

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

Quakers - the Religious Society of Friends – Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hahi Tuhauwiri

April 2020

Spiritual Thought

“Never think of any right effort as being fruitless – *all* right effort bears fruit, whether we see results or not. Just concentrate on thinking and acting for peace, and inspiring others to do likewise, leaving results in God’s hands.”

Steps towards inner peace, Peace Pilgrim

News of and for Friends

Elinor, Glenn, Hamish, Josh & James Galbraith left Motueka on 18th March for their next adventure. Elinor and Glenn have been appointed as Leaders at the Titoki Christian Healing Centre near Whakatane. They extend a warm invitation to everyone to visit or stay at the centre. Non-Christians are welcome. <https://www.titoki.org.nz/>

Jan has been blogging daily about her experience of lockdown. They are lovely reflections on living a simple life, very Quakerly! You can read them here <https://www.facebook.com/jan.marsh.5492>

John D is locked down in the Meeting House. He has painted delightful scenes of his surroundings which hopefully everyone received by email. Thanks John.

Patricia tells us she is doing well and sends greetings to us all, and best wishes for our mental health.

Lawrence is restoring his radios happily. He says his happiness quotient is 7/10 (10 is full of bliss).

Marie and Lawrence celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 4th April with a walk and a nice meal. On that day in 1970, top of the charts was ‘Bridge over Troubled Water’.

Clive and his loyal team of pickers are engaged in the arduous and essential work of bringing in the year’s apple harvest whilst maintaining 2 metre’s distance.

Sue B and son Matai are locked down together and doing well. Sue is still working, but from home.

Maia is keeping well. She says, "Going to work as usual gives me much more social input and activity than those dutifully isolating at home. I go for a walk every day that I'm not in work and each time take in a street nearby that I have never walked on before. I've planted carrots, silver beet and salad leaves in the garden and am taking pleasure in more elaborate cooking and baking that I don't usually make the time for. Happy Easter to all. I have found our meeting, however virtual, a valuable anchor in these changing times, so thank you friends."

Sandy and **Sam** from Maine have made it home. Sandy writes, "Sam and I had a very stressful journey home as many flights were cancelled on the departure boards in each airport, though fortunately in the end none of them were ours. We wore masks all the way except when eating and kept our 3-foot distance most of the time. Now we are greatly relieved to be at home, having many things to keep us busy. I'll be starting seedlings soon since I ordered a great variety of vegetable seeds for our garden. My son and his girlfriend will be sharing the garden since their little third floor apartment in Portland has nowhere to grow things. Sam and I go for walks almost every day, but it is still pretty cold here (5 degrees C. today), though the snow is gone".

Elizabeth and **Adam** from Toronto have returned to their home. We wish them well.

Ann from Motueka Meeting joined our Zoom Meeting on the 2nd Sunday. She is physically isolating and enjoying playing Scrabble with her neighbour over the phone! Very inventive.

If you love Scrabble explore online opportunities here to play against a robot or real people: <https://www.bestsevenreviews.com/play-scrabble-online/>

The **Motueka Worship Group** is planning to meet at the Family Service Centre in Talbot Street on the 2nd Sunday of the month once we are out of lock down.

John L has been working in his garden and getting out to do his shopping on his tricycle.

John M is an English Australian. He and his wife Andrea have been living in Sydney. They were visiting NZ when the lock down happened and are happy to be quarantined in a bnb in Quarantine Road, Nelson. John is hosting a Zoom Pro account for us. Welcome John and Andrea.

How many Friends have gathered for MfW this year: we might not have an accurate account of attendances for 2020, given that people are joining us in spirit, worshipping at the same time but in their bubble, or not able or

comfortable to join our Zoom Meetings for Worship during the Covid-19 lockdown. Those of us who have gathered are enjoying the experience and people who previously were unable to join easily have made it to Meeting.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Tuesday April 14th and Thursday April 16th 2am – 3am NZ time. Online webinars. Both webinars will be recorded for those registered who can't attend the live session: **The Roots of the Quaker Way** Further information below.

Wednesday April 15th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group, by Zoom. The link is: [Nelson Friends Zoom link](#). The topic to be led by James is 'What have I learned from the lock down?'

