

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

## April 2006

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### MEETINGS

**Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10.30. Children, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday shared lunch.  
Thursdays, 12.30 to 1.00 Meeting For Worship followed by shared lunch on First  
and Third Thursdays 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> Circle Dancing, 7.00 to 9.00

#### March

Su 19 12.00	<b>Experiment with Light Workshop</b> at FMH, following packed lunch
We 22 2.30	<b>Peace Group</b> at FMH. All welcome
Th 23 12.30	<b>Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour.
Th 30 12.30	<b>Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour

#### April

Su 2 11.30	<b>Preparative Meeting</b>
Th 6 12.30	<b>First Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 9 10.30	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> at Wootton. Packed lunches.
Th 13 12.30	<b>Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour
Th 20 12.30	<b>Third Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
We 26 2.30	<b>Peace Group</b> at FMH. All welcome
Th 27 12.30	<b>Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour.

#### May

Th 4 12.30	<b>First Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 7 11.30	<b>Preparative Meeting</b>
Mo 8 8.00	<b>Christians at Work:</b> Paul Wilkinson (topic tba) at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th 11 12.30	<b>Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour
Su 14 10.30	<b>Monthly Meeting</b> , Forest of Dean, Staunton Village Hall. Packed lunches.
Th 18 12.30	<b>Third Thursday Worship</b> for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

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## **Door keeping, Flowers and Teas**

In April this important rota will have to be made for the next 3-4 months – where does the time go? On behalf of the Meeting, cordial thanks to all on the present rota who have helped splendidly. If you wish to withdraw or request a change in the future, please let me know by the end of March. Equally importantly, if you are not on the present rota and feel that perhaps you could help now, please speak to me about it. The need for new volunteers is ever with us.

Richard Lacock

## **Peace Group**

The Peace Group is very concerned about the DESO and what seems a lack of knowledge by the general public that such an organisation exists and what its function is. The Defence Export Services Organisation is the arms industry's own taxpayer-funded unit. It employs nearly 500 civil servants to sell arms for companies and to lobby within government for arms exports. No other industry is subsidized to such an extent.

For four decades DESO has been a central component of the extraordinary economic resources and political support of the Government for the arms trade. It is the arms companies MOD Department, within which government and industry have worked to broker arms sales very often to areas of conflict, repressive regimes and impoverished regions of the world.

The Labour government has been oddly reticent to end the arms trade subsidies, while reducing state welfare for other industries.

A campaign is now being mobilised by CAAT to call for the closing down of this Office. We hope to have postcards to send to the MP which some Friends may feel able to sign.

Cynthia Baron

## **Leyhill Quaker Prison Ministry**

Monthly Meeting is seeking to appoint a new Quaker prison minister to Leyhill Prison. A very brief job summary is as follows:-

Visiting a prison on a regular basis to support known Quakers or those expressing an interest and otherwise participating in the work of the Chaplaincy Team as suitable opportunities arise. One's ministry should extend to all those involved in running the Prison.

**Time Commitment:** This is not necessarily very onerous, and will depend upon the level at which one is willing and able to become involved. Seeing a particular prisoner on a regular basis will call for about an hour or so a fortnight (but allowance has to be made for the additional time it takes to be admitted and released from the prison).

I can provide fuller details to anyone who is interested.

John Cross

## **'Letters of the Scattered Brotherhood'**

Many years ago, to be precise 1985, I bought a small battered book called the '*Letters of the Scattered Brotherhood*' edited by Mary Young. It was first published in 1948 and is still in print. The letters were written over fourteen years, anonymously. If I had to take one or two books with me on a lengthy journey this would be one of them. I give a simple example from p.42.

"Do you not see that you have come to the place where it is wise to practise all the time bringing the SPIRIT into the roughage of daily life? Can you understand it better if you say to yourselves, 'By doing this I am overcoming the world?' That is, your world. Necessity sometimes brings you to your feet, do not wait for necessity, be there first. Say 'I know that you will give me my daily bread, I know that you will guide me in the way of wisdom, I know that you will release me from the terror by night ... the pressure of material existence ...'"

