

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## MARCH 2007

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### 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.**

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### DIARY

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

#### February

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, followed by Shared Lunch  
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  
Su 11 7.00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9.00)  
Th 15 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 22 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Sa 24 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00  
We 28 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.  
Th 29 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

#### April

Su 1 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**  
Th 5 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Su 8 12.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Wootton under Edge  
Su 8 7.00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9.00)  
Th 12 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Th 19 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

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

The talk this month will be Fred Lea pm “Officework to artwork”. After a 30 year career in the Civil Service, Fred made a career change in 1996 to become a self-employed artist/illustrator, and found himself trying to make a name for himself in a totally different walk of life. Ten years on he is still going strong, and his talk will be illustrated by original paintings and other examples of his work.

Roy Crompton

## **The Peace Group and the Question of Trident Replacement**

World Court Project UK published a paper on the Successor to Trident and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and whether according to this the threat or use of nuclear weapons would be lawful.

In 1996 the International Court of Justice pronounced that “the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law”.

IHL says that even a military target must not be attacked if civilian death or injury is excessive in relation to concrete and direct military advantage anticipated from the attack.

But nuclear weapons are unique because of their radiation effects. In 1995 before the ICJ, the UK written and oral pleading argued that if nuclear weapons were used the *intention* would be to destroy military targets. Radiation is only a side effect.

Weapons like the 100 kiloton Trident warhead are designed to detonate as air bursts to cause maximum damage. Smaller 1 – 5 kiloton weapons would be exploded on the ground to destroy precise targets. Enormous quantities of radioactive dust could come down anywhere, even thousands of miles away, irradiating unpredictable numbers of people then and well into the future.

**Given the unpredictable and widespread effects of nuclear radiation, is there any plausible scenario in which Trident’s successor could be used with any certainty that it would comply with the principles of international humanitarian law?**

World Court Project UK suggest that the most effective way of answering this is for the Government to publish a supporting essay to their December 2006 White Paper explaining its legal reasoning in detail.

(The underlining is mine)

Perhaps Friends would consider writing to their MP using this material. Please read the Peace Group minutes on the notice board.

Cynthia Baron

### **Around Europe**

The Quaker Council for European Affairs Dec/Jan Edition deals with two most important subjects. There is a most important article on Iraq named “Bipolar Iraq”. I could not do it justice by giving a summary. It gives a very good account of the situation as seen from a Quakerly prospective. Please refer to the Notice Board.

The second concerns a commodity which is vital to us – energy. The European Commission’s policy on energy is becoming increasingly important. The E.U. is the world’s largest importer of energy and the second largest consumer. Next November the “Partnership and Co-operation Agreement”, which is between Russia and the E.U., will end. The E.U. is investing in the Pan European Oil Pipeline Project, a pipeline which transports oil from the Caspian Sea to Western Europe. This 3,300 km of pipeline will guarantee the supply from Iran to Europe. Thus our foreign policy and trade policy are interlinked.

As we all know, Africa desperately needs investment, including renewable energies. Now it is extremely dependent on oil. By 2050 it is hoped that E.U. emissions could fall to 8%. However, developing countries will rise by over 50%. This underlines the importance of international co-operation to combat climate change.

Gillian Bailey

## NOTES FROM PM

### **Nominations Committee recommendations:**

John Cross, on behalf of Nominations Committee, recommended that the following names should go forward to Monthly Meeting:

Overseers: Bill Madams and Marilyn Jamieson

Since the Monthly Meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January, Judy Clinton had indicated that she would at this time wish to step down from her appointment as Meeting Elder, and Nominations Committee will be seeking a replacement for this office.

Patrick Callaghan has asked to step down from Nominations Committee and a replacement will be sought in due course.

### **Arrangement of the room during Meetings for Worship: Interim Report:**

After considerable discussion it became clear that at a PM we are not yet in a position to make a decision as to the final ordering of the Meeting Room.

We agreed to experiment for a month with a circular arrangement of chairs, without a central table, with the original oak table placed against one of the walls, and both settles incorporated in the arrangement.

### **Quaker Quest: Report on Woodbrooke Workshop Weekend:**

Joy Heaven presented a brief report covering the Workshop on Quaker Quest.

Whilst Ann Caro and Joy Heaven had been impressed by the work of Quaker Quest, they were of the opinion that Cheltenham PM did not have the necessary human resources to implement Quaker Quest at present. We agreed to monitor progress by Cirencester and Gloucester, who are aiming to mount a combined Quaker Quest. Further details of Quaker Quest will appear in the April Newsletter.

John Cross