

# FRIARGATE NEWS

September 2020

Issue 23

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*A rainbow-amid-mountains moment in Norway. Not this summer!*

## *Things which are eternal*

Eternity itself is too big for us humans,  
But 'things which are eternal' – or nearly so –  
Are enough to free our spirits.  
Mountains, rivers, ocean winds and currents,  
Sunsets, seasons, storms, forests,  
Night-time, the stars, glowing embers.  
Another person sitting by the fire....  
Some silence and some quiet talking.

Knowing we are all part of the same history,  
And pre-history, and birth and death –  
And happiness and sadness,  
kindness, and thoughtlessness,  
We share forgiveness  
And acceptance.

**Brenda Tyler**

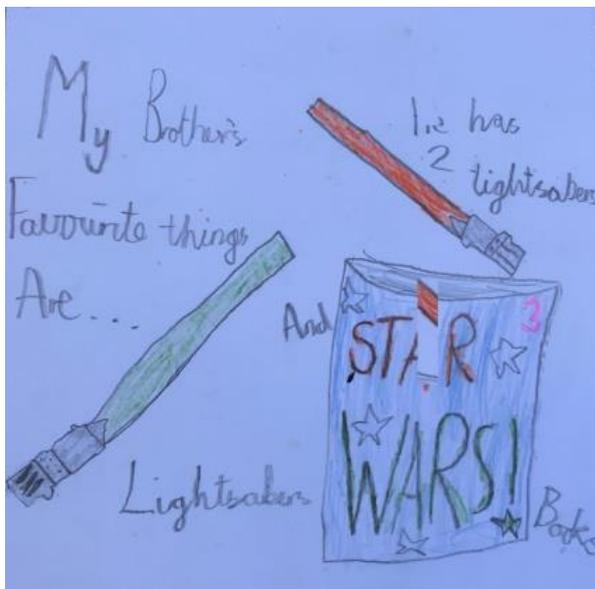
*This Friargate News has five pages. Please be sure to check the exciting opportunity & Zoom links on page 5.*

## *Friargate children's meeting in lockdown*

Just like the historical children of Reading Meeting, we could say that Friargate's children are helping to keep their meeting alive during lockdown. And just as we are enjoined to *live adventurously*, we could say that our children's meeting is doing so. But mainly we are having fun and we keep turning up every week because we are enjoying it, at least that's our perspective (we're running the group each week).

At the time of writing this, we have eight weeks experience\*. A small group of families attends each week, and with the same two adults running the group this has given us stability and continuity. We join our chat room, happily renamed Children's Meeting, at 10.30, then join meeting for worship around 11.15. One of the children shares a few words about what we have been doing. With as many as 75 people at meeting, if we don't announce our entry, people in meeting don't realise we're there. And which Quaker meeting doesn't want to know that the children have arrived?

*\*this article was originally intended for 'The Friend'*



Our lockdown vision is very simple: to nurture and support our children and their families. We don't have a particular theme or learning aims, but as we go we find that themes emerge and, believe it or not, technology is inspiring creativity. First we read Dr Seuss' *Green Eggs and Ham*. We asked the children to listen carefully then collect as many items from the story as they could from around their home. After they had gathered every single item, they took delight in presenting them to us. We then created our own

collective story using all the items. Also during the first week, a Mum had the idea of us all recording each session on a square of paper, to be shared the following week, then all the squares to be gathered together at the end of lockdown to create a book or collage or..... who knows what?

Some feedback from children in the meeting:

"I enjoyed the Lego meeting because it's fun trying to build words. I thought it was interesting the first week finding out what makes other people happy, and we all brought such different things. I like not having to travel all the way to Friargate and I enjoy making the 15cm squares afterwards and seeing what other people draw." (Laurence)

"We find it easier to get there in the morning. I like everything about it!" (Jonny)

Easter Sunday came soon after lockdown started and, following tradition, we wanted to offer some kind of child-led All Age Worship. So with the children we talked about what our gift for the world would be right now, and acted these out by doing charades. We took this (minus the charades) into meeting, inviting everyone



to share a word to represent their gift. The children firmly invited only one word from each Friend, which led to many contributions and a huge list of words. The following week we looked at all the words, using lego to represent some of them, such as friendship, kindness and chocolate. Another lego challenge - what we are missing in lockdown? - led to the building of football pitches, swimming pools and all sorts of brilliant creations. The beauty of Zoom is that older children could get stuck in with lego and were happy to be muted, while we could read stories to the younger children at the same time.

A week or two afterwards two of our children were late because their chickens had escaped and they were helping to catch them. So we've heard a little about the chickens' exploits, and about another family who shop for elderly neighbours and are being given eggs as a thank you. So perhaps it's no surprise that when we suggested writing lockdown poems, chickens would get a mention. We spent an engaging time pooling words, phrases and rhymes about lockdown.... Zoom – doom – super moon – breakout room. Then we went away to work on the words and brought poems to share the following week.

Wanting to do our bit to support our Quaker community, we decided to send drawings to Friends who aren't attending Zoom meetings, or who are living alone. So we made pictures and posted them off to people, many of whom the children don't yet know.

