, please email the clerks at quakerclerkslewes@gmail.com - and we will pass your message on. Many thanks in advance.

Vigil for Climate Justice

Christian Aid campaigns for climate justice, alongside Tearfund, Christian Climate Action, Arocha, the Salvation Army, Cafod and many other charities.

They invite Friends to give an hour to pray and act for climate justice between 14 - 24 February. Starting on Ash Wednesday people from across the UK will hold vigil outside Parliament for ten days and nights, to pray for environmental and climate justice.

All are welcome to join this vigil in person or from home, to give thanks for the earth and all that is in it, to lament damage that has been done, to speak out for justice for our global neighbours who have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones, and to seek ways of hope and transformation.

More information is available on the Christian Aid website here: [NFIFF Lent Vigil for Climate Justice - Christian Aid](#)



Development Project End of January Update

The team photo above was taken at the handover meeting on 26 January. Pictured are those who have been central to seeing the work through, i.e. Matthew and Alex of Valley Builders, Richard and Babo from Ecotecture, and Sue, Helen and Chris of the Project Group. Jo Saady, lead architect from Ecotecture, was not present, but it was Jo who had the overall concept and plans for alterations to the building that were possible within its age and Listed Building status, while achieving improved accessibility and sustainability.

Final progress report: Many Friends will have had the chance to see the outcome of 15 months' work (and over £600,000 of investment) on the building. There have been very positive feelings, which is rewarding to those closely involved.

The project group has seen the work at all stages, from muddy below-ground laying of drains, through the worries of the wobbly high retaining wall, to the building of new walls, fitting out the kitchen and flat, and final decorating and carpeting to make it feel like a home and not a building site.

There are a few matters to be finished, not least the new flooring needed in the community room. Then it is over to Friends to find the best arrangement of furniture and fixtures and to learn the practicalities of living in our new surroundings.

The builders aim to leave around 5th February. Thereafter contact with them will be as needed for practicalities and, we trust, once we are settled in, a thank you party for them and their skilled workers, along with those from Ecotecture.

Fundraising: We still need money! Major amounts to cover the loans that Area Meeting and some individual Friends have made so that the bills can all be paid, though rent from the flat will be of significant help over the next few years, and lesser amounts for new furniture and fittings that will prove desirable. So please keep up your generosity - in cash or in kind. (However, please don't gift us items without first checking with Premises Committee that they are what is needed!)

If you would like to contribute you can find ways of giving at www.lewesquakers.org.uk or www.justgiving.com/campaign/LewesMH. If you have ideas for fundraising you can discuss them with Patricia Cockrell on 01273 474884 or David Martin on 01892 663522.

Chris Lawson
On behalf of the Project Group



WOODBROOKE

400 years ago George Fox was born and Woodbrooke will mark the anniversary with several opportunities to learn more about the man and his inspiration. Stuart Masters has 4 evening sessions online:

- March 13: George Fox: an evangelical perspective
- March 19: George Fox in his own words: looking at passages with fresh eyes
- April 25: George Fox: a conservative Quaker perspective
- 18 June: George Fox: a feminist perspective

Also, Till [flo] Krapoth will lead sessions on “story weaving” with George Fox:

- March 22: Story-weaving with George Fox: learning and growing
- April 19: Story-weaving with George Fox: departures

There are many other courses on a wide variety of topics, mainly provided online. These are listed in the brochure *WOODBROOKE LEARNING* available for borrowing, and full listings can be seen online at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses where bookings can also be made.

Christina M Lawson

Sussex East Area Meetings in 2024



Sunday 10th March - at Eastbourne meeting house, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. - theme: *The Pros and Cons of Merging SEAQM Trustees with those of other AM s*

Saturday 11th May in person / Zoom - **Lewes Meeting House** - 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. - theme: *Community Resilience*

Sunday 9th June - at Herstmonceux Meeting House, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. - theme: *Forgiveness & Connectedness*

Sunday 1st September - at Seaford - 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. - theme: *The Importance of Diversity*

Saturday 16th November - on Zoom - 10 a.m. - 12 noon

Surrey & Sussex Regional Meetings

Saturday 23rd March - All day event on theme of *Equality*, starting 10:30 a.m. at **Lewes Meeting House**

Saturday 22nd June - “George Fox in his own words” -led by Stuart Masters, at Brighton Meeting House / Zoom, *details to follow*

Saturday 28th September - “Peace”, at a venue in Guildford; *details to follow*

Saturday 23rd November - *details to follow*

Please note: All Friends, members and attenders, are encouraged to attend Area and Regional Meetings.



Lewes Meeting Contacts

Clerks: John Ashcroft, Liz Brooks and David Martin at quakerclerkslewes@gmail.com

Pastoral Care and Eldership Team [PaCET]: Tim Pitt-Payne (convenor), David Hitchin, Chris Lawson, Caroline Pybus, Theresa Samms, Nancy Wall

Website: www.lewesquakers.org.uk

Website editor: Drew Fisher
ajfscorpio@hotmail.com

Newsletter: Liz Brooks realgirltribe@gmail.com

Children’s meeting: Sara at saralucytodd@yahoo.co.uk

Safeguarding: Helen Thomas
helen.thomas62@btinternet.com

Circles for pastoral care & support:

Cliffe - Berta Busby, convenor

Friars - Veryan Greenwood and Anna Milner-Gulland, convenors

Needlemakers - Geoff Halsey, convenor

Wallands - Bronwyn Harwood, convenor

Sussex East Area Meeting Clerk: Sally Avis at sally.aviss@btinternet.com

Deadline for the March newsletter is 27th February.

Please send news, photos, items of interest and information on upcoming events to realgirltribe@gmail.com, for inclusion in the March newsletter.



The season of Lent is fast approaching - and churches in Lewes are offering a variety of study groups and services, to which all are welcome:

Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. - Christ Church - “Act on Poverty”

Led by Claire Bell, using the “Act on Poverty” material from Christian Aid, this course will be at 1.30 pm every Wednesday, starting on 14 February. For more information, see [CHRISTIAN AID CAMPAIGNS LINK](#)

Monday mornings at 11 a.m. - St Anne’s - “Heart in Pilgrimage”

Led by Peter Shears, we will consider St Mark's Gospel through poetry, the Bible and prayer. Sessions will include open-ended discussions, with poetry as stimulus material. Starting at 11 am on 19 and 26 February, and 4 and 11 March.

Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. - St Thomas’s - “The depths of prayer”

Four talks on mystical prayer followed by discussion, led by Rev Ben Brown. At 7:00 pm on 21 and 28 February and 6 and 13 March.

Contemplative services at St Anne’s: “CARITAS”, a monthly contemplative service with quiet communion, returns at 6:30 pm on Sunday 18 February and thereafter.

No need to book these events; just turn up on the day and join in fellowship.