Monday April 20th (online course becomes available on this day)
A Sample of Life Writing for Transformation™ Further information below.

Wednesday April 22nd 6am NZ time, Online discussion. **Hope as Practice**. Further information below.

Monday April 27th - Friday 15th May Online course, **Radical Spirituality: the early history of Quakers** Further information below.

Wednesday 29th April 8.30pm NZ time online workshop: **Spiritual Practices for Every Day** Further information below.

Friday 1st May 9pm NZ time online discussion **Theology of Meeting Remotely**. If I'm in my living room and you're the other side of a screen, where is God? Further information below.

Wednesday May 6th 7pm, either Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson or by the Zoom link above: **Becoming Friends**, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome

Woodbrooke courses online – see all here:
<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/course-category/online/>

The Roots of the Quaker Way: In these two live webinars, we will look at four themes and eight characteristics associated with the early Quaker movement that were visible within European radical religion since the Middle Ages. This will help us to understand the emergence of the Quaker way within its religious context.

This is a [Pay as Led](#) online workshop. We ask that you make a donation at the time of booking to support us in continuing to offer learning to many people as possible. **You will also need to register on the link above.**

A Sample of Life Writing for Transformation

Experience the benefits of reflective writing, an empowering stress management practice that guides you to gently examine life experiences with mindful awareness. This self-paced mini course provides the basic steps to get started – in just five minutes. Through videos, a workbook, examples, audio recordings, and step-by-step exercises, you'll soon be writing with ease and confidence. Tutor Joanne Klassen has introduced thousands of writers of all ages, around the world to Life Writing for Transformation™, a process she developed for life-enriching personal development and creative self-expression.

"A life-changing gift of insight I gave myself." Roseanne Keyes, retired school principal

This is a [Pay as Led](#) online course. We ask that you make a donation at the time of booking to support us in continuing to offer learning to many people as possible. **You will also need to register on the link above.**

Hope as Practice

Can hope be more powerful than simple optimism? What does it mean to 'practise hope'? How do we maintain hope when things seem to be getting worse rather than better? In this workshop we'll explore different perspectives on hope and think about how they speak to us as Quakers. Participants will also have the opportunity to try out practices that can strengthen hope. We'll reflect together on how to generate and renew hope to strengthen our collective capacity to bear witness in the world.

This course will draw on the work of Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, <https://www.activehope.info/> and David Gee <https://hopeswork.org> and participants will work on their own story of hope.

This is a [Pay as Led](#) online workshop. We ask that you make a donation at the time of booking to support us in continuing to offer learning to many people as possible. **You will also need to register on the link above.**

Radical Spirituality: the early history of Quakers

Learn about the beginnings of this radical religious group as it emerged in 17th century England, with this free three-week online course. With films,

discussions, and quizzes, the course covers the exciting and dramatic months of 1652. Follow the course at your own pace in your own time. Suitable for individuals or Meeting groups. Find out more and sign up at:

www.futurelearn.com/courses/quaker

Spiritual Practices for Every Day

Together we will think about what it means to have a spiritual practice, and experiment with a simple spiritual exercise together. No previous experience necessary.

This is a [Pay as Led](#) online workshop. We ask that you make a donation at the time of booking to support us in continuing to offer learning to many people as possible. **You will also need to register on the Woodbrooke link above.**

Theology of Meeting Remotely

If I'm in my living room and you're the other side of a screen, where is God? The Light Within is with us as always in these times of change and self-isolation, but the ways in which we worship, discern, and feel the movement of the Spirit may be changing. In this open discussion workshop, we will take time to explore the questions raised by online and other forms of distant Quaker worship. How is an online meeting for worship similar and different to one held in person? What do we need in order to help us listen to the still, small voice when we have to do that in our own homes, with whatever comforts and distractions that brings?