The letters are beautifully written and clear, free from intellectualism. They give deep insights into the overcoming of the many trials/tribulations we all have in the spirit's journey through life. It is a book for the times ahead. I would be hearted if it helps you, that you tell others about it too so the good news is passed on.

The ISBN is 0 227 678796, price £4.99, available from Ottakers – so happy reading and joys ahead.  
Kate Edge

## NOTES FROM PM

### **Monthly Meeting: Cheltenham, 2007:**

Given the low attendance at the February Monthly Meeting held at Cheltenham, we agreed to seek rescheduling for the 2007 Monthly Meeting. To minimise car parking charges, people could be invited to attend Meeting for Worship, and Monthly Meeting would follow at 12 noon. There would be a break of one hour at 1 pm for people to eat their packed lunches.

### **Sunday collections: Progress report:**

We received a detailed list covering suggested charities for 2006 and 2007 (attached). The nominations Committee was asked to nominate an individual to take on the role of Sunday Collections clerk.

### **Gloucestershire Churches Together: Revised constitution:**

We agreed to accept the proposed new Constitution as it affects the Religious Society of Friends in Cheltenham for Churches Together in Gloucestershire.

### **Sandra Crawford:**

We accepted with gratitude the cheque from the estate of Sandra Crawford, an attender at our Meeting in the 1990s. The gift is in recognition of the friendship, care and concern shown by Brian and Kathleen Robson, Richard Lacock and Margaret Sheldrick, who visited her regularly.

John Cross

## Cheltenham Preparative Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers)

Sunday Collections Criteria for 12 Charities per Year from  
May 2006 to April 2008

Suggested are charities to support in weeks three and four of each month.

These are organisations which we consider will benefit most from our modest collections. Week five will be for special collections or for Quaker work.

The suggested dates take account of the dates of previous collections.

### a) Local

i)	Rapid UK 08/06
ii)	Cheltenham Open Door 11/06

iii)	DORS 6/07
iv)	Gloucestershire Action on Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) 07/07

### b) Peace, Quaker OR Non-Quaker

i)	Peace Direct 05/06
ii)	Peace Tax Campaign 06/06
iii)	Quaker Peace Centre Capt Town, 07/06
iv)	Corrymeela 04/07

v)	Campaign Against the Arms Trade 05/07
vi)	Ulster Quaker Service 10/07
vii)	Peaceworkers UK 11/07

### c) Quaker NOT Peace

i)	Quaker Voluntary Action 09/06
ii)	Leaveners Arts Group 10/06
iii)	James Nayler Foundation 12/06
iv)	Quaker Tapestry 2/07
v)	Friends World Council for Consultation 3/07

vi)	Woodbrooke 3/08
vii)	Quaker Housing Trust 12/07
viii)	Friends House Moscow 1/08
ix)	Dabane Trust 2/08
x)	Quaker Concern for Animals 4/08

### d) Non-Quaker and Non-Peace

i)	Purscell Lyndale Fund Jamaica 1/07
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ii)	Tools for Self Reliance 8/07
iii)	Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. 9/07

Philip Paull reminds us that we are providing Friends with addresses for Sunday Collections so that they may send direct or via Gift Aid or CAF. This will enable the charities concerned, if Friends wish, to reclaim the appropriate amount of tax. Four addresses for this purpose follow:-

Campaign Against the Arms Trade  
11 Goodwin Street  
Finsbury Park  
London N4 3HQ

Ulster Quaker Service  
541 Lisburn Road  
Belfast, BT9 7GC

Anti-Slavery International  
Thomas Clarkson House  
The Stableyard, Broomgrove Road  
London SW9 9TL

Hon. Treasurer Quaker Concern for Animals  
Judith Treanor  
38 St Peter's Mount  
Exeter, EX4 2JDi