We are taking the opportunity to invite visitors from meeting to join us at the start of children's meeting, as a way of developing relationships across generations. One visitor has an unusual pet – a snake – which we recently met in children's meeting. Who would have thought that 'bring your pet to meeting' would be possible? We hope that as well as a snake we'll all bring whatever pets we have. We're not sure what the chickens will make of it though....



Of course it's not always easy and is a challenge to find activities that engage a wide range of ages. Sometimes our toddlers fall asleep or just disappear (thankfully we know they are all safe at home). We're trying a separate crèche to see if that works better for them. For all sorts of reasons, not all of our children have joined the Zoom meetings, but we look forward to seeing them again when we return to Friargate. Meanwhile we're inviting visits from children's groups across Area Meeting.

As with any Quaker endeavour, it's very much work in progress, but we are certainly living adventurously. We hope our assembled squares will one day be archived to record how the children of Friargate Meeting helped keep it alive in lockdown 2020.

**Bronwen Gray and Alison Ralph, May 2020.**

## *Things which are temporal (and very delightful)*

Ros Batchelor liked the look of Rose Dann's splendid cake as featured on the cover of Friargate News for August and wanted to know the recipe. Rose being far from York at present, I challenged Ros to find one herself, so she duly presents this as inspiration for Friargate cake makers.

And here is the link where she found it

<https://thepinkrosebakery.com/2015/03/17/courgette-lemon-cake>

### **Courgette & Lemon Cake**

#### **Ingredients:**

250g courgette, weighed before grating

2 large eggs

125ml vegetable oil

150g caster sugar

225g gluten-free self-raising flour ( I used [Doves Farm](#))

1/2 tsp baking soda

1/2 tsp gluten-free baking powder

1/2 tsp vanilla extract

zest of 1 lemon

*happy baking and eating!*

## **SEPTEMBER (& end August) EVENTS**

***Book Group*** Meeting via Zoom at 7.30 pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Topic: Jacqui Coule Bleakley's first novel 'Finding Ithaca', newly available on Kindle.  
Contact Donald Purves or James Barclay for the Link.

***Quiet Time at home*** Reminder: 9:00 - 9:15 every morning.

This is an opportunity to join Friends from Friargate and other York meetings to sit (stand, walk, run) in silence, knowing others are doing the same. We, and others, find this a valuable steadying resource.

The suggestion came originally from New Earswick meeting.

***Clifton Group*** Tuesday September 1st at 10.30am

Topic: if not now, when?

Via zoom or in a garden, weather dependent. For confirmation of venue, contact Alison and Graham Ralph [grahamandalison@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamandalison@hotmail.com) nearer the time.

***York Area Quaker Meeting*** Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 1.30 pm.

This will take place via zoom. Please see your copy of York Area Quakevine (coming out very early September) for agenda details and other matters of interest to us all.

***Assisted Dying: final discussion*** 11.45-12.30 on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Essay 11 & final thoughts.** Venue: breakout room after Friargate Sunday worship.

To join, follow Sunday worship link, join worship from 10.30 and stay on. If you just want the discussion, wait till 11.30 then request the breakout room. **Sarah Allen**

## ***Our Local Website: successor manager & team wanted***

As Raymond Williams ends his service to York AM's website, both AM and all five Local Meetings (LMs) have decided to re-establish their web presence on a new platform, made specifically for Quaker Meetings, called the *Quaker Meetings Network* (QMN) - <https://join.quakermeeting.org/>. The LM websites will be naturally linked. Harrogate Meeting has led the way and its new website is live already.

*We now need someone to lead on the development of Friargate's new site.*

**Phase 1: initial design and creation** This phase will inevitably be both exciting and quite time-consuming. We see this as a team effort, the Website Manager (WM) working in partnership with two or three other Friends.

- The Website Manager will register with the Quaker Meetings Network (QMN) and initiate development of the site.
- WM will have access to the site for development and editing purposes and will have authority to set up others as editors.
- Text will need to be drafted and photographs sourced.
- The QMN template, based on WordPress, is well-designed, easy to learn, intuitive.
- We hope that website managers in other LMs will provide mutual support.

**Phase 2: continuing role** Once live, the website will need regular straightforward updating with fresh information.

**To learn more:** QMN - [https://static.quakermeeting.org/files/QMN\\_Full\\_Sites.pdf](https://static.quakermeeting.org/files/QMN_Full_Sites.pdf)  
**and to see the new Harrogate LM website** - <https://harrogate.quakermeeting.org/>

If you would be interested in undertaking this role or in hearing more about it, please contact: Barbara Windle, Chris Hughes, Alison Ralph

## **NOTICE READERS & SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

**Every Sunday:** Keith Knight 07808 770274 [kk@deanknight.co.uk](mailto:kk@deanknight.co.uk)

**Collections:** 6, 13 York Amnesty 20, 27 Bethlehem Al-Shurooq School for Blind

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**Next issue's deadline:** Sunday 20 September

**Font:** Palatino Linotype 12

## ***Zoom Links for the week 6<sup>th</sup> September onwards***

Sunday worship 10.30am <https://zoom.us/j/413858597>

Wednesday 10.30am Mindful Makers <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82485150983>

Wednesday 1.15pm Midweek Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/272705047>

Friday 10.30am Coffee & Chat <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/899015062>