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Deadline for next Newsletter

Our Newsletter is a way to share our lives – to help build our Quaker community. Thanks to everyone who has sent contributions. Please consider sending in your news, a book review, a quote that speaks to you.... Send newsletter items to Elizabeth Dooley at elizdooley@hotmail.com. [The cut-off date for items for the March newsletter is Friday, May 8th, 2020.](#)

Still open - an opportunity to star in your own movie – your website needs you:

The new national Quaker website *which is going live soon* has space for short 'selfie' videos of just 1 minute on you and Quakers: e.g. "My name is ... I became a Quaker because..." Or "One reason I am a Quaker is..." or "The reason I joined Quakers is....". Please just do it! If you are willing let Christine Gillespie know, and **then just do it!**

National Website Friends' Profiles: we are keen for all Friends who own or have access to a computer to upload their names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers to the secure section of the new national website, and to choose whether you want your details to be available to other Friends. This will be the source of data for a future paper copy of the Members and Attenders Book. You are also asked to choose how you would like to receive the national newsletter, monthly minutes and YM documents. **Elizabeth D is available to provide help to do that.** Please ask Elizabeth to arrange a time to help you create / update your online profile, albeit remotely!

Sabbath Poem II, 1998, 'It is the destruction of the world'

By Wendell Berry

It is the destruction of the world
in our own lives
that drives us half insane, and more than half.
To destroy that which we were given
in trust: how will we bear it?
It is our own bodies that we give
to be broken,
our bodies existing before and after us
in clod and cloud, worm and tree,
that we, driving or driven, despise
in our greed to live, our haste
to die. To have lost, wantonly,
the ancient forests, the vast grasslands
in our madness, the presence
in our very bodies of our grief.

No News from Business Meeting – postponed by the Virus.

Meeting Roles for 2020: At our February Business Meeting the following Friends were confirmed in their roles:

Clerk Clive R

Assistant Clerk Jan M

Accommodation Patricia M – booking, Marie Carter - laundry

Children's Committee Christine G, Jan M

Contact Person Patricia M

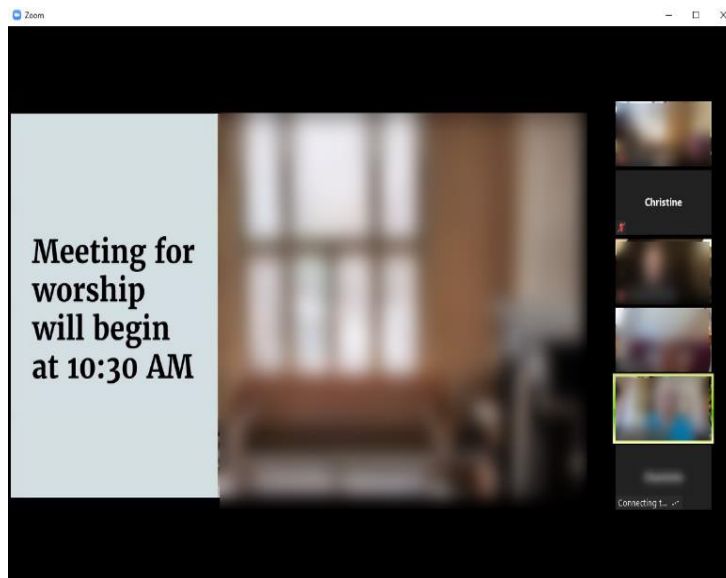
Email & Mail Distribution John L

Librarians Christine G, Sandi B, Glennis D
Meeting House Provedores Marie C, John D
National Website Contacts Elizabeth D, Christine G
Newsletter Editorial Group Christine G, Elizabeth D
Outreach (Social Testimonies) Christine G & Liz McL-T
Pastoral Care Committee Jan M, Liz McL-T
Premises Committee John D, James C, Lawrence C, John L
Rep to Nelson Multi-Ethnic Council David A
Social Media Administrators Christine G, Jan M
Treasurer Clive R
Treaty Issues & Climate Emergency Correspondent The Clerk

On-line resources: apart from our own website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson, and the national website: quakers.nz

An account of one Quaker Zoom Meeting:

<https://medium.com/@Christine.Green/covid-19-inspired-quaker-meeting-online-with-babies-dogs-a-moving-car-1245c46ce08d>



The new national website is now online – go to quakers.nz

Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each month.

First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm

(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided for them. Children's Programmes are to be developed for 2020.

