

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

January 2006

MEETINGS

- Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10.30. Children, 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays, 1st, 15th and 29th.
5th Sunday shared lunch.
- Thursdays, 12.30 to 1.00 Meeting For Worship followed by shared lunch
on First and Third Thursdays 5th and 19th.
- Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, please 'phone Diana Tovey or Joyce Martin to find
out the time and place, as it varies.
All welcome.
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DIARY

(All of these meetings at 7.30 at the FMH unless otherwise stated)
Sun 8th Circle Dancing, 7.00 to 9.00

December

Su	18	6.00	Carols by Candlelight
Th	22	12.30	Thursday worship for half an hour
Th	29	12.30	Thursday worship for half an hour

January

Th	5	12.30	First Thursday worship for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su	8	11.30	Preparative Meeting
Mo	9	8.00	Christians at Work Social evening, at the Cottages, Leckhampton
Th	12	12.30	Thursday worship for half an hour
Su	15	10.30	Monthly Meeting at Gloucester, Packed lunches
Th	19	12.30	Third Thursday worship for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
We	25	2.30	Peace Group at FMH. All welcome
Th	26	12.30	Thursday worship for half an hour

February

Th	2	12.30	First Thursday worship for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su	5	11.30	Preparative Meeting
Mo	6	8.00	Christians at Work: Talk by Felicity and David Bayne, "Taking the Walk –a pilgrim Journey to Santiago de Compostella". At the Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th	9	12.30	Thursday worship for half an hour
Su	12	2.30	Monthly Meeting at Cheltenham
Th	16	12.30	Third Thursday worship for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Forty Years of Stroud Local Meeting, Sunday 18th December

To celebrate forty years of Stroud Local Meeting, there will be a Meeting for Worship followed by a shared lunch next Sunday, 18th December, at 11.00 at the Quick's home. All are invited.

Mary Brown

Recycling Larger Objects

I read about this new way of recycling in a rambler's newsletter and because I thought many Quakers would be interested, I gained permission to reproduce it. It all depends on having access to a computer and addresses the problem of finding new homes for no longer needed larger articles such as electrical goods that still work. I must stress that I have not personally tried it. Apparently it has become so popular in Stroud that members there have formed their own group.

“There is a way of finding a home for these unwanted items which will cost you nothing. They will be collected from your house. It is called Gloucestershire Freecycle. You send an email to the system organiser and everybody who is linked to the system receives information about the article you no longer need. (<http://houseofstrauss.co.uk/freecycle>). After signing to the system the following information is received by email:

Welcome to the Gloucestershire Free Cycle Group at yahoo groups. You have just joined your local freecycle group, of which there are over 1100 worldwide. This is an opportunity for us to give and receive, make new friends and raise our environmental consciousness.

Please take a few moments to read through the group etiquette.

Keep it free. No trading please.

Keep it legal

Keep it appropriate for all ages. This group is suitable for all the family so keep language appropriate and items family friendly.

Subject line – please use the words “offer”, “wanted” and “taken” in your subject line:

Offer: old sofa

Wanted: bookcase

Taken: computer game

If you want something from another member, please exchange contact details and arrange pickup off list – this keeps down the number of emails to other members.

No politics and no spam.

All new members will be moderated initially to protect us from the high incidences of spam and to ensure we all understand and comply with the list etiquette. Most important of all, we're here to help the planet, have some fun and make new friends; so spread the word, post an intro and start freecycling! I look forward to your posts.

Rachel Strauss, Moderator, Gloucestershirefreecycle. "Changing the world one gift at a time."
Jill Vyle

Right or Wrong? Ethical Aspects of the New Genetics

This was the title of an all-day conference held at Cheltenham Town Hall on 18th November 2005 organised by Gloucestershire Federation of Women's Institutes who are to be congratulated on arranging such an interesting and successful day.

I never felt I was out of my depth, as the various speakers had tailored what they had to say to an intelligent lay audience so no-one was 'blinded by science'. The conference was introduced by Professor Raanan Gillon (Professor of Medical Ethics at Imperial College; and amongst other centres represented were the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics, King's College, London; the BMA Ethics Committee; the Midlands Fertility Service and the Institute of Medical Ethics, Edinburgh.

Every member of the audience was provided with a copy of the Department of Health publication 'Review of the Human Fertility and Embryology Act: A public consultation' and this is a fascinating – and complex document.

The most memorable item of the day to my mind was an 'acted scenario on saviour siblings'. Actors portrayed a couple unable to agree on whether or not to go for IVF and selection of an embryo genetically suitable to provide (when born) cord blood for stem cells that might be used to save an existing child with a fatal genetic disease. The husband was in favour but the wife felt it was wrong and there was fierce argument, and many tears. The scene was very affecting and powerful and I felt strongly that there was no Right or Wrong decision. It is essentially how one instinctively feels.

I really regret having been unable to stay for what must have been an extremely interesting debate in the afternoon. The topic was: 'Is it ethically permissible or desirable to try to improve apparently healthy embryos by genetic intervention'?' Speaking in favour was

Professor John Harris (Centre for Social Ethics & Policy, Manchester University). The NO camp was represented by Professor Alastair Campbell (Centre for Ethics in Medicine, Bristol University).

There was plenty of time allowed during the day for audience questions and comments and it seemed to me that there was a general open-mindedness and an understanding of differing viewpoints. I came away feeling very impressed by the obvious integrity of all the speakers, and relieved that I am not called upon to make decisions in such life-changing and painful matters

Marilyn Jamieson