

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

December 2006

MEETINGS

- Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10.30. Children's Meeting: At present there is no regular Children's Meeting, but facilities for children can usually be made available on request.
5th Sunday shared lunch.
Thursdays, 12.30 to 1.00 Meeting For Worship followed by shared lunch on First and Third Thursdays 7th and 21st.
- 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 10th Circle Dancing, 7.00 to 9.00

November

- Su 19 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** Ann Caro on "Women in Society".
We 22 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 23 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

December

- Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Tu 12 7.15 **UNA talk:** China – past present and future, preceded by coffee and mince pies
[details Below]
Th 14 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 17 6.00 **Christmas celebration**
Th 21 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 31 11.30 **"Gathering" after Meeting for Worship**, followed by Celebratory Shared Lunch

January

- Th 4 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 7 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 8 8.00 **Christians at Work.** Social evening, cheese tasting, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th 11 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 14 12.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Gloucester.
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
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A Celebration of Christmas: Sunday 17th December at 6 p.m.

Please come along to our Celebration of Christmas. This will include music, readings, carols and some silent worship. Do let me know if you have any suggestions for readings, or if you would like to take part. And anyone who would care to help with leading the singing will be most welcome. I hope to arrange a couple of rehearsals beforehand. Again, let me know.

Mince pies (please bring a few) and hopefully mulled fruit juice will be served afterwards.

Ann Caro

Sunday, December 31st, New Year's Eve Celebratory Shared Lunch

Make a note of the date for a Celebratory Shared Lunch. Overseers hope to provide some extras, and Elders are considering a different kind of sharing in the period between the Meeting for Worship and the lunch.

Richard Lacock

Dates for Monthly Meeting and Cheltenham Preparative Meeting

The January Monthly Meeting will be at Gloucester on Sunday, 14th January, at 12.00, and the Cheltenham PM will be on Sunday, 7th January after Meeting for Worship, unless it becomes necessary to alter these dates. The full list of dates for 2007 will be sent out with January's Cheltenham Quaker.

Christians at Work, Monday, 8th January, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church, at 8 p.m.

The meeting on Monday, 8th January will be the annual social evening. This will take the form of "An evening of poetry, prose and songs" with a topical theme, followed by wine and cheese.

Tickets will be £6, payable in advance. Numbers are limited, so please get your tickets as soon as possible from me, (Cheltenham 582750)

Roy Crompton

Door Duty, Flowers and Teas

In mid-December the next rota will need to be drawn up. It provides a simple but valuable service (ministry) for the Meeting, so our thanks to all who have helped in the past. Since the present system was introduced over two years ago, seven people have had to withdraw for various reasons. Four new volunteers have been gained. When the rota is full, it involves just one duty per person every four months (three per year). If you feel that you could now help to make up the number, please let me, Richard Lacock, know by December 6th. Of course, if you feel you have to withdraw now, please let me know that too. Thank you.

Richard Lacock

Cheltenham PM Office-holders

Rather than re-print the entire List of Members early in 2007, Monthly Meeting has asked instead for an update of all office-holders as from January 2007. Here is a list of all the known office-holders in Cheltenham PM. Please check that any job you are doing for PM or MM at 1st January 2007 is correctly shown here, and pass any needed corrections to Rowland Carson (contact details in the MM List of Members, still a very few copies left at £1 each) as soon as possible. If your name doesn't appear here,

and you wish to support your Meeting in a practical way, please speak to any overseer about how your talents can be employed!

