

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## FEBRUARY 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 (1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) 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)

#### January

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  
Su 18 12.00 **Meeting for Learning.** Exploring 'Quaker Faith and Practice'.  
Th 22 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.  
Sa 24 10.00 **Sustaining the Spirit Day** at Cirencester Meeting House [details below]  
Sa 24 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00  
Su 25 12.00 **Talk** by Jema Davis [Details below]  
We 28 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome

#### March

Th 1 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Su 4 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**  
Mo 5 8.00 **Christians at Work** "Officework to artwork", Fred Lea (at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church)  
Th 8 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Sa 10 2.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Cirencester  
Th 15 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

## **Christians at Work: Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00 at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church.**

The talk this month will be “God’ Hidden Garden of Eden” by Iain and Suzy Hime, who aim to show some of the wonders of the undersea world as seen on tropical coral reefs. They have been scuba diving for 11 years now, and promise lots of pictures, lots of colour and some things you may never have seen before.

Roy Crompton

## **Meetings for Learning, February 18<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Exploring ‘Quaker Faith and Practice’. Another opportunity to share our favourite passages from this book, please bring it with you.

Judy Clinton

## **Sustaining the Spirit Day, Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> February at Cirencester Meeting House**

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at Cirencester Meeting House, Tim Peat, Woodbrooke’s exciting Bible Study Tutor, will explore our Christian roots with us. Cost £10.00 (10.00 for 10.30 start – finishing 4.00 – 4.30) Apply to Rosemary Hoggett

Rosemary Hoggett

## **Talk by Jema Davis, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, following Meeting for Worship**

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, following Meeting, Jema Davis, an attender at Nailsworth Meeting, will be giving a talk on her experiences in Palestine last summer.

It is hopeful that a collection will be made following the talk to support the people of Palestine which she has connections with.

“Jema Davis travelled to the Occupied Palestinian Territories for six weeks last summer. She was in the West Bank along with her partner Ellis Brooks, undertaking a variety of activities in a variety of places. Both before and during their trip they received a lot of support from Friends at Nailsworth Meeting, which she attends when she is in the area, and so she went to speak to them about their experiences.

Their stay in the West Bank coincided almost exactly with the war in Lebanon. That received ample coverage in the press: the conflict in Gaza received some coverage, but very little seems to have been said about the ongoing situation in the West Bank, and that is one of the reasons why she is so keen to talk about her experiences. Another reason is that although while they were there they worked with a number of charitable organisations, they are very aware that the most powerful thing they can do that has any hope of bringing about change is to tell people in this country the stories they were told.

While they were there they saw ample cause to despair of there ever being a way forward to peace. The situation, already hard, has got worse and worse since sanctions were imposed earlier this year. However, they were also able to see many reasons to hope, and it is these stories of hope that, more than anything else, she wishes to share.”

Patrick Callaghan

## NOTES FROM PM

### **Nominations Committee Report:**

Recently one Elder and three Overseers had indicated that they felt it right to lay down their appointments, and Nominations Committee has therefore been seeking replacements.

#### **Elders:**

Margaret Sheldrick had stepped down, and an existing vacancy needed to be filled.

#### **Overseers:**

Rosemary Hoggett, Richard Lacock and Jane Shettar had to be replaced.

Nominations Committee recommended that the following names should go forward to Monthly Meeting:

#### **Elders:**

Wilma Carson and Olive Betterton

#### **Overseers:**

Joy Heaven. (Two further names are being sought).

Jill Main wished to step down from her various responsibilities, but would continue with oversight of the Meeting House garden.

### **Arrangement of the room during Meeting for Worship:**

It was agreed that following a suggestion from the small group which is considering the refurbishment of the Meeting House we would experiment with a round table with chairs placed in a circular pattern around it. This group will take responsibility for acquiring a suitable table for the duration of the experiment. The current table will be placed in the foyer. Books, water, etc. will be placed on the table inside the door. It was agreed to review this experiment two months after the new system has been implemented.

### **Consultation on Same Sex Partnerships:**

We had been asked for some comment relating to same sex partnerships. Our view as a Preparative Meeting was that the present system relating to Quaker weddings should continue unchanged. However, a Civil Partnership ceremony could be followed by a Quaker Meeting for "Commitment" for same sex partners.

John Cross