

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JANUARY 2007

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Cheltenham: Sundays at 10:30. At present there is no regular Children's Meeting, but facilities for children can usually be made available on request. Fifth Sunday shared lunch. Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:00 Meeting for Worship, followed on First and Third Thursdays (4th and 18th) by shared lunch.

Tewkesbury: Fourth Sunday, please 'phone Diana Tovey or Joyce Martin to find out the time and place, as it varies.

All welcome.

DIARY

(All of these meetings at the FMH unless otherwise stated)

December

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 **Fifth Sunday: "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
Tu 9 10:30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at The White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve.
Th 11 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 14 2:30 **Monthly Meeting** at Gloucester
Su 14 7:00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9.00)
Th 18 12:30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 21 12:00 **Meeting for Learning** "First Experiences of Quaker Meetings" led by Maureen Steffen
We 24 2:30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 25 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

February

Th 1 12:30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 4 11:30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 5 8:00 **Christians at Work:** "God's Hidden Garden of Eden": Iain and Suzie Hime
Th 8 12:30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 10 2:00 **Monthly Meeting** at Cheltenham.
Th 15 12:30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Sunday, December 31st, New Year's Eve

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

Ecumenical Prayer Group

The Ecumenical Prayer Group will start a new cycle of meetings from Tuesday, 9th January, 2007.

It will be based on Christopher Jamison's book (from the TV Series *The Monastery*) called: "***Finding Sanctuary – Monastic steps for everyday life.***" We will share our spiritual insights from the book prayerfully.

We will meet on the second Tuesday of each month starting on 9th January from 10.30 am to 12.00 for about 7 months at The White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve. Please ring Jacek Weyers on 678283 first. **New Members very welcome.**

Jacek Weyers

Saturday, May 19th, 2007. A Day of Spiritual Learning

An important date to mark in your new diaries – Saturday, May 19th 2007. A Day of Spiritual Learning at the PETT Conference Centre, Toddington, 10 am to 4 pm approx. There will be a varied programme to help deepen the life of the Meeting. More details in due course.

Richard Lacock

The following extracts are taken from the current issue of Quaker Concern for Animals

“Peace Picnic at Porton Down: According to the *Sunday Express* piece on June 18th 2006, “military tests have doubled in Britain in the past five years and more than 100,000 animals have been subjected to painful research at the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down since 2000, according to figures from the Ministry of Defence”.

It is difficult to get details of exactly what takes place at this secret, highly guarded place, but the Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram did confirm that foreign companies and governments are also involved, helping to fund the research. What is known is that tests include chemically induced burns. Inhalation of poison gas, lethal doses of nerve agents and injections of E coli. Animals involved range from mice and pigs to monkey and were described by the BUAV as “cruel and pointless”.

The Peace Picnic organised for July 22nd by Jenny Pothecary of Catholic Concern for Animals therefore came at a fortuitous time. It will not be lost on Friends that the data gained from subjecting vulnerable animals to cruel and lethal procedures will be used to improve and enhance our military capability. These practices are therefore doubly deplorable.

I was happy to represent Quaker Concern for Animals in bearing witness against the making of war and its facilitation by the brutal exploitation of our fellow species.

“A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it...” William Penn, 1644-1718

Dorothy Kerwin

Around Europe – Quaker Council for European Affairs, November 2006

It is cheering to read about a successful International Peace Tax Conference which was organised by the German Peace Tax Network, when about 60 people attended from all parts of the world including Africa, U.S.A., Europe and India. Regions affected by conflict where the right to conscientious objection is not respected gave reports. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were reported on, but the Conference was also reminded about the problem of small arms and landmines in Africa. Court cases are being heard in the U.K., Germany and the U.S. concerning war tax resistance, but in some countries people face huge fines and imprisonment. A website listing the main arguments for and against Peace Tax is being prepared. Useful to help people approach their M.Ps. Q.C.E.A. also has briefing papers available. The next conference will be in the U.K. in 2008.

The briefing papers are available in both English and French at:

<http://www.quaker.org/qceaq/briefings/peacetax/index.htm>

Q.C.E.A., the Quaker U.N. office and Quaker Peace and Social Witness held a biennial conference (details on the notice board). A Peace Museum has just opened in Leeds and Friends visiting Leeds are encouraged to go and see it.

Gillian Bailey