Ruth Baker	PM Premises Committee	Iain Main	Checker of Tabular Statement & Marriage Register
Cynthia Baron	MM Peace Committee	Jill Main	Supporting Friend
Elaine Boulter	PM Premises Committee	Philip Paull	MM Property & Finance Committee
Tony Browne	PM Newsletter Publication		MM Treasurer
Ann Caro	PM Clerk		PM Data Maintenance
Rowland Carson	MM List of Members Compiler News of Friends e-mail contact PM Premises Committee PM Webmaster Supporting Friend		PM Newsletter Publication
Judy Clinton	Elder		PM Premises Committee
Dorothy Colwill	Overseer		PM Treasurer
Tessa Cooknell	Overseer	Eleanor Pratt	Elder
Eleanor Crawford	Overseer		PM Assistant Treasurer
John Cross	MM Nominations Committee PM Newsletter Editor	Brian Robson	MM Property & Finance Committee
Jack Danes	Friend Responsible for Funerals PM Premises Committee		PM Premises Committee Supporting Friend
Nan Dower	Overseer	Kathleen Robson	PM Premises Committee
Joy Heaven	PM Correspondent	Margot Roe	Overseer
Rosemary Hoggett	Friend Responsible for Funerals Overseer Resources for Learning co-ordinator	Bill Rowland	MfS representative
Tim Howarth	Elder PM Assistant Treasurer	Carol Scarboro	Overseer
Richard Lacock	Friend Responsible for Funerals MM Clerk Overseer PM Assistant Treasurer	Margaret Sheldrick	Elder Friend Responsible for Funerals
		Jane Shettar	Overseer
		Jeremy Steffen	Gloucestershire Churches Together
		Maureen Steffen	Elder
		Jo Teakle	Overseer
		Jacek Weyers	Rapid Response Group
			Rowland Carson

Around Europe: Quaker Council for European Affairs

Report of the European Security Hearing of September 2006:

This was hosted by the Intergroup for Peace Initiatives and discussion took place arising from the fact that the Framework Programme which includes funding of research into civil security seemed to have a more military than civil flavour. Several examples were given such as the Galileo Project whereby people's movements can be monitored from space. The point is that the E.U. does not have a military budget and defence is handled intergovernmentally. Ben Hayes from "Statewatch" commented that there was no meaningful discussion in the Council and no consultation of the European Parliament, also that policy making was all but delegated to an unaccountable group of advisors. It would be better if the causes of conflict were studied.

"The One Seat Campaign:

A million signatures have been recorded in an effort to stop the monthly trek of the European Parliament from Brussels to Strasbourg and back at an estimated cost of €200 million a year, plus many hours of time. The decision will have to be taken by the Council of the European Union.

Hans Blix on Iran, North Korea and a New Nuclear Arms Race:

Iran is encircled by U.S. military positions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Gulf states. The U.S. should address understandable Iranian security concerns and a mutually satisfactory agreement needs to be reached. In Dr. Blix's view North Korea, a self-declared nuclear power with an expanding ballistic missile programme, poses a far greater destabilising threat. The regional domino effect could be that Japan may follow, thus increasing tensions with China. The U.S. and Japan will push ahead with missile defence programmes encouraging a technological race like that during the height of the Cold War, a flash point being the Taiwan Strait. However, Q.C.E.A.'s view is that punitive measures are dangerous. North Korea is impoverished and halting aid to civilians may contribute to starvation and make the people "rally around the regime". Military options are not viable and channels for dialogue must remain open. Dr. Blix highlighted the fact that the U.S. is pressing ahead with the national missile defence project, and a space-based weaponry. At a recent disarmament conference both the U.S. and the U.K. mooted a proposal to bring the weaponisation of space on to the agenda.

Say no to Nuclear Weapons and get your M.E.P. to do so too!

The U.K. government is considering the replacement of Trident with a new nuclear weapons system which would cost in the order of £40 billion, and would maintain a nuclear presence in Scotland for the next 50 years! It is proposed to blockade the base at Faslane every day for the next year in order to demonstrate to the world that nuclear weapons threaten the whole world and waste so much money that needs to be spent urgently on vital issues. The 8th January is a day when M.E.P's will take on the challenge, but more must be encouraged. Further details about the campaign: the website is [http:// www.faslane365.org](http://www.faslane365.org)

Please note the full issue of October 2006 will be on the Notice Board to enable people to read the full reports.

Gillian Bailey

NOTES FROM PM

Telephone Directory entries for Cheltenham Religious Society of Friends:

It was agreed to discontinue the practice of listing Cheltenham Quakers in the B.T. and other Telephone Directories. There is a telephone number listed outside the Meeting House which is that of the current Lettings Officer. This notice will also be amended to include the website address.

Monthly Meetings: draft calendar:

It was agreed that Monthly Meeting in Cheltenham would be rescheduled for Saturday, 10th February, 2007, at 2 pm, which would enable people to use the Park and Ride facilities.

PM Change of date:

It was agreed to change the date of PM from 6th May 2007 to 29th April, 2007.

